

Spreading H.O.P.E.

Annual Activities Report 2014 / Issue 1



Dear friends of H.O.P.E.,

2014 witnessed a very special milestone in the history of H.O.P.E. On 8th March, H.O.P.E. completed its 40th year and celebrated this occasion with more than 750 friends, supporters, beneficiaries and well wishers.

H.O.P.E. was established in 1974 in the small village of Sainik Wadi with nothing than a dream: to empower underprivileged women and children and change society by transformation of education. From the humble beginnings with women gathering in the open for training sessions, H.O.P.E. has grown and blossomed. Over the 40 years of its existence, H.O.P.E. has reached out to thousands of women and children, offering non-formal education and skill trainings for women, overall child development, as well as counseling, legal aid and immediate help when and where ever needed. As a further pillar of its work, H.O.P.E. has been encouraging and guiding women to form self help groups to enhance self-reliance and self-employment.

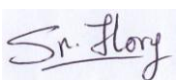
But H.O.P.E. did not stop here. It has always gone with the time and answered to current needs. The foundation of MAHER, a midway home for battered women, is one example. More recent projects are the senior citizen club that cares for lonely and needy elder persons, and the domestic workers solidarity programme which now is reaching out to over 650 women in three neighborhoods including Laxshmi Nagar Slum that has become part of the programme in December. Another long-standing wish was accomplished last summer: In August, we opened H.O.P.E.'s Kalpataru girl's hostel, giving room and shelter to girls and young women looking for a safe place to study or work.

And as we now launch into our 41st year, we just set out for another journey: 14th February we celebrated the opening of Parineeti Training Center, a joint project of H.O.P.E. and TESI Foundation, and we are proud and happy about this new partnership.

But these are only the highlights - a lot more has been going on over the past year. We heartily invite you to find out more about H.O.P.E.' activities and achievements in this magazine. Enjoy the reading.




Sr. Noelline Pinto


Sr. Flory Menezes



40 years of H.O.P.E. for the Hopeless

8th March 2014, H.O.P.E. celebrated its 40th anniversary with more than 750 guests. A photo story about an inspiring and soul-touching day.



Under the motto "Awakening", H.O.P.E. celebrated its' 40. anniversary on 8th March 2014 at Christ the King Church Hall in Vadgaon Sheri .The motto refered to the early beginnings of H.O.P.E. and its' role as a pioneer in the non-formal education of underprivileged women and children.



H.O.P.E. which is the abbreviation for Human Organization for Pioneering in Education was established in 1974 by Sister Noelline Pinto of the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod.



More than 750 guests came to celebrate the jubilee together with Sr. Noelline and the management and staff of H.O.P.E.. The list of guests included long standing friends, supporters, well-wishers, beneficiaries, staff and their families.



Bishop of Pune Province, Thomas Dabre, and Mrs. Fauzia Khan, then State Minister for Education, were the estimated Guests of Honor and made the introductory speeches.



Long standing friends: Mrs. Fauzia Khan, then State Minister for Education, had been a student of Sr. Noelline during her time as school mistress in Aurangabad .



The programme bridged the early years of H.O.P.E. to the present and illustrated H.O.P.E.'s work over the past 40 years.



All of H.O.P.E.'s staff as well as the women, children and senior citizens under H.O.P.E.'s care contributed with songs, plays, dances and speeches.



Congratulations with love: All staff members of H.O.P.E. congratulated Sr. Noelline and thanked her on behalf of the many thousands of women and children H.O.P.E. has helped and empowered over the years.



A very touching moment came, when the complete auditorium raised from their seats to sing the H.O.P.E. anthem that Sr. Noelline had composed for this day.



H.O.P.E.'s magazine "Awakening" reflects H.O.P.E.'s development and main activities over the past 40 years. It was released on the jubilee.



It's been a long journey already, but H.O.P.E. is prepared for the future. Founder Sr. Noelline and Directress Sr. Flory presenting the guiding principles of H.O.P.E. for the years to come.



Well wishes from all the guests: Provincial Sr. Caroline Fernandes concludes the celebration with the release of the balloons with hand-written greeting cards.

Parineeti Training Center opens in H.O.P.E. Center

Joint project of H.O.P.E. and TESI Foundation



Parineeti offers young adults a customized 3 months training course

14th February, 2015 Parineeti Training Center was opened at H.O.P.E. Center in Vadgaon Sheri. The new training center is a joint project of H.O.P.E. and Germany-based TESI Foundation. It offers a customized

3 months training course for young adults from less advantaged background to improve their skills and enhance their employability. The first batch with 20 students has started on 16th February.

