

Educo Newsletter Summer 08

Dear Friends of Educo,

We wanted to thank you all for your very generous support and share the latest Educo news with those that have helped us over the past two years.



Corporate Fundraising Announcement

We are delighted to announce that an anonymous corporate donor has generously agreed to wholly fund an Educo school in India, subject to five prudent conditions. Educo embraces the significant growth of Corporate Social Responsibility and recognizes that, going forward, corporate partnerships will be a vital component of our fundraising model.

Educo team in India

Members of the Educo team visited our projects in India over the Easter period. The team spent time in both Mumbai and Kolkata working with our local partners to further develop our projects. They also forged important new contacts and explored potential partnerships to maximize the long-term sustainability of our programmes.

Mumbai (Bombay)

The team visited our first educo school in Vasai, on the outskirts of Mumbai. Recently opened, it currently has 60 primary pupils, however, Sr. Paulette expects this figure to rise above 250 pupils when the new school year starts, after the Monsoon, in July. The children are thriving – healthy, happy and full of fun.

JP Morgan

The team met with JP Morgan Bank in Mumbai who currently provides food (milk and eggs) for the children in the orphanage. They also pay for a nurse to check on the children each day. Of the 7,000 JP Morgan staff in Mumbai, so far 900 are individually donating money to help these children. JP Morgan has agreed to donate their old computers to Educo so that the children can improve their computer skills (and written English).

Developing Computer Skills

JP Morgan is also working with Educo to locate a computer teacher to teach the children computer skills. The computer teacher will be funded by Educo donors, Jim & Mary Boylan. All Educo schools will have broadband and good computer training, ensuring that the children learn essential IT skills. This will greatly improve their chances in life.

'Twinning' of Educo and Irish pupils

The "twinning" of Irish and Indian schools will benefit greatly pupils in both countries. St. Conleth's College, Dublin is piloting this initiative with Educo. This will give Educo pupils an opportunity to improve their computer and English skills while making friends and learning about a different culture.

Jim Boylan has set up a web camera in the Sahar school, (located in the slums surrounding Mumbai airport) and taught a few pupils how to take photos and do video streaming. Those children are now starting to email and send pictures to pupils in St. Conleth's College.

The 2nd Educo School: Kolkata (Calcutta)

The Kolkata Educational Centre for street children was opened on 15 April. Many of the children have been rescued from a life as young criminals or in the child sex trade. The Centre aims to teach over 200 pupils, aged 15 to 25, vocational skills to help them stand on their own two feet. These skills include, computer training in order to work in offices or dressmaking to sell dresses in the market. Initiatives such as the onsite bakery will allow pupils to practice bread and cake making while giving them the opportunity to sell their products. Also, the small café will allow them practice their catering skills.

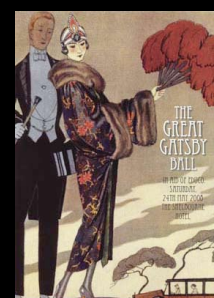
The 3rd Educo School: Sahar

This school will provide secondary education and it will feed in existing Sahar primary school pupils. The Educo team met with the builder on-site to fast-track the construction project. The proposed site is conveniently located and only a 5 minute walk from the existing primary school.

Educo Events

The Great Gatsby Ball in aid of Educo

Following on from the huge success of last year's 'La Dolce Vita Ball', the Educo Summer Ball was a phenomenal fundraising success. We are delighted to announce that we raised our ambitious target of €100,000. An homage to Gatsby frivolity, ladies wore feather plumes and rivers of pearls and many gentlemen sported white tie. Charleston dancers and roaring sounds from the Jazz Age got us all in the flapper mood. After dinner, Spring Break played live to a heaving dance floor. RTE Personality and Educo Ambassador, Sheana Keane generously acted as MC for the evening and shared her first hand experiences of Educo projects in India. Our heartfelt thanks to all of you, guests and donors, who helped us reach our fundraising target. We would like to particularly thank our sponsor, Kuvera for their support. Finally, the July issue of The Gloss magazine features a double page spread on the Great Gatsby Ball.



Ladies mini-marathon, 2nd June 2008

Catherine Forrest and Catherine Walsh led 30 brave Educo runners and walkers in the Ladies mini-marathon. In total, €15,000 was raised on the day and will help Educo to inch closer to our goal of fundraising €500,000 this year to continue our schools programme. Well done to all those who participated.

Maeve Binchy Dinner

Thursday, September 11th in the George Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire

Maeve has kindly agreed to give a dinner talk for Educo on Thursday, 11th September in the St George Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire. This event is being organized by Jim & Mary Boylan. For further details, please contact Jim Boylan, email boylan.jim@gmail.com or call 086 241 1535 for tickets.

Educo's youngest donor

We were touched to receive a letter from Katie Healy who pledged to donate €200 of her first communion money to help other less fortunate children receive an education.

Website Sponsor a child online with your credit card

We have updated the website to allow donors to sponsor a child online. You can now sponsor a child using your credit card, online on http://www.educo.ie/html/j_df.asp for a monthly donation. You can still donate by direct debit – you simply print off the direct debit form and post it in to Educo, completed.

We wish to acknowledge and sincerely thank all of you who have supported us over the past year. We would also like to remind you that 100% of all funds raised go directly towards Educo projects. There are no administrative costs or fees.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Grattan Boylan and the EDUCO committee.

educoco, Milltown Business Park, Milltown, Monaghan.