

HOPE NEWS

From the Managing Director's Desk....



Dear Friends,

Greetings.

The last quarter of 2016 had been a proactive one, with new children joining the Hope family, friends and well-wishers from different parts of the world coming and visiting the Hope Project. Our Staff continues to work selflessly and with full dedication to make each of the 34 projects of AKS Hope, a success. We thank God for His mercies and faithfulness!!

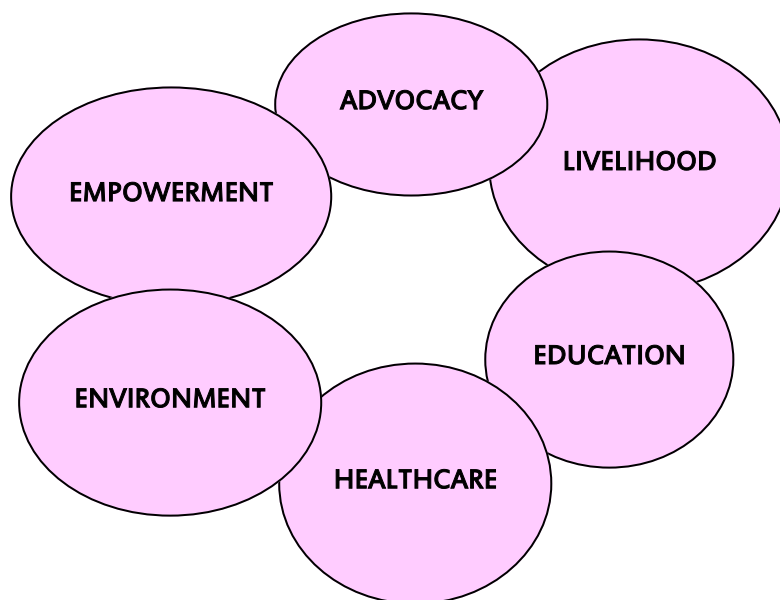
With great achievement and soaring spirits, we were able to bid adieu to yet another year that God gave us and have entered into this New Year with a lot of expectations. I want you to take a look at the various activities reported in this newsletter and be reminded along with us that the community and the children that we serve through AKS Hope Project are the ones whom God is also concerned about and wants us to bring 'Hope' in the lives of each one of them and help them to live with dignity, self-confidence and respect.

On behalf of the entire team of AKS Hope Project, I want to thank you for your continued prayers, thoughts and support for us.

Warm regards,

Manju Lawrence

FOCUS AREAS



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HOPE HOME

Hope Home welcomed a number of friends, sponsors and volunteers who came to visit the Home between July and October 2016. In July, Mr. Hein visited Hope Home and enjoyed his stay and interaction with the kids. He taught them how to play the Congo. Ms. Gemma, a psychologist from Switzerland came during this time. Julianne, a physiotherapist from Netherlands also visited in July and stayed for 6 weeks. All of them enjoyed their time with the children, teaching them various things as well as learning from them.



Hein, Gemma and Julianne with the children at Hope Home

In the month of September, Mr. Gerhard and his wife Erica from Austria visited the Home. They were delighted to meet the children and interact with them. They taught the children how to make hanging pots, wrist bands, toys and many other things from waste material, especially plastic bottles, etc. The children were thrilled with their toys. They also brought a digital camera for the Home and taught the Head Boy, Soham and Head Girl, Simran how to use the camera and take good photographs of the various activities of the Home.



Another couple who visited Hope Home in the month of October was Metha and her friend Luke. This was Metha's second visit. They stayed for a week at the Home and enjoyed their time with the children. They even cooked some macaroni for the kids and served it during lunch. The children just loved it!!



HOPE HOME

Hope Home not only hosted visitors from abroad, but also from within the country. The Juvenile Justice Act team visited the Home to see the children as well do an on-site check of the documents of the Society. The team interacted with the children and found that all the children were happy and loved to be in the Home. They also found all the documents complete and up-to-date. The team was very happy with the management of Hope Home as well as AKS Hope Project.



NEW ADMISSIONS

In July 2016, Gaurav, Pranjal, Aradhana, Himanshi and Khushi joined Hope Home. All of them are from different villages of Uttarakhand and belong to very needy families. They have adjusted well at the home and are enjoying their stay. Aaradhana and Himanshi also participated in celebrating “Grandparents Day” in the month of October at ‘Colonel’s Academy’, where the staff and students of Hope Home were invited. All of them are happy to go to school and take part in the different activities of the Home.

**Gaurav
with
his fa-
ther**



**Pranjal
with his
father**



Aradhana



Himanshi



Khushi

HOPE HOME

Children from Hope Home participated in various extra-curricular activities and competitions organized at other schools. They have excelled in these activities and have received medals and certificates, making everyone proud of their achievement..

Five children of the Home, namely, Sunny Kumar (Class 7), Priya Singh (Class 5), Shivani (Class 5), Kusum (Class 4), and Sanjana Bisht (Class 2) received scholarships of Rs.2000/- each from Colonel Academy.



