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**CELEBRATING  
EVERYDAY HEROES  
THAT BRING CHANGE.**

**VOLUNTEER ACTION  
NEWSLETTER 2016-17**





When courage and compassion come together for a cause, the impact is no less than heroic. CRY's story is incomplete without CRY volunteers. They are our 'everyday heroes' who take action to create lasting change for children.

CRY volunteers come from different walks of life. She could be the quintessential girl next door who discovered her ability to convince people, even in adverse situations, to send their children to school. In this process, she not only developed the courage to fight for change but also the compassion to understand the challenges faced by the children she worked with.

The 2016-17 CRY newsletter brings to you the heroic stories of CRY volunteers and the change that they catalyse every single day.

With faith and goodwill,



Soha Moitra

Director- Volunteer Action, CRY- Child Rights and You









## INTRODUCTION TO VOLUNTEER ACTION

Volunteering is an integral part of CRY. All the work that we do stems from our core belief that all individuals have unique strengths and the potential to bring lasting change in the lives of children. Our volunteers are the catalysts for such change.

CRY has a range of volunteering options that cater to a variety of interests and skill sets. Volunteers help with a diverse set of activities ranging from public campaigns and campus activities to fundraising drives. Our volunteers may or may not be professionals, but they definitely are individuals with a true passion for child rights and truly are our, everyday heroes! Last year, we had over 5000 volunteers and 400 interns onboard to propel our cause, and we hope to keep the numbers growing every year.

## CHILD RIGHTS LEADERS PROGRAMME

The Child Rights Leaders Programme, launched in 2015, is a college-centred leadership initiative. The leaders who completed the Child Rights Leaders Program this year carried out a wide range of impressive projects, which ranged from fun activities like flash mobs to impactful initiatives like enrolling children in schools. These leaders made a significant difference to all the initiatives they undertook, without letting go of the fun element in the process!

<http://www.cry.org/what-to-do/Child-Rights-Leaders-Programme.html>



## VIRTUAL VOLUNTEERING

For individuals who don't have access to the CRY offices or cannot be present for on-ground programmes, Virtual Volunteering is the way to go! The fact that these volunteers contribute from afar makes them equally valuable to us as those who do so on the ground. In fact, this year our chosen Virtual Volunteers helped shape over 42 assignments! We don't let distance or a busy schedule stop anyone from associating with CRY.

Here's what Arushi has to say about her Virtual Volunteering experience:

"Being a Virtual Volunteer with CRY has given me immense pleasure and satisfaction. This role gave me an opportunity to use my skills as an engineer to help the organization in achieving its goal of creating happy and healthy childhoods. I designed infographics on various internship and volunteer trends by interpreting data and presented it in a simple understandable format. This not only enhanced my skills but also gave me immense gratification."

- Arushi Jain, Working Professional

<http://cry.org/what-to-do/changemakers/volunteer>



## INTERNSHIP

This year, internships at CRY have grown by leaps and bounds. The most interesting thing about having interns on board is the fact that the benefits are mutual. Our interns are mostly students from various academic streams. They bring with them fresh ideas and enthusiasm and infuse great energy into all the assignments they undertake. At the end of the internships, they leave with a deepened sense of social sensitivity and professionalism.

Here's what Divyakumar has to say about his internship experience:

"This internship taught me many values - from professional etiquette to critical thinking. It taught me to always keep my spirits up and be motivated. Being my first experience in the professional world, I made many mistakes but my mentors guided me through them in a way that motivated me to perform better. The internship has given me an experience in all the possible fields - from marketing to managing events with volunteers. I don't think the time invested here could have been any better!"

- Divyakumar Savla, B. Tech. - KJ Somaiya College of Engineering

<http://www.cry.org/what-to-do/internships.html>



## VIEW FINDER

The View Finder program, in association with RICOH, used photography as a medium to train children on life skills. Over a six month period, children across CRY – supported projects were trained by skilled photographers and volunteers. The program not only helped develop the children's creativity and photography skills but also helped sharpen the skills and competencies of the volunteers. This program was executed across Delhi, Kolkata, Bangalore and Mumbai.



## DIGITAL PARTNERSHIPS

This year CRY collaborated with popular online platforms to share stories of hope with a wider audience. Strategic partnerships with platforms like The Better India, The Logical Indian, Youth Ki Awaaz and The Reader's Digest generated over 11 Lac social impressions across a diverse group of people!

## IVD

IVD - International Volunteer Day - celebrates our volunteers who work tirelessly to bring about change in the lives of children. This year, IVD was celebrated across all CRY offices around the theme "WE are, because YOU are!" A series of events and fun activities were organised to celebrate the day. All CRY volunteers were felicitated and recognised for their collective valuable contributions, reiterating our long held belief that 'together we are stronger!'











