



# “Be the first to love”

DIRECTOR N CHANDRA'S CLASSIC MOVIE 'ANKUSH' SHOWS HOW POWER OF THE EDUCATED YOUTH IS DEFAMED. THE FLANEURS AIMLESSLY MOVE WITHOUT ANY FOCUS. IN ORDER TO MAKE THIS PLACE A BETTER ONE, THE ENERGIES OF THE YOUTH NEED TO BE CHANNELISED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, SAYS TANAYA ADARKAR WHO CATCHES UP WITH CHERYL ANNE, A YOUTH WHO WORKS FOR A SOCIAL CAUSE



(R-L) BROTHER JOSEPH ALONG WITH THE CHILDREN FROM THE ST. CATHERINE SCHOOL FOR THE STANDARD CHARTERED RUN

**T**o do others what you want others to do for you is the golden rule,” says Cheryl Anne (30), who works in the administration department in an MNC. She was barely 16 when her brother introduced her to a group called Youth for a United World (YFUW). Since then, it has been a long journey for Cheryl of almost 15 years being associated with the group. She is one of the members who plays music and conducts workshops for the underprivileged children so that they

feel wanted like others. “I want to see the world as one. We are the children of one father. So be the first to love,” she says with a smile.

Cheryl brings back her memories of her first visit to an orphanage and handicap school called House of Charity in Versova. Initially she had inhibitions about

them. But when they started playing music Cheryl realised that the smile on children’s faces made her feel happier than anything else in the world. They played games and even helped in cooking meals for them. That’s when she realised that she had met like-minded people. “If my fellow friends can spare time to serve these children why can’t I? I realised it was also helping me to grow up on a personal level. All that I was doing made me feel happy as well,” says Cheryl.

This year she ran for the Standard Chartered Marathon with the St. Catherine Siena School (a school for destitute) children, whereby two children of YFUW ran with these kids. “This year we thought we should run with these children so that we could create a close relation with them. We wanted to make them our friends and we succeeded in doing just that,” explains Cheryl. YFUW regularly conducts workshops at this school and this has created a close bond with them. Brother Joseph from St. Catherine Siena School says, “This group has been very regular with the children and the kids look forward to their

visit. We have had bad experiences where volunteers come in and after few visits disappear. With children it is important to make a bond and sustain it. These youngsters have been successful in creating that bond.”

Cheryl along with her group had launched a sports event called “Run for Unity” in 2005. Many schools across Mumbai were a part of this initiative. Since then it has been conducted every year. The funds were raised through sponsors and the first prize winners donated their prize money to the students of the underprivileged school. “Our motto was to generate the feeling of giving among students,” Cheryl says with confidence. She recalls a quote from a winner, “I am happy I played to help an orphan educate.” Even boys and girls across various colleges come together to serve for a cause. She does not mind being with them as well. In July 2006 when Mumbai was shaken by the blasts



she got along with some young friends and organised a music concert in Somaiya College in Ghatkopar. The amount raised was donated to the children.

Cheryl feels so grateful that she has been fortunate enough to serve these less fortunate. Her aim in doing so is to bridge the gap between different people. She claims, “Youth should be aware of their duties towards the society and others. All are the children of one God and that is the motto.” She wants more youngsters to volunteer so that they can make the world one big family. “One must go beyond caste, creed and culture and recognise one thing that is above all ‘Humanity’,” asserts Cheryl.

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