Sanjana Kuppa, Radha Sami and Laxmi Sami went to Enfield School, Vikasnagar to participate in Kho-Kho, Relay Race and 100 mt. Race.

Radha took part in Kho-Kho and 100m Race and got a silver medal.

Lakshmi Sami participated in the Relay Race and Kho-Kho, while Sanjana Kuppa contested only in Kho-Kho.

Other children from the Home also participated in various competitions. **Soham** and **Simran** took part in a General Knowledge competition held at Raj Bhawan. Both of them received certificates. **Sunny Kumar** participated in a scholarship competition at Akaash Institute through Colonel Academy School and received a certificate from there. **Lalit Kumar** and **Aditya** went to Shivalik Academy and participated in a drawing competition.

NEW STAFF AT HOPE HOME



Puran Singh Panwar

Mr. Puran Singh Panwar, Senior Project Officer. He is handling overall supervision of the Home, monitoring and reporting.

Mr. Umesh Kashyap, takes tuitions for classes 9 to 12



Umesh Kashyap

HOPE ACADEMY

As the school reopened in July, the children were happy to come back and actively participate in the various activities that were planned in this quarter. Both teaching and learning has become very effective and enjoyable through the use of the smart boards and the teachers are finding it very effective.



A school is a social and learning agent that helps in the over-all development of a child and assists them in achieving their educational goal. It is very encouraging to see the students work hard towards this end.



Apart from preparing for exams and regular tests, the children took part in various activities and celebrations, such as Independence Day, Teacher's Day and various competitions that were organized throughout the year.



**Independence Day,
Teacher's Day &
Raksha Bandhan
celebrations**

HOPE ACADEMY

On September 6, 2016, a team from CBM visited the school to conduct an audit and enquire about the functioning and educational facilities provided to the students at the school. They were very happy with the positive response that they got from the students and were also pleased with the facilities and educational tools being used by the teachers, such as smart boards, etc.



Mrs. Erica and her husband Mr. Gehard from Austria also visited Hope Academy in September. They were warmly welcomed by the children and the staff. Their visit was also a great learning experience for the children as Mrs. Erica told the children about recycling waste material and making different objects from it. She taught them how to make brooms, purse, gardening pots, pencil box, etc. from plastic bottles. She taught the girls how to make bracelets from beads & thread and also wall hangings from waste material.



Remembering Sister Agnes Kunze...

The children of Hope Home and Hope Academy paid a tribute at the grave of Sister Agnes Kunze, the inspiration behind Agnes Kunze Society. The children offered prayers, lit candles and placed flowers on the grave.



STAFF'S VIEWS

TEACHER'S JOURNEY WITH AKA

It is my great pleasure working at AKA. I have been working in the school since 9 years and will complete my 10 years of teaching in May 2017. I remember when I got my appointment letter. I had no teaching experience, which every school asks for, but the management believed in my abilities and gave me an opportunity to teach. Now I will have 10 years of teaching experience. When I joined the school there were many challenges before me but I knew that every child is different and has different abilities. I forced myself to work harder for the improvement and progress of individual child. With great determination and hard work it has become possible.



Today when I look at the children whom I taught and who have completed their 12th board exams with first division I feel happy and satisfied. I found that the more I give, the more I get as a result of my interaction with my students. Their thirst for knowledge, enthusiastic responses and unconditional love left me in the state of Nirvana. I have learnt many things while working in AKA; how to work in difficult situations with limited space and facility. I would like to thank the management, staff and all the children for supporting me and improving my efficiency and teaching skills. I am very much honoured and feel proud telling my success story. I thank God for helping to keep crossing big problems and to keep going ahead.

SMIRITI THAKUR



I joined the school on 18th October 2007 and I am working till date. It was so difficult for me to come to school daily from Mussoorie to Dehradun, which is about 25 Km. and the route through which I come is thick forest with danger of wild animals. As I pen down my success story as a teacher, I would like to thank God for giving me this wonderful opportunity to work with AKA school. When I came here, my first day of school was not so good. I found it very difficult to adjust myself in the unhygienic and unhealthy environment. But as I started interacting with the children I started knowing

them and their zeal to learn and study. These are the children who really need personal attention and guidance. I worked hard with sincerity and great determination to improve the progress of each and every child. I am very glad to work among the underprivileged children. Today when I recall my past memories of AKA I see myself as a totally changed person. It is amazing how impossible turns into possible and now I am happy and feel proud to be a teacher of AKA. I don't know how 10 years passed by. But because of God's grace and mercy I feel protected. I would like to thank God, school authority, staff and children for all the support and love. Without them I would not have been able to complete my 10 years of teaching experience. I learnt many things and improved my teaching skills through smart boards. I am very happy and satisfied.

NIRMALA SINGH

AKS HOPE COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE PROJECT

The focus of the Community Health Care Centre has largely been to conduct regular health checks of the children at Hope Academy as well as the people of the community. At the same time, the project staff has been active in creating awareness in the Community on the ill-effects of chewing Tobacco, HIV/AIDS, TB, Non-Communicable Chronic diseases, Mother and Child Care, etc.