The new training center was initiated by TESI's founder, Mrs. Barbara Hunz. Parineeti directors Mrs. Indra Chibb and Mr. Augustin Mendonca, and H.O.P.E. directress Sr. Flory Menezes did the opening. Some 80 representatives from NGOs, schools and partners H.O.P.E. and TESI are connected with as well as students came to celebrate the start of the new venture.

In her speech, Sr. Flory honored TESI as a perfect partner as TESI and H.O.P.E. are sharing the same goal of giving underprivileged students the chance to prosper by improving their skills. In fact, "transformation by education" has been H.O.P.E.'s leading motif from the beginning – a goal that H.O.P.E. has been following over 40 years now. The partnership with TESI is one more important step on this long road.

H.O.P.E. project coordinators: Sr. Flory Menezes, Prabha Borde

Motivator, supporter and friend

Pune Bishop Thomas Dabre visits H.O.P.E.



H.O.P.E. staff, management, friends and beneficiaries were proud and happy about Bishop Dabre's visit

6th July 2014 was a day of pride for H.O.P.E. staff and management. Thomas Dabre, Bishop of Pune, visited H.O.P.E.'s home base Asara in Vadgaon Sheri and informed himself about the current activities of the NGO. Since he took office in XXXX, Bishop Dabre has taken interest in H.O.P.E., accompanying the NGO as motivator, supporter and friend. When H.O.P.E. celebrated its 40th anniversary on 8th March 2014, he was the estimated Guest of Honor. H.O.P.E. foundress Sr. Noelline Pinto and directress Sr. Flory Menezes took the opportunity to update him on the latest developments.

More of H.O.P.E.

H.O.P.E. extends its Center in Vadgaon Sheri



First guest in the new hall: Provincial Sr. Caroline Fernandes

Tasks and activities are growing, and so is H.O.P.E. Center in the heart of Vadgaon Sheri. On 31st January 2015, a new wing was inaugurated by Sr. Caroline Fernandes, Provincial of Pune Province of the Sister of the Cross. The new wing offers space for events and trainings and is a direct answers to the extension of activities in this area. Under the roof of H.O.P.E. Center there are now four training rooms in different sizes, one hall for official and private events, two nursery rooms as well as H.O.P.E.'s main office. H.O.P.E. Center is located at Moseswadi, 40, Vadgaon Sheri, Pune. It is open Monday to Saturday from 9.30 am to 6 pm.

Children in the woodland

De Nobili Brothers organize children's day

100 children from different field areas of H.O.P.E. were invited to spend a day out by De Nobili Brothers on 25th January, 2015. What made the day truly memorable for the children was the location where the childrens' day took place: It was in the middle of the woods.

The brothers took a lot of trouble to decorate the place. They beautified the trees with balloons and garlands and set up an arc made up of balloons. They even built a stage using nothing than a curtain and a lot of phantasy.

Not only the unusual setting made the childrens' eyes sparkle: The day was filled with games, gifts, entertainment programme and food in abundance. Speaking about food: Even this was cooked in the nature. A true day in the woodland. The main sponsor for the day was Ms. Christabel D'Souza, Euro Kids International, and Fr. Anand Gaikwad, St. Andrew's High School.



100 children enjoyed a day in the woods organized by De Nobili Brothers

Project coordinator: Sr. Mangal Saharao

Blooming buds keep blooming

H.O.P.E.'s nursery celebrates annual day



Blooming Buds nursery school of H.O.P.E. offers pre-school education for children age 2 years and above

Blooming Buds nursery school of H.O.P.E. celebrated its' annual day on 14th November 2014 with some 30 children, staff and co-workers. For the first time, also the parents participated actively.

For this special occasion, all children came fancifully dressed as Krishna, Radha, milkmen, fairies, models and national leaders. The child with the most creative dress and expression was awarded with a special gift. For the parents, a game was organized. All in all, some 60 guests came to celebrate the annual day.

Blooming Buds nursery school caters to 30 to 40 children from 2 years and above in two nurseries. It is open Monday to Friday from 9.30 am to 12. The nursery is located next to H.O.P.E.'s main building, Moget Wadi, and Kalpataru girls' hostel in Sainik Wadi.

