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HOPE NEWS

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FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR.....

Dear Friends,

Greetings.

Each year, we look forward to greater opportunities of service with a special focus on the community that we serve. AKS Hope team is committed to making a difference in the lives of the people that they work with and the staff selflessly works towards this end.

The various projects of AKS Hope have been functioning well with a special emphasis on the focus areas of the Society, i.e. Advocacy, Education, Empowerment, Environment, Healthcare and Livelihood. As you go through this newsletter, you will find the achievement and impact of these projects and the difference being made in the lives of many people in the community.

We are always overjoyed to have friends, visitors, donors and sponsors who visit us from time to time to get a first hand experience of the various project being initiated by the Society. We extend heartfelt gratitude and thanks to our donors for their support and encouragement. I hope you will be encouraged as you go through this newsletter.

Best Wishes,

Manju Lawrence

Focus Areas

ADVOCACY

EDUCATION

EMPOWERMENT

ENVIRONMENT

HEALTHCARE

LIVELIHOOD



HOPE HOME; HOPE ACADEMY; HOPE
SAMVEDNA; HOPE COMMUNITY HEALTH

HOPE HOME

The New Year at Hope Home began on a welcoming note, afresh with immense hope, expectations and new vigor to achieve greater results and impact more lives throughout the year. A number of friends and donors visited the Home, encouraging both the staff and the children through their interaction.

The entire staff of Hope Home has been working selflessly and with full dedication towards this cause and within a span of four months, a lot has been achieved. Besides the regular routine of exams, celebration of special occasions, counseling sessions, outing and games, overall safety, protection, health and hygiene, of the students is also kept in mind.

15 of the Hope Home children who had different health issues were taken to Colonel's Academy on March 24th, 2017, where a free medical camp was organized by Mahant Indresh Hospital. 20 specialist doctors were there, including skin specialist, ENT, Dentist, etc.

A fire mock drill and workshop was held in February to raise awareness of the children as well as staff on what should be done in case a fire erupts. Two staff from Doon Fire Service came and told about many useful things related to fire safety services.

An emergency staircase has been built for the children in case of any accident, fire or mishap.

The skills of the children are being enhanced through the provision of 5 new computers for the children. New computers have been installed in the office as well, which will help in the functioning of the Home.



Visit of Sponsors and Friends

During the months of January to April, a number of sponsors and friends have visited Hope Home, interacting with the children and encouraging the staff and teachers.

Nassima and Ines came in December 2016 and stayed till March/April.

Anorose and her friends visited in the month of February. They stayed for a month and loved their time with the children. They also bought various things for the children from the market.

Dago and family from Germany also visited in February.

Ms. Sena and her friends Benedicts Sebastian and Jonathan Dmitry from Germany came in the month of March. Mr. Jo, who is the founder member and has visited the Home from time to time, stayed on for two months.

All of them have had a wonderful time with the children, cooking meals, playing games, teaching skills and learning from them as well.



AT A GLANCE

HOPE HOME ACTIVITIES



HOPE ACADEMY

The children at Hope Academy are always enthusiastic about coming to school and when the school reopened after the winter break on January 10, 2017, the children and staff was all refreshed and excited to resume classes.

The school celebrated Founders Day on the 16th of January, giving thanks to God for completing 14 successful years of existence. In these 14 years, Hope Academy has grown tremendously and has gained the reputation of one of the best schools in the area.

The school also celebrated the 69th Republic Day of our country on 26th January, with flag hoisting and singing of the National Anthem. This was followed by March Past and presentation of beautiful songs and dances by the children to mark this auspicious occasion.

Regular assessment tests, parent teacher meetings and class assignments enable to keep the children abreast with their studies and helps motivate them to do better academically. Teachers make an extra effort with the weak students to help them achieve better scores and do well in the exams. Teaching aids also help in better improving the teaching methods and children are able to learn better. This year 7 new computers have been installed in the school, which has been very helpful in teaching and learning process. The children and staff are extremely grateful to the donors for providing and installing these computers in the school.

