Friends,

A Japanese Proverb goes like this: “Vision without action is daydream. Action without vision is nightmare.” One without the other is meaningless and chaos. Keeping in mind the Vision of Agnes Kunze Society and combining all energy and Action towards achieving the goal has enabled all 30 Projects to grow towards excellence, even though a lot more still needs to be accomplished.

We are indeed thankful to God for His continuous blessings and grace in reaching the targets set for the year 2018-19 and with great enthusiasm and encouragement, we look forward to the next year to try and achieve greater heights.

Thank you all for your support and prayers!

Warm regards,

Manju Lawrence
Mithu is a special needs child, who studied at Agnes Kunze Academy and is now enrolled in the Hope Higher Education Sponsorship Program. Here he is seen learning to draw and colour with the help of his teacher. He is making remarkable improvement and his teachers are very happy with his progress.
ROHINI MASSEY

“When I first came here and joined the school, I was surprised to see the place and the environment in which the children were living and studying. It was difficult and challenging for me to adjust with the children. But I continue with the children. I adjusted and understand them. Despite all challenges and difficulties, I am loving and enjoying my work. Children are connected their love and respect. I learnt so much from these children, though they have many problems. They always have a smile on their faces which encourages me to do better each day. I would like to thank the Management, Principal, Staff and children for their love and support. I will give my best to make future of these children so that they are able to stand on their own. Thank you.”

NAVAL SUBBA

“For me, success is a journey and not a destination. In my life too, I have perceived success as a journey and not a destination. This journey has been going on in ‘Hope Project’ for many years and is still going on with so much fun and ease…..My passion is to provide each and every student a better knowledge and aspire them to know the value of education....”
Hope Home has been actively involved in initiating various activities throughout the year, which include academic, co-curricular and extra-curricular for the children staying in the Home. The last quarter of 2018 was extremely busy as well.

During the month of December, when the Half-Yearly examinations are conducted, children worked really hard, which showed in the results that were declared. Shivani topped with 93% and Sanjana received 86%. Other children also did well and the staff of Hope Home was really proud of the children.

The children also celebrated Christmas with real enthusiasm and a special program was organized on the 23rd. Mrs. Manju Lawrence, Managing Director of AKS Hope invited the pastor of Dehradun Baptist Church to present a short message of Christmas to the children. Children sang carols and a cultural program was also organized. Sanjana Bisht and Neetu gave a short speech on the meaning of Christmas. Special lunch was served to all present at the occasion.

On January 20, 2019, the children attended a special counseling session conducted by a special team from Burans Project. The theme of this session was ‘Who am I”? Through a lot of exercises, games and activities, the team counseled the children on how important it is to know their identity. They also answered some of the questions that the children had. It was very helpful for the children.

The management has always paid great attention to the overall growth and development of the children staying at the Home and therefore, regular maintenance, cleanliness and upkeep of the premises is taken care of on a regular basis.
Mrs. Sarita Devi has been working at AKS Hope Home since the last five years taking care of the small children. Sarita Devi’s husband, Naresh, suffers from diabetes. Five years ago, due to rise of his sugar levels, he started losing eyesight in both his eyes. He worked as a mason and due to the loss of his eyesight, he also could not work any longer. Sarita Devi came looking for a job at the Home and was given employment when the management at AKS Hope heard of her ordeal. The financial burden of her family now fell on her shoulders as her husband became blind. The management as well as the staff at Hope Home wanted to help Sarita Devi and her husband.

Mr. Sanjay Kumar, who is working at the Home tried to find out all the details about how Naresh could be treated and also assisted Sarita Devi to avail of financial help through the ESIC scheme, which is now mandatory government scheme for all the employees of an institution. In January 2019, he helped Naresh to get admitted at Shri Mahant Indresh Hospital and operation was performed on both his eyes. By the grace of God, the operation was successful and he received his vision back in both his eyes after 5 years.

Both Sarita Devi and her husband, Naresh, are extremely thankful to the management of AKS Hope for assisting them in getting the operation done and also for the government scheme ESIC that is available for all employees through which there was no financial burden on them for the treatment. Naresh Kumar had no words to express his feelings and is extremely overjoyed. He is so happy to see his family again and also thankful for the fact that he will be able to work again and support his family.
HOPE SAMVEDNA is the disability wing of Agnes Kunze Society that works with children and people with disabilities. The main focus of the program is to strengthen the registered Disabled People’s Group (DPGs) and Disabled People’s Organizations (DPOs) within their catchment areas. The Samvedna team takes a lot of initiative to promote and sensitize the people in the community about removing the physical and mental barriers that bind the families and communities in the area of disability and also creates awareness about the various government schemes that people with disabilities can avail of. They also help the DPG members in getting the disability certificates, pension etc. On December 3rd, which is celebrated as World Disability Day each year, an awareness rally is taken out in the city to create awareness among the people.

The Hope Samvedna team also helps the members of the DPG and DPO to become financially strong and independent by initiating various livelihood programs such as candle making, mushroom cultivation, poultry, goat rearing, etc. These are all home-based intervention programs, which has helped a lot of people with disabilities to start up small businesses of their own and earn a livelihood.

