

Retired not tired, they lend a hand

DC CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

May 18: They may be old, but they have hearts of gold. Nothing is too much for Senior Citizens Bangalore, a 40 member-strong voluntary group in the city. Whether it is building homes for victims of floods in North Karnataka or setting up an audio-visual classroom aid (K-YAN) unit

in government schools, the group is in the thick of it.

Forgetting their own concerns, its elderly members, who have a lot to offer in terms of experience, dip into their pockets to adopt schools, run medical camps and offer support for destitute children in orphanages. The group, which includes retired government servants, defence personnel and employees of

public and private companies, operates with a turnover of about Rs 15 lakh. Besides doing voluntary work, many members work as consultants with companies, some of which are multinationals.

Started in 2001 by the late Romesh Khanna, the group is showing no signs of slowing down. It buys energy drinks for schoolchildren and equips government schools with

computer laboratories, besides supporting 64 students with annual scholarships. "We are sponsoring an engineering student and conducting English speaking classes in six schools and are now looking at starting vocational training programmes for the poor," says a member, Bharat Sarronwala

In recent years, NRIs have joined the group helping it improve its reach.

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