

*“It's not your blue blood, your pedigree or your college degree.
It's what you do with your life that counts.”*

Millard Fuller

The Hi5 kids refused to be buckled down by the pandemic uncertainty. Our students overcame obstacles to continue playing basketball and even win at the national level. We looked at it as a period of new beginnings and focused on identifying new regions and developing world-class infrastructure.

Special Mention - Rakesh Jaiswar



Rakesh Jaiswar got selected to represent Maharashtra in U18 at the National Level competition that was held in Indore on January 2nd, 2022. Rakesh started with Hi 5 in 2015 as a 6th grade student from Motial Nagar center BMC school. A star player in Hi 5 today, he was a complete novice when he first joined us.

Everyone at his school and Hi5 are proud of his achievement. Kudos to him!! He is completing grade 12 and headed to college in a couple of months. Life has been tough on him at home, but he is a true “WINNER” in every sense. Hi 5 continues to financially support him through college and his basketball journey in the future.

Hope Thru Hoops: The period of uncertainty continued

January brought with it the clouds of uncertainty, as schools shut down again because of Omicron. All schools in Mumbai, Hyderabad and Kolkata closed down indefinitely and each state in India was absolutely cautious, takings things one day at a time. End of January, schools started again and basketball sessions began for small groups of children. Vaccination was completed for children between the age-group of 15-17 in all schools, followed by 12-year-olds.

Mumbai:

Basketball sessions slowly resumed in Mumbai. The children were glad to be back on court in their Hi 5 jerseys and shoes. In the past two years, many children had moved bases and changed homes or gone back to their villages. To understand the actual impact of this move, our coaches and staff at Hi 5 started doing the survey and collecting data.

The 2 years of pandemic have been difficult for many children and they appreciated the Covid support provided by Hi5. In March, Hi 5's co-founder Usha Sundar visited the Dixit road, Vile Parle center, to meet the children. February and March 2022 turned out to be exciting as for the first time, U13 boys participated in Nagpada and Tarmac Cup tournaments after the pandemic. Also, U18 boys from Hi5's pathways program participated in Shirampur Nashik Tournament in January 2022.

Besides basketball, for the first time after two years we had children come out and celebrate events like **International Women's Day** on March 8th and Holi, on March 18th. The joy and happiness at the events was infectious.



Telangana:

Basketball sessions restarted in full swing at all Telangana centers. The head count in some schools was slightly lower due to parents' apprehensions about sending the children to school. Our Co-founder from Hi 5, Ramaswamy Parameshwari visited all the four centers - Krushi Home, Gowdavally, Athavally and Jinnaram residential school. The Krushi Home also hosted a friendly game with ex saikorians (young alumni of sainik schools). The saikorians were awestruck seeing the talent of our Hi 5 children at Krushi.



Kolkata:

We started seeing children returning to Parivaar campus in February. Slowly, the student strength was building up every day. Parivaar children come from very remote tribal villages of Bihar, West Bengal and Jharkhand. Fear of covid, lack of transportation were some challenges faced by children, hindering their

return on time. We are excited to announce that our first women coach Ms. Subasree Sahu came on board to coach the girls at the Parivaar Sarada Teertha Girls Campus. We are expecting to achieve greater heights in the next few months.



New Region Added

Gujarat:

Gujarat is the next phase of expansion for Hi 5. Two coaches from Mumbai were sent to Naroli, Gujarat in the month of March for 2 weeks. Naroli is a tribal residential school bordering Gujarat and Rajasthan in Banas Kantha district, near Palanpur. Hi5 intends to support the

program from the new academic year starting in July. Meanwhile, to understand the student potential, Hi5 conducted a camp in Uttar Bunyadi High School, Naroli Pay Center and Radka Anupam primary school. Potential start date is July 22.



Hi 5's "Pathways to Success"

"Pathways to Success" is a counseling and education support initiative by Hi 5. This program is a key extension to our flagship basketball program "Hope Thru Hoops". The children are inducted into pathways after they complete 4 - 5 years of Hope Thru Hoops program. Pathways initiative supports both urban and tribal children in the program.



In the urban slum, the 11th & 12th graders are financially supported for college tuition and tutoring classes. Attendance and grades are monitored diligently and when children face challenges at home or in school, pathways support staff counsels them and help them get through the difficult situation while staying focused on academics. From time to time, these children take part in tournaments when time permits. Counseling sessions began for 10th



graders who will be our potential incoming pathways students for the next academic year. All the 10th grade children were given exam kits before their board exams in March. All 12th graders made sure they took many practice exams before their final board exams in March. The exam results are expected to be declared in June.

In the tribal program, all incoming 10th grade pathways students at Vajreshwari Ashram School were counseled and given exam kits for their exit exam in March. The active students of pathways who are already enrolled in the Panvel CKT college had a stop and go situation during the pandemic. Finally, 11th, 12th graders, first and second-year college students returned to campus for in person academic classes and could stay in the hostel from



February. The 12th graders were gearing up for their upcoming final exams. For the 11th graders, this was their first visit to their college and hostel.

Vishal Khare conducted an orientation for parents and children on what it is to live on campus and attend college. Hi 5 players are first generation college goers and parents need a very hard push to make their wards stay in college.



In March, our co-founder Usha Sundar met with all 4 batches of students at Panvel to check on their academic commitment and challenges faced by children at home. Most tribal children are pressured to take up manual work or get married early, especially girls. Hi 5 continues to work with students on one-on-one basis, so that no student is left behind because of financial pressures.



New Court Inaugurations: Thank you Book-A-Smile foundation

Thanks to the support of Book-A-Smile foundation, we have inaugurated 3 basketball courts in quick succession. During the pandemic, Hi 5 wanted to invest in infrastructure, so that when normalcy returns Hi 5 players will have world class facilities to train and get ahead in the game. Thank you Book-A-Smile for putting smiles on our children's faces in Mumbai and Vasind, Thane District.

Court # 1:

Poonam Nagar MCGM School (first CBSE school in BMC) in Jogeshwari East was inaugurated by none other than our cabinet minister for Tourism and Environment, Government of Maharashtra, **Shri. Aditya Thackeray** on February 5th 2022.



Court # 2:

Motilal Nagar MCGM School in Goregaon West was inaugurated on February 25th, 2022 by senior BMC officials and Nagar Sevak of P-S ward Ms. Shrikala Pillai. This is the second court adjacent to the previous one.



Court # 3:

Shri Gadge Maharaj Ashram School, Vasind in Thane district was inaugurated on March 10 2022 by senior officials of Ashram and the founders of Hi 5. This is a tribal residential school where the basketball programs began in July 2022.



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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

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