For school going special needs children, there is support staff and a Special Educator who help the children cope with their studies and a disability friendly environment helps them to learn well and enjoy studies. An Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist and a Special Educator do assessment of special needs children in which, the goals are revised and a detail plan is given to the staff for follow-up.
HOPE Target Intervention Project began on November 1, 2016, with the support of Uttarakhand State AIDS Control Society (USACS) with the aim to reduce the HIV infection by 90% among one of the High Risk Groups, i.e. Female Sex Workers (FSWs).

For the year 2018-19, the total target that was set at the beginning of the year was to register 600 FSWs and provide all the services associated with the program to them. However, till date, HOPE TI & FSW team has completed 723 registrations and is providing all the facilities of counseling, testing, condom distribution and proper follow-up. Linkage to other health services is also done, such as testing for TB at Voluntary Counseling and Testing Centres. Regular demand generation activities are organized by HOPE TI team to create awareness among the people about HIV/AIDS. Of the 723 FSWs registered this year, 36 were registered during the last two months. The table below gives details of the activities carried out under this program during October 2018 to January 2019:

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<th>OCTOBER</th>
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<th>DECEMBER</th>
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Demand Activities and meeting new members of High Risk Group
Hope News

Book Fair at NIEVPD

Various Activities under TI FSW Project

Peer Educator Training at TI Office

Staff Farewell
Regular activities under HOPE CCSS program continue to be carried out. In the past three months, 90 MDR patients were visited and counseled under the regular follow-up program. 100 corner meetings were held in different streets and areas of Dehradun creating social awareness about HIV/AIDS, TB and Mental Health. The CCSS team received very interesting feedback from the people during such meetings. 250 different PPSD homes were visited and counseling was done. From these 215 TB, HIV and mentally disturbed patients came to the hospital for treatment. Overall 152 DMC visits were carried out. Apart from this, 30 meetings of ASHA & AWW workers were carried out in which 15 people were trained. Also, regular counseling of FSWs and condom distribution was also carried out.

Mr. Sanjeev Issachar, Team Leader, CCSS team along with his team were present at all the Self Help Group meetings. Women have benefitted greatly from the SHGs. They also come and share their problems and difficulties and together with the team, discussions are carried out to find solutions to their problems.
HOPE Community Based Inclusive Development

HOPE CBID 2018 Project was able to achieve its goal and make an impact especially in strengthening the individual Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and formation of Disability Peoples Group (DPGs). The Community Based Rehabilitation workers were able to see a growth in the lives of the people and also deliver the right message to each one of them.

A girl from Salt Almora undertook a tailoring training in her block where she learnt the basics and received a certificate. This also resulted in her keenness to lean more, utilize her skills and support her mother in the tailoring business.

An individual with Loco Motor Disability was able to join the local market and earn a living by doing a job after he received help by the CBID staff in regular exercises and monitoring.

As the project was winding up, a refreshers training was organized for the whole team in which everyone shared their experiences and hoped that they would again get another opportunity to work together in the field of helping persons with disability.

Some of the highlights of the Project are:

- **DPG Formation in new catchment areas:** Due to the positive feedback of all the groups, 5 different Disabilities People Groups were formed in Uttarakhand. Responsibilities were given to the members of the group and they were very happy to take on these responsibilities and work with enthusiasm, motivation and togetherness.

- **RTE Camp in Kalsi Block:** An RTE Camp was organized in Kalsi Block near the Inter College. In this camp, school staff, CBR workers of CBID Project and DPG members were present. Around 250 people actively participated in this camp where information was given on how they can get children with disability admitted to schools. They were advised to contact the school staff.

- **Follow-up with individuals:** Caregivers training and sensitization was carried out. Livelihood opportunities were created by networking and linking persons with disabilities with local NGOs working in the field of livelihood. People were seen taking interest as they could see the motivation and the spirit of the team working in the field for their child/family member.

- In all the 5 blocks, a lot of people were enrolled in the Atal Ayushman Health Scheme. More enrollments are under process.

- Meetings were held with the local NGOs in order to connect PWDs with their livelihood projects for vocational trainings.
The management of Agnes Kunze Society has always encouraged their staff towards capacity building and learning opportunities and regularly send different staff for training and workshops.

In this quarter, two of the staff attended two different workshops/conference, which were organized at Chennai and New Delhi, respectively and had both national and international participants. These were:

A 2-day Consultation Workshop in Chennai on “Progress is Impossible without change”, a workshop for strengthening programs that are working with Persons with Disabilities. This workshop was held on the 18th & 19th of December, 2018. The National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Chennai & CBM India Trust, Bangalore organized this workshop. Some of the topics covered under this program were Early Intervention, Education and gaps in education, Skill Development Protocols and Legal Perspective in reference to Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016. It was a great learning experience by also seeing various other models and practices by other organizations around the country that work for the empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in their area.

Mr. Stephen Masih participated in the 5th International Conference on Inclusive Education held at New Delhi from November 28-30, 2018. This was a research sharing time by various organizations, educational institutions about their experiences and practices in Inclusive Education in their respective settings.
Chief Functionary

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