

BAPS Children's Forum, UK

Reaching out to the Community

Dear Friend,
We at BAPS Children's Forum write to express our deepest gratitude for your kind support of our activities. Your invaluable goodwill ensured that we were able to reach out to many thousands in the community, making it a very successful and satisfying experience for us all.

Join us as we glance back upon some of the events that have made our endeavours especially memorable.



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service



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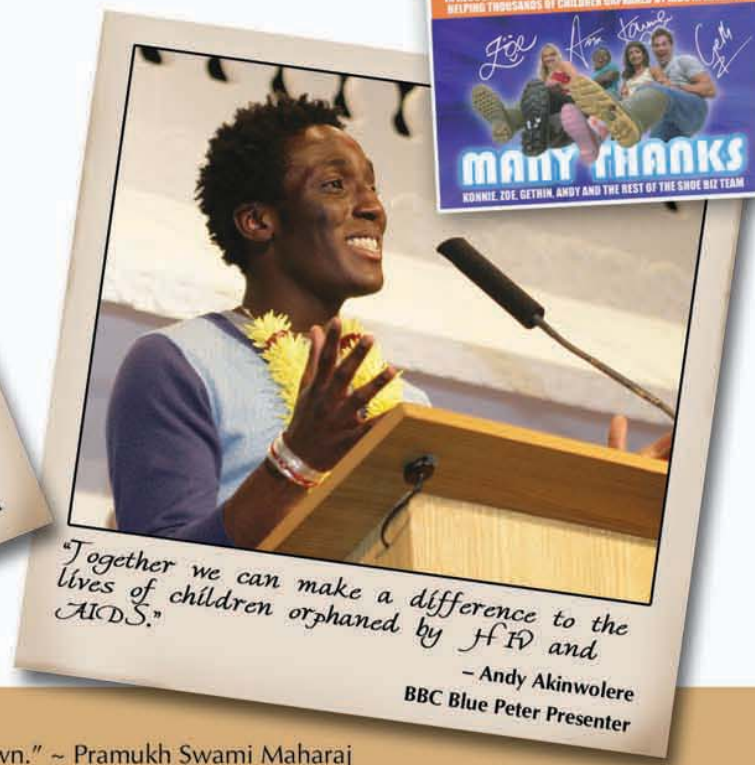
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Caring for the Elderly

Children from the community often visit and entertain the elderly in their care homes in Brent & Harrow. Interacting with these elderly people has dissolved the social isolation they may face in their day to day lives. Often feeling neglected and 'let down' in life, children brighten up their day, make them feel loved and wanted, giving them a reason to live.

Blue Peter Appeal for Orphans in Malawi

Enthusiastic young BAPS volunteers and children from The Swaminarayan School collected over 4,000 pairs of shoes for the Blue Peter *Shoebiz Appeal*, in support of a worldwide UNICEF campaign aimed at helping needy children in Malawi orphaned through AIDS.



Parenting Seminars & Parent's Days

Unfolding and Developing Talent



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Parenting Seminars & Parents' Days

In a career-orientated world, nurturing children has become secondary to luxury where the craving for fame and wealth has left many children neglected and to fend for themselves. Our parenting courses, seminars and workshops are run by qualified trainers who coach parents on calmer and better parenting. Parents' Days are held to respect and appreciate parent-child relationships.

Unfolding and Developing Talent

Participation of children remains a key goal of the forum. Classes are held to develop a variety of skills so that children can perform on stage during festivities, unfolding talent and instilling confidence. An interactive CD ROM developed by the children earned them the ICT British Educational & Computing Technology Award (BECTA).



"Today was an eye-opener. I promise to spend more quality time with my children."
- Parent



Youngsters concentrate on developing IT skills



Unique dances and programmes.



Girls leading traditional prayers for world peace.