The annual examinations were held in March and all the children did well. Those who scored well were appreciated and rewarded. Even those who did not score high percentage and made a remarkable improvement in their studies were recognized and encouraged to do better.

A number of friends and donors visited the school during this time, encouraging the staff and children with their visit and interaction. Mrs. Caroline & her husband came from Mussoorie to visit the school. Ms. Nasima, Ms. Ines, Ms. Margareta, Ms. Sena, Mr. Jonathan, Mr. Rudi Hoggar and Mrs. Renate came from Germany to visit the school. They were glad to visit the school. Ms. Nasima, Ms. Ines and Ms. Margareta volunteered to teach the children with special needs. They spent some time with these children teaching them study methods, which can make learning easier. Mr. Joe from Germany also visited the school and was glad to see the installation of new computers in the classrooms and children using it for learning.



Mithu

" I DON'T WANT TO HAVE A PERFECT LIFE, I WANT A HAPPY LIFE".

Mithu is a special needs child. Despite all odds, he is developing and improving physically and mentally. When he came to Hope Academy in class Nursery, he was not able to understand anything. But slowly and gradually he tried hard to overcome his weaknesses. Ms. Anita Bist and other teachers worked hard with him in learning and identifying many things. Now he is able to do many things by himself. Volunteers from Germany who visit the school from time to time have also put in a lot of effort and hard work in improving Mithu's communication, learning and social skills. He remembers and misses his Ms. Liya Ma'am very much. She taught him to identify many things and communicate also. Mithu has completed class V from AKA and has taken admission in another school. There he is studying with other children and is very happy to go to school. He is very regular and punctual to school. He goes to school dressed up neatly and properly. He is showing keen interest in studies and showing lots of improvement. He is happy and enjoying his life.

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The children were thrilled to receive T Shirts that were distributed by CBM (Include Vidhya Campaign) to promote free education for all. AKA has also been distributing books and stationery to all the children studying at AKA as well as those in the Higher Education programme. Hence, when the new Academic session began on 1st April 2017, all the children as well as those who took new admission to the school were excited to receive new books and stationery.



FAREWELL TO MRS. GARIMA ARORA

Mrs. Garima Arora joined the school on 15th April 2009. She taught children all the subjects. Apart from teaching at the school, she also trained the community girls in beauty salon work in order to help them earn a living and become independent. She served the organization for seven years and now has decided to leave the organization. She gave her precious time and served the organization very sincerely. The AKA staff and children gave her a farewell & wished her a better future ahead.



“If you want something you have never had, then you have to do something you have never done.”

I am Mr. Manmohan Dimri. I had completed my post graduation & B.Ed in 2009. After completing my studies, I started searching for a job but because of no teaching experience I was unable to get a job. One day I came to know from some reliable sources about AKA at Madrasi Colony. I decided to meet the Principal of the school and came to the school. She saw my credentials and asked me to come the next day. When I came to school it was not as easy as I thought. The surrounding, environment, children and the place was very messy and everything smelt bad. I found it a bit difficult in adjusting myself in such an environment. But I took it as a challenge and tried to overcome it.

It was my first experience of teaching and that too in a community based school. Today I feel proud as I have completed five years in AKA successfully. At AKA, I have learnt many things which I couldn't have learnt anywhere else. I am very grateful to the management & staff for their help and support. I am glad that today I am able to share my experience.

Thank you.

Manmohan Dimri

HOPE COMPREHENSIVE CARE & SUPPORT SERVICES (CCSS)

Hope Comprehensive Care and Support Services (CCSS) team has been actively involved in spreading awareness and counseling people on various health issues, advising and referring patients requiring professional medical attention to various hospitals.

Awareness meetings from time to time in the community are conducted and information is shared on diagnosis, symptoms and treatment, care and support services available at the Centre. Information on various government schemes and privileges is also given to the people so that they may be able to avail of the same. Hope CCSS team also does follow-up visits.

