

Appeal For Volunteers_C19_Bangalore_Child support

Preamble:

With the wrath of the second wave sweeping across the country, we are able to see huge ramifications and impacts on the community. We have a lot of organisations helping out with the basic essential support required like oxygen, food, medicines etc. As a community of schools, we have decided to focus our efforts on the needs of children that are having their worlds turn upside down in a matter of a few days. Keeping in mind that Bangalore is a city with a large number of nuclear families, we have to be prepared for the worst and can only pray that our services are not required. [To understand the need to be prepared click here.](#)

Appeal :

We would request volunteers to help support this initiative. I understand that every single one of you would like to help out. So please understand your current commitments and be clear on the minimum amount of time that you can commit which can help us plan the entire support system better.

Currently, this is what we foresee as the list of activities we would need volunteers for :

1. To help coordinate amongst different departments and agencies, especially those already working with children separated from families, and collate the relevant and critical data.
2. Ensure all the data is verified and developments are updated on the database instantly as all volunteers would be working remotely.
3. To find temporary homes for children who have lost both parents to Covid or any other similar conditions and keep track of them.
4. Offer the required support to children whose parents are both in isolation or in the hospital recovering from COVID.
5. Try and reach out to existing relatives and see how the child or children can be sent to a relative's house to offer some familial support while continuing to stay connected with regular follow-ups.
6. To offer virtual sessions and activities to keep the children positively engaged. Apart from counselling the child/ren and their family.
7. Based on the languages you know, you can help to translate or interact with children/families conversant in these languages.
8. Be clear that personal information and contact details secured through your involvement will not be shared with anyone outside the organization.
9. Coordinate with other support groups for essential necessities such as hospital beds, oxygen, medicines, foods etc.

[Here is a link to a form that you can fill up with your details](#) and we shall contact you once we have more clarity on how we will be proceeding. Contd..

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Keep in mind we are currently only in our initial stage of collating volunteers together. As the situation changes, we will have to get ready to help support these children in need.

Phase II

Once we have our team of volunteers, we need to reach out to our respective school communities and contacts to collate a list of temporary foster homes if and when the need arises. Simultaneously work with the existing agencies and organizations to make them aware of our presence and to count on us for support.

1. The families that volunteer their homes have to be verified. They need to be committed physically, mentally and emotionally, to support the children we pair them with for the next few weeks or months. They should support the children until the situation comes under control and the children can be officially taken care of by the assigned agencies. We have to be clear that this is only a temporary situation as official channels would need some time to work things out.
2. Identify criteria on how children would be paired with these families - will it be based on the age of current children or their residential locality and other parameters we decide upon.
3. Identify a general framework of how these children will be communicated with, as well as counselled. We need to ensure every child is respected and treated with the utmost care and empathy. We have to be the pillar that they can fall back on to give them the courage to take charge of their lives over the next few months.
4. As most schools would be operating virtually for the near future, these children can also be enrolled in the virtual classes of the schools. We can work towards formalising this cooperation with each participating school.

This initiative is a `work in progress`. Kindly share suggestions, ideas via the volunteer sign-up form.

Let's all work together to ensure we have no child left behind.

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Participating Institutions and organisations:

[Address Health](#)

[GEAR Foundation](#)

[Oasis International School](#)

[Inventure Academy](#)

[Vidyashilp Academy](#)