© BAPS

Children in Need

Brent Respect Festival



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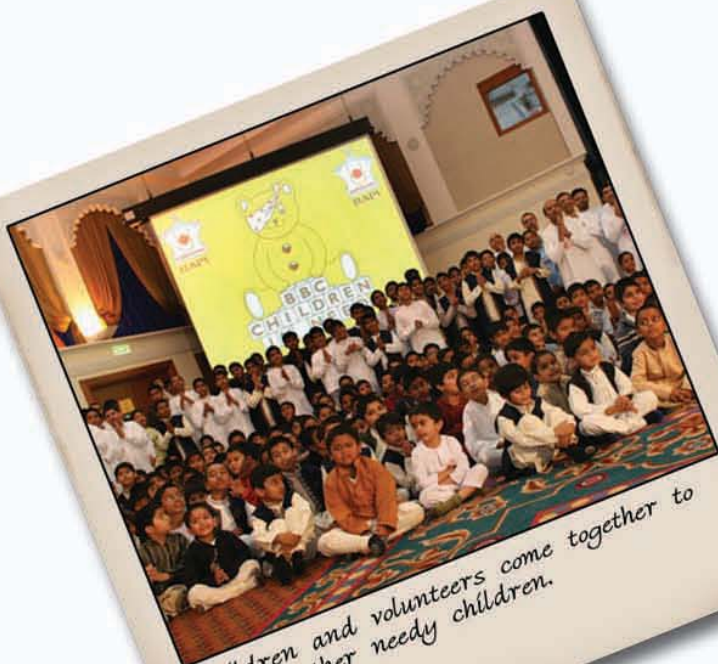
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Children in Need

Appreciating what they have and being sympathetic to the less fortunate are some of the compassionate values that are instilled from a young age. BAPS kids raised money for BBC – Children in Need by performing a spectacular dance. They also actively annually participate in the 'Sponsored Fun Walk' raising funds for various charities such as The Anthony Nolan Trust, Diabetes UK and The British Heart Foundation.

Brent Respect Festival

The volunteers of the BAPS Children Forum led a community initiative in partnership with Brent Council to create the world's largest finger painting as part of the Brent Respect Festival. Over 650 people of all ages, beliefs and backgrounds came together to produce a world record-breaking painting embodying the message of community respect and cohesion.



Children and volunteers come together to support other needy children.



'Respect For One Another' and 'Unity in Diversity'

– Painting themes inspired by HH Pramukh Swami Maharaj

Sports & Healthy Lifestyles

Protecting Mother Nature



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Sports & Healthy Lifestyles

Physical fitness and wellbeing of the children within the community are a priority for BAPS. Children are regularly encouraged to participate in sports activities. Annual football/netball tournaments are organised to inspire values of teamwork and sportsmanship. Cultivating healthy eating habits and teaching the young to cook through supervised cooking classes along with anti-addiction campaigns and substance awareness seminars are some of the initiatives that BAPS has undertaken.

Protecting Mother Nature

The Children's Forum has raised awareness for 'Recycling' by educating children and parents on the importance of saving the ozone layer and the more recent issues relating to climate change. The organisation has participated in numerous recycling projects such as tree plantation, caring for the local environment and can recycling, winning accolades such as the ALCAN and BT Environment awards.



Children attending cooking classes.



Children helping in an active way to preserve the environment and resources.