- [Volunteers on board - 1701](#)

- [FB page -](#)

[https://www.facebook.com/crykolvols/?ref=aym\\_t\\_homepage\\_panel](https://www.facebook.com/crykolvols/?ref=aym_t_homepage_panel)

- [Blog - https://cryeastvols.wordpress.com/](https://cryeastvols.wordpress.com/)

## SAFETY IS NOT CHILD'S PLAY

In Kolkata, CRY volunteers set out to solve the issue of a large open drain near a playground that was endangering children. After months of negotiations, not only was the drain covered, but the volunteers also convinced the Counselor to construct a boundary wall around the playground for the safety of the children.

## OPENING NEW AVENUES FOR CHILDREN

In Rajabazar, CRY volunteers identified three undiagnosed children with special needs. They managed to get two of the children, disability certificates and hearing aids. The third child, who was diagnosed with autism, is regularly accompanied by volunteers to the hospital for her treatment. Furthermore, the children have even been successfully enrolled in school!

## BAKE FOR CRY

The Bake for CRY fundraising event got seven bakeries to donate 820 baked products like muffins, cookies and pastries. CRY volunteers sold the baked goodies across the city and managed to raise Rs. 99,000!



## VOLUNTEER QUOTES

"CRY holds a very special place in my heart. It has made me realise that working for others is not charity, rather it is our duty as human beings. Children are the most vulnerable section of society and we have to give them the suitable grounds to grow. If we don't, who else will? When I breathe my last, I don't want to carry a regret that I lived just for myself."

*Rahul Pradhan, pursuing Geo-Physics - IIT KGP, Kolkata*

"I have been a part of CRY since two and a half years. Being a volunteer, I learnt a lot about people, responsibilities and situations. The more I try to teach the kids, the more I get to learn from them. I started my journey with a simple thought of spending some quality time with kids but it has evolved into a sense of responsibility to actually work in the direction that could help them prosper in their lives."

*Shilpi Sinha, working in the IT sector, Kolkata*





- [Volunteers on board](#) - 296

- [FB page](#) -

<https://www.facebook.com/CRY-Volunteers-512777428783233/?ref=settings>

<https://www.facebook.com/CRY.Pune/?ref=settings>

- [Blog](http://crywestvolunteers.blogspot.in/) - <http://crywestvolunteers.blogspot.in/>

## SUMMER CAMP AND WINTER CAMP

50 volunteers participated in the summer and winter camps organised in Mumbai and Pune in May and December, respectively. The camps offered a perfect balance of fun and educational activities for 420 children, who took part in everything- from yoga and photography, to sessions on road safety and hygiene. In the photography session, the children took pictures of the things that inspired them and got professional feedback on their photos. This activity allowed children to truly express themselves in different ways for the first time

ever. Through sports activities, children learnt the importance of teamwork and through science activities, they were able to flex their intellectual muscles and solve difficult problems. The camps looked at the all-round development of the children through a series of these fun-filled educational activities.

## SESSIONS ON LIFE SKILLS

CRY volunteers conducted 3 to 4 hour workshop sessions on life skills for the children, every Saturday, from June to November. These sessions covered four main categories: personality development, discipline, leadership and money management.

They focused on improving their speech, confidence and postures. They also focused on grammar, pronunciations and use of proper hand gestures to supplement their speeches. The discipline sessions focused on grooming and mannerisms. The money management sessions highlighted the importance of good



saving habits and tips on managing money were shared.

These sessions proved to be extremely beneficial for the children. Jayashree Kher, the principal of Jaibai Vidyamandir school, where the sessions were held, says, "CRY volunteers are doing a very good job and I saw changes in the students during school events."

Rekha Gore, a teacher at Jaibai Vidyalaya, was impressed by the work done by CRY volunteers and said, "I now see changes in the students' attitudes. The class participation has increased and their basics skills are improving day by day, all because of CRY volunteers."

## VOLUNTEER QUOTES

"Volunteering has impacted my life in many ways, teaching me to be more thoughtful and to take on more leadership roles. We have done many activities which needed teamwork to leave an impact. If we stop for a moment, we realise how blessed we are. Taking time off my busy schedule, meeting these people and hearing their stories made me live every moment of life."

*-Shivam Singha - Bandra Public Action Group, Mumbai*

"My experience with CRY has been a very fulfilling one. Every teaching session with the kids is a new learning experience. My goal of working with kids is not limited to improving their English but also to help them face the world by trying to impart basic etiquette and social skills. You get to make a change at the most basic level, and the smallest contribution goes a long way in making a difference."

