



FRIENDS

Newsletter of the Ragpickers Education & Development Scheme (REDS) Bangalore, India
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SUMMER CAMP

In efforts to help children give up ragpicking and other bad habits, and to come into the mainstream of society, a 10 day residential camp was organized from 10th to 20th May 2006 at the REDS - Deepahalli Skill Training Center. The main purpose of the camp was to provide social awareness on health and developmental issues. Boys attending were between the ages of 10-16.

The camp was inaugurated by Bro. Arokia Doss –Program Director of REDS -STC. He encouraged the boys to participate wholeheartedly in the program and make use of the opportunity given. Initially, 19 boys enrolled in the camp, but in course of the week, some boys left and some newly joined. At the end of the camp, there were a total of 29 boys. The objective of the camp was to help the boys reflect on their quality of life and decide on what they would like to do in the future. To mobilize their thoughts, the boys shared real life experiences of how they have been shunned by society.

They were introduced to the vocational training facility available at REDS. They visited each unit and interacted with the trainees. The boys were taught yoga to help focus on their emotions, especially anger and unhappiness. Since most of the boys had either never been to school or had dropped out, an attempt was made to rekindle their interest in education through literacy classes. Games and cultural activities brought in a few light moments.



The camp ended on 20th May with a valedictory program at Deepahalli, to which the parents of the children were invited. Mrs. Banumathi thanked the staff of REDS for organizing and facilitating the program. The boys thanked REDS for giving them the opportunity to participate in a camp of this nature. They were happy to have learned many new things.

Parents of the children who participated in the program expressed their gratitude to both REDS and the Society of Mary for the help they have received. They said that not only their children, but their families too, have benefited from the programs.



A Visit to India ...

Mr. Michael Cadaret, Ms. Molly Welty-Hedrick, Mr. Kevin Timms, Mr. David King, Mr. Eric R Eble, Ms. Lindesey M Peters, Ms. Allicia Enerva, and Eric J Pichler from University of Dayton and Chaminade participated in the month long Immersion Program at REDS from 10 May 2006 to 5 June 2006.

After an orientation about the history and development of REDS, the vision of the program and the activities undertaken, the students spent the next few days participating in the summer camp for boys, held at the STC. They visited the training units on the campus and participated in the games and cultural activities together with the trainees.



Armed with information on the social and cultural mannerisms of the people, they ventured out to meet and interact with the children and communities where REDS works. They visited the areas where REDS – Bangalore is working, and interacted with children at our day care centers, play schools and tailoring units in Parvathinagar and Mathikere – Hosur. At the end of the month, they presented a group dance for the staff at our birthday celebration.



Further, they were able to visit the different NGO's Sneha Nilya – Home for Orphans, Asha Niketan – for mentally retarded children, BOSCO Mane and BOSCO Yova Kendra- home for children on the street.

The seriousness of their visit was lightened with a picnic to Mysore, a visit to some of the temples and churches here in Bangalore, and shopping. They also ventured to Velangani, Trichy, and Tanjore

The program concluded on 3rd June with a farewell program where the staff and children of REDS bid them goodbye, thanking them and wishing them the best for their future endeavors.

News in Brief

REDS – BANGALORE

We welcome three Marianist Brothers, who will be involving in the REDS-Bangalore and STC programs for the next year: Bro. Cyprian as Area Coordinator for the play schools, day care centres and tailoring units in the areas, Shivajinagar, Tannery Road, and Bagalur Layout, Bro. Raj Mohan as Area Coordinator in L.R. Nagar, Neelasandra, Madiwala and Vinayakanagar, and Bro. Suman, coordinating as the play school teacher in Hosur.



- With heavy hearts, staff of REDS-Bangalore bid farewell to Bro. Dennis Lobo at a get-together, this was organized on 26th April 2006. We take this opportunity to thank him for his encouragement and support, and wish him all the best.
- The MSW student's certificate issuance and staff birthday celebration was held in May.



- A farewell and graduation program was arranged for this year's tailoring girls of Parvathinagar, L.R.Nagar, and Bagalur Layout, issuing each girl a certificate and tailoring instruments.
- A medical camp was arranged for the play school and day care center children on 5th May at L.R.Nagar.
- The play school teachers were taken for a picnic to Sangam.
- Around 150 children from Day Care Center of different areas namely, Neelasandra, Bagalur Layout, Madiwala and Vinayaknagar were taken for a picnic to Mekhadattu.
- This month staff has been busy with school admissions. Efforts have been made to admit children from the area to schools and hostels for education and vocational training.

REDS – SKILL TRAINING CENTRE

- Celebrated mainly in the north of India, the Deepahalli boys and staff marked the Holi festivities this year with the traditional "fight of colors," dousing one another with purple, green, yellow, and red powders.
- Monthly Family Nights and Birthday celebrations
- Old STC boys return to Deepahalli for follow up sessions and cricket matches.



- UD students arrive for one month stay
- General medical checkup for all STC boys
- The welding and carpentry units went for a picnic to Krishnagary Falls. They were able to swim and play in the sun. A great time was had by all.



- A day of fun and games was organized by the Sankey Park Walkers Association. After traveling by bus to the Govt. P.U. College grounds near Sankey Park, the boys played games, earned prizes, danced, sang, did yoga and heard talks on life lessons and general knowledge. It was great fun. Thanks to the Sankey Park Walkers Association for sponsoring the day.
- For the first time, Head of Education, American Province, Fr. Tim Kenney, S.M. visits India and the REDS STC. With a warm welcome, the trainees greet him after which he does a walking tour of the facilities.
- Bro. Tony Nesam leaves after 2 years at Deepahalli for a position in Ranchi. Thanks to him for his hard work and dedication!
- Bro. Raimond arrives for a 6 month stay at Deepahalli



REDS – RANCHI

- REDS is expanding to reach out to more and more people in need. In Ranchi, we have started to work in Hatma, contacting 150 families. A new center was inaugurated on 21 April in the Hatma Club House by Shri Pradeep Hemrom. Our Marianist council members visited the families of the children in Hatma who were very happy to greet them.
- There were two workshop meetings held at Gyan Deep, given by Bro. Anuranjan and Bro. Augustus. They spoke about ways of teaching children and the different categories of children. Bro. Augustus explained about the Self Help Groups.
- There was a medical camp arranged for the REDS - Ranchi children. They conducted blood tests, X-rays and other general checkup procedures
- Br. Marianus and Fr. Santhosh visited the center on 13th May.
- Bro. Jose Maria visited the centers from Spain on 21st March.
- The Bharat Unit organized a health camp at the Hatia center, specifically for a leprosy check up, giving important knowledge about leprosy to the children.
- The past months have been busy preparing children for the entrance exams into the formal schools. There are also the usual parents meetings being conducted at the centers, this month focusing on the admission and readmission of the children to the formal schools.



Joke

Two little boys were talking.

“My eighty year-old grandfather gets up early every morning to jog eight kilometers.”

“That’s fantastic! What does he do in the afternoon?”

“The last kilometer.”

Our Earnest Appreciation and Sincere Gratitude to the following people