Making A Difference

JIMMY MISTRY donates a state-of-the-art ambulance to the Parsi community

By A Staff Reporter

Zoroastrian enterprise meets Zoroastrian integrity here. Jimmy Mistry, Principal Designer and MD, Della Tecnicas, has kept his commitment of executing one community project a year. After successfully undertaking the scenic restoration of the Rustam Framna Agiary in the Dadar Parsi Colony, for which he won the Urban Heritage Architects Award in 2003, he has just donated a state-of-the-art ambulance to the colony, which has now been pressed into the service of the community.

Sitting in his spacious and spanking new office, housed in his high-tech, standalone headquarters, Della House, at Sleater Road, Mumbai, Jimmy is expansive about his new project. "Through two personal experiences I discovered that there was no ambulance service available in and around the Dadar Parsi Colony where I live. Ideally, you should have an ambulance within five to ten minutes at your doorstep. But because there was no service available, it took much longer. Besides, the ambulances that came were in poor condition. Not only were they not air-conditioned, but they were also ill-equipped."

Consequently, the vehicle he has presented the Rustam Framna Agiary Parsi Colony Dadar Ambulance Service, is state-of-the-art and fully equipped with all the necessary facilities. It has cost him a substantial amount, but Jimmy has also taken up the management of the service. As he confides, "If one can run a company, why can one not manage an ambulance service efficiently."

On February 11, by Vada Dasturji Khurshed Kaikobad Dastur of Udwarda, in the presence of Moded Kaizad of the Rustam Framna Agiary, and the Jusawallas, Mithoo Jessia, Delna and Jimmy Mistry, and Jimmy's parents, the ambulance has already done 10 trips in the first fortnight itself. It is already gaining in popularity, not just in the Dadar Parsi Colony, but also among all the adjoining areas of Rustam Baug and Tata Colony at Parel as well. "The more popular it gets, the more purposeful our service becomes," says Jimmy.

He is also on the lookout for a new Agiary to adopt. In fact, he is in the process of extending his 'Adopt an Agiary' idea to bring in more donors from India and abroad, so that many of our old Agiaries can be refurbished. Jimmy is of the firm belief that no Agiary should be closed down. "It does not matter if not even one person is visiting it, there is no question of closing down our old Agiaries. Rather, people should be encouraged to donate generously and revamp them again. I believe that our Agiaries will be at the centre of the spiritual rejuvenation of our community."

It comes as no surprise to hear Jimmy proclaim, "I am a very proud Parsee. It is for this reason alone that I have no hesitation in talking about the work that I do for the community. I hope that it will motivate other Parsees to come forward and similarly do their bit. I think we need to start doing, instead of debating! It does not matter how rich or poor each one is. If there is a commitment to do something for the community, we will see change. And you can start with your Agiary closest to where you stay. Once our Agiaries become strong again, they will become centres for doing good."

The state-of-the-art ambulance donated by Jimmy Mistry, Principal Designer and MD, Della Tecnicas. For ambulance service, call 3950 9209.

On the anvil is also a Parsee Resource Group that will help young Parsees with college counselling and hopefully rescue them from the absurdity of call centre jobs that offer no real career prospects in the long run. "I want to put a vision into young minds so that they can do something more with their lives, and for the community as well," concludes Jimmy.