Dear Friends,

Mother Teresa once said, “We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.”

Many times we feel that the work we are doing is just a tiny drop in the ocean as there is so much to be done. We often wonder whether our work is really making a difference in the lives of the people that we serve. I feel that even if it brings about a change in the life of one person or child, our purpose is achieved and it is worthwhile.

A glance at the projects highlighted in this newsletter will help you see the continuous efforts of HOPE Staff, their dedication and passion for work, which is bringing about a change in the lives of many children and people in the community that we serve.

We are thankful for your love, prayers, support and partnership for the ongoing work of Agnes Kunze Society and Hope Project.

Manju Lawrence
Managing Director
Agnes Kunze Academy has been instrumental in the all round growth and development of the children in and around the slum settlement at Madrasi Colony.

With a total student strength of 198 in classes Nursery to 5, the children are enthusiastic to come to school and learn. Although academics is the main emphasis, children are exposed to various interactive activities, competitions and sports throughout the year, which helps in the holistic development of the children.

Aditya studies in Class 5. He is an extremely talented boy. He is good at studies and is always eager to learn new things. He received 92% in class 4 final exams. Not only is he sincere, active and obedient, he is also a great source of encouragement to other students as well. Even though he faces many challenges in his family on a daily basis, he is absolutely focused towards his goal and will definitely prove to be a successful person, if he continues to receive support and encouragement towards his studies.

As the new school year began in April, children were excited to go to new classes and receive new books and bags. Many volunteers and friends visit from time to time, which is also a great learning experience for the children. In the new session, volunteers from Germany took a workshop with the children on ‘Good Touch, Bad Touch’ creating awareness on the importance of Child Protection.
Five teachers are enrolled in the D.El.Ed. programme launched by the government for the benefit of in-service untrained teachers in schools. This programme aims to develop the skill competencies, attitudes and understanding to make teaching and learning more effective.

The children took part in a rally held on April 2nd to spread awareness on Autism, and the importance of inclusion of children with disability into mainstream education.
The year began with great excitement and a lot of activity.

On January 30th, the children went to the zoo and saw different types of birds, fishes and animals. They were overwhelmed. Children are also thankful to Ms. Prerna for the gift that she gave to all the children and they were able to buy various things for themselves which they needed.

All the children did well in their final exams and got good results. Priyanka and Deepak of classes 4 & 2 respectively, performed excellently and were awarded by the management. After the exams, all the children were able to go home and spend time with their families and loved ones. They were thrilled to go home. It was also a time for the parents to get to know about their children’s performance and well being.
Farewell | After working for 3 years at Hope Home, Ms. Sheelpa Lammichhane resigned from her job as she got married. She was given a warm farewell by the entire staff and students of Hope Home. Her time at the Home was very fruitful as she worked wholeheartedly with the children and the staff. Everyone sent her with prayers and well wishes for her future life.

New appointees | In place of Sheelpa, Ms. Nirma has been appointed and she joined work from March 3, 2018. She will be working under the supervision of Ms. Pratima and Mr. Puran Singh. She is very happy working with the children and is trying to do her best.

New Admission | 10 new children were admitted to Hope Home this year in April. All the children belong to needy families. Hope Home staff is happy to welcome these children to the family.
HOPE COMPREHENSIVE CARE & SUPPORT SERVICES (CCSS)

Hope Comprehensive Care & Support Services Project has been instrumental in providing community health care and support services to the underprivileged in the Dehradun district. The project staff visits different areas, slum settlements and communities, raising awareness on health and hygiene, educating the people on various government schemes and benefits, linking and referring them to hospitals and providing support services for those who do not have anywhere to go.

This year began with the HOPE CCSS team participating in World Tuberculosis Day on March 24th and World Autism Day on April 2nd. Mr. Anuj Kumar Sharma, Community Health Team worker
was awarded for his work and input in the field of Tuberculosis at the function held on March 24, 2018.

Besides this, Hope CCSS staff have been regularly counseling HIV AIDS & TB patients, both adults and children, providing medicines and taking them for regular check-ups to Doon Hospital. A total of 42 children and adults have so far stayed at the Hope Care Centre for their treatment and medicines.