Project coordinator:s Gracy Miranda, Sweta Agarwal

80 certificates, 80 personal victories

H.O.P.E. hands out certificates to 80 women for successful skills trainings



Skills trainings for women have been at the center of H.O.P.E.'s activities from the start

27th November 2014 will surely be highlighted in the personal calendar of 80 women from Vadgaon Sheri: Convocation Day at H.O.P.E. center! All women who had recently successfully completed one of H.O.P.E.'s skills training courses had gathered to receive their personal certificates.

Certificates were given for trainings in tailoring, cooking, computer and use of home appliances, 80 all in all. On the whole, some 200 women were empowered in the past year. All the 2014 skills training courses were funded by Concern India Foundation, Mumbai.

Right from the start, skills training courses for women were at the center of H.O.P.E.'s activities. This has not changed – on the contrary, over the years, H.O.P.E.'s offer of training courses has been steadily extended and training subjects adapted to current needs.

The certificates the proud women receive do not only stand for a successful training – each certificate it also a personal achievement since many women struggle hard to squeeze in the time for the classes between household, family and other tasks. Having this in mind, each certificate also is a personal victory.

Project coordinator: Archana Salwe, Prabha Borde, Fally Fernandes

A home away from home

H.O.P.E. launches Kalpataru Girls' Hostel



Kalpataru accommodates up to 12 girls and young women

A safe place for girls and young women where they can study or go out to work has been a long standing dream of H.O.P.E. foundress Sr. Noelline Pinto. 11th January, 2014 her dream came true with the opening of H.O.P.E. Kalpataru Girls' Hostel.

The hostel is located in Vadgaon Sheri, Pune, just a few steps away from H.O.P.E.'s home base Asara. Its name "Kalpataru" means a big tree that gives shelter under its branches and is exactly, what the new hostel offers: a safe haven in the huzzle-buzzle of the city of Pune.

Up to 12 girls and young working women can be accommodated in 4 fully equipped rooms, three of them shared rooms and one individual. All of them are self-contained and equipped with bed, table, individual cupboards and stools. Each one is provided with a cooking stow with refilling of gas. In addition, there is a common sitting space with TV, a small terrace and a common kitchen with locker cupboards for storing. Hot water is also available and sourced by a solar system.

Girls and women interested in this home away from home may contact H.O.P.E. under phone 020-27031152 or e-mail hopepune2010@gmail.com.

Project coordinators: Sr. Flory Menezes, Falcly Fernandes

H.O.P.E. goes Laximi Nagar Slum

Domestic workers project covers two new areas

H.O.P.E.'s Domestic workers solidarity project was extended to two further areas in August 2014. Laximi Nagar Slum in Yerwada and Brama Suncity Housing Complex in Vadgaon Sheri are now covered under the project. With the two new areas, H.O.P.E. now reaches out to more than 650 women.

H.O.P.E. has taken up the issue of domestic workers in 2011 in answer to the pathetic situation of single parents who were mostly domestic workers. The overall goal of the project is to organize the female domestic workers and to enforce their rights.

As part of the initiative, H.O.P.E. registers the domestic workers under the Government Social Security Schemes. It also H.O.P.E. provides trainings to the women to upgrade their skills and leadership qualities. Another activity is to build up the women's self esteem and self recognition by showing them the value of their work for employers and society.

End of October 2014, H.O.P.E.'s domestic workers solidarity group has become member of the National Domestic workers Action Committee. H.O.P.E. now represents domestic workers at State and national level demanding from the Government a separate law for domestic workers with all the security benefit schemes in favor of them.



With the women from Laximi Nagar Slum, H.O.P.E. now reaches out to more than 650 domestic workers

Project coordinators: Falcly Fernandes, Sureka Nachan, Anna Fernandes

7 at one strike

H.O.P.E. children bring home 7 medals at Inter NGO Sports Event 2015



Successful team: H.O.P.E.'s children with project coordinator Sr. Mangal Saharao

It was the third time that it took part, and it was successful: H.O.P.E.'s team at the Inter NGO Sports Event 2015 won seven medals. 14 NGOs including H.O.P.E. participated at the event that was organized by Secure Giving, an initiative of Concern India Foundation. Each team consisted of 25 children between 8 and 14 years. In H.O.P.E.'s team were children from support classes given by H.O.P.E. and of sponsored single parents.

