



# Executive reaches out to orphans in slums

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**A**t 38, Robin Raina, the president of Ebix Inc., has touched the lives of many people. He was recently named amongst the 100 Most Powerful People in the Insurance world in North America by the *Worksite* magazine.

Raina has been running a charitable organisation called the Robin Raina Foundation (RRF) for a couple of years. "For me charity is more than just helping someone in need. It gives you a feeling that you have really done something worthwhile. It is the gift of spreading sheer happiness and being contented by doing just that."

The foundation has been set up to raise money to help the underprivileged and the physically and mentally challenged children. RRF is working rigorously on many projects at present. It has a joint venture with the PRAYAS Project and has adopted 400 orphans belonging to the slum areas in the major cities of the country.

Raina, however, refuses to term his shelter as an orphanage. "The children who come to our wing are not treated as orphans.

## ROBIN RAINA RUNS A FOUNDATION THAT OFFERS A HOME AND FUTURE TO ORPHANS

They become an essential part of our incessantly growing home. So I would rather call the orphanage a home," he adds.

The Raina Foundation has agreed to work together with Project Crayon. It plans to adopt 100 children from the slum areas of Mumbai.

Besides, the foundation has also set forth to fund charity projects in some specific rural areas. Raina has agreed to donate an ambulance to the Grameen Seva Kendra, run by the Servants of the People Society (SPS).

"I have arranged for a handful of doctors to visit certain far-flung areas. The doctors will set up a makeshift dispensary once or twice a week at a particular place. If the people residing in an area and in its neighbouring villages know that a doctor is there at their service once a week, they will not have to trav-



el all the way to the city to consult one," says Raina.

The Raina Foundation has also started a scholarship programme for the blind and the handicapped, based on the merit and need of the student. Another project called the RRF-Kashir Aid provides education to 30 Kashmiri migrants. It is a project to rehabilitate them.

Raina informs, "There are many children who have been displaced from their homes. Constant threats from terrorist groups have forced them to leave their homes and venture into the urban jungles. We are making an effort to help them

adjust to the hostile environment they find themselves in when they arrive in the cities."

Robin explains the importance of participation of the younger generation in the field of social work. He says, "It seems to me that the youth in the country shirk their responsibilities where social work is concerned. It is necessary that they realise the necessity of shouldering their duty towards the country. India has a huge strata of middle class families. If even half of them set out to help the lesser-privileged then there can be a revolutionary change in the social conditions in India."