*-Aditya Thontakudi - North Mumbai Public Action Group, Mumbai*





- [Volunteers on board](#) - 1615
- [FB page](https://www.facebook.com/crynorth/) - <https://www.facebook.com/crynorth/>
- [Blog](https://crynorthvolunteers.blogspot.in/) - <https://crynorthvolunteers.blogspot.in/>

## GIRLS JOINING SPORTS – A DREAM COME TRUE

Sports have been a vital part of the learning process. The CRY volunteers have always trained children in sports. However, the participation of girls was at a minimum. So the volunteers adopted a new strategy of having more female volunteers to encourage more girls to participate in sports. Now there are numerous girls who play sports like football and cricket. Not only do they play sports now, but they are also pursuing to be karate trainers and athletes of all sorts. The children's cricket team also won a cricket match against the Marks and Spencer team this February. The girls were brimming with confidence when Michael Clarke (former international cricketer) visited the CRY project in South Delhi, they boldly challenged

him for a match and bowled him out. The volunteers simply can't wait to watch more girls participating in the coming year.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/michael-clarke-stumped-by-17-year-old-delhi-girl/articleshow/57594909.cms>

## ANJALI'S LOVE FOR SCHOOL

Anjali loved going to school and her passion for education was evident. However, she was forced to drop out of school at age of 11 due to various responsibilities at home. CRY volunteers identified her and took up the responsibility of mentoring her throughout the year. As a result of their consistent efforts, they were finally able to get her back into school. Anjali is now 14 and has been re-enrolled in school. She is thriving and confidently says, "I want to become a Police Officer when I grow up."

<http://www.thebetterindia.com/59719/cry-empowerment-through-education-delhi/>



## FUNDRAISING BY VOLUNTEERS

CRY volunteers organised on-campus advocacy events for fundraising drives in campuses like Jesus and Mary and the International Management Institute. Students from IMI and JMC together raised more than Rs. 70,000. The year ended with the Child Rights Leaders across various campuses in Delhi taking on a crowd funding campaign. The campaign spread like wildfire with more than 130 supporters, about 160 shares and likes. By the end of the campaign, they raised Rs. 2,07,500, an unexpected amount. Overall, the volunteers raised almost 4 lakhs across the city through innovative fundraising activities – Bake for CRY being one of the other successful fundraising initiatives.

## VOLUNTEER QUOTES

“I work at a corporate and the work there becomes very monotonous. My work here, with these children, is very satisfying. They are genuine in their own way and come in with such varied talents. I have only given them my 100% but they give their 200% and that to me is very satisfying. Working in these groups teaches you more about management than an MBA school ever can”.

*Kshamta Makheeja, photography and life skills trainer at Ricoh's View Finder Project, RK Puram, Delhi*

“The youth of today are doing everything they can to be different, but very few are doing everything they can to make a difference. As a volunteer, your acts of kindness may be small but the impact they have on children is huge.”

*Shubham Goyal, Process Associate at Genpack, Core team member at North Delhi PAG, Delhi*





- Volunteers on board - 794

- FB Group -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/129435777159170/>

- Blog -

<https://crychennaivolunteers.wordpress.com/>

## SUMMER CAMP - 'Chutti Kodai Kalagala'

CRY volunteers in Chennai organised a summer camp in May where children were given a mix of creative and intellectual activities to keep them engaged with fun and learning through summer. At the end of the camp the children very excitedly displayed what they had learnt by putting up a mini exhibition and performing a dance show.

## WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR CAMPAIGN

CRY volunteers and interns organised a 'Super Hero' Walk on Marina Beach where 70 superheroes walked for two kilometres in silence – holding placards and banners, to fight against child labour. Two videos were created of this walk that reached over 10,000 people! This show of solidarity was truly a proud moment for the volunteers.

## CHILDREN'S DAY

For children's day – CRY volunteers and the children worked to create a sand sculpture representing 'the joys of childhood' on Marina Beach. At the end of the day, balloons were released into the sky as a symbol of freedom and innocence. CRY volunteers, children and members from the surrounding community came together through their shared love for children to make this event a success.



## VOLUNTEER QUOTES

“Working with the CRY Chennai Public Action Group, has been one the best memories of being in Chennai. One of those memories was organising the Summer Camp in Notchikuppam. We did many activities and the zeal of the kids kept us going. The children were very excited throughout the camp. Even though I had a linguistic barrier, the kids never let me feel it. We would talk with actions and broken Tamil for almost a year and half. These were indeed the best moments.”

*Mehak Mahanoori, Volunteer, Chennai*

“It was an awesome experience to be a part of the CRY ‘Soccer for Child Rights’ tournament. Using sports as a platform is not new, but hearing real-life stories from kids whose lives have been changed was enriching. Everyone was genuinely impressed and keen to be a part of it. The dedication of the SCSTEDS team and the kids that looked up to the team, showed that one positive change can in fact spark a ripple effect of happiness.”

