ONE LIFE..... Live Fully.....

"Life is not a rehearsal, you either live it or leave it."

We are all laden with unlimited potential. There are resources, people and opportunities around each of us – hidden, in plain sight. Just because we cannot physically see something doesn't mean it isn't there. All these will be vital in attaining the goals, and the vision in one's life.

All the people that died having emptied themselves of their potential have various things in common. It did not matter what religion they were in, what mattered was that they believed in a power greater than themselves. They believed in a cause greater than themselves and pursued those causes even unto death. Martin Luther King Jr., Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Teresa, Wangari Maathae are a few examples. They were not driven by material gain, popularity contests, awards, “followers” or none thereof. Their significance was measured by how well every activity they engaged in tied with their purpose. Nothing deterred them from pursuing their calling. Yes, they generated a lot of criticism, but none of them resorted to war as a weapon to champion their causes. They were peaceful even in the midst of turmoil. They remained steadfast and ultimately lived fulfilled lives. Isn't it better dying trying to do something than to live doing nothing?

It is important how we live than how many years we live. We need to add life to years. Bosco Seva Kendra are striving towards this mission by transforming the lives of the young at risk. Our campaign “Our Children, Our Future” is an opportunity for many individuals, groups and agencies to do the same – add life to years – by way of sponsoring a needy child's education. This gesture promises to enrich not only the donor's life but also that of the sponsored child.

Don Bosco rightly said “Education is the Matter of Heart” let us join hands in uplifting poor and needy children through our Navajeevan Shelters (Home for Children On the Street).

Fr. P. Arul Das sdb
Executive Director

69th Independence Day Celebrations

India's 69th Independence Day was celebrated in true spirit at all the centres. The National Tricolor was hoisted by respective Centre-heads, followed by a message on the significance of a country's Independence and our duty as citizens.

Cultural events like folk dances, skits and dramas were organized. At Ongole DB Tech Centre, competitions were conducted.

In Vizag, all the DB Tech trainees gathered at Beach Blossoms Centre to celebrate along with the children with fun and frolic.

In Warangal, Children's Parliament members of LVR Nagar took the initiative to organize Independence Day celebrations in their community with hoisting of flag by a community leader. They not only invited all the elders but made sure they were present on time for the flag hoisting and joined in the rendition of the National Anthem. The children were commended by all for their patriotic spirit, creating history by conducting such a celebration for the first time ever in the community!
On 2nd August, 2015, in order to bring the charism of Don Bosco in a concerted, strong manner, the Hyderabad Province organized a Don Bosco Youth Fest for students of all the DB Tech Institutes in the Province. This confluence of over 400 youth with a common purpose was one of INH’s most significant events to mark Don Bosco’s Bicentennial.

This event was organized at the province level for the first time where both trainers and trainees of all the DB Tech centers of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana States came together as one big family of 400!

Fr. P. Arul Das sdb, Director of Bosco Seva Kendra (BSK) Development Office of the Province and State Head of DB Tech welcomed the gathering. The man behind the event, he exclaimed “Don Bosco will be happy to see these 400 youth who are getting shaped to be good human beings and honest citizens!” To mark a new beginning and sustainability of Don Bosco’s work beyond 200 years, saplings were planted in the premises by the Chief Guests for the day, Shri. R.S Praveen Kumar IPS, and Fr. Raminedi Balaraju, Provincial, INH.

Fr. Arul Maran, Director, Don Bosco Skill Mission and Fr. Y. Joji Reddy, Vice Provincial, delivered inspiring and motivating messages to the gathering of young people.

Youth presented beautiful traditional dances from different parts of the two Telugu-speaking states, adding charm to the beauty of the event.

In the afternoon, post-lunch, a movie on Don Bosco was screened for all the participants. Thereafter, it was all fun and games.

Team sports and loads of action followed to satiate the youth bubbling with energy and rearing to go. The camaraderie among the trainees was inspiring. They were seen eager to meet each other, making friends, sharing information.

The day of celebrating the spirit of Don Bosco, ended with a prayer service and candle-lit procession, giving thanks to God and invoking his continued blessings.

Many priests, nuns and past pupils also joined the celebration. Mr. Sridhar, State Co-ordinator, proposed vote of thanks to all the participants, guests and special invitees.

