

Happy New Year

2022

“Nothing is more expensive than a missed opportunity”

H. Jackson Brown JR.

Hope Thru Hoops: When dribbles win hearts!

Our children at Hi5 know this very well and our Mumbai centers seized every opportunity. Be it a friendly basketball organized by Adidas or a chance to attend physical sessions. Here's a snapshot



Hi 5 Children were invited by Adidas to participate in a friendly tournament as they were launching a new basketball court at St Andrews, Bandra. Our children from Goregoan center had a field day playing in the new court and receiving some nice Adidas apparels and shoes.



The online basketball sessions continued for about 200 children and to make things interesting, our coaches had some dribbling competitions. Each child doing the online sessions had to upload a video of the drills that were taught. The winners were selected on certain parameters like the perfection of the drills, dedication exhibited by the student in the online sessions and regularity of attendance.

In some areas we had children attending physical basketball sessions in nearby parks. Our team of fully vaccinated coaches followed all protocols to ensure continued physical learning for the children. The Chembur Children's home was permitted to restart and Senior Coach Akash Waghmare began practices for the boys.



December brought a new set of opportunities for our U18 students. In December, Mumbai's Central district announced U18 boys and girls selection trials. 2 girls, Kajal Gupta and Sejal Maurya, and 1 boy, Rakesh Jaiswar, got selected to play for the district tournament in Aurangabad. The girls played well and qualified till the quarters and then lost out. Out of the Hi5 players, Rakesh Jaiswar moved on and was invited to participate in the State trials. Our



Senior coaches Arafat Memon, Kevin Francis and Vignesh Iyer represented Central district coaches.

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, so when the Covid situation was manageable and when all the Hi 5 staff was fully vaccinated, we managed to do a one day fun trip to Lonavala in October. It was a day to relax, play and bond with each other after 18 months of hiatus.



Telangana:



Krushihome the orphanage in Medchal where basketball never sleeps has had the most training sessions since the start of the pandemic. Not a single day has gone by without practices and games within their own groups of children. The result of this hard work was seen in few of the tournaments that happened in 2021

Global sports conducted a 3x3 basketball tournament on October 2nd, 2021 for U12 and U14 boys in Hyderabad. Our Krushihome boys did a fantastic job and U12 boys went on to secure the second place in the tournament.

Pushpan Sports Academy conducted the 5x5 basketball tournament in December and we had the Krushihome children represent Hi 5. Once again, our boys shined here with U14 boys securing the 2nd place.

Our own Hi 5 USA board member Ram Ramgiri, his son Nikhil and other Deccan Dunkers members Ravi and Suri Gade from CA visited the Medchal schools and Krushihome and were in awe of the children's proficiency and their diligence for daily practice. The children were playing amazing basketball and they could not stop talking about them. The guests had a wonderful time playing with the children and talking to the coaches Narayan, Bhupathi and Sahithya. They lauded the coaches for their dedication and the efforts put on these children.





As per Telangana government mandates, the schools reopened slowly in October. Attendance was not mandated for the children, and our sessions continued with few children in Gowdavally and Athavally Zilla Parishad Schools in Medchal besides Krushi Home. The tribal school at Jinnaram in Sanga Reddy district asked the children to return back to



their residential schools. The basketball session continued with existing children and some new children. "It was a period of relearning and reassessing their skills after a long gap, said Senior Coach Narayan.

All schools continued basketball sessions until the end of December in Telangana.

Kolkata:



In a year full of abrupt stops, Parivaar was briefly open in April 2021 for a month before it closed again due to the rise in covid cases. Children were sent home for summer and were told to wait. After 6 months, the school finally reopened after Diwali in early November, and the basketball sessions commenced then. The coaches Digvijay Singh & Krishnendu Pardhan were back on campus to restart basketball at Parivaar boys and girls courts. **Thanks to SRT foundation** (Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar Foundation) for a beautiful court, exclusively for girls is now operational at Parivaar. The girls

enjoyed playing at their own court. With the unrelenting pandemic still raging on, we are still awaiting the formal inauguration. We hope that it will happen soon with Parivaar children, staff, Hi 5 team and SRT team from Mumbai. Keeping our fingers crossed!!

