



HOPE NEWS



From the Managing Director's Desk,....

December 2015

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Dear Friends,

As the curtains fall on yet another year and we prepare ourselves to welcome a new year, our hearts are filled with gratitude and thankfulness for all that has been accomplished during this past year, 2015. We are indeed grateful to God for His manifold blessings on us throughout the year.

Agnes Kunze Society, through its 35 different programs under 'Hope Project', has been able to impact the lives of hundreds of people in the underprivileged communities that it is serving, both in Madrasi Colony, Signiwala and other areas in Dehradun and the outskirts. The work of AKS Hope Project has brought about a difference in the lives of children, adults, young adults, men & women, including both people with disability and people with mental disability as well. A ray of hope in the life of one person towards a better life and a future makes all the tedious work and efforts worthwhile and brings joy to the hearts of those involved in working with such people.

During the past year, a number of our friends, donors, government officials and volunteers have visited the various projects of AKS Hope, encouraging, supporting and interacting with the children and staff, which has helped us immensely. We are thankful to them for their visit.

I want to thank our dedicated staff of all the various projects who have worked throughout the year, selflessly and with great enthusiasm and encouragement. Your labour has not been in vain.

A special thanks to all our donors and Friends of Hope, who have supported us in this past year. The programs have been running successfully due to your generous gifts and support.

As we enter the festive season of Christmas and prepare ourselves to usher in a New Year, our hope and prayer for all is that may the coming year indeed be a blessed and a fruitful one in which much would be accomplished for the good of the society and the community that we work with. May the message of peace, joy and goodwill of Christmas be spread throughout the world so that we may live in love and harmony and work together to bring peace in a hurting world.

Let us join our hands to empower the weak, educate the illiterate, create a clean environment, uplift the downtrodden, provide good healthcare and livelihood and advocate for a safe, poverty free and tolerant planet.

I trust that you will be as much encouraged in reading through this newsletter about the activities that have been accomplished during this past year by the AKS Hope staff, as they have been in carrying out their responsibilities.

A very blessed Christmas & a Happy New Year 2016!!

Warmly,

Manju Lawrence

HOPE HOME



Soham

The month of May brought much happiness, when Soham & Simran passed class 10th with the flying colors. Soham stood first & Simran Second.

Soham was very young when he came to the Hope Home. We are very proud of him. He is a very talented boy. He plays the guitar and makes wonderful Greeting Cards with his own hands. *His ambition is to become an Engineer.*

Simran was also very young when she was admitted at Hope Home. She is also a very talented child and helps in distributing medicine, stitching & choreograph dances. *Her ambition is to join nursing.*



Simran

FLASH FLOOD (Disaster): 6th July 2015

Hope Home is situated at Signiwala; Shimla by Pass Road Dehra dun, which is protected by the boundary wall from all the sides. The Home is surrounded by Jungle on one side and village on the other. On July 6, 2015, at around 7:00 a.m. when Pratima Ma'am was having breakfast with the children, there was a strong gush of water due to heavy rainfall from the jungle side and it entered the compound, breaking the boundary walls of Hope Home. The whole compound of Hope Home was filled with rainwater, dry leaves, wooden logs and the dirt blocked the outlets that came along with the water. Trees were uprooted and the security camera wires were damaged. By the grace of God, there was no loss and everyone was safe and secure. The entire AKS Team worked wholeheartedly to clean the debris and make the campus look as good as before.



In May, a Rescue Camp during Natural Disasters was held by Mr. Anil Verma, who shared various drills and tactics on how to conduct rescue during a natural disaster. Thus, when flash floods occurred in July, children were prepared to face the disaster.



A number of friends, volunteers, donors, children from other schools, and staff members interact with the children at Hope Home, conducting various activities making learning fun for the children and also helping in the overall development of the children. In June, AKS staff, Andrew along with his sister, Aradhana and Brother Daniel organized a special Grooming Program for the children in which they taught them painting, card making and also taught them how to carry themselves and groom themselves. The children learnt a lot of songs and through music and fun, they learnt a lot.



Friends from Germany visited the Home on 18th August and had a wonderful time with the children, teaching them different songs both in English and German. They had lunch with the children and enjoyed their interaction with them.



Susie & Abraham Cervantes from Tijvana, Mexico, visited the Home on 24th August. They enjoyed their time with the children, teaching them South American football, with some of the moves of Maradona, the famous player from Argentina. Murga, the youngest member of the Team, mesmerized the children by playing the guitar in Mexican style. He played the theme from the famous Hollywood movie, Desperado, for the children.



Selaqui International School is a boarding school located at Selaqui, Dehradun. It is an international residential school, which provides world class education to its children. The school is situated not too far from Hope Home. The students of this school visited our Home and interacted with them by playing various games, sharing stories and jokes. The students were really impressed with the children at the Home that they invited them to perform at their Annual Program. This was a wonderful exposure for the children at Hope Home.



