AGNES KUNZE SOCIETY

FOCUS AREAS...

- EDUCATION
- HEALTH CARE
- LIVELIHOOD
- ENVIRONMENT
- ADVOCACY
- EMPOWERMENT

From January 16, 2002 to January 16, 2012, Agnes Kunze Society has completed ten years of existence. A ten year journey full of challenges, success and failures, joys and sorrow and yet one of growth and hope for the future. We thank God for His blessings upon the work of Agnes Kunze Society.

In order to celebrate the decade of growth and existence of the Society, a program was organized on April 8, 2012 at the Home in Sirdiwala. A large number of friends, well wishers and guests and donors from abroad who have been partnering with the work of Agnes Kunze Society Hope project were present for the program. By the grace of God and the continuous hard work of the entire AKS staff and children who participated in the program, the event was indeed a memorable one!

Presently, the total number of projects that are successfully running under the Society are 33. We thank God for this growth over the past ten years and look forward to further growth and development of the Society through God’s help in the years ahead.

AKS ‘Hope’ Project operates on values of Trust, Transparency, Equality and Accountability
All the 33 projects and programs of the Agnes Kunze Society ‘HOPE’ are run by the Main Office of the society. During January to April 2012, several Workshops, Meetings and Conferences were organized, which gave an opportunity to many of the staff members to be exposed to learning and interaction.

January 21st to 28th three staff members were nominated to go for an exchange visit to DACT & Blossom trust in South India which are running TB Projects. This proved to be very beneficial for our organization and the staff who are working in this specific area. During this period, one staff member attended the workshop of UNION at Gurgaon Delhi based on the issue of TB.

Another two staff members attended the CANA workshop at Thane, Mumbai from January 24th to 30th. This was based on PLHA Network and it was a learning process for the new learners (Church leaders & our society). As we also run a Community Care Center the teachings are in progress to be practiced amongst our PLHA in our Community & also awareness done amongst the unknown Community around us.

Other trainings like Community Lay Leaders training course organized by CMC Vellore in Herbetpur was attended by two of our staff, which proved to be very beneficial for them as work in Urban Slum Area & Villages. The curriculum laid emphasis at helping the community where Doctors cannot reach but trained members can go and help those who are in need of medical help.

AKS society successfully completed its 10 years of Existence on 16th of January 2012. To mark this grand occasion it was decided to have a Celebration. The entire staff worked laboriously towards the preparations for this program from the beginning of the year. The program was conducted on April 8, 2012. By the Grace of God & continuous hard work of all the staffs & Children we were able to see a successful completion of the program. A number of Friends and Donors of AKS came and visited the various programs of the Society and also attended the ten year Celebration program.

We have experienced God’s grace, mercy & faithfulness throughout these past ten years in our Society and by God’s Grace, we hope it will continue to keep growing in the months and years ahead due to continuous hard work of our committed Staff.
After a good winter break, the children were enthusiastic to return to school, which re-opened on January 10, 2012. All the children were punctual, attentive and took interest in the various activities of the school. The final examinations were held at the beginning of March and all the children did extremely well. Only 6 children could not give their exams due to sickness or domestic emergencies. The new session began on April 10, 2012.

Regular Parent Teacher meetings have been held and the parents were informed about the final examination and also the results which were declared thereafter. The parents are extremely happy and thankful for all the help and support that is being provided to their children through AKS.

AKS has also been providing regular midday meals. A little variation has been brought about in the menu and a healthy and balanced diet is being given to all the children.

Regular staff meetings are held where the Managing Director of AKS, Mrs. Manju Lawrence encourages the staff to give their best in shaping the lives of these children. At the Staff meeting held on April 21st, she expressed gratitude towards all the staff and complimented them for all the hard work.

Many visitors visited the school between January and April. There were guests from Germany, Netherlands, and also a group of students from Sonepat, Haryana. They were very encouraged to see the happiness on the faces of all these children in spite of their circumstances.

Children participated in various cultural activities as well as celebrated various festivals. They took part in the 10 year celebrations of Agnes Kunze Society. The program was appreciated by all the guests.

Ten students participated in a dance competition, which was organized by ONGC and they were awarded certificates.

GOAL OF AKS ACADEMY
To pursue academic excellence and motivate and empower its students to be lifelong learners, critical thinkers and productive members of this ever changing society.

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AKS Hope Home is presently a home to 39 children who are enjoying living there and growing physically, mentally, spiritually and socially. The environment is conducive for the overall development of the children.

