

OCTOBER 13, 2006

Lending a hand to support the cause of Indian youth



(Left): Nina Bhanti's group performing a Bollywood fusion dance; Actress Pooja Kumar with stand-up comedian Devanshi Patel (right) and Nipa Gandhi, a volunteer

experience leading to a constructive approach towards career counseling and self employment. The organization is promoting projects like Swadheen (aptitude testing and career counseling for children in rural high schools), and multi-skill vocational training program 'Plan 100' for 20,000 children from 100 high schools in rural India.

For proper implementation of projects, Lend-A-Hand India has collaborated with local organizations and primarily plays a role of catalyst and capacity builder.

In the last three years the organization has reached out to 2,200 children from 12 villages, with their over 100 satellite communities.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

New York

OVER 120 people from different walks of life got together recently in Manhattan in order to support the cause of youth in India. The cheerful gala, organized by Lend-A-Hand India, was held at Light House International on September 30.

The program started with Vik Atal, a member of the advisory board, informing the gathering about the organization and its activities. Compered by Pooja Kumar, a New York City-based actress and producer, the evening saw performances by Divya Nayar (Bharatnatyam), Nina Bhanti's Indian fusion dance, Devanshi Patel (stand-up comedy), and a Kathak performance by Pooja Kumar herself.

The organization was established three years ago by Pooja Gupta, Prashant Gupta, and Nirmal Juthani led by Sunanda Mane and Raj Gilda, with a mission to make a difference in the lives of the poor through self-help. Lend-A-Hand India strives to provide the youth with better access to vocational training, career development, employment and entrepreneurial opportunities by partnering with grassroot non-profit organizations.

It aims to make high school education a rewarding