

Reaching out

far & wide!

Living

By what we get, we make a living. By what we give, we make a life. Socially responsible individuals are finding time to reach out, finds Bala Chauhan.

Recently on his business trip to France, Saleh Salim stopped en route, at Sharjah. He checked into Radisson Hotel and was pleasantly surprised to find Ismail as the IT manager of the swank star property. Ismail, a young man from Madurai, now lives in Dubai with his mother and wife. "Ismail wanted to study engineering but had no resources. I found him a deserving student and volunteered to pay for his professional degree," says Saleh, a businessman from Bangalore.

Making a difference

Saleh and his entrepreneur wife Asra have kept up with their silent commitment to help deserving students. They not only help their staff educate their children, they also sponsor other children who are referred to them.

"Three years ago I met this girl from a poor and broken home. She wanted to study further. We agreed to sponsor her higher education. She is currently doing her graduation in business management," says Asra. Indra Kamal, an entrepreneur, had her

dream come true when a friend, also a special educator, spoke to her about sponsoring a special needs girl child in her school. "I had always wanted to help girls," she says, adding that once that responsibility ended she started sponsoring another child. Along with husband Kamal, she has donated for books for children who lost everything in the tsunami tragedy.

There are many people like Saleh, Asra, Indra and Kamal who have resolved to reach out to deserving and "less fortunate" people.

They run their lives, their work and profession, live well and party hard. They keep the philanthropic side of their lives low key and to themselves.

Meera Naik, an industrialist, found her calling eight years ago when she joined Helping Hand - a Bangalore-based counselling centre as a part time volunteer.

"I was blessed with everything but I was looking for something meaningful. I began volunteering at Nimhans four times a week. It's a commitment and I derive great pleasure and satisfaction

from this," says Meera. Meera Ravi is a businesswoman. For the last five years she has been spending time counselling teenagers and helping them with emotional problems. "I find a lot of trauma in today's children though the general opinion is that they are a happy lot. It's very rewarding to offer unconditional support to them," she says. And there are people who also care for animals even as they go about their lives and careers.

Animal appeal

Saleem Hameed, a photographer, spends a lot of time rescuing and rehabilitating injured and sick animals.

Ten years ago, to give his lens a twist, he realised that the system in place to protect wild animals.

His decade-old project carved a huge dent in the industry and brought earnings from a 15-day half a month to "sustainability level".

He uncaps his camera and then for the next 10 minutes happily balances between the wild and the domestic.

The space is as small as a box. Out there, the zone expands each time an entrant logs in with a story to reach out to the world and a lesser god.



Anantha Subramanyam K



Syed Asif



ASK



SA

of PETA Rahul Dev who has never done a fashion show as a model; Meera Naik; Indra Kamal; Meera Ravi; Sunand S and others.