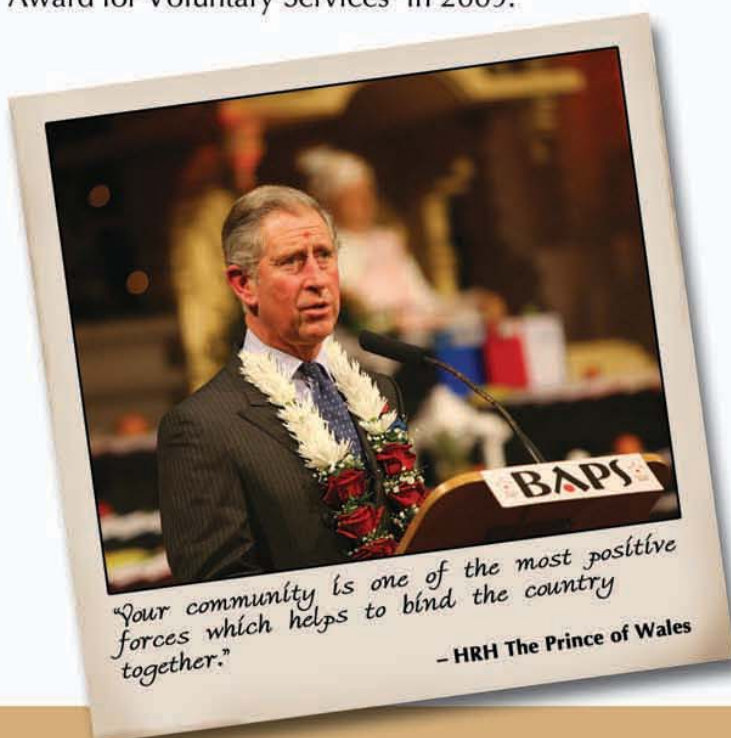


Spirit of Service

Giving back to the community what the community has given to them is an ethos that is embedded in the children. From welcoming various dignitaries to performing light chores, the children gladly volunteer to tidy the premises, organise events and look after the visitors' shoes during Diwali in a gigantic shoe rack of 3,000 pairs to cater for the thousands of visitors on New Year's Day. Her Majesty the Queen recognised the community endeavours of BAPS and awarded the 'Queen's Award for Voluntary Services' in 2009.

Raising Academic Standards

Coaching and guidance to achieve better grades in the Key Stage 1, 2 and 3 SAT's exams is a core activity that the forum undertakes. Booster classes are organised throughout the year during weekends to elevate academic standards especially in view of the migrant population to whom English is a second language. Parental guidance is also provided for helping children at home, selecting schools and making the most of parent meetings at school.





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UK Pride of Place Award

The BAPS Children's Forum operates from BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Neasden; the backbone of the much-needed infrastructure for its activities. The Mandir was recently conferred the 'UK Pride of Place Award' by Government authorities after a nationwide online poll. After weeks of voting, the Mandir registered the largest number of votes across the country as well as in London, with an overwhelming 81% of votes from the London Borough of Brent.

This means the Mandir was voted as the place that generates the greatest pride among local residents.



Moral Values and Citizenship

Through its structured regular weekly forums and a dedicated volunteer force, the BAPS Children's Organisation is committed to nurture values, encourage education, serve the community, inspire spirituality and develop talent so that the children of today mature into law-abiding friendly citizens of tomorrow.

Whether it is the Tsunami disaster or acts of terrorism, these innocent hearts have prayed for the wellbeing of others.



Children being inspired during the weekly forums.

BAPS Children's Forum receives Queen's Award on 2 June 2009

'Nurturing Hindu values, education & talents
in children & young people in London.'

Reach – Involve – Serve
Community Endeavours & Achievements



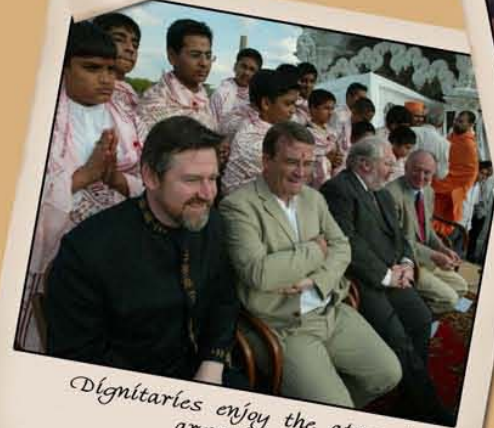
Children enjoying colourful dances.



Offering voluntary service is encouraged at all ages.



Children from the local community paint for respect.



Dignitaries enjoy the atmosphere around children during their events.



Youngsters observe an addiction-free life and also educate others of its advantages.



Toddlers learn through fun and entertainment.



Being competitive and active to promote a healthy lifestyle.



The inspirer of all the children's activities continually encourages the abilities within the next generation.



Volunteers receive the ICT award for producing a unique CD-Rom and supervising the work of children.



Inspirer: His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj

BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha | 105-119 Brentfield Road | Neasden | London NW10 8LD | UK
T: (+44) 20 8965 2651 | F: (+44) 20 8965 6313 | E: info@mandir.org | W: www.mandir.org
Registered Charity No. 273425

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