The children at the Home are provided with good education. Along with academics, various extracurricular skill programs are included in their schedule, which are:

- Computer Classes
- English speaking courses
- Quiz Competitions
- Library reading classes
- Drawing competitions
- Debate Competitions
- Craft Work
- Counseling on various issues

These extra programs help them to be confident and groom them for their future. They also attend moral education classes on Sundays.

The children are divided into six houses and each house is denoted by a different colour. These are Green, White, Yellow, Pink, Orange and Blue. A leader is appointed for each house and he or she is responsible for all the children in that particular house. In this way, the children also learn to live with others of different age groups and interact with them.

Health and Hygiene is a very important part of the curriculum and the children are taught very basic habits like keeping themselves clean, taking care of their things properly, chewing their food properly, brushing their teeth twice a day, drinking more water during the summer months, waking up early and keeping themselves active and fit.

March was the month of examination and all the children appeared for their annual exams. Mostly all the children did well receiving good marks in each of the subjects. A few still have to improve for which they are being encouraged and motivated. The new session began in April and the children have moved to new classes with great excitement and enthusiasm to work hard and do well. They have received new books, uniforms and bags. The parents of the children also visited the Home and met with their children. The children were delighted to see their parents. They had lunch with them and spent a day at the Home. The parents felt proud to see the progress of their children and encouraged them to keep up the hard work. They were also thankful to AKS for providing the opportunity and facilities to their children.

The children at the Home took part in the ten year celebrations of the Agnes Kunze Society, which took place on April 8, 2012.
AKS ‘HOPE’ LEARNING CENTRE & OUTREACH PROGRAM

The AKS ‘Hope’ Learning Centre is doing excellent work in the villages. The Centre has been established to improve the lives of the disabled children and provide good education to them. A few children come to the centre for assessment. Those children who are unable to attend the centre, the staff of AKS visits their houses.

One of the main difficulties is that the roads in the villages are not good and the school is far away from the houses of the children. This makes it difficult for them to travel and the parents are unable to bring their children to school. There is also a lack of awareness amongst the community about the various government schemes that are available for the disabled and how they can seek assistance. AKS, through their outreach program, has been conducting various awareness programs in the villages and helping the community to avail of pension, disabled certificate and other government schemes. A Disabled People Organization is also being set up so that the group can raise their voices and solve their problems amongst themselves.

AKS ‘HOPE’ SAMVEDNA PROJECT

There are presently 15 children and 5 staff members at the Hope Samvedna Project. The children enjoy coming to the centre. They come from Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The education program has been developed according to the needs of the children. They are taught by play way method. They are also provided a good nutritious diet and medical facilities. A team from Herbertpur “Anugrah” Centre has done the assessment for all the children and have done the medical checkup for the children as well as their parents. They also organized a medical camp and provided assistance devices to five children.

Every Thursday, Physiotherapy is given to the children by a team that comes from Raphael Home. They also teach the community workers so that they can show the parents when they go to the villages. Ms. Pratima Singh Rana attended a three day course at the Raphael Institute, which was helpful as she can now teach the other staff members, Community workers and parents.

Every Saturday, the staff of Samvedna Project make teaching aids, are involved in awareness program, parents meeting and children assessment. The Herbertpur team and Raphael team help in the assessment and physiotherapy programs.

AKS ‘HOPE’ GOAT PROJECT

An income generation project for those with disabled members in their family, i.e. the ‘Hope’ Goat Project is also doing well. The project provides six goats to the family, five female and one male. When the kids are born, this family returns six goats which are then given to another disabled family. In this way the cycle continues and helps the families improve their economic life. At the same time they are happy as they feel that they can also play an important role in the family by contributing towards the family income. It also keeps them busy and helps in building self-confidence.

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AKS ‘HOPE’ HIV/AIDS PROJECT

A total number of 240 patients have been treated during this quarter for HIV/AIDS under the ‘Hope’ HIV/AIDS Project. Besides this, HIV testing and counseling for TB patients was done and 210 people came for this. Family Counseling, orphan care, care and support for HIV positive patients, food supplementation and nutrition support are part of this ongoing project.

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Under the Hope TB Target project, 470 TB suspects were identified in this quarter. They were referred for treatment. Follow up treatment was done on 332 patients. A comprehensive counseling was done by the counselor on TB and 180 people attended this program. Nutritious food supplement was provided to 122 patients.

