

## IWA BOARD MEETING 11/23/13

Venue: 3181 Soldiers Home Road,

Time: 3:00 pm

**Present:** Rashmi Chaturvedi, Deepa Divakaran, Lakshmi Garimella, Kumari Govindaraju, Punam Mittal, Renu Bajaj, Anju Dev, Sangita Handa, Meena Narsimhan, Charu Balachander.

### 1. Donation to YWCA

The Board decided to donate \$2,500.00 to YWCA's DVIPP program specifically targeting areas that provided resources to help women find employment, housing, financial resources, childcare, counseling in order to become self-sufficient. YWCA agreed to provide a report in mid 2014 to assess how the money has been utilized to further this cause.

### 2. Donation to ICRW

Rashmi had skype conversation with Ravi Varma of ICRW regarding the use of IWA's donated funds to this organization. He mentioned that IWA's donation can be used for either of the following projects that currently rank high in their priorities for action :

A. Safe cities project for women. This is to prevent violence against women (rape, provide safety) They are currently focusing on New Delhi and are getting some financial support from UN Women. They have written a report that is very damaging and has been stalled by the Delhi govt to be published only after the elections. Within this project they have a 16 day activism scheduled for Delhi in December. This is being led by 2 NGOs and with support from the Delhi Universities.

IWA's money can be used for a campaign document or to sponsor one or two days of activism. The campaign document can be written with the help of IWA. Money can be used toward funding research and documentation.

B. A new project GEMS (Gender Equity and Sensitization program) in the state of Jharkhand in 3 districts. This program is funded by Jharkhand Govt, EU, and UK govt and few other NGOs. GEMS program focus on children, women and men. IWA's grant will be merged with the larger program.

IWA monetary contribution shall be acknowledged through products such as documents, manuals, campaign material bearing IWA's logo and of every other acknowledgement that other NGOs will get. When money is designated for a particular program run by ICRW, they assign a Project code, define a time frame for the project and the deliverables--called TOR (Term of Reference). This then is published with the donor agency's logo and name and then report is given to the donor agency. Every activity is metric driven.

IWA members at the meeting had a lengthy debate on which project to fund, and eventually, it was decided to direct IWA's contribution towards GEMS project since it is likely to make more direct impact on needy population, and is also likely to be more measurable.

### 3. Donation to ASHA -

The \$1000 (\$800 for Diksha project and \$200 for Manas project) donation check to ASHA has still not been cashed. Donations to ASHA usually go to an intermediary – Central Office in this case – before being processed, which may be the reason for the delay in cashing this check. Meena reported that in her opinion, the IWA-sponsored summer internship program with ASHA was beneficial and motivational to the younger IWA kids. ASHA members were very appreciative of this collaborative program with IWA. Links to the work of some of the

IWA kids is provided on the ASHA Purdue website. Meena will obtain the link for the educational videos made by 2 IWA kids during their internship and Punam will post it on IWA website.

#### 4. **Holiday Party**

Slated to be held on December 7, 2013 from 3:00 – 5:00 pm.

Menu – Cake, Samosas and Tea.

Anju, Charu and Sangita will take care of providing the food.

Sangita will contact Sujatha to request coordination of games at the party.

Some of the remaining IWA cups and t-shirts may be given away as prizes for the games.

#### 5. **General Discussion**

- a. Absence of new board member Riwitti for an extended period of time next year – Charu has graciously agreed to fill in for Riwitti during her absence.
- b. IWA coffee cup distribution – Lakshmi has a few cups remaining. A tentative list of IWA members was drawn up for distribution of the cups. Renu wanted some of her sponsors to be among those members. Some of the cups may even serve as small prizes at the Holiday Party on December 7. Lakshmi suggested that IWA organize sports competitions for children and that winners be given small trophies to keep them motivated.
- c. Cook Book Distribution – After a brief debate, it was decided to make the cook book available in e-format. Rashmi and Meena will work on converting the cook book into the correct format for sale at amazon.com. The details of ebook publishing with Amazon needs to be figured out.
- d. Cookbook Profits - The cookbooks profits will only be fully realized by the end of the year. Therefore, the board decided to use the funds towards IWA's charitable project for FY 2014.
- e. Accounting help - Renu will seek assistance from other IWA members who are proficient in accounting to help her with IWA accounts.