AGNES KUNZE SOCIETY ‘Hope Project’ started its work with street (slum) children ten years ago by providing education and vocational trainings and focusing on the Madrasi Colony, which had initially been established by the citizens moving from Chennai (formerly Madras) in the late 1940’s during the period of India’s self-government. It has since been settled by progressive waves of migrants moving from other parts of India or from rural areas to seek occupation in the metropolitan.

AGNES KUNZE SOCIETY was born in 2002 as a result of an inspiration from a kind hearted German lady and a social worker, Sister Agnes Kunze. She came to Dehradun in 1961 to work amongst the underprivileged community and devoted her entire life in improving the lives of the poorest of the poor living in India.

Mrs. Manju Lawrence, along with her pen-friend, Carolin, who was introduced to her through Sister Agnes Kunze, and whom she met only after 12 years, were very much inspired by what Sister Agnes was doing. With similar zeal, both Manju and Carolin decided to start a society to share the benefits of Sister Agnes Kunze’s work with a larger community.

In 2002, Agnes Kunze Society was registered and work amongst the underprivileged community was started.

Agnes Kunze, being a little difficult name for everyone to identify with, the members of the society came up with the project name ‘HOPE’, which stands for “Horizon for Prosperity and Education”.

MISSION & VISION

MISSION

Agnes Kunze Society ‘Hope Project’ wants to support children & community with little or no chance of a dignified existence as fellow human being, since as a Non-Governmental Organization, we find Sr. Agnes Kunze’s notion of love being the leading principle in relations between people.

VISION

Agnes Kunze Society ‘Hope Project’ assistance will be focused on children & community in India, specially in the state of Uttarakhand, faced with personal circumstances of poverty, discrimination and on children & community who became victims of calamities. This help will give children & community a chance to build their lives, freed from poverty. Agnes Kunze Society ‘Hope Project’ supports children & community in need, independent of their background, gender, caste, color, and creed.
FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE DESK…….

The various activities of the AKS Hope Project are directed from the Head Office under the able leadership and guidance of Mrs. Manju Lawrence, Managing Director, Mr. Lawrence Singh, Project Coordinator, Mrs Bindra Rana, Principal & Head of Community Intervention/Mobilization Projects, Mr. Sanjeev Issachar, Head of Community Health & Awareness Projects, Ms Pratima Singh, Hope Home Superintendent, Head of Special Needs School & Outreach -CBR– Project and Mr. Stephen Masih, Office Coordinator.

Presently, there are 32 on-going projects of the Society, which are running successfully by the grace of God. In the office, there are 10 staff members including the management staff. All staff members gather at the Head Office every morning to begin the day with prayer and devotion, praying specifically for all the projects, staff members, friends and well-wishers of the society and supporting staff members. This creates good coordination and relationship amongst the staff members. Each one then assumes their responsibility for the day and moves to the field projects or the area of work they are assigned to.

The staff is also given the opportunity to attend various training workshops, which not only enhances their personal skills and abilities, but is also beneficial for the growth of the organization.
AKS HOPE ACADEMY

In the 2011-12 session, AKS Hope Academy had an enrollment of 193 students. All the students belong to the underprivileged community of the Madrasi Colony in Dehradun. The children receive excellent education and enthusiastically attend school. They are very punctual and attentive. The half-yearly examinations, which were held in the first week of October showed excellent performance from all the students. Only four students were absent due to sickness.

Remedial Classes are held for students with learning difficulties. The parents are very appreciative of this extra help that is given to their children so that they can do better academically. This also reduces the chances of drop-outs and absentees as the children learn to overcome their learning disability.

Parent-Teacher Meeting was held in the month of October and December. The parents came and discussed about the progress of their child and also collected the progress report card. They were advised by the teachers about the importance of education and basic guidance about bringing up children, health, hygiene and care contributing to the development of a child’s personality.

At AKS Hope Academy, children are provided mid-day meal, which is rich in protein and vitamins as most of them suffer from this deficiency. Providing a nutritious meal keeps them healthy and active.

In November, 2011, a medical camp was organized at Mahant Indresh Hospital. A general physician, pediatrician and neurologist examined the children of the school. The next medical examination is scheduled for March 2012.

Apart from Academics, children participate in a lot of cultural activities and all festivals are celebrated with great enthusiasm. This year Diwali was celebrated in a special way. The children appealed to all the people by saying, “No crackers on Diwali and save the environment.” Children’s Day was celebrated on November 14th, by first paying a tribute to Sister Agnes Kunze at her grave. After that a sports event was organized at the Home and all the children and staff participated in the same. On December 21st, the students and staff celebrated Christmas with songs, drama and lunch. Quilts and pullovers were distributed in the community.