It is always a joyous occasion when parents come to meet their children. Children start preparing for the program much in advance. Dance, songs and showcasing their talents in different ways in front of their parents is a beautiful way of showing their love and respect for their parents. The happiness and joy can be seen on the faces of the parents as they watch their children perform with love and enthusiasm.



Report by :-

Mr. Sanjeev Richard Issachar

HOPE ACADEMY



The Children at Hope Academy returned enthusiastically to school after the summer break, carrying their projects on plants, which they worked on at home as part of the vacation activity. This is part of the all-round development of children at Hope Academy, which emphasizes on extra-curricular activities apart from academics.



All the children, teachers, staffs and Management celebrated various festivals like Raksha Bandhan, Teacher's Day, Dussehra and Diwali with great fervour and enthusiasm.



On the Occasion of "Independence Day" on 15th August, a small cultural program was organized. Mr. RajKumar Kakkar, MLA and ex-MLA, Mr. Anoop Kapoor, hoisted the flag along with our Program Coordinator, Mr. Lawrence. Sweets were distributed amongst the students and community.



Along with all the activity and fun, academics continues to take priority and regular monthly tests in August and the half yearly exams in October were held to test the progress of the children. Parent teacher meetings were held to brief the parents on the progress of their children. The parents enthusiastically participate in these meetings to know the academic progress, behaviour, and social progress of their children, which is very encouraging for the staff and teachers as well. This interaction helps in strengthening the bond between the student, parent and teacher and helps in character building.

The children are extremely grateful for the distribution of bags and T Shirts by Utility Group, toothpaste distribution by Dr. Pahawa, Pencils by ULM, Germany and Uniforms provided by AKS society. These gifts distributed from time to time act as motivation for the children to attend school and work towards building their bright future.



November 14th is not only celebrated as Children's Day as it is the first Prime Minister of India, Jawahar Lal Nehru's birthday but for AKS Hope Society, it is a day to remember and pay homage to the founder of Society, Sister Agnes Kunze. She was the inspiration and ideal of all that the Society stands for today. The children, staff, and management visited the graveyard and paid a tribute to her by lighting candles and placing flowers on her grave. The rest of the day was celebrated as Sports Day.

Report by :-

Mrs. Bindra Rana (Principal)



HOPE SAMVEDNA

Hope Samvedna Centre has 25 children who come regularly to the centre. The staff of Samvedna visit 30 children in their houses in the community and provide home based programs to the children.



Three new Disability People's Group (DPGs) have been formed, which meet once a month on different days in different villages. These groups are Navprabhat DPG at Baderipur, Mazari and Jotowal villages, which meets every first Sunday of the month; Sahyog DPG at Nanya Goan and Bhudpur villages, which meets every 3rd Sunday and Prayaas DPG at Hasanpur, Sighniwala villages, which meets every 4th Sunday. Every 2nd Saturday, the group leaders of the three DPGs meet at Hope Samvedna Centre for review.

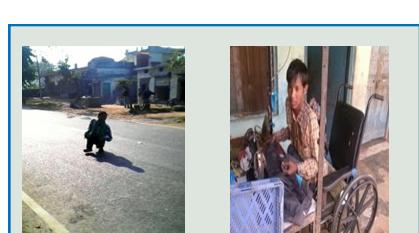


From July 14-16, 2015, EHA and HOPE Samvedna DPG members and staff attended the 1st National Disability People's Organization meeting held at Betul, M.P. Representatives from 13 states in India and two PWDs from Nepal attended the meeting. It was a very good learning experience and interaction with people from different areas helped in understanding how each one is working to empower the PWDs. It was also a privilege to visit the Naman Society, which is working with the very poor community and includes PWDs and their families. They are involved in organic farming and sell their own products in the market, like Flour, pulses, spices, porridge, gram flour, etc. They also make organic compost and sell in the market. They are also running a cooperative bank. Naman Society is a very good example for livelihood.



On 10th September, a workshop on Advocacy and RTI was organized by Hope Project Burans at Sahaspur. Ms. Pratima along with other staff and DPG members attended this workshop.

October 12-17, 2015, Hope Samvedna participated in the Wheel Chair distribution program organized at Herbertpur Christian Hospital, Herbertpur. Wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, and other aids were distributed to PWDs.



Before After

Children's Day
November 14, 2015



On 14th November, 2015, which is celebrated as Children's Day, a medical camp was organized for all the three DPGs, children of Samvedna Centre and their parents, staff and Hope Home children. Dr. Rajan Arora conducted the check-ups and almost 90 people benefitted from this camp.