Also, don't miss how the Parivaar children take care of their basketball courts - sometimes the unseasonal rains dampen the courts but not their spirits.



New Expansions @ Hi 5



In December of 2021, Senior coaches Kevin Francis and Vignesh Iyer visited **Naroli, Gujarat**. Pre-pandemic, this was scouted as a possible new location to start the “Hope Thru Hoops” program in the rural region of Gujarat in western India. A high school and two feeder schools were identified to start the program. The recent trip by our coaches helped them to evaluate in detail, by talking to the school staff. The groundwork for building the basketball courts was planned in the recent trip. The children’s enthusiasm was apparent, as they are hungry for sports like basketball. There is a huge need for structured team sports like basketball in the region. It was initially planned to begin in January 2022, depending on the Covid situation, however currently, it's a wait and watch game.

Around the same time, our senior staff member Geet

Gera and Telangana Senior coach Narayan visited a few tribal residential schools and social welfare residential schools. The government of Telangana is showing immense interest in Hi 5 taking up more projects for basketball training and creating infrastructure in and around Hyderabad rural towns like Chegunta, Narsapur, Ibrahimpatnam, Narsingi and Shaikpet. We are hopeful of some interesting developments in the coming year.



Hi 5's "Pathways to Success"

Hi 5's "Pathways to Success" program is an education and counselling support initiative to provide children with skill based assistance empowering them to aspire for a better future. Our Pathways team is continuously monitoring their attendance, progress in tutoring classes and providing financial support for tutoring and college fees. No Hope thru Hoops child is left behind.

Life went off gear for these children since March 2020 when the pandemic began, but with Hi5's support, the children are studying and giving online exams through devices provided to them. Kudos to our pathways team - Vishal, Arpan, Asfa and Pratik who are working endless hours to keep these children in school.



- Tribal children both high school and college students assemble at a center in Jawhar, Maharashtra to give online exams because of better network in this area.
- In December, some of these college students



from tribal areas were called back to the hostel to continue in person college. Continuous counselling is provided to ensure that they do not drop out of college.

- All 18+ children have been doubly vaccinated to facilitate return to hostels



- The urban students in higher grades class 11 and 12 have been enrolled in the tutoring center so that their education continues. Hi 5 supports their college tuition fees as well.



- Counselling by Hi 5 is part of their lives and extra support is given to them by pathways team with practice exams. Here you can see the children taking extra practice exams on basketball courts.



- Grade 10 students, who will be our incoming pathways students for 2022-2023 batch were given an orientation of the support system available, and how it will be given going forward after their school exit board exams this summer.

On December 17th, 2021 at Hi 5, we continued to honor 5 toppers from BMC schools (Bombay

Municipal Corporation) with “**Radhika Memorial Scholarship**”. This scholarship is given to those who complete grade 10 with high honors. Thank you to our Hi 5 USA board member Ravi Padmanabhan who has instituted this scholarship year on year in memory of his wife, Radhika Padmanabhan. Radhika is remembered every year for her love and passion for these Hi5 children.



Courts:

Year 2021 was just about building infrastructure as we were dealing with the pandemic. With 2 beautiful courts all ready to go and a third one getting finishing touches - we are still awaiting formal inaugurations, due to the ongoing pandemic.

Thank you **BookASmile** for putting those smiles on the children's faces. **All the 3 courts in Mumbai area are sponsored by BookASmile in 2021** - Poonam Nagar @ Andheri East, Motilal Nagar @ Goregoan West and Ghadge Maharaj Ashram School at Vasind in Thane Dist.



Our Partners & Supporters



You've received this newsletter because you'd like to be updated about Hi 5 Youth foundation
 Hi 5 Youth Foundation USA is a US 501(c)(3) public charity. EIN #82 - 2176193. Copyright © 2020. Hi 5 Youth Foundation. All rights reserved.
 Published by - Hi 5 Youth Foundation | Writer & Editor - Reshma Sharma

Hi 5 Youth Foundation, Wing B2 - Unit 204, Kanakia Boomerang, Chandivali Farm Road, Andheri (E), Mumbai 400072, India
Website: hi5youthfoundation.com **Email:** info@hi5youthfoundation.com
Website: hi5usa.org **Contact:** admin@hi5usa.org