From time to time, various guests have visited the school. Swamiji from Rishikesh and his disciples from abroad visited the school and saw all the activities. Mr. Kirsten and his wife from Germany visited the school and were very impressed. They promised to come back for a longer period of time. Madam Kalson, Mr. Luke from Australia and four volunteers from Chennai visited and complimented the staff for their good work. Three Volunteers from Germany, Ms. Linga, Ms. Sophie and Ms. Francisca have been with the children in the school and the Home for over two months and have helped the children in teaching songs, playing with them, taking care of them and assisting in medical needs. They helped a lot in the Christmas program as well. They took extra initiative in helping a child with special needs, “Mitthu”.

The School closed for winter vacation on December 21, 2011.

AKS ‘Hope’ Project operates on values of Trust, Transparency, Equality and Accountability
AKS HOPE HOME

Hope Home is a boarding house for the underprivileged and downtrodden children whose parents have no resources of sustaining their life and their family. Originally the Hope Home started with 12 children in January 2006 in a rented house. Gradually over the time the number of the children started increasing and the Home was shifted from the rented premises to its own building in Sighniwala on March 28, 2008. Hope Home is located in big area with clean environment and natural surrounding. The hostel building is a two-storied building and also has a big playground for the children to play.

At present there are 39 children in the Home. They are provided with all the facilities at the Home and their physical, mental, spiritual and social needs are taken care of.

Schooling: The children attend a nearby school, which is at a walking distance from the Home and they receive good formal education at the school.

Activities at the Home: Apart from good education, the children receive various skills and participate actively in the following programs at the Home: Computer Classes; English speaking course; Quiz Competitions; Library reading classes; Drawing competition; Debate Competition; Craft work; Games & Yoga

Formation of Children Parliament: This is a child–to-child program in which a children’s parliament was formed. Five ministers have been selected and they are: 1. Prime Minister, 2. Health Minister, 3. Law Minister, 4. Education Minister, 5. Sports Minister. Two opposition leaders have also been appointed. The rules are implemented by the cabinet and each one knows his/her responsibility. There is no involvement of staff in this parliament, except for advice. This enables the children to become confident and at the same time they also learn about the functioning of a parliament. The children enthusiastically participate in this and are very eager and happy to receive the opportunity to be selected as a minister.

Children’s Day Celebration: On November 14, 2011, Children’s Day was celebrated in the form of sports day. Almost 250 children participated in this program. The staff also joined in. The children participated in different games. A lunch was organized for all after the sports.

In the first week of December, the children had their half yearly exams. They all studied hard and put in their best efforts.

HOPE Learning Centre: Hope Project works in villages to provide education and health services and create awareness amongst disabled children and adults. The parents are educated about disability and how they can work with their children at home. They are also offered counseling.
HOPE Samvedna Project: On December 3, 2011, a new project, namely, Samvedna Project, was started at the Home in partnership with KHW-India and Anugrah Centre (EHA). This project focuses on children with special needs. The children are taught basic learning skills in a play-way method. A special educator has been appointed who teaches the children the basic concept of education, health/hygiene and also helps them to do physical exercises. Presently, 15 children are attending this program. They are all eager to come everyday and want to learn new things. The education plan for these children is made according to their needs and focuses on the following areas:

1. **Self Help skills:** Daily activities like, eating, brushing their teeth, dressing, etc. are taught so that they are able to perform these activities on their own without the help of others.

2. **Gross Motor & fine Motor Skills:** Through games, art and craft activities, an attempt is made to improve their fine motor and gross motor skills.

3. **Music & Story:** Vocabulary and communication skills of the children are developed through songs, nursery rhymes and stories.

4. **Social behavior:** The children are encouraged to interact with other children to improve on their social behavior. This is also done through various activities involving other children as well.

5. **Functional Academy:** The children are taught basic things like their own name, their parent’s names, address, simple addition, subtraction, names of days and month, date, etc. Simple concepts in Hindi and Math is also given to those children who study in primary schools so that in the future they will be able to do small business.

6. **Early Intervention:** The aim of this project is to provide early education therapy to younger children so that they can attend regular school and live with dignity and equal rights and are integrated and respected in society. EHA and Raphael team have been helping in therapy and assessment.

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AKS COMMUNITY CARE CENTER

Over the last couple of years, AIDS (PLHA) patients were visiting Doon Hospital’s ART Center for treatment. They faced many difficulties in getting proper place to stay while starting their ARVs. AKS HOPE decided to initiate a Community Care Center in the Hospital itself and take care of these patients themselves.