Project coordinator: Sr.Mangal Saharao

Comes summer, comes H.O.P.E. 25th Summer Camp for children



Every year, H.O.P.E. invites some 100 children from a less advantaged background to a week of joy and happiness

As it gets summer, the children of Vadgaon Sheri get excited – they know that there is something special coming up for them. 21st April 2014, it was their turn: H.O.P.E.'s annual Summer camp for children started. A whole week of fun, laughter, happiness provided by H.O.P.E. for some 100 children from less advantaged background.

The week's programme has something for every one. It comprises of creative learning, value education, input sessions on children's rights, yoga and meditation, games, picnic and rallies. Every summer camp is an extraordinary experience for the children, but 2014 was also special for H.O.P.E.: It was the 25th summer camp since H.O.P.E. started them to add some joy to the lives of poor children from the neighborhood.

Project coordinators: Falcly Fernandes, Prabha Borde and staff

Promised Land for H.O.P.E. S.S.U. dedicates annual play to H.O.P.E.

Pune-based youth group S.S.U. (Searching and Service in Unity) has chosen H.O.P.E. as beneficiary of its' 2014 main fund raiser, the annual play. The complete intake of the play, XXXX Rupees, went to H.O.P.E. to support its various activities. H.O.P.E. was chosen as beneficiary because of its' long-standing engagement in the empowerment of women and children.

The S.S.U. has been in existence since 1971 and was founded by Cyril Desbruslais SJ who wanted to start a youth group open to students and working youngsters of all backgrounds. It offers young people help in whatever they are searching for. The primary goal of the group is service, and it has been involved in social work, embracing weekly activities and monthly interaction with different social service organizations.

Every year, S.S.U. puts up a play in favor of an NGO and donates the full intake to the work of the respective NGO. Last year's play "The Promised Land" was put up on 2nd October 2014 at Nehru Memorial Hall, Camp, Pune. The play was written by S.S.U.'s founder Cyril Desbruslais SJ.

And now it is Christmas Senior citizens celebrate with H.O.P.E.



Santa is coming to town and paying visit to more than 100 senior Citizens under H.O.P.E.'s care

More than 100 senior citizen from Vadgaon Sheri and adjoining neighborhoods gathered on 16th December 2014 in Christ the King Church Hall to celebrate Christmas Day. H.O.P.E. had invited the members of its' Senior Citizens Club to share an afternoon of joy in reference to the upcoming Christmas days.

The programme was a firework of entertainment and included singing, dancing, games, performances, speeches and plays along with tea and snacks. Every senior citizen also received a set of tiffin boxes as a gift from H.O.P.E. And not to forget one special guest: Santa himself came to town to wish H.O.P.E.'s senior citizens a happy Christmas.

Project coordinators: Prabha Borde, Anna Fernandes

Health for Christmas 75 children receive health insurance

Sweets, toys or school necessities – that's what is usually on children's wish list for Christmas. 75 children under the care of H.O.P.E. received a completely different gift last Christmas. It did not come in a nice gift wrap, and it was not presented in a box. But it was probably the most precious gift these children ever received in their life – and one that will become more valuable as years go by.



A gift for life: Jesus Youth Group India gave 75 children a health insurance

What the 75 lucky children received, was a gift for their life: a health insurance. Jesus Youth Group India has come up with this awesome idea. As a Christmas surprise, they set up a health insurance for all the children who are sponsored by them. Each child received a policy of 1,000 Rupees for the start and it will be continued yearly until the child completes standard 12.

H.O.P.E. project coordinator: Sr. Mangal Saharao

Happy Birthday, Suryaoday Day Care Center

H.O.P.E.'s day care center for children of migrant construction workers celebrates 10 years



The day care center cares for 40 to 60 children from 0 to 14 years

It is one of the success stories of H.O.P.E. and one example for H.O.P.E.'s never ending preparedness to respond to current needs: the foundation of Suryaoday Day Care Center. On 10th September 2014, it celebrated its 10th anniversary. The 11th year head started with the move into new facilities on XXXXX Road.

Suryaoday Day Care Center is a day care center for the children of migrant construction workers on the construction sites of Brahma Sun City Builders in Vadgaon Sheri, Pune. Children from 0 up to 14 years are taken care of to provide healthy environment for their holistic development. The center is open daily except Sunday from 9.30am to 6pm. During this time, H.O.P.E. provides free full day care, basic education, breakfast, lunch, and snacks.

Never stop learning

H.O.P.E. keeps its' staff fit with a variety of training programmes



The 4-days visit to Hyderabad was the highlight of the numerous training programmes for the staff of H.O.P.E.

