From the Director’s Desk...

The Secret of LIVING is in GIVING

John Bosco was born in Italy on 16 August, 1815 to a poor farmer's family. He was raised by his widowed mother Margaret with great love and affection. He grew in faith and with a deep understanding of life. His life mission was manifest in his abundant love for the young. He promised God thus: “I will give of myself to my last breath for my poor boys.” He loved the young who were poor and handed on the legacy to serve the poor and abandoned youth to his followers – the Salesians. Today the John Bosco charism has become a vast movement of the young across the world, with strong presence in over 132 countries reaching out to millions of children and youth through more than 15,000 committed Salesians.

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam became the 11th President of India after having dedicated a life to inspire the youth. In his lifetime, he was in the profession of an Engineer, a Scientist and President of the world's largest democracy. But the one stark feature that defined him throughout his life was of a ‘Teacher’. He dedicated his life to teaching the young to dream big and strive towards excellence. For the adults, he implored, “Let us sacrifice our today so that our children can have a better tomorrow.”

He left this world in the midst of those he sacrificed his life for – the youth of the nation.

Dear friends, BSK is instrumental in transforming the lives of the disadvantaged sections of society, most especially the children and youth, using education, empowerment and an enabling environment. We encourage more and more members and agents from civil society to engage themselves with us in realizing the dreams of these two great personalities who, though generations apart, dreamed a similar dream – of creating a better world for Our Children – Our Future. It is in giving that the secret of living lies.

Fr. P. Arul Das sdb
Executive Director

Skilling India – DB Tech in collaboration with AP & TSGovernments

Skill Development Corporations of both Telangana (TSSDC) and Andhra Pradesh (APSSDC) invited DB Tech for a dialogue on how to skill the youth of respective states. On 8 September, 2015, some of the most crucial and path-breaking meetings were held.

Fr.A.M. Jose, National Head, DB Tech accompanied by Fr.P Arul Das, Director-BSK & Fr.Kishore attended a meeting with the MD & CEO APSSDC Mr.Subbarao Ghanta and Dy.CEO-APSSDC, Ms.Aparna Upadhyayulu, IAS. Discussions lasted for over two hours where our range of work with the disadvantaged youth captured the full attention of the officials. DB Tech is in principle being mandated to be a core participant in Skilling the youth of Andhra Pradesh through various technical and vocational training courses, starting with Guntur and Vizag.

Simultaneously, Dr.V K Swamy, Director, Skill Development, Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge called for a meeting to explore ways to form alliances to skill the unemployed youth of Telangana State.

We look forward to spearhead a new movement in the region to skill the disadvantaged youth.
Every year, over a dozen young boys and girls from different parts of Europe volunteer to work with Don Bosco communities that cater to children and youth in need.

A meet is organized for all these volunteers to come together at Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad once a year. This year this Volunteers’ Meet was organized on 21-21 September.

17 young people attended the meet. Of these, 14 are working with various programs in Don Bosco, Vijayawada and 3 are with Don Bosco Visakhapatnam. 11 belong to Austria, 2 are from Switzerland and 1 each from France and Liechtenstein.

Vice Provincial Fr.YJoji Reddy animated the 2-day program. Provincial Fr.RBalaraju spoke to the participants appreciating their dedication to work with the disadvantaged children – so far away from home. He spoke about Don Bosco’s mission and encouraged them to carry the spirit forward wherever they go.

Fr.P Arul Das Director –BSK  explained in detail about the various interventions, especially DB Tech and Children’s Parliament.

On Day-2, the group was taken for site-seeing around Hyderabad. Post-lunch they were hosted by DBHRDC Gagillapuram where they interacted with the young trainees and were treated to some fun and entertainment.

In September, 2014, 10 young men entered the Don Bosco Human Resource Development Centre at Gagillapuram full of excitement and apprehension. What was common in all of them was a confidence in the Centre and hope for a better future.

These trainees were the first to join a Multi-skill Training Program pioneered by BSK under the leadership of Fr.Thomas Santiagu (then the Director of BSK), in response to the growing market demand for manpower that can handle multiple skills especially in the construction and service industry. The program is continuing under the guidance of the present Director of BSK Fr. Arul Das.

All 10 of them have completed the 1-year training in Electrical Fitting, Plumbing and Refrigeration. In addition, they have undergone training in lifeskills, Computers and Spoken English. They are now proceeding to an advanced 3-week course at Don Bosco Skill Mission, Bangalore. At the end of this course, they will be job placed at different companies. 5 students from the St.Michael’s ITI, Guntur will also join them in this advanced course which will be in collaboration with Schneider Electric India.

We wish them all the very best.
An Orientation workshop was organized by National Institute Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) Bangalore for Child Care Institutions (CCI) of Telangana State. Warangal DW&CW department deputed Don Bosco Navajeevan to attend the training program. The purpose of the training was to develop mentors at district level and replication of the training within the respective districts with the help of trained mentors. Mr.Chaitanya, Counselor at DBNJ Warangal attended the programme. The main content of training was the identification and management of behavioral problems of children for functionaries of CCIs.

Orientation Workshop for Child Care Institutions

Quarterly Review of Children's Parliament Team

Quarterly Review cum Training of staff of BSK’s Children's Parliament Program was conducted on 12 September, 2015 at BIRDY, Hyderabad.