The CCC, therefore, provides a wide range of HIV services such as:
- Care, treatment & support depending upon the progression and stage of HIV infection
- Medical Services
- Opportunistic Infection (OI)
- Diagnosis & treatment
- ART Adherence
- Referral or Linkages
- Education & home based center call of bedridden patients
- Infection prevention
- Hygiene & Sanitation
- Shelter & Protection
- Linkage to Respite Home & Orphans Care
- Reintegration into family
- Advocacy against stigma attached with HIV/AIDS
- Positive prevention
- Prophylaxis
- Health seeking behavior
- Helping to develop a positive attitude
- Psychosocial support including counseling
- Life skill counseling
- Bereavement
- Nutrition
- Assessment & growth Monitoring
- Mobilizing community support for nutrition

The key highlights of the Community Care Centre in the months of October to December, 2011 are as follows:

1. 1472 new PLHA’s were treated for Opportunistic Infection, 1519 PLHA’s revisited and 1538 were admitted in IP over two year.
2. 1538 PLHA’s were provided with Nurtitional Support.
3. 1700 PLHA’s were counseled.
4. 60 PLHA’s were referred to Self Help Groups for income generation support. 10 PLHA’s were reinstated in their jobs.
5. 70 children received support from the care for children ASHA KI KIRAN (AKK), which focuses on:
   - Education for infected & affected children
   - Travelling cost to ART & back home
   - Supporting malnourished children
   - Supportive medicine prescribed by ART doctor
   - Various medical testing (other than that available in Doon Hospital)
   - Various other support as and when required (like socially & economically, self-help group, income generation program).

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AKS HOPE TARGET TB

India has the highest incidence of infectious TB in the world. Each year, around 1.8 million new cases emerge, equating to 1,000 men, women and children losing their lives to TB every single day. This is a big issue in India and people are hardly aware of it.

Target TB is partnering with AKS Hope, a small community-based organization. Hope Target Tuberculosis Program is working in the entire Dehra Dun area. The DOTS (Direct Observe Treatment Short) program started with few centers and now there are 414 dots-centers in the city. In these centers, 1785 patients get a six months treatment (eight months for non-regular visiting patients). The treatment consists of three weekly visits to get the required medicine. Moreover weak patients get vitamin-based medicines. The medicines are provided by hospitals and given to the patients by Asha-workers in the dots-centers. The Project has been initiated to reduce the burden of TB in the slums.

In this quarter, three blocks in Dehradun and five districts in Uttarakhand were visited to create an awareness regarding TB. 6000 people were counseled, which included people with disability. 320 people were referred to the DOTS center for sputum test.

Key Accomplishments:
1. Trained 12 new TB-DOTS provider
2. 6 meetings were held in different locations for awareness on TB/Tabacco smoking and alcoholism
3. Medical Care provided to 75 TB/HIV patients
4. 150 poor patients enrolled in the government Doon Hospital
5. Networking with government for benefits of 75 BPL families
6. Awareness on health and sanitation for the Urban Slum/rural community through health camps.
7. Provided training to 110 DOTS provider health workers
8. 20 camps and mobile clinics conducted on TB awareness
9. Free health camp at Madrasi Colony rest camp which benefited 280 people and children
10. MDR—TB 28 patients house visit and counseling
11. Visit to 42 DOTS Center in the Dehradun district
12. 26 awareness camps conducted
13. RNTCP & HOPE conducted two coordination meeting
14. Provided anti TB medicines to 30 family members under 6 of TB patients
15. Home visits to verify 90 addresses and provide support
16. Collection of sputum sample for testing treatment phase
17. Additional medicines and vitamins provided to TB/MDR patients
18. Counseling and support for TB patients who are HIV + and referred 30 patients to ICTC.
19. Set up DOTS provider SHGs
20. 4 meetings held with NGO’s working in the field of TB
21. Systematic monitoring and accountability
22. AKS Hope open ICTC
23. Directly observe Treatment (short course)

Special Events:
• On December 10 & 11, 2011, AKS HOPE Target TB staff participated in IMA Training. A stall was also displayed and IEC material was distributed.
• AKS HOPE staff, TB DOTS provider and patients participated in the rally on World AIDS Day.
• Training provided from RNTCP/ART Center/DOTS Supervisor/HOPE TTB Staff at ADM—Block, Doon Hospital.
• TB & Disability Awareness program conducted at 5 districts of Uttarakhand (Tehri, Rudraprayag, Nainital, Chamoli, Haridwar and Dehradun).

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AKS HOPE COMMUNITY HEALTH

During the months of October to December, 2011, door to door visitation was done by the Community Health workers in the slum areas of Dehradun and also the Madrasi colony.

HOPE Clinic: Medical check-ups is done in the clinic for minor infections like cold, cough, injuries, etc. Patients with major problems are referred to Doon Hospital. Medicines are provided free of cost and the clinic is open from 1:30 p.m to 3:00 p.m. On an average, approximately 30 patients visit the clinic every day. Pregnant Women and children in the age group of 0-5 years are encouraged by ASHA workers to come to the center for immunization and routine check-ups. They are taught about good health and hygiene and are also provided with iron and vitamin tablets.