Mention the words "H.O.P.E." together with "skills trainings" or "input sessions", then one immediately comes to think about programmes for women and children. That is fitting, but it doesn't stop here. There is yet another group, to which H.O.P.E. reaches out: H.O.P.E.'s staff. 2014 saw a variety of programmes offered to them with an exposure programme in Hyderabad being the highlight of

The foundation stone for the day care center was laid in 2004 when construction of Brahma Suncity Housing Complex started in Vadgaon Sheri. While their parents were at work, the children of the migrant construction workers were left unattended. Even the smallest ones were left on their own. Seeing the risks these children were exposed to, H.O.P.E. stepped in and set up a small tin shed directly on the construction site where the children found a place to stay. H.O.P.E.'s Suryaoday Day Care Center was borne.

Since then, many hundreds of children have been given shelter, food and loving care. In average, 40 to 60 children come to the day care center each day. Their number and age changes frequently, as workers come to work or go back to their villages. This requests a high flexibility from H.O.P.E.'s staff responsible for the project. Only recently, there have been 25 babies under their care, out of a batch of some 40 children.

Flexibility is also asked when it comes to the locations of the day care center. Over the years, it has changed several times, in accordance with the progress of the construction work. In October 2014, it was time again to move. Suryaoday Day Care Center's is now located on XXXXXX road. If you happen to pass by: come on in, H.O.P.E.'s staff and the children will be more than happy to welcome you in their new home.

Responsible for project: Sr. Mangal Saharao, Glory Sable, Shoba Salve, Victor Aware

the year.

The four-days visit to Hyderabad was conducted from 17th to 20th March 2014. Seven members of H.O.P.E. staff took part including directress Sr. Flory Menezes. On the itinerary were visits to Hyderabad domestic workers movement to learn about their work with domestic workers and to Montfort social service Institute that runs schools in slum areas. One day was kept aside to visit the areas where the domestic workers are residing and interact with them. A visit at Andhra Pradesh Human Rights Commission and sightseeing of the historical places of Hyderabad completed the programme.

Including H.O.P.E. management, there are some 20 people working for H.O.P.E.. Most of the staff are social workers who are in charge for the different projects. On top come office and logistics staff, helpers and volunteers. They all are offered regular trainings on management, communication and personal skills, legal topics as well as project-related information.

Project coordinator: Sr. Flory Menezes

Seeds of H.O.P.E.

Facts and figures 2014

- 2014, H.O.P.E. has enabled and guided 21 women self help groups. 4 new groups were started, one was closed.
- Domestic workers solidarity project was extended to more than 650 women.
- 200 women took part in H.O.P.E.'s various skills training courses, 80 received certificates.
- H.O.P.E. gave immediate help, legal assistance and counseling to 53 women in crisis situations.
- Suryadauy Day Care Center took care of 65 children on average.
- Blooming Buds nursery provided pre-school education to 35 children.
- 75 children were under H.O.P.E.'s scholarship programme.
- Support classes were provided to 42 children.
- H.O.P.E. conducted more than 20 input sessions, exposure and awareness programmes to its' various target groups.
- 175 senior citizens were under the care of H.O.P.E.
- H.O.P.E. took active part in over 10 external events, including Joy of giving week, Women's Day, Makhar Sankrant, Children's Day, inter NGO Sports meet.



H.O.P.E. extends its heartiest gratitude to all our benefactors, well-wishers, friends, supporters, staff and volunteers for their continued and whole hearted support of H.O.P.E.'s spreading hope.

Give hope, get involved

There are many ways to support H.O.P.E.

H.O.P.E.'s work and staff is financed solely by donations, in-kind contributions and gain results from the sale of handicrafts. For our work, we need your support. There are various ways to can get involved:

Give us your time

Become a volunteer and support us by giving us your time and knowledge.

Sponsor items H.O.P.E. needs

- Photo camera
- Laptop
- Printer
- Cordless microphone
- DVD player
- Stage curtain
- Hall curtains
- Water filter
- 50 Steel plates
- Construction of H.O.P.E. office, Sainik Wadi
- Office cupboards, tables and chairs
- Chair and mirror for beauty parlor
- Underground water tank
- Two wheeler

Make a donation

Even small amounts can make a huge difference in someone's life. There is full transparency of the use of all means provided by our sponsors through the yearly governmental audits according to the conditions of the Bombay Public Trusts Act.

Contact Details

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Swift Code: CNRBINBBPFD
Canara Bank, Ramwadi Branch, Pune 14