*Subi Arumugam, Volunteer, Chennai*





- **Volunteers on board** - 1710

- **FB page** -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/cryvolunteer/bangalore/>

- **Blog** -

<https://wordpress.com/stats/day/crybangalorevolunteers.wordpress.com>

## ENROLMENT ENDEAVOURS WITH A DIFFERENCE

For the CRY partnership with KSCPCR (Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights), 25 interns helped with data collection and analysis regarding children not enrolled in school across Karnataka. The partnership was a success because of the efforts of the volunteers and interns. 49 children were enrolled into schools at the end of the project.

Additionally, the Yeshwantpur Public Action Group worked to get children from migrant communities re-enrolled into schools. The

volunteers took 3 to 4 hour classes every weekend to gain the confidence of the children. The project was a success and 36 children were re-enrolled in schools over the last academic year!

## PARTNERSHIP WITH DRAMEBAAZ

12 children from the Jeevan Bheema Nagar – Public Action Group performed on stage for the first time ever in an inspiring event organised by the Rotary Club supported by CRY volunteers. The volunteers did a workshop with Dramebaaz, a program which works to build life skills through theatre. They also took lessons on script writing, team building, dialogue delivery and screening, for the children. The final show attracted large audiences, who appreciated the confidence of the children while they performed on stage.



## SOCCKER FOR CHILD RIGHTS

Soccer for Child Rights is a tournament with two “goals.” Firstly, to raise awareness amongst corporate employees about the rights of children living in slums. And secondly, to help children living in slums enter into mainstream society. To achieve this, CRY volunteers provided support to the Bangalore team to organise a fun-filled fundraising tournament. The event raised a total of 1.6 lakhs and is a great example of work and play coming together towards one single cause.

## VOLUNTEER QUOTES

“Volunteering with CRY was one of the best things that ever happened to me. One of my most memorable moments was the visit to Madanapally, Andhra Pradesh. We had to meet the girls in the orphanage. When we entered the orphanage, they ran towards us and gave us the roses they were holding. I felt immense joy. The satisfaction of engaging with the children has been incomparable.”

Deepashri Shekhar, BDS student,  
Yeshwantpur Public Action Group, Bangalore

“Ever since I joined CRY, my dream of becoming a kid again has been fulfilled. Interacting with them taught me to discern, paint, create, and guide every day. My life is not gloomy anymore. It feels like it has a new path and everything else are just materialistic joys attached. For me, CRY has been an opportunity to do things that I wanted, had been longing for, want to relive again. Thank you CRY for giving me these days.”

– *Rahul Gupta, IIT-Allahabad, works in  
Practo, Madiwala Public Action Group,  
Bangalore*



# VOLUNTEERING IN ACTION

A unique assessment of the perspectives of 100 CRY volunteers was carried out, across 4 cities. The key objective of this activity was to understand the value additions made to the skills of volunteers after associating with CRY. It was observed that volunteering with CRY not only helps them acquire knowledge on important issues of child rights but also transforms their overall perspective on children and childhood, leading to their all-round development as an individual.

## Volunteer's Anecdotes

**VIBHATI SINGH**  
*"Volunteering helped me change my perception that underprivileged children are different - they are not, they are just like us"*

*"The warm inclusive nature of volunteering infused in me a strange kind of positivity and happiness"*

**ANJALI SEMWAL**

**RAGHAV MEHRA**  
*"Some of my best friends were made in CRY, as we worked together to put a smile on children's faces."*

*"What volunteering taught me is that sitting around and complaining is never enough, and that we should get up and do something ourselves if we want to change how the world is."*

**ANAM RIZVI**

**GARIMA SAINI**  
*"No matter how old you are, when you are surrounded by such beautiful children, you feel the urge and the power to change."*

## Perspective and Skill Enhancement

SURVEY BASED ON RESPONSES OF 99 VOLUNTEERS ACROSS 4 CITIES



Percentage of volunteers who felt that as a result volunteering with CRY, they are more comfortable in interacting with people of different socio-economic and religious backgrounds and that they are much likely to be friends with them from now on.

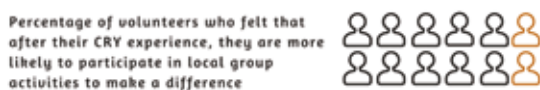


### OUR VOLUNTEERS SPEAK

"When I interact with others, I get to know about their culture, their beliefs and customs which interests me the most. So, I believe CRY has been a medium for facilitating this interaction more and more"

"Prior to volunteering I was not sensitive enough in my interactions with people from different socio-economic background. Over the years, I have been able to effectively interact with them."

"We have 30-40 volunteers so we have different genders, religious and different background. And we celebrate different festival and events together"



MADE BY: ARUSHI JAIN (CRY VOLUNTEER)



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CHILD RIGHTS AND YOU

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for children



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