The Self-Help Groups have helped in empowering the women not only to become aware of various health issues but also to start small businesses to improve the economic conditions of their families. Presently, there are 15 Self-Help Groups. The youth of the community are also counselled on career opportunities, importance of education and moral values in their life through the youth clubs.



The Hope Anti-Tobacco Brigade has been spreading awareness on the ill-effects of chewing tobacco and smoking. Awareness meetings are also held on HIV/AIDS and TB. Those patients who are diagnosed with TB are sent to Doon Hospital Dots Centre and ICTC Centre for proper treatment, care and counselling.



Mother and Child Care, awareness meetings on HIV/AIDS and distribution of food items to HIV patients is also carried out under the Community Health Project.





It's been almost 10 years working with Agnes Kunze Academy / Society.” Before coming to A.K.S, I worked with another NGO which worked with slum children and had a non-formal education project for them. I worked with them for 4 years as a teacher.

In 2006, I received an opportunity to serve under the ‘HOPE PROJECT’. This was like a life-changing experience for me. First, I worked as a teacher and later, according to my potential, I got an opportunity to attend various training programs and workshops related to health and medical training. This was something out of my field and it has broadened my knowledge, experience and working field. I was always very keen to learn and acquire knowledge in different fields and therefore, this was a wonderful opportunity for me.

Now, I am working as a Community Health Worker at A.K.S. and I am really happy to work in this area. We have been working hard to create awareness within the community on various health and hygiene related issues. I believe that in order to maintain a good relationship with the community people, we need to understand their challenges and difficulties that they face each day and try to find the best possible solution for their betterment.

I have just completed ten years at AKS and the experience of working with the underprivileged community has taught me a lot. It has made me more stronger and more confident than before. I would really like to thank God for His blessings and the management of AKS Hope Project for giving me such a wonderful opportunity and placing their trust in me.

IRIS ISSACHAR



HOPE Comprehensive Care & Support Services (CCSS)

The Staff of Hope Comprehensive Care & Support Services have been involved in conducting awareness meetings on HIV/AIDS, TB, Mental Health, and other non-communicable diseases. Through Street plays and skits, awareness is created on HIV. This is also very effective in conveying the message of how to recover from such illness and what precautions can be taken.



Awareness is not only created through meetings and skits, the CCSS team also distributes food items and medicines to the affected patients. This is being carried in collaboration with Aashiana Project. 216 patients have benefited through this program in this quarter.

A promotional meeting with the Uttarakhand State AIDS Control Society (USACS) was held in the city. The main purpose of this meeting was to eradicate the system of Caste from the minds of the people, build more HIV Centres and spread awareness on the government facilities available for HIV/AIDS persons. The Director of USACS, Dr. V. S. Tolia challenged all the participants to work in partnership especially in restricted areas and spread awareness through cultural events so that there is a decrease in new infections cases, zero AIDS related deaths, & zero stigma & discrimination.



WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

World Mental Health Day was celebrated on October 10, 2016 and a programme was organized in Sahaspur Block in which more than 200 people participated. The Pradhan (Village Head), Mrs. Sunder Singh Thapa and many other leaders were present. Awareness was given on the causes, treatment and supportive care on Mental Health. The sessions were very informative and the programme proved to be an eye-opener for the villagers.



Villagers attending the sessions on Mental Health

Recognition of Appreciation at the meeting of World Mental Health Day

HOPE SAMVEDNA

Hope Samvedna team has been working with dedication among the people with disability. Under the RAD programme, they have been able to form 4 Disability Peoples Group (DPG) covering 12 villages. The leading DPG is 'Umang Divyang Sewa Samiti'. These groups have taken part in various training programmes organized both by Hope Samvedna and the Government. The lead DPG members attended an income generation training programme in which they were taught to make Jams.



They also attended a Livelihood Training organized by CHGN on Animal Husbandry, Poultry Farming, Organic Compost, etc. The main learning in this training was how to choose a livelihood option, applying these schemes on a very low level in order to improve their financial condition.



The Samvedna team has been conducting a lot of awareness meetings and programmes in the community, anganwadis and schools to sensitize people about disability, it's causes, prevention and help.

Children at Samvedna Centre



A team from CBM visited the Samvedna programme and were very happy and satisfied with the work being carried out by Hope Samvedna in the field of disability.



The Disability Persons Group also went on an exposure visit to the Pacific Mall in Dehradun. This was their first visit to a big city mall and they were extremely happy.



AT
PACIFIC
MALL

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Hope Samvedna continues to work with children with disabilities within the community, where around 45 children with disabilities are receiving services like home based special education, physiotherapy, guidance and counseling. Some children visit the Samvedna Centre as well.



Another programme, namely, **Include Vidhya Campaign (IVC)** is being implemented in which the focus is on inclusion of children disabilities into regular government schools so that they are able to avail of the benefits given by the government. As a result of this programme, they are also able to socialize with other children, develop a feeling of cooperation and feel accepted in the community. So far, 15 students have been enrolled into primary schools.

The Samvedna team has been visiting the local authorities, like the Pradhan, Aanganwadi and ASHA workers to create awareness in this regard and encourage the community to enroll their children with disabilities in this programme.



Chief Functionary

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