Nina Foundation- Spinal Injury Awareness Day-25th June 2012 -A Report CONGRATULATION OUR VERY OWN NITIN GOYAL

**NINA FOUNDATION 4TH SPINAL INJURY DAY – 25th June 2012**

The 4th Spinal Injury Awareness Day Program was celebrated on June 25, 2012. This special awareness day has been initiated and instituted by Nina Foundation, now 11 years old, since 2009. The entire day’s program was designed and crafted by its Founder Trustee, Dr. Ms Ketna Mehta.  The highlight of the day began with an extremely successful Medical Assessment Camp. 22 friends with spinal injury from all the parts of the country especially 6 from Srinagar and others from Amravati, Akola, Nagpur, Ulhasnagar and other rural areas who do not have access to good quality medical care were assessed and advised by an ace team of doctors and specialists. This team of doctors are hard to get and patients have to wait several months for their appointments. Urologist, Spine Surgeon, Pathology, Sonography, Physiotherapy, Psychologist, peer counselors, skin specialists, orthotist, assistive technologist, gynecologist, relative peer counselor, educational videos and more formed the team.

The holistic approach of the camp was organized for the first time in Mumbai. Good quality healthcare at nil cost lifted the spirits of the friends and their relatives. Nina Foundation also donated wheelchairs by Motivation UK after due assessments.

With the afternoon having all the guests occupied with many fun-games by Nadeem, tarot card reading by Gauri and whistling session of music by Shri Chaitanya Kalyanpur. The evening was well attended by many friends with spinal injury and their families, guests from all walks of life. Thereafter, compère, of the evening, Vidya Shenoy, who sensitively spoke in many languages, took the guests into a FUN-tastic evening. It included lots of impromptu humour and quick repartee from her as there was a very proactive audience besides a surprise lucky-dip draw for friends with spinal injury, felicitations and of course, entertainment.

Nina Foundation offers its sincere gratitude to the magnanimity of We School, Mumbai one of the most reputed B-schools, which continues to be its academic partner for the 4th year. At the epitome of this divine, unconditional karma is  
Prof. Dr. Uday Salunkhe, Group Director of the Welingkar Institute of Management, who was felicitated by Mrs. Rupal Mehta.

This year, too, we had an encouraging number of guests and friends to celebrate the 4th SCI day.

Gratitude was expressed for friends of Nina Foundation, in particular,  
Dr. N. H. Athreya, Mrs. Usha Chandrashekar, Ms. Bhawana Somaaya, Vikram Sathaye, Madhu Narangji of Better Services, Mr. Sagar Tejura of Aryton Agency, Dr. D. P. Mehta, Dr. Ms. Rajul Vasa, Dr. Trupti, Mr. Manasvi Mehta and  
Mrs. Meera Mehta, Mr. Nihar Mehta of Tribal Route, Mr. Sohan Mehta and  
Mrs. Sudha Mehta, Mrs. Namrata Mehta, Mrs. Vasumati Dharap, Mr. Himmatda Advani, Mrs. Panthaki, Dr. Deolekar, Mrs. Jessia and Mrs. Shamim Akhtar.

We were honored by the presence of the very beautiful, charming and talented Ms. Diana Hayden, our Celebrity Guest of the evening, who was felicitated by Dr. V. C. Jacob, Trustee. The evening’s Chief Guest, Major General Kuldip Raj Salgotra, VSM, Commandant, Military Hospital, CTC, Pune was felicitated by Dr. Nergish Wankhadia, Special Guest, Mr. Niranjan Khatri, G.M. Welcome Environ Initiatives, ITC, Ltd. by Dr. Ketna Mehta, Founder Trustee, Guest of Honour, Mr. Saisuresh Sivaswami Editorial Director, [Rediff.com](http://rediff.com/) was felicitated by Dr. Parinaz Humranwala, Trustee, and Mr. Vikram Sathaye by Mr. Dhaval Mehta, Trustee.

Nina Foundation is happy that the special invitees publicly lauded our services to society at large, which includes awareness of SCI and ‘just being there’ for those SCIs in need. In particular, when he visited the medical assessment in progress, Major General Salgotra was pleasantly surprised and overwhelmed that we had so many sincere angels and supporters who are committed to our cause. Throughout the day all guests and members were seen wearing the  
Nina Foundation blue ribbons. What a display of camaraderie!

**Ms. Diana Hayden presented the Rockstar Award 2012 (4th year) to  
Mr. Nitin Goyal, Head of Regional Treasury, Asia Pacific and India,  
Nokia Siemens Network, Gurgaon. This award is given to that individual who has with exemplary courage faced and won the battles in life in spite of having spinal cord injury.**

She also handed the Will Star Award 2012, which was instituted last year,  
to Mr. Amol Boriwale who is not only accomplished, but the ONLY paraplegic archer in India. Motivational films on their achievements, both made by Kreate Advertising Pvt. Ltd., were screened and shared with guests. (Attached herewith).

Salute and cheers, Mr. Nitin Goyal, and Mr. Amol Boriwale!

So, friends, so what do they teach us?

*Yadyacharati sreshtaha tattadevetaro janaha- setting an example for others to follow- yaaney aisey mukkam pey pahooncho, kamaal key bano kee duniya salaam karey aur chaahey kee hum bhee vaisey hee baney.*

That we must see the person, not the tragedy, the individual not the victim.

That life is a triumph of improvisation through determination and perseverance.

They have proved themselves by eventually turning the corner and successfully coming through the other end of the dark tunnel…With a sense of achievement.

The lucky winner of the lucky draw was picked up by celebrity guest, Diana Hayden, who kindly went up to our friend Bhagvat Chate with spinal injury and gave him his surprise gift. Not only did he feel proud and privileged, but was touched by Diana’s humility!

Vikram Sathaye regaled us with performances of mimicking cricketers, politicians, film stars and singers. Laughter resonated with his stand-up comedy as he performed to audience requests, too. Thank you ‘forever’ friend, Vikram!

Nina Foundation got a lot of praise, admiration and kudos for the day and events that were organized and planned so beautifully by Dr. Ketna Mehta. In her speech she made a special mention of her “Core Team” that included Anu, Vidya, Dhruv, Aditi, Pooja, Dr. Abha, Rujuta, Bhawana from Kreate, Oliver and Dhara; whom she thanked profusely. She mentioned that Awareness is at three levels, one is  
self -awareness by the friend with spinal injury, second awareness by the family members, doctors, therapists and specialists. Third is the society at large and that each and everyone can motivate and help in the rehab process. Maninee Godse was also felicitated for translating the FAQs on SCI in Marathi for better understanding. In four years over 20 organisations have shown their solidarity for spinal injury day and they all are of national repute. Ketna also showed a snapshot of the medical camp conducted in the morning and reiterated that appropriate good medical care from a team of doctors under one roof is lacking in Mumbai and there is a dire need for a world-class spinal injury centre. The success of the technique that our doctors offered was demonstrated by Dr. Jacob by making both Dildar from Srinagar and Amol from Pune stand with the help of calipers after so many years. Their joy knew no bounds. This was proof of the sincere and humongous effort put in to offer absolutely free quality healthcare services.  
Dr. Nina Doshi’s vision of spreading hope and cheer was evident throughout the day.

And in all, the celebration that finished off with a sumptuous dinner could not have been any better!

Each year there is a new feather in its cap and of course, thereby, the  
Nina Foundation FAMILY grows with renewed strength and belief,  
TO WALK TOGETHER FOR A WONDERFUL TOMORROW.