

CHARITY IS IN THE AIR THIS DIWALI. Bandra residents donate in cash and kind for the welfare of street kids.

Bandra residents have donated in cash and kind to Aseema, an NGO working for the education of underprivileged and street children.

The NGO has adopted the Pali-Chimbai Municipal School in Bandra and teachers 450 children. Though the kids are now in the middle of their Diwali vacations, the trust receives most of the donations during this period.

"I guess because of Diwali, spirits are high and everybody feels they should contribute something," says Dilbur Parakh, chairperson of Aseema. Yvonne Fernandes, a retired school teacher, has come forward to donate educational material for the benefit of the children. Says she, "I had many maps and charts for years and I thought these might be useful someday. As a teacher, I had also created worksheets for third and fourth standard children. When I heard about this trust educating children, I thought the kids could make good use of these."



Fernandes has also collected some toys to donate to the trust. "I hope other people also come forward to help these kids," she says.

"These charts will be used in our classes," says Parakh. "Another Bandra resident, Michelle Cardozo, has donated Rs. 10,000 to our trust."

Aseema was recently felicitated by Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam and given a national award for the best animation film 'Raju & I', a film based on child rights.

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2 November 2005