In the field visits, the CCSS workers have also been conducting face to face counseling sessions with Female Sex workers and distributing condoms.

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Significant change in the life of Insa

Insa is a 4 year old special needs child. She lives in Jatonwala. Insa was unable to walk and move around and just sat in one place in her house. Samvedna staff regularly visited Insa and made continuous efforts to help her walk a few steps with support. Insa’s parents were extremely happy to see Insa walk and eventually stand on her own. It is their hope to see Insa walk independently in a few months. Hope Samvedna staff is making every effort to help her do that.
On March 24, 2018, Community Health Global Network Uttarakhand Cluster organized the Rapid Assessment of Disability Dissemination event in Dehradun in association with Nossal Institute (University of Melbourne, Australia), CBM and PHFI. The main feature of this event was to disseminate the information of all that was done during the past 4 years under the RAD program. The objective for using the RAD tool was to improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities in Uttarakhand through promoting equal participation in community life and fulfillment of the rights to health, education, employment and social participation. This program sought to understand the barriers experienced by people with disabilities when participating in and accessing community services (eg. health, education) and to strengthen the capacity of the organizations to design, implement and measure the effectiveness of disability inclusive community health development programs. There was different DPG/DPO formation that took place in the 5 areas of Uttarakhand by each Local partner during this process in which the Persons with disability were strengthened and which led to increased participation in the community. AKS Hope Samvedna, the disability wing of AKS Hope Project, participated actively in this program.

...to improve the quality of life for the persons with disabilities in Uttarakhand....
CBID - 2018 is a venture of AKS Hope project in partnership with CBM & was started this year in four blocks covering 30 villages of Dehradun district. The aim of the project is to bring about a change in the lives of people with disability at community level, working with and through local groups and institutions. It enhances and strengthens earlier work described as Community Based Rehabilitation or CBR. AKS Hope is the only organization that is working on this CBID project in the state of Uttarakhand.

The blocks added this year to the areas that were selected in 2017 under the CBID project are Kalsi, Vikasnagar, Rajpur and Sahaspur. Presently CBID project is being implemented in 4 Districts of Uttarakhand (Dehradun, Tehri Garhwal, Rudraprayag & Almora) and covers 9 Blocks. A total of 1206 Persons with Disability (Adults- 899; Children- 307) are registered with the program and the CBID staff is looking forward to helping them improve their quality of life & increase their participation in different sectors of life.

CBID referred one adult and two children to the Community Health Global Network Uttarakhand Cluster (CHGNUKC), who were able to provide wheelchairs to the adult and the two children, which has changed their world completely. In the Sahaspur block, through the efforts of the CBID project staff, 4 children were provided with disability certificates by the Chief Medical Officer.

A capacity building Training/workshop for the staff and volunteers was organized by AKS Hope Project from March 15-31, 2018 at Hope Samvedna, Dhana, Thatyur. The theme of the workshop was “Future is Inclusion”. The training partner was LCH Samvedna, which is a Disability Resource Centre.
Sadik suffers from intellectual disability. He lives in Hasanpur Village, Dehradun, with his family. Sadik was enrolled in 2016 in the Disability Inclusive Livelihood Initiative Programme (DILIP), because he was not engaged in any activity at home. He could not do any work at home neither was he able to engage himself in any meaningful employment outside due to his disability.

Under the DILIP Programme, Sadik was initially provided with 25 chicks in order to start a small poultry at home. A particular activity or trade is selected for the beneficiary only on the basis of the need and his or her interest. Sadik started working enthusiastically and took initiative to look after the chicks, giving them feed at the right time, etc.

After 10 to 11 months he was able to get eggs from the hen on a regular basis and he was able to sell these eggs for Rs.10/- each. It also helped in enriching his diet. Sadik was so happy.

Gradually the poultry work is increasing as recently 7 newly hatched chicks were added from the previous lot. Sadik is extremely happy. His whole perspective on life has changed. He works actively now and is able to contribute towards the family. This work has also helped in raising his self-esteem. It is a joy to see Sadik taking responsibility and working towards this initiative.
Chief Functionary

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