50 Students Gain Career Orientation

Dhisha was invited to conduct a Career Guidance program at Sri Srinivasa High School on 12th August, 2015. Aimed at highlighting the importance of focusing on career for the adolescent students of classes 8 to 10, the seminar dealt with topics like Self-discipline, Goal Setting and Career Planning.

Most of the students at this school are first time learners, coming from economically deprived families. Considering this factor, the trainers used several inspirational stories of achievers who also came from humble backgrounds. 49 students participated.

Community Partners with BSK

Of the 40 evening tuition centres being operated in and around Hyderabad, the one in Budvel is like a shining star. The uniqueness of this centre is that it is being run at the initiative of the local community leaders. Participation of the community began from the very first stage of scouting for a place to conduct classes. The local leader took up the responsibility of allotting appropriate space, and spoke to parents, urging them to use the opportunity for their children to get better in studies.
Hospitality trainees of DB Tech Kurnool were taken on a field exposure visit to a Drive-in restaurant—Reddy’s Dhaba on the Nandyal Highway in Kurnool. Thirty-five members participated in the trip organized on August 8, 2015. The visit was scheduled during non-peak hours after lunch. Trainees arrived along with the trainers at 4 PM. The Dhaba became a lab for the next hour with the trainer Mr. Hyder Basha taking over a practical session on F&B service, production, table setting, etc. They also got an opportunity to learn about how drive-in restaurants work.

The Manager, Mr. Dasaratha Rami Reddy, explained about the work experience in motels, grooming standards, how to serve food and beverage, how to clean the cutlery and crockery, how to receive the guest, how to present the menu, how to take the order, etc. He offered trainees after completion of the course as stewards with Rs.5500 salary and food and accommodation and other allowances.

K Subbayamma is a resident of Bapatla, Guntur. She has been a member of The Mother Teresa MACS for the past four years. Over this period, she has gained a lot of support and confidence through her self-help group ‘Sahayamatha’. In a conventional set-up like her village, being childless, and widowed, is a double taboo to fight with. She was able to overcome all the stigma and discrimination thanks to the constant support she got from the group.

Subbayamma has remarried and has adopted a girl child from a relative. Through all these major events in life, she continued with the monthly savings with MACS. With the loans that she got, she set up a petty shop selling sweetmeats and FMCG products. She also continues to go to work as a field labour at the time of harvest.

“I am so grateful to The Mother Teresa MACS for the great support they have given me psychologically and financially. I am proud to be the member of the BOD, helping change the lives of many other women like me.” Subbayamma says.
Annual reunion of past pupils of Don Bosco Navajeevan, Hyderabad was held on 16th August 2015, coinciding with the Bicentenary of the Birth of Don Bosco. 50 past pupils with their presence responded to the invitation. To grace the occasion we had Master Ritish finalist of the MAA TV Super Singer-8 Competition and Fr Y. Joji Vice-Provincial of the Salesian Province of Hyderabad. The present college students, working boys and trainers of Vocational Training Centre were also invited for the animation programme. A motley group of 120 young men thus gathered to give fitting tribute to Don Bosco.

At the outset Fr Sudhakar Bellamkonda Director of Don Bosco Navajeevan Homes in Twin Cities welcomed guests of the day, namely, Fr Joji, Vice Provincial and Master Ritish for being part of this historical gathering on the occasion of the Birth Anniversary of Don Bosco. He announced that to mark this occasion the Bicentenary several new initiatives have been started - a) a home for girls in need of care and protection, b) partnering with CHILD LINE – UPPAL, Ranga Reddy District to rescue children and to give them required support and care, c) Bicentenary Recreation Hall at Nampally branch.

Master Ritish who is past pupil of St Patricks School, Secunderabad run by Jesuits gave a tribute to Don Bosco though his melodious singing for about two hours. All the youngsters were enthused and added choreography while he was singing.

After lunch Fr. TD John animated the group with the inspiring and motivating thoughts from the book “The Teenage Brain”.

After the animation an exclusive meeting with the past pupils where we made major decisions, namely, to organize past pupils meeting on 31st January 2016 by then to help the students who are jobless and those who require any short term training. Director also assured that all support will be extended help to the past pupils who require support and medical assistance. To make more success next past pupils meeting the committee was reorganized Mr. Vishnu (President) Mr. Ramesh (Deputy) Mr.Rajesh, Mr.Krishnamurty, Mr.Michael, Mr.Mohan and Mr.Kishore. In the evening they have organised football match with present pupils during which they enjoyed playing.