



July - Sept 2011

### *Dear Volunteers,*

Much has happened since the last Volunteer Newsletter! Janaagraha just celebrated another milestone with the successful completion of Phase 1 of the Bangalore Electoral Systems Transformation Project. A celebratory event was held on September 5, 2011. Through our joint efforts with the Election Commission of India to clean the electoral rolls in Shanthi Nagar Assembly Constituency, we witnessed the tireless dedication of over 800 volunteers who have helped submit a whopping 44,218 forms for registration and locate 10,000 names that qualify for deletion. There is much more to be achieved toward cleaning voter rolls which has had us renew our commitment with the ECI to continue this democratic exercise for the next 3 years! An overwhelming sense of thankfulness to all our community volunteers who have not only made this project a possibility, but ensured that it was a huge success! This project truly exemplifies an incredible power of volunteering and active citizenship that Janaagraha has chosen to imbibe and promote since our inception!

Through our online initiative, iJanaagraha - committed to bring about awareness and change at the local neighbourhood level, we look forward to the online space brimming with similar volunteer energy. Our current **volunteer** roles offer diverse and interesting opportunities ranging from number crunching & analysis, offline & online content, development research & public policy; teaching & web design. **Volunteer** with Janaagraha and assist us in the efforts to enhance quality of life in our cities. Without the valuable volunteer pool of diverse skills, qualifications, cultures and backgrounds; our exertions would be significantly reduced.

The success of every initiative in Janaagraha is due to our volunteer's perseverance and tireless drive. Our endeavour will always be to provide you with exciting engagement opportunities and we look to your continued support.

*Thank you All!*



Warm Regards,  
Kavitha Mhatre  
HR Manager

***We have several volunteer opportunities this quarter! [Click here to read more...](#)***



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V QUOTE

V SPEAK



**Nandita** is a high school student of Greenwich Academy. She volunteered with the *iJanaagraha* and *Bala Janaagraha* programmes.



*This summer, I interned with iJanaagraha and Bala Janaagraha for one month. Before interning with Janaagraha, I had some knowledge of the government and society in Bangalore. However, my work with iJanaagraha gave me entirely new insights of how the city worked with its people. By collecting data on MLA's, Corporators, and wards, I read first-hand accounts of the lack of response and action to issues in wards. During my work with Bala Janaagraha, I had an amazing opportunity to work on devising the Bala Janaagraha Civicfest programme. I think Bala Janaagraha's Civicfest is a great way to engage students to actively learning about civic issues in their own neighbourhoods. This year's topic, urban planning, is especially fitting considering how imperative the need for urban planning is in Bangalore.*



**Nrutya** is a B.E graduate from MS Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bangalore and has 9+ years of experience, predominantly in Quality, Operations and Engineering in the Healthcare Devices Industries. She is currently pursuing a Post graduation Programme in Management from SP Jain Institute of Management, Mumbai. She volunteered with the *I Paid a Bribe* programme.

*What started off as an internship with 'I Paid a Bribe' team at Janaagraha turned in to an inspiring and enriching experience. It is evident from the progress made by [www.ipaidabribe.com](http://www.ipaidabribe.com) that change can be brought about by creating awareness. In order to work in social development we need not blame the government or report their wrong doings, but instead effectively work with the government and citizens to create the change you want to see. The energy at Janaagraha has instigated me to be more aware and contribute towards our social environment.*



**Donna Frith** has a Bachelors Degree in Communication Studies, University of New Castle-Melbourne. She worked as a Graphic Designer and interned with us as part of the Communications Program.



**Madhav Chandavarkar** is a third year law student from Symbiosis Law School, Pune. He interned with us as part of the Advocacy Program.

The magnitude of our social problems will require that all citizens and institutions make a commitment to volunteering as a way of life and as a primary opportunity to create needed change.

- George Romney, former Michigan Governor