Besides counseling and support to TB and HIV positive patients, awareness programs have also been conducted to raise the awareness on these diseases and create an atmosphere in the community where the people are not hesitant in getting their check ups done and begin their treatment on time.

Training was also conducted for ASHA workers who are working with TB and HIV/AIDS patients.

World TB Day was observed in which an exhibition, rally and a stall on TB was set up to raise the awareness of the community. Cultural and awareness programs have been conducted in various schools and inter-colleges in Dehradun.
AKS HOPE PROJECT

AKS Self Help Group Formation & Counseling

There are 12 SHG’s consisting of 5 ladies in each group. In this quarter, a total of 8 meetings have been held. Each member of the group has been given a loan of Rs.12,000/- by Memo Bank. The women have used this loan money to set up small business for themselves so that they can get enhance their monthly income and improve their economic condition. They are also encouraged to save some money from the profit that they make. A fixed amount is returned to the leader of the group every month in order to return the loan that is given to them.

Hope Academy & Hope Higher Education Student Counseling/Teen Clinic

There are presently 50 students of the Hope Higher Education that are being educated through the Hope Higher Education program. These children are studying in classes 6 to 10 in various schools. They receive extra tuitions through the Hope project and at the same time they are counseled by the staff on various emotional, physical and psychological changes that they go through at this age. They are made aware of the physical changes that their bodies go through and how they should take care of themselves and what should their behavioral pattern be. They are taught about hygiene and health. They are also educated on the type of company that they should keep and what should their behavior be in relation to the opposite sex. In this quarter, 4 counseling sessions have been held at Hope Academy.

Vocational Training for Women & Counseling

A Sewing Centre is being run by Hope Project in which young girls and women are taught sewing and tailoring so that they can begin their own business and earn a living for themselves. Along with the training, they are also counseled on health & hygiene, savings, maintaining their homes in a clean way, how to handle emotional, physical and mental changes that teenagers go through. This centre is doing very well and a lot of women are being helped through this project.

HIV/AIDS Counseling & Testing

An awareness has been created amongst the residents of Madrasi Colony regarding getting regular check-ups done for HIV/AIDS and other diseases. In this quarter, 26 people got themselves tested at the government hospital. Due to the awareness that has been created by the Hope Project staff, the people are not hesitant in getting themselves checked regularly and those who are tested positive are given regular treatment and their welfare is taken care of by the staff.

Family Planning Awareness, Immunization, Counseling & Awareness

Awareness has also been created amongst the community regarding family planning and immunization. Pregnant women are advised to get regular immunization taken. With the help of Asha workers and ANM, the women are taken to the hospital for regular check-ups and immunization. Some people come to the centre as well for immunization.

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Community Leaders Meeting

A meeting of the Leaders of the community was held to make them aware about the various activities of Hope Project. They were told that AKS is currently running 33 projects and is working in the area of Education, Health Care, Livelihood, Environment, Advocacy and Empowerment.

Anti-Smoking/Tobacco Meeting

In this quarter, 4 anti-smoking/Tobacco awareness meetings were held in which the community was told about the dangers of substance abuse and smoking. They were told about the different ways in which they can give up smoking and drugs intake.

TB/DOTS

A detailed information on TB and its causes, treatment and care was given to the members of the community during the 4 meetings that were held in this quarter. A check up was also conducted and the patients were told that they could get their DOTS treatment done through the Hope Centre and they need not go to the hospital. So far 40 patients have been cured within a period of 6 to 8 months through the treatment that they have received from the centre. 7 patients are being given the treatment presently.

Non-Communicable Chronic Disease Awareness Program

So far 4 different awareness meetings have been conducted for the community to educate them and make them aware about non-communicable chronic diseases, what are the symptoms and how they can be prevented. This program has helped many people to become aware of how they can take care of themselves, take regular medicines upon the advice of the doctor and go for regular check-ups.

Daily OPD Medical Services

In this quarter, 2227 people have been assisted through the OPD medical services of the Hope Project. They have received free treatment for small ailments. Those with serious medical conditions were referred to the hospital or to specialist doctors.

Old Age Pension, Widow Pension and Handicapped People Pension

Hope project has been able to help Old people, widows and handicapped people to fill out pension forms and submit them in the respective office so that they can avail the benefit of pension. 10 people were assisted in 2011 to fill out their forms. So far, one old woman’s pension has started coming.

House Visit & Follow up

Around 34 houses were visited by the Hope staff in Chandan Nagar area to conduct a survey and also to promote the various projects being run by AKS Hope.

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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.

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