26 teachers of BSK-run tuition centres that double up as Children’s Parliaments participated in the meeting along with their co-ordinator Mr.SAmbedkar. Each of the teachers presented their report of preceding quarter and shared important issues and concerns of the respective centres.

A special session was organized for the teachers on ‘Health & Hygiene’ by Sr.Jacintha. Teachers were enlightened on the uses of common, inexpensive foods that are full of nutrition and also easily available. Importance of personal hygiene, especially for adolescents was also dealt with. These tips would be further propagated by the teachers in Parent meetings at respective centres.

Students of DB Tech, Bandlaguda were invited to witness the ‘Model Children’s Parliament’ session demonstrated by the team. BSK Director, Fr.P Arul Das moderated the session explaining the purpose and advantages of this program. Citing some examples of how children’s initiatives had brought changes in the local communities, he explained that these practical experiences would shape the children into responsible leaders even through adulthood.

Don Bosco Provincial, Fr.RBalaraju presided over the meeting and spoke words of encouragement, appreciating the work and dedication of the team.

Vani benefits from Swasakti MACS

Kondeti Vani, W/o Satyanaryana, R/o Vilasavilli (V), East Godavari (Dist.) "My husband is a trader of coir ropes. I help him with making the rope from coconut fibre. We have two children studying in 11th and 10th grades.

"On 11 October 2014, I joined Sri Sai Group of Bosco Swashakti MACS and started saving ₹100/- every month. After 6 months, all the 10 members of my group got loans of ₹5,000/- each. Earlier I used to borrow at the rate of 3-4 percent interest. From MACS I got loan for just 1% interest. This gave me confidence to grow my business. With this loan I bought a used Coir Rope Making Machine, increasing our household income to a comfortable level. I am grateful to Bosco Swashakti MACS for changing our lives for the better.”

DBNJ Warangal Celebrates National Literacy Day

National Literacy Day was observed on 14 Sept., 2015 at Navajeevan Shelter Warangal, with the support of Rotary Club of Hanamkonda. In a program organized on the occasion, Smt.Anitha Reddy, Chairperson - Child Welfare Committee, Warangal was the guest of honor. The Rotary Club members donated stationery items for children at the shelter.

On the same day Mr.Chaitanya, was awarded by the Rotary Club of Hanamkonda, the title of ‘Best Counselor’ in Children Welfare and Protection in Warangal District.

DBNJ Warangal Celebrates National Literacy Day
**Our Children at LIGHT THE WAY EVENT**

300 children from BSK-facilitated Children’s Parliaments joined millions across the globe to ask world leaders for an equal, safe and secure future for people and planet.

Action/2015 is a coalition of over 2020 organisations around the world who are committed to fighting for a better future. Don Bosco field organization People’s Action for Rural Awakening or PARA is part of this coalition.

action/2015 planned a Global Day of Action called ‘Light the Way’ on Thursday 24th September, ahead of the unveiling of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In Hyderabad, 1000 children from various parts of the city along with Action 2015 coalition CSO partners lit the torch to mark declaration of SDG goals on 24th September – the UN day.

On 25-27th Sept. world leaders met to agree on a new set of Sustainable Development Goals to replace the Millennium Development Goals which expire at the end of 2015.

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**Stop Hunger Now - an international hunger-relief NPO executes its mission of feeding the poor through local partner collaborations in over 71 countries. with Salesian Missions as for implementation on the field.**

SHN’s work involves packaging and distribution of single meal packets that comprise of rice, dal and nutrients. Locally procured components are packaged with the help of a chosen affiliate.

On 19.09.2015, Stop Hunger Now India supported by volunteers from Synopsys India packaged 20,000 individual meal packets in a hygienic manner. These meal packs were handed over to Don Bosco Navajeevan represented by the Director, Fr. BSudhakar, in a programme held at Pragathi Resorts, Hyderabad.

The food packs have a shelf-life of two years. DBNJ plans to use these meals three times a week at the shelters in Hyderabad-Secunderabad.

**FOOD FEST marks GANESH CHATURTHI**

On 17th Sept., 2015, DB Tech Sabbavaram had a festive atmosphere. It was the Hindu festival of Ganesh Chaturthi - the birthday of Lord Ganesha, worshipped as the god of wisdom, prosperity and good fortune.

Lord Ganesha is food lover so the Hospitality team decided to use the opportunity to celebrate their chosen profession.

Skills in Food and Beverage were demonstrated when the students prepared a different food item and organized a pot-luck.

Sisters and all the staff were invited for the celebration and the students presented what they had prepared for the celebration. One of the students explained about the festival and then the community shared a sumptuous meal.

**Fundraising exercise in Vizag**

Ms. Pascal Flynn, Chief Executive Funding Support, spent a week in Vizag mentoring the DBNJ local team on raising funds through different segments of society. Director, Fr. Thomas Thottiyil gave ample support by taking appointments with prominent businesses and groups of persons.

Businesses as varied as Jewellery, Shipping, Retail, Hotels and Banking were approached for exploring possibilities of partnering with Don Bosco Vizag. The team of Ms. Flynn, Fr. Ratna Neelam, Asst. Director, Ms. Jyothi and Mr. Samson Joshua, PRO visited responsible persons at these establishments. They got positive responses like probable education support or job placement or building the capacities of staff, etc.

The Waltair Club, a prestigious social club in Visakhapatnam assured support by providing space for conducting Don Bosco’s next corporate fundraising event!