Teliram – lives in Baderipur village. His brother and sister are physically disabled. He studied till class eight and then he and his family members found it difficult to take him to school so he left school. Now both the brothers are running a small shop. His sister and brother-in law are helping them and they're doing excellent work. All three are members of NavPrabhat DPG. When Samvedna team met Teliram during the survey and asked him whether he would like to have a wheel chair, he refused. Later he joined the DPG group and began coming regularly for the meetings. During the wheelchair distribution program, once again he was asked whether he wanted a wheelchair, he agreed and asked for one for his sister as well. She is using the wheelchair at home now and both are so happy. Now he can come by himself from his home to the shop. He can also use the wheelchair at the shop. Another gift that he has is that he is a good writer also.

Report By:-

Ms. Pratima Rane

HOPE COMMUNITY HEALTH

Various activities under the Hope Community Health Program are carried out every month. Awareness meetings on HIV/AIDS, TB Dots program, Anti-smoking Tobacco campaign, Pension Plan/Ration Card, Non-Communicable Chronic diseases, and Mother and Child Care are conducted on a regular basis. Besides this, there are 15 Self Help Groups that meet regularly once a month. Help is provided to the members by providing loans from Dhan Laxmi Bank to help set up small businesses to support the family income. 60 women have benefitted through this scheme. The Community Health Staff also visit Madrasi Colony every day and counsel the community on personal matters, health issues, family planning, immunization, anti-smoking, education, cleanliness, hygiene, vaccination process, etc. A routine health check-up is also conducted for the children and the community.



Report By:-

Mrs. Iris Issachar

HOPE COMMUNITY HEALTH TTB

During this past quarter, 150 MDR patients were counselled about taking regular medicines and dietary modifications. 60 patients were visited and awareness was created on how to prevent TB.

On 10th October, World Mental Health Day was observed. A meeting in this regard was organized at Kushalpur Village in which awareness was raised on issues of mental health. Thus far, 12 sessions on mental health have also been conducted at Rampur High School in which 72 students (42 boys and 30 girls) of Class 8 participated. A film was shown to persons with mental disability to spread awareness about this condition, and help them in treatment. Almost 350 people from 4 different villages have benefitted from the awareness meetings and film shows. Presently, there are 135 registered PWMD. 70% of them are on regular treatment.

In this quarter, 80 DOTS Provider have been trained about treatment, house visits, screening and follow ups of TB patients. People have been counselled and 30 persons were referred to the ART Centre for HIV tests. Almost 3000 people have benefitted as a result of almost 40 awareness meetings conducted during the past three months. 80 MDR patients and 74 TB patients have been counselled. 20 TB patients have been cured.



Report By:-

Mr. Sanjeev Issachar

HOPE CCSS PROGRAM

TOTAL PATIENT STAYS JULY 2015 TO SEPTEMBER 2015

MONTH	ADULT MALE	ADULT FEMALE	CHILD MALE	CHILD FE-MALE	TOTAL	Total bed occupancy
July 2015	9	14	10	11	44	111
August 2015	11	18	15	13	57	115
September 2015	10	15	14	9	48	116
TOTAL	30	47	39	33	149	342

TOTAL REGISTRATION & FOOD NUTRITION DISTRIBUTION AT HOPE VIHAN CHILDREN CSC

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
ON ART	23	13	36
PRE ART	3	2	5
TOTAL	20	13	41



Distribution of Nutritious food packets to children under Hope Vihan Program

Report By:-

Mr. Dhirendra Singh Rawat

AKS Hope Wheelchair Distribution

Wheels for the World program

The Wheelchairs distribution-2015 Program was planned to be organized in the month of October as the planning started 6 months before. CHGN-UKC & Engage Disability India in Uttarakhand with Joni & Friends organized this event for the first time in the state of Uttarakhand. Mr. Lawrence Singh from "AKS HOPE" was appointed as the Point Person to lead this program on behalf of CHGN-UKC.

The preparations for this outreach began 6 months prior to the program with all the different works allotted to the supporting volunteers from AKS HOPE, and various organizations working under the head of CHGN-UKC such as Operation Equip India, Landor Community Hospital Samvedna, GCDWS, Anugrah Centre, SHIFA Project, Herbertpur Christian Hospital who worked alongside their normal duties in their respective areas. There were different meetings held in order to discuss how the Event was to be done with the supporting Organizations. The initiative taken by all the organizations included assessments of the beneficiaries, preparing the site, training of the volunteers/pastors, Organizing the traveling of the beneficiaries, raising funds from different individuals (in and around the states), arrangements for the event site, etc. Church involvement was decided to be crucial in organizing the event. This was because the event was seen as the first step in a series of activities to sensitize and engage the church with the community of those affected by disabilities. And for the church to continue to build relationships & reach out to them with God's love and hope.



