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WPR India's Contribution to Karunashraya – A Hospice at Bangalore

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Painting Schools, Wrapping Gifts, Building Homes, Tidying gardens have all been traditional ways to volunteer. But how do you support a hospice with terminally ill cancer patients that does not fit-in with the traditional ways of volunteering? By finding creative ways that make the best use of your time, energy and skills. We did just that here at [Cisco Globalization Center East in Bangalore, India](#). Led by WPR India team, over the last year, we have worked to understand the needs of [Karunashraya](#) and over time found creative ways of volunteering that have proven to be very fulfilling- both for volunteers as well as for Karunashraya. Read through the stories below and if these inspire you, contact us to become part of the *Karunashraya support team*.

Provisions Drive

In October last year, WPR India led a drive to raise awareness for Karunashraya and also stock up their storeroom with Food Essentials. The drive was an overwhelming success with results exceeding set targets by over 100%. Cisco Bangalore employees demonstrated that if they had an opportunity they would support a worthy cause. The WPR team led by Raj Jayaraman did a phenomenal job of the drive across all Cisco buildings in Bangalore. His support team consisted of Sridhar Reddy, Dinesh Kuncham, Tushar Ekka and Manigandan. Total provisions raised by Cisco Bangalore offices could feed Karunashraya for 6 months. This drive laid the foundations of awareness and allowed us to plan new ways to volunteer.



Salvage Checks

Ever wonder what happens to all that wasted construction scrap lying around during the construction of our Cisco buildings? Especially at a growing place like the Cisco Bangalore Campuswell, now you know. The scrap is recycled and sold in the market to people who make better use of the material and the salvage amounts are redirected to Karunashraya. To date we have raised Rs 418,5500 (\$9,766 USD) through this medium for Karunashraya. Praveen Vasudeva and Tushar Ekka from WPR make it all happen, month-on-month, every month.



Website Building

A website becomes an important marketing communication tool for any organization, more so for an NGO like Karunashraya. The presence of a good website would increase the reach of Karunashraya. The Cisco India team took up the task of upgrading the website of Karunashraya, thereby bringing the advantages of technology to the NGO and also providing a new and innovative opportunity for our Cisco volunteers. A core group of individuals which included Subject Matter Experts and Thought Leadership met every few weeks to brainstorm, collaborate and finally build a state of the art site for the organization. This was launched with much fanfare on May 2, 2009, and in the first day had processed 3 online Credit Card Donation transactions.

Sairam Krishnan and Gautam Kumar from the IT organization partnered with our vendor organization,

Chimera Technologies, demonstrated the true spirit of volunteering, collaborating and making a difference. Quietly and from their offices at Cisco. Thanks also to Shripati Acharya, Martin McNealis, Nitya Ramakrishnan and Venbakm Gopal for their oversight and Thought Leadership.

Visit the [Karunashraya website](#) to view their work.



May 1 Day of Service

On May 1, 2009, Karunashraya celebrated its 10th anniversary and organized a Memorial Day event to remember their patients and staff. Volunteers were needed to help the team with various activities. The GTME team supported the logistics of the event for over 400 guests, from setup, staging, seating and arrangements for Food and Beverage. The team also successfully raised Rs 36,100 (\$842 USD) through the sale of raffle tickets. Kudos to all the volunteers - Rohini Karanth, Jessy Periyar, Sharath S, Somaiah M.P., Prateek Verma, Kranthi Rajoli, Mayank Mishra, Tushar Ekka, Swati Singh and Nitya Ramakrishnan for making this a truly memorable memorial day!



Annual Newsletter

At one of our calls for volunteering, Prateek Verma quickly signed up to match his passions around Creative Writing and CSR to write the annual newsletter for Karunashraya. This relieves the already overworked Karunashraya staff from an important activity while allowing Prateek to work on this in the comfort of his office. And all this counts towards his Volunteer Hours! Can Volunteering really get any better? Stay tuned for the results he produces!



Would you like to be part of our team and available for these opportunities? Contact [Nitya Ramakrishnan](#), and we will match your skills and passion to a volunteering opportunity!

Other WPR India Initiatives

- **September 2008:** WPR-India donated \$16,333 (Rs 700,000) to Samarthanam, an NGO
- **December 2008:** WPR Mumbai team contributed goodies and other utilities worth \$350 to Bandra East Community Centre, an orphanage
- **December 2008:** Planning and execution of Hope of Harvest event
- **February 2009:** Coordinating book collection activities for the Indira Gandhi school

- **Green Activities:**
 - **April 2009:** World Water day celebrations through awareness stalls at Cisco Bangalore offices. [Click here for more details.](#)
 - **April 2009:** Earth day celebration stalls at Bangalore Campus. [Click here for more details.](#)
 - **January 2009:** Centralized wastebins at Bangalore Campus were installed. This initiative helped us save approximately 32kgs per month and 381kgs per annum. [Click here for more details](#)

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