

E-SAMBANDH

Issue No. 76 October - December 2023



IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- AFRE'23
- Disaster Management and CPR training
- Gold Card Scheme
- Mission Shiksha
- Fusion Study Foundation
- Khushiyon ka Utsav
- Rangmanch'23
- Corporate Social Responsibility

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



United Way of Baroda's Garba Mahotsav 2023, held from October 15th to October 23rd at MM Patel Farm, Atladara (Vadodara), grand celebration that transcends cultural boundaries. Serving as a vital fundraising event, it united over 45,000 participants worldwide under the thematic banner of "Rhythm of Unity." The nine days of festivities, symbolised the harmonious fusion of cultural diversity and artistic expression



The commitment to environmental initiatives was prominently showcased through the introduction of Green Garba



- Use of LED's to minimise power consumption during Garba celebrations
- The launch of the UWB App on October 16th for seamless connectivity and regular updates on various environmental and social initiatives
- 3180 kg of waste plastic collection in 9 days
- 15 kg of expired medicine collection in 9 days
- Collection of waste plastic bottle for recycling purpose





Highlight of Garba 2023

- A team of 145 volunteers, trained in CPR and Disaster Management, ensured the event's smooth execution.
- Safety measures, including 2 well-equipped first aid centers, medical vans and ambulance, disaster management team, and daily ground cleaning.
- Help desk addressed various task and queries of players.
- The food courts with 59 stalls, offered a diverse culinary .



Nine days festival summed up with the recognition of 64 winners, including 8 mega winners receiving prestigious prizes, amplifying its global impact through social media promotion and live broadcasting on UWB's YouTube Channel and Facebook page.

Guests Attended

- Mr. Harsh Sanghvi - Gujarat Home Minister
- Mrs. Sunita Agarwal - Chief Justice of Gujarat
- Mr. AB Gor - Collector, Vadodara
- Mr. P M Shah - Director of Industrial Safety & Health, Gujarat
- Mr. Dilip Rana - Municipal Commissioner, Vadodara
- Mrs. Ranjanben Bhatt - MP(BJP), Gujarat
- Mr. Shailesh Mehta (Sotta) - MLA (BJP), Gujarat
- Mr. Falguni Nayar - Nykaa CEO
- Mr. Sachin Sanghavi - Singer





Special celebration on the 7th day, "Tri Colour Day," featured the performance of Garbo MAADI written by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and thousands of participants sang National anthem.

The Garba Mahotsav not only celebrated cultural richness but also platform for annual fundraising initiative for the United Way of Baroda, making a positive impact on both local and global communities.

CPR and Disaster Management Training



The On-ground Navratri Volunteers' Training at Bankers Hospital, Vadodara was a pivotal training, attended by 66 volunteers and security team. The training included essential sessions on CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and Disaster Management, vital for emergency response during the Garba celebration.

Dr. Mayur Jadhav led the CPR training, emphasizing prompt and effective action in cardiac emergencies, providing hands-on experience to the volunteers.

Mr. Shiv Kumar guided the Disaster Management session, imparting insights into handling unforeseen situations and organizing responses and evacuations for diverse crisis scenarios might occur during Garba. This collective effort showed UWB's dedication to ensuring a capable and prepared volunteer force for successful community engagement, particularly during the Navratri celebrations.

Heritage Garba Award 2023



We received the prestigious Heritage Garba Award 2023 from Zeel Events in recognition of our efforts in organizing Garba events for over three decades. The award acknowledges our commitment to preserving the cultural heritage of Gujarat and fostering positive social change through fundraising initiatives. The award reflects the organization's significant contributions to both cultural continuity and philanthropy in Gujarat.

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

"Sambandh" 25 Years of Gold Card Scheme



UWB celebrated **Sambandh- 25th anniversary** of the Gold Card Scheme this year and this celebration was graced by the presence of 125 senior citizen members. The Gold Card Scheme was launched in 1998 provides essential services like healthcare and household assistance such as **Electrician Services, Plumbing Services, Utility Bill Payment Services, Health Services, TV Technician and AC Services** right to their doorsteps. For 25 years, the scheme has been dedicated to making the lives of the elderly more comfortable and dignified, helping them navigate life's complexities with ease. This initiative ensures that elderly individuals don't feel isolated or overwhelmed in their later years. It's a lifeline, offering services and easing their day-to-day struggles.

Dr. Mrugank Merchant, delivered an enlightening talk on "Mobility in Old Age," sharing valuable insights on improving the lives of the elderly. A musical concert by Mr. Abhishek Trivedi was organised for creating a memorable atmosphere for all senior citizens.