The Management of Agnes Kunze Society has always encouraged the staff to participate in such meetings, seminars, training and workshops so that they are well informed in their field of work and are able to effectively work in their fields. Mr. Sanjeev Issachar, Hope CCSS staff attended the DiDRR workshop conducted at Guwahati, Assam from March 21-24, 2017. The workshop focused on “Urgent help during disasters”.



Naminet from Hope CCSS attended the RAD & CBID training and workshop conducted at Christian Retreat Centre, Dehradun. The main focus of this workshop was on Disability and Sexual Abuse. These are extremely enriching and great learning experiences for the staff, which help and motivate them to work with greater enthusiasm.

LIFE STORY OF BEERA

My name is Beera. My family life has been extremely difficult and I have faced a lot of hardships. To add to my burdens and hardships, one day I discovered that I have been tested positive for HIV. I was completely shattered. I went into depression as I felt that everything is over. There was no hope for the future and I knew that there is no one to take care of my family. I started having fever and slowly I started becoming weak and frail. I had no energy left in my body to do anything or to take care of my family. I did not know what to do.

One day, I came to know about Hope CCSS project. I tried to contact the ART Centre and immediately the staff responded to my need and came to visit my family and me. They counseled me and motivated me to live with confidence. Through the Hope Ashiana program, I was provided nutritious food on a monthly basis. I also took monthly treatment as suggested by the CCSS staff. I started gaining strength and felt a flicker of hope in me.

A couple of months later, having gained some strength, I decided to work and earn a living for my family. Starting to work has added a new meaning to my life.

I am so thankful to Hope CCSS staff and Hope Ashiana Project for changing my life. Where I had lost all hope and felt that this was the end, they helped me to regain confidence and live my life with hope. Whenever I feel depressed, I immediately contact the CCSS team and they are always ready to talk to me and counsel me.

It is my desire and prayer that God will bless the efforts of Hope CCSS team and enable them to help many more people who are living in poverty and depression.

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On March 24, 2017, World TB Day was observed. A program was organized by USACS at Hotel Surbhi. Hope CCSS team actively participated in this program. Almost 150 people from various NGOs and school students participated in this program. The purpose of this program was to create awareness among people on TB and to share greater information with them on the cure of this disease. Emphasis was laid on giving priority to one's own health and then to take care of others. The resource persons shared on the importance of self-awareness in keeping our environment and households clean and safe; how we need to teach our children about health and hygiene, nutritious diet and safety. It is only then that one can spread awareness among other people.

CCSS ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE



HOPE COMPREHENSIVE CARE & SUPPORT SERVICES

SELF EMPLOYMENT FOR WOMEN (SHG)

The community women in the 15 Self Help Groups (SHGs) connected with AKS Hope Project are making steady progress in their small business with the help and support of AKS. They are now able to take control of their finances and resources, which is proving to be very beneficial for their livelihood and development. Any new loan scheme and interest introduced is discussed.



The group meets once a month to discuss loan and interest facilities given by the bank for their work and material required to run their business like candle making, agarbatti (incense sticks) making vegetable shops, tea stalls etc. Women in these SHGs feel happy that they can now contribute in bringing about financial stability in their family. Life has changed for these women.



YOUTH CLUB MEETING

A youth meeting for boys and girls of the community is conducted from time to time, which focuses on the overall development and change in the children and counseling the youth about career opportunities, importance of education and moral values in life. Awareness is also created on the consequences of taking tobacco and smoking. By helping them make the right decisions, AKS is trying to help the youth to become responsible citizens.

Some of the other activities carried out under Hope Comprehensive Care & Support Services are:

➤ **ANTI-SMOKING TOBACCO**

--- Door to door, as well as awareness meetings are conducted in the community about the ill effects and harms of chewing tobacco and smoking. Hope Anti-brigade team consisting of students and children, formed by AKS Academy, helps in creating awareness on the harmful effects of tobacco and smoking, in the neighbourhood, among relatives and family members and encourage them to live a healthy life.

