From the Director’s Desk...

Christmas Belongs to the Poor!

It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you...
Yes, It is Christmas every time, You smile at your brother and
Offer him your hand. - St. Mother Teresa

Christmas, my friends, is love in action.
Every time we love, every time we give, It's Christmas

Wish you all a Very Happy Christmas

and

Blessed New Year - 2017

Fr P Arul Das sdb
Executive Director

Children’s Day Celebrations @ DBNJ Warangal

DBNJ, Warangal: The YaR (Young at Risk) theme for this year is “Let’s put the ‘Last Child’ First”.

On the occasion of Children’s Day, a walkathon was organized to spread awareness on rights of children. There was good participation from members of civil society apart from other NGOs working with children. At the end of the walkathon, a Signature campaign was carried out for protection of girl children. Ms.Amapali Kate, District Collector of Warangal Urban gave total support and spearheaded the campaign.

Child care is a challenging task that requires love and passion for children. In practice this translates to patience, understanding, motivation and even innovation, beside so many other qualities.

In child care, the development of every child is the goal and every child needs care and protection. The children could be a mix of young and old, clever and dull, out of school or not ever been to school, too slow and too quick, and many other combinations with different backgrounds. Ultimately, there will be those who can cope up with the given situations and others who can’t.

From 15-17 Nov, Awareness programs were conducted for parents and community elders in LV Nagar & Bank Colony slums. Children who did well in studies and regular to the tuition centres were appreciated and rewarded in each slum.
**FUNDING PARTNERS ON THE FIELD**

BSK-Collaborations: Ms.Ana Luna and Ms.Mercedes Pineiro, officials from funding partners Manos Unidas visited the Hyderabad Province between 26-30 November, 2016. They visited all the projects supported by the agency and also showed keen interest in potential areas they would like to participate in.

On 21 November, accompanied by Fr.P.Arul Das, BSK Director the officials visited DBNJ Bhoiguda. Fr.Sudhakar, Rector of Institution briefed about the works rendered by DBNJ Centres. They visited DB Rehabilitation Centre at Ramanthapur, interacted with the School going children, Vocational training students and staff members and visited the Bakery, welding, carpentry, tailoring, garments making and screen printing sections. DB Prem Seva Sadan, a home for girls in Vanasthalipuram invited the visitors and briefed about the activities carried on in the home for the welfare of girls. The day ended with a visit to the Boys home at Nampally, where the children enthralled the visitors with their dance performance and grand welcome.

On 29 November, Ms.Luna and Ms.Pineiro along with Fr Thomas Santiago and Fr Arul Das visited PARA (People’s Action for Rural Awakening) development organization in Ravulapalem. The group was impressed by the initiatives taken by PARA for the empowerment of women through programs like Courts of Women and Surakshita and the strong movement being created by Human Rights Education in the state. They inaugurated the BPO batch at DB Tech Ravulapalem.

On 30 November, the team travelled to Don Bosco Navajeewan, Sabbavaram. They had a happy cheerful interaction with the students at Beach Blossom (Bridge School for children of Fisherfolk). Based on the interaction, the team suggested that a separate bridge school be started for the children living in the nearby slums too so that they also get mainstreamed.

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**Don Bosco Switzerland Encourage BSK’s Development Work**

DB Missions: Mr.Markus Burri, Managing Director and Ms.Desiree Meier, Project Incharge of Asia Projects, Don Bosco Jugendhilfe Weltweit, Switzerland visited Salesian province of Hyderabad on 14-15 November, 2016. The team visited the project areas and had interaction with the target groups.

On 14 November Mr.Burri and Ms.Meier, accompanied by Fr.P.Arul Das, BSK Director visited Don Bosco, Kurnool. A meeting was organized with the Shikari community, wherein the visitors interacted with the parents & children of the Shikari community at the bridge school. The visitors got a firsthand feedback from the children about the impact created by Don Bosco’s intervention. Some of the parents shared that their children were now going to regular schools, thanks to the Don Bosco staff’s dedication.

The visitors inaugurated Electrical and Fitter labs. They interacted with trainees of Garment making, welding, carpentry at the Industrial Training Centre. Thereafter they visited Don Bosco Tech and Navajeevan Centres.

On 15th Fr.T.Vijaya Bhaskar, Provincial, Fr.Androth Jose, Economer and Fr.P.Arul Das, had a discussion with Markus and Desiree regarding future projects. A few of the development projects that are in immediate need of support were presented before the visitors.