Positive Parenting Workshop - Mission Shiksha



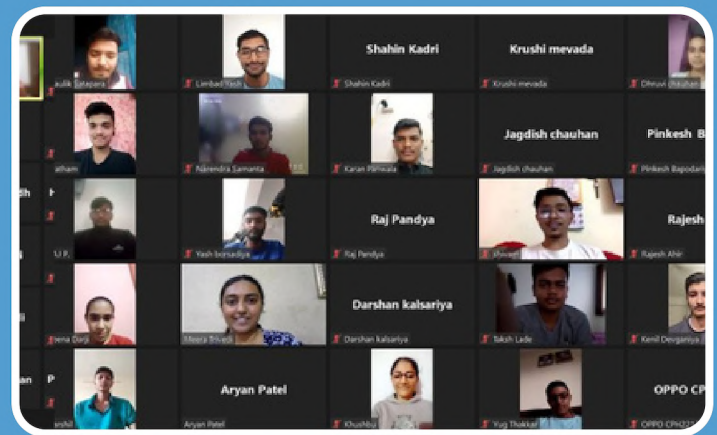
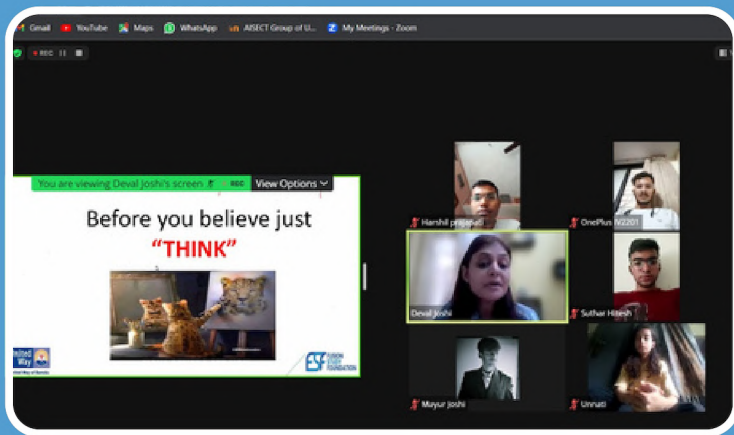
Mission Shiksha launched in 2021 aims to support education of children who lost parents to Covid-19, ensuring uninterrupted school education. **'Positive Parenting for Mothers'** Workshop organised to Empower Mothers with aim for developing the bond with children and to deal with teenage children in different situations. **53 mothers** of Mission Shiksha attended the workshop, gathered to delve into the intricacies of fostering strong bonds for parenting teenagers.

Archita Patel Surti- Subject expert, stressed the importance of open communication, spending quality time with children, and being aware of their online activities. She skilfully led the session, touching upon crucial aspects such as praising children's skills, responsible internet use, and setting limits on screen time. Mrs. Nilam Acharya Executive Director UWB, contributed valuable insights, emphasizing the pivotal role of spending quality time with children and encouraging an open space for sharing. The significance of understanding and adapting to children's perspectives was highlighted, fostering an environment of mutual growth and understanding.

This session aimed to empowered Mission Shiksha mothers with valuable tools for a positive and supportive parenting journey.

Fusion Study Foundation (FSF) initiated by UWB and Stichting Fusion Study Foundation in 2005 aims to support financially challenged yet academically talented students in pursuing higher education. The program provides assistance covering college fees, coaching, mess, hostel charges, and other study-related expenses. Under the project "Endeavor Soft Skill Development Series" online Zoom Sessions conducted for students on **Assertive Decision Making** and **Success Habit Formation** by Ms. Deval Joshi. Each session engaged 120 students focused on cultivating thoughtful and confident decision-making skills and insights into cultivating habits for personal and academic success were provided.

These sessions were designed to empower students in the realm of assertive decision-making and the formation of success-oriented habits. The passive tone was maintained to ensure a receptive learning environment. The commitment of the United Fusion Study Foundation to holistic education and personal development is underscored through impactful opportunities provided to students.



The Road Show for the promotion of the Fusion Study Foundation Program took place from **December 3rd to December 9th 2023**, in Jamnagar and Devbhumi Dwarka districts of Gujarat. The primary objectives are to create awareness about the project in among the students of higher grades, educate teachers about the initiative, and inspire them to guide students towards higher education. During the road show direct interaction with students were deemed crucial aspects of the program, emphasizing the significance of reaching every individual in the community.