AKS HOPE has been involved with reaching and helping out to the people with Disabilities in their areas with a Program run at Singniwala called the HOPE Samvedna which is also a Day Care center for the children & Community with Special needs. It was a great exposure and growing step to see how the society could play its part by being involved in the bigger picture of reaching out to the People with Disabilities not just in the surrounding areas but also in the neighboring states through the Wheelchair distribution Program. The Hope staff got involved in doing the assessments covering 30 to 40 villages in Shimla by Pass and the Dehradun City area and noticing the people who were in need of a Wheelchair, Crutch or other Mobility Aids. The number of People that were found was beautiful as they could through this program get involved into meeting these people who at times didn't open themselves because of the social, cultural status & fears. There were some ups & Downs from the preparation of the event to the end of it but Gods hands continued to help us come to the completion of the event in a successful manner.



AKS's initiative in the Wheelchairs Distribution Outreach to the People with Disabilities enabled even for different Staffs from different projects under HOPE to see how one could minister to Person with Disability in their areas of work or where they lived. Regular communication was maintained through phone and regular church visits to keep the idea on the radar with the Volunteers & Churches that were involved in various ways. Overall 210 wheelchairs, 46 crutches, 42 walkers and 32 canes were distributed and each person was counseled and connected with the local pastor & field workers for follow-ups and any need that would come related to the life of the beneficiaries with the aids they have received. Prayers continually done by different Churches even was one of the important pillars to keep the event going.

The Leadership was appreciated by every supporting Person on the board and this left another open door for a wheelchair distribution to be done again to meet many more people with Disabilities in the state of Uttarakhand

Follow up visits with pastors and field workers have been revealing stories of ministry opportunities during the bus rides to the camp and back, favor with the community due to their stepping alongside those neglected by most and people affected by disability experiencing 'love in action'. Above all Gods faithfulness and his blessings overflowed in the lives of the volunteers and the beneficiaries from the start of the event to the end. And everyone were able to testify that this was an outstanding event which affected their lives personally and helped them to know more about Gods heart for the disabled and how they could continue to share His heart to them.



Report By:-

Mr. Andrew Masih

AKS HOPE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Agnes Kunze Society ‘Hope Project’ focuses on the upliftment of the underprivileged children and community in the society. AKS has dedicated staff which works towards fulfilling the vision of the society. Constant encouragement and support from the management helps them to reach to their individual potential in their specified fields. The management also tries to build the capacity of the staff and therefore encourages them to participate in various workshops and capacity building programs that are organized by other NGOs and partner organizations such as Leadership Workshop, Rapid Accessibility Workshop and Mental health workshops. The learning from these workshops and trainings are extremely beneficial and helps the staff to implement the same in their specified job areas in reaching out to the community and people they serve.

During this period, Mr. Lawrence Singh attended a Leadership Workshop at Bangkok. Mr. Ronny & Mr. Laxman, staff of the mental health project, participated in Mental Health Exposure Trip to Mumbai. Various other Review Meetings/Workshops regarding the RAD year2 Program, Mr. Lawrence Singh, Mrs. Pooja Chauhan, Ms. Pratima Singh Rana and Ms. Gladys Sen from AKS Hope Project attended the same in different areas for an exchange visit to see the different works that are being done by various partnering projects.

The ‘Hope Project’ staff contributed their best as volunteers in the Wheelchair Distribution Program 2015 which was organized by Partnering Organizations.

God’s continuous faithfulness can be seen in the running of the different projects of AKS at the same time. Some new projects that have been introduced which includes CBMs Vidya Campaign which will be focusing on inclusion of children with disabilities into mainstream education so that they can attend regular school and bring HOPE to many more of the underprivileged children.

We are now in the last quarter of 2015 and looking back at this year, we have seen how the Projects under AKS HOPE Project have functioned through all the ups and downs. There have been hardships at times but the staff still managed to overcome them, get up and walk ahead, thus learning and growing. We believe that these are learning experiences which are helping us to get better as individuals as well as a body and be more effective in reaching out to the community we serve in the State of Uttarakhand.

We look forward with great excitement and expectation to what lies ahead as we step into the New Year after the Blessed Christmas Season.



AKS Hope Project staff at the Wheel Chair distribution Program at Herbertpur



AKS Hope Project staff with Burans Mental Health Project



HOPE NEWS

Chief Functionary

Agnes Kunze Society

'Pari Mahal' , D-55 Aman Vihar, Lane
No. D-10

Village Chidowali, P.O. Kandoli,
Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun 248 001
Uttarakhand, INDIA

Phone: +91-135-2115165; 6002016

Mobile: +91 9719536211

E-mail: cinzia_manju@yahoo.com;
cinzia.manju@gmail.com

www.akshopeprojectindia.org