Marcus and Desiree later visited the Bosco Seva Kendra office and had interaction with the staff. The team went to Don Bosco Human Resources Development Centre, Gagillapur as the last lap of the visit to BSK interventions. There they interacted with the trainees and gave their message. They commended the progress made by trainees of Hospitality course and encouraged them to do well even at their jobs.
**LIGHT OF HOPE IN BADRAMMA’s LIFE**

**DBTech:** Twenty eight years old Badramma is the second daughter of her parents. She lost her parents in the early twenties. She has a sister and a brother. She is raised by her brother who is a daily wage laborer. She finished her high school education and joined Intermediate and thereafter degree in a Government college. She had worked as an Anganwadi Teacher in Sabari, Kothagudem. Due to some uncertainties at work place she came out from that job and remained jobless for a while.

One fine day when the trainers and local government JRP were on a Mobilization activity, Badramma was introduced the BASE program that is supported by the APSSDC (Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation) which offers three months livelihood training in four domains called Automobile, General Duty Assistant, Electrical and Computer Assistant. Later the trainers explained that this program is specially designed to enhance the deprived and disadvantaged youth. It also assists them in getting an entry level opportunity in a decent organization.

On the day of counseling Badramma shared all her problems with the trainers at DB Tech. She needed employment with a minimum pay to support her family financially. Her attitude towards learning and gaining skills earned her an enrolment with DB Tech. She got selected for the General Duty Assistant after appearing the Interest Inventory.

During the training period Badramma was always found to be very attentive and enthusiastic to learn. After the three months of training, with assistance of the placement cell of DB Tech, Badramma appeared for an interview at Nephro Plus hospital at Narasipatnam. She got selected and was handed the offer letter the following day which reads a pay of Rs. 4500 per month along with accommodation. Badramma Says “I thought my life would end up as an Anganwadi teacher in the interior forests but today my life is beyond teaching, I moved much forward in my life. Today I fetched a salary of Rs.4,000 and I am called as Health Assistant, a never expected designation after my name brought by Don Bosco. This is due to the endless support of my trainers and Don Bosco. My family and I are very much grateful to the organization.”

**South Asia Network for Social Development**

Annual General Body Meeting of the Province Development Offices of India was held between 23-25 November, 2016 at Don Bosco Provincial House, Chennai.

Fr.P Arul Das, BSK Director attended the meeting. The meeting started with a welcome address by Pronvicial of Chennai, Fr.Deva Joe. This was followed by the inaugural address by Fr. Maria Arokiam Kanaga. Fr.Kanaga spoke on key values of the Organisation – Gospel, Salesian Values and playing a prophetic role in society, becoming a catalyst in the lives of the poor and excluded.

He focused on key features like transparency, accountability and sustainability. The importance of professionalism and networking in the mission towards eradication of poverty.

Each PDO then presented the progress of work in their respective provinces.

**AGING WITH SELF-RELIANCE**

**MACS:** Kappala Nancharamma is a farm labour from PV Palem village in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh. She is a widow, with two married children.

Not wanting to be dependent on her children for survival, Nancharamma continued to earn her livelihood by working as a field labour and lives independently.

One day she learnt about the self help groups that worked on thrift and credit and joined one that had her neighbors as members. Nancharamma's small savings with Chaitanya MACS gave her renewed self confidence. She started doing small petty businesses with the small loans that she got. The earnings from these businesses – mostly supplemented her income and helped her repay the loans. With the loan of Rs.20,000 she took a piece of land on lease. She nurtured the land and grew vegetables on it. She now sells these vegetables for a living.

Nancharamma is a contented woman, living on her own, earning her livelihood. What gives her the greatest satisfaction is that she is not a burden on her children, and is highly grateful to Chaitanya MACS for guiding and supporting her in this journey towards self reliance.
DBNJ, Hyderabad: On 14th November, the birth anniversary of its first Prime Minister, India celebrates Children’s Day. It begins the Child Rights Week that concludes on 20th November 2016 which is the WORLD CHILD RIGHTS DAY.

Don Bosco Navajeevan (DBNJ), Hyderabad planned the week in coordination with Childline India Foundation’s national theme of CHILDLINE SE DOSTI (Friendship with Childline). This is to build awareness on Childline – a 24/7 Helpline for children - and promote a sense of responsibility towards children among all key stakeholders. Fr. Sudhakar Bellakonda, Director planned out a meticulous schedule with his Childline team on 07 November itself.

The Child Rights Week began on 14th November at 8.30 am with the release of the Childline se Dosti posters at Don Bosco Navajeevan Rehabilitation Centre, Ramanthapur. Each day had different programs like signature campaign, rallies, slogan competitions, etc with active participation of the children.

The program concluded on 20th November, and was widely covered by the print media increasing the spread and dissemination of the message.