The roadshow featured the active involvement of **Ms. Linda Van Der Wijk, Chairperson- Stichting Fusion Study Foundation**, and **Ms. Meera Trivedi, Project Coordinator- UWB**, who conducted sessions in 21 higher secondary schools across both districts. Schools covered in the road show are Government & Grant in Aid, Model Schools, JNVs of both districts. During the week long road show, 102 teachers and 2033 students were engaged from Science, Arts, and Commerce disciplines.

The commitment of FSF and UWB is to empower deserving students through education by directly connecting with the community at the grassroots level.



A heart-warming event, "**Khushiyo Ka Utsav - An Act for fulfilling the wishes,**" under Project Orphan & Destitute and Single Parent for students of NPSS of Vadodara. Khushiyo ka Utsav celebrated every year under the project where wishes of children are fulfilled with gifts of their wishes. This year, over 500 enthusiastic students gathered at the Waghodia Sports Complex, This Project is dedicated to promote primary education, especially for vulnerable children, and delivering comprehensive educational support to children of government schools in Vadodara.

Children share their wishes such as Barbie doll, smart watch, cricket kit, badminton, kitchen set, makeup kit, carom, chess, remote control car, helicopter, etc. The venue came alive with recreational activities, including ring games, ball game, balloon game, and artistic tattoos. The children also revelled in jumping, dancing to lively music, and embraced the enthusiasm. This year MRI software under CSR made the dreams of children reality.

Distinguished guests added a touch of grace to the occasion. Mr. Shailesh Mehta (Sotta)-MLA Dabhoi, Ms. Shweta Pargi-Administrative Officer NPSS, Mr. Hemant Shah-RDC Chair UWB, Mr. Pratik Shah-Manager MRI Software, and Ms. Nilam Acharya-Executive Director UWB, were present, along with the dedicated NPSS teachers.

A heartfelt appreciation goes out to the Board Members, RDC Members, and CSR Partner MRI Software, whose generous contributions made it possible to shower the children with gifts. The event exemplified the power of collective kindness in creating moments of joy and fulfilment.

RANGMANCH- celebrating World Disability Day



United Way of Baroda celebrated **World Disability Day** by organising **Rangmanch 2023**. The event featured 23 outstanding performances by divyans children, youth and elders from 15+ NGOs and trusts of Vadodara. Mr. Rajendra Trivedi -Ex-Cabinet Minister, graced the occasion, adding to the significance of the day. Rangmanch serves as a platform to showcase the talents of specially-abled children and youth in Vadodara. The participants presented a diverse range of performances including solo dances, group dances, singing, and a unique fashion show featuring Divyans.

Ashwin Makwana visually impaired Chess champion was felicitated with winner trophy by Mr. Rajendra Trivedi was highlight of Rangmanch 2023. Throughout Rangmanch, participants were recognized for their outstanding talents and performances with trophies and mementos, acknowledging their achievements at various state-level championships.

Rangmanch not only highlights the creativity and skills of specially-abled individuals but also provides them with a supportive environment to express themselves and be celebrated for their abilities. Rangmanch reaffirms the importance of inclusivity and appreciation for the talents within the specially-abled community, making it a significant and empowering platform for all involved.

School Infrastructure Enhancement Project - LM Wind Power



The inaugural event of the **School Infrastructure Enhancement Project** at Govt. Model School in Dhaneshwar Village, Ghoghamba Taluka, Panchmahal District, on October 31, 2023, marked a significant milestone in the **Integrated Rural Development Programme**. The collaboration between United Way of Baroda (implementing partner), United Way Bengaluru (network partner), and LM Wind Power (CSR partner) made this project possible.

Key highlights included the inauguration of an **English Lab Cum Computer Lab**, introducing modern technology for enhanced language education among rural students. **The presentation of Mini Science Lab and Digital Classrooms** demonstrated positive impact on students' learning. **The Setu Project**, focusing on women empowerment, featured displays by SHG leaders in Handloom, Applique Work, and Hand Embroidery.

Distinguished guests, included Mr. Hugh Xu- LM Wind Power China, Mr. Rajesh Aithal -LM Wind Power Halol, and Mr. Mahadev Murthy- LM Wind Power Bengaluru, attended the event. Team of United Way of Baroda and United Way Bengaluru, along with the School Principal Mr. Ramsinh Rathva, emphasized the collaborative commitment to education, technology, women empowerment, and community development.

Employee Volunteering

Employee Volunteering activity as a part of College Student Scholarship under IRDP.

Employees dedicated their time as interview panellists for the scholarship project. Their role involved assessing and selecting students during the scholarship drive, contributing to the identification of deserving candidates. This collaborative effort UWB and LM Wind Power commitment to community development and education through active participation in initiatives aimed at empowering students in rural areas.