Family Planning Awareness: One to one counseling as well as group counseling is conducted along with the ANM workers for women in which they are told about family planning. A monthly stipend which is provided by the government is also given to those who undergo family planning. An awareness is created about STD/STI and free condoms and birth control pills are distributed to the women according to their needs. Approximately 40 people have been referred to the hospital in this quarter for family planning as a result of the awareness created through this program.

TB/DOTS and HIV/AIDS Awareness and Counseling: Almost 4000 people in different camps have been reached through the awareness and counseling program on TB, HIV/AIDS and anti tobacco. One to one counseling has also been carried out. In Madrasi colony, out of 7 TB patients, 4 have been cured in this quarter. A TB clinic was conducted in which sputum test was done and those found positive were referred to Doon Hospital.

Anti Smoking awareness: An anti-smoking campaign is being run in the Madrasi colony and a youth brigade has been formed, who have been trained to encourage the people of this community, especially the youth, to stay away from smoking and drugs.

Teen Clinic: A teen clinic is set up to deal with young drug addicts. They are counseled and also taken to hospital and drug rehabilitation center for treatment.

World AIDS Day: On December 1st, World AIDS Day was celebrated. A rally was organized from Madrasi Colony to Parade ground. All the Hope Academy children, teachers, staff and community people participated in this rally.

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AKS INCOME GENERATION PROJECT
Hope Self help group

Self help group is another type of project for income generation started by Hope. In this there has to be a group of five women, each will be given equal amount from the total rupees 50,000.00, which has to be paid back timely. This work is purely based on Bank. It is bank who creates an ID for the group by the help of Hope Project and does all the work. With the given money group is required to start some kind of small business i.e. a small shop or vegetable stand, get a sewing machine or start any other little trade. In this way it is an opening to start up their own independent standard income. Once in a week the group is required to meet together where they collect the money from all five to pay back to the bank along with the Hope Project Counselor. The group does not return the money all at once but are required to pay back in small amount collected by all five. In the group, one person is responsible to do all this activity. Presently, there are 11 SHGs and they are running very well.

Hope Goat Project

Needy and poor are all around. Therefore one of the criteria of Hope project is to provide some way of earning to such people. For this, Income generation program has been started to help such people to have their source of income. This program is called Hope Goat Project, mainly focuses on deprived rural community families, particularly those families who are large in number and do not have any basis of earnings or there is a disabled member in the family. Hope Project provides six goats to a total of five families and in circulation after two years these families will return given goats, which are then, given to other five families in need. This helps the families to begin their occupation.

Hope Vocational Training Program

Hope Vocational Training focuses on adult women primarily. This includes training courses i.e. stitching, beautician, sweet box making etc. In this quarter, there are 7 girls who have been trained and have received diploma. These courses are designed in such a way where the trainees will learn several kind of ability to earn their own, at the same time managing their household. There are well qualified vocational teachers for this course. In past 7 years the society has been providing the following training programs to community people, Sewing Training, Computer Training. Till now about 250 community people have completed their training and successfully and are doing their job and saving sufficient for their family.

Hope Handloom project

Hope Handloom project started on 9th December-2005. In this program the young men, women/ladies of the community were given training of handloom and after training they got employed in the Hope Handloom. The handloom products made by Hope Handloom are, shawls, bed sheets, bed covers, bags, carpet etc. This is the SHGs Program (income generation program) through which the men/women, ladies can improve their living standard and become self depend / independent. By this program many people were getting employment. The main aim of Hope Handloom is to raise the funds for Hope Project from these products.
Life & Experience at Hope Home

My name is Somnia, I am 15 years old. I am living at Hope Home and pursuing my studies from here. I came to the Home when I was 9 years old. When I first time came to Hope Home, there was a big function that day. Many people were invited and there was a big lunch with varieties of food. We received new clothes to wear and I was very happy. Everything was new—clothes, bedding, cupboards, etc. The beginning days were a big struggle for me because of the new environment but slowly I got used to it. I changed my habits, my way of speaking, living, eating, behaving, etc. I got a good environment to develop good habits and life. I took every opportunity to learn something new. Every facility was provided at Hope Home for a child to grow. Before coming to the Hope Home I was studying at Hope Academy at Madraasi Colony. At that time I was in 5th standard along with two other girls and five boys. At present we all are at Hope Home. I used to be sick most of the time; my family condition was not good. While studying in the school, we were told about the hostel construction. So I was very eager to go to the hostel and study there. Our family condition and surrounding were not good. On 28th March 2008 we came to the new home. At Hope home there was a better environment for us to study and to do something. Attention is given to each child for proper growth. I am very happy here. Staff is good and we have all things which are needed for us to grow. All the children are very happy. Even I am very happy. We have a nice two story building, huge ground to play, greenery all around and plenty of space and space. I would really like to thank Hope for the privileges which they have given to us and have brought hope in our lives.