➤ **HIV/AIDS & TB/DOTS**

---The Hope CCSS team conducts an awareness meeting once a month at Madrasi Colony in which people are informed about HIV/AIDS and TB/DOTS. Through these awareness meetings, the myth about TB being an incurable disease is removed from the minds of the people and they are told that if treatment is taken on time, TB can be completely cured. Many patients who have been cured share their experience with others. Those who are diagnosed with TB are sent to the Doon Hospital and ICTC Centre for further treatment, care and counseling.

➤ **NON – COMMUNICABLE CHRONIC DISEASE AWARENESS**

--- An awareness program is conducted on non-communicable chronic diseases such as diabetes, blood pressure, kidney and lung problems, stroke, heart problems, etc. which are common diseases but neglected by people as they do not want to go for regular check-ups. People in the community are encouraged to visit the hospital for check-ups. Advise and counsel is given on the symptoms, treatment, and facilities at government hospitals for free check-ups, etc.

➤ **MOTHER & CHILDCARE**

--- Mother and Childcare programs are held every month, which includes pre and postnatal health care checkups. Awareness is created on how to take proper care of new born babies, immunization, nutritious diet and necessary supplement food for the child, essential supplements for pregnant women like iron tablets/ folic acids, etc. AKS Hope at the health care Centre arranges immunization for the women and children along with ASHA and ANM workers.

➤ **IMMUNIZATION & VARIOUS HEALTH CHECK-UPS**

--- The urban health Centre situated at Hope Academy holds check-ups twice a month for school children and community people. Routine checkups like body weight, height, nails, hair, etc. and once every three months D-worming for all the students is done, by giving them Albendazole tablets. For community health check-ups – urine test, sugar test and monitoring of blood pressure is done and those having sugar or blood pressure problems are advised to consult doctors and maintain proper diet plans. Government health worker come for immunization regularly. Children above 10 years are given TT injections to protect them from various diseases. An OPD is conducted for all the community people on all weekdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. by the Community Health Workers of AKS Hope team.

➤ **OLD AGE RATION**

--- AKS provides monthly ration to the elderly people of the community. The packets consists rice, flour, pulses, sugar, tealeaves, and other essential daily use commodities. This helps the old people to receive a proper diet and nutritious food and they do not have to depend upon family but can feed themselves with this help given by AKS.



HOPE SAMVEDNA

DISABILITY INCLUSIVE LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Five families of persons with disabilities have been selected for the Disability Inclusive Livelihood Development Program under Hope Samvedna Project. The focus of this program is to include persons with disability, especially intellectual disabilities, in various income generation projects so that they can become self-independent and earn a livelihood.

In this regard, a trade workshop was conducted on April 26, 2017, in which the resource persons shared information about various trades and skills on horticulture, animal husbandry, organic farming, etc. Awareness was created on various government schemes that are available for these livelihood programs.

The workshop proved to be extremely beneficial for the families as they also received practical tips on how to implement the programs in their community.



This year, Hope Samvedna's focus has been on:

- Enrolment and retention of children with disabilities in mainstream schools. 5 children have already been enrolled in mainstream schools.
- Get commitment from community and parents to ensure inclusive education.
- Ensure that children with disabilities are learning along with their peers in class.

Hope Samvedna has also been concentrating on creating awareness on disabilities in schools and community level with the main focus on Anganwadi centers. In the community, Samvedna team has been trying to specially address pregnant women because one of the major causes of disability is lack of knowledge and awareness on how they can reduce the risk of disability when the child is born if they take good care of their health during this time and also observe certain precautions.

From January this year, Hope Samvedna is working in collaboration with Raphael Home at the Early Intervention Centre at Jatowala. Every week, the staff from Samvedna visits the Centre to provide rehabilitation to 11 students who come to the Intervention Centre.

Hope Samvedna continues to work with the Disabled Peoples Group (DPG) that was registered in 2016. At a recent Medical Camp organized by the DPG at Sahaspur, 120 people with disabilities received tricycles, wheelchairs, glasses, canes, etc. Samvedna team was also able to assist 20 persons with disabilities above the age of 18 to apply for pension forms.

In partnership with CBM, Hope Samvedna organized a 'Signature Campaign' to promote an equal platform for quality education for both children with and without disability. A number of schools, NGOs and DPGs took part in this event. Along with them, children of Hope Home, Hope Academy, Hope staff, staff of Anugrah Centre and staff and nurses of Lehman Hospital, Herbertpur, all took part enthusiastically in this event.

Hope Samvedna is also moving into the rural areas and in a household survey conducted in Kalsi block under its program, Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID), 1709 households have been identified. Next step is to conduct an individual survey to identify specific needs of persons with disabilities. Samvedna staff attended a training in Dehradun in which they learnt about conducting a situational analysis, which will help in identifying specific areas, needs, barriers, resources, etc.



Early Intervention in collaboration with Raphael Home



Signature Campaign



Medical Camp organized by Disabilities Peoples Group



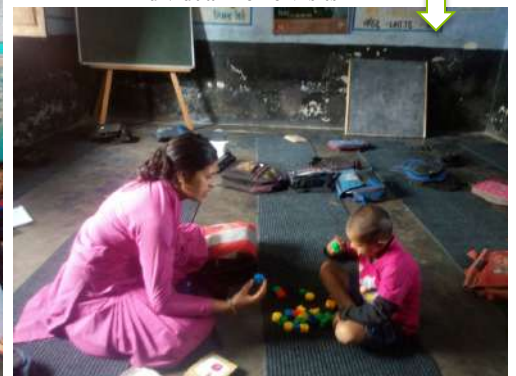
Individual Home Visits



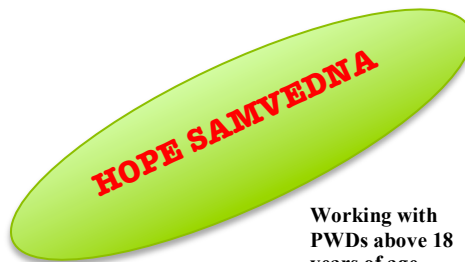
Disability Inclusive Livelihood Development Program



Hope Samvedna Centre



DPG Cross Learning Exposure under RAD Programme



Working with PWDs above 18 years of age



COMMUNITY BASED INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Community Based Inclusive Development-2017 is a startup project of AKS Hope Project in Uttarakhand in partnership with CBM India Trust to work amongst people with disabilities (Children & Adults). Its aim has been to see the inclusion of children with Disabilities into mainstream education; developing communities for Inclusion and providing specific services for persons with disabilities where required. The catchment blocks/ areas chosen for the project are Kalsi, Rudraprayag, Salt & Jakhnidhar blocks in Uttarakhand. This work was started with 3 networking partners of the respective areas along with Hope Samvedna, the Disability wing of the AKS 'HOPE' as an implementing partner. AKS has taken the Lead for this project (CBID-2017). The program planning was done together with the partners and CBM on what would be the aim for the coming year. In agreement and together with the selected partners, the CBID-2017 work began from January 2017.



The program plan involves-

- doing a situational analysis in identified catchment areas,
- Identifying persons with disabilities (Children & Adults) doing their assessments,
- mobilizing community stakeholders (through awareness raising/ group activity/orientation/ meetings);
- IVC Activities among the school children, teachers and the SMC's.

The project is still ongoing and in its first phase, Situational Analysis of the different Project Catchment areas for Prep for MYP & Identifications of People with Disabilities (Children & Adults) has been done. In the next phase, Individual Assessments, Sensitization/ awareness/ IVC activities will be done till the completion of the project in December, 2017. AKS along with CBM has visited 2 of the project areas Kalsi & Jakhnidhar to support & supervise the ongoing process of the CBID-2017 implementation work. The other 2 catchment areas & partners will be visited in this next phase of the remaining year.

The CBID-2017 project happily continues to work together with CBM & the implementing partners towards the Projects activities and its aims. AKS also hopes to come up soon with a MYP (Multi Year Plan) on what can be done more in the coming years for the people with Disabilities in Uttarakhand.





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: +91-9412053217; 8439002016 Mobile: +91 9719536211

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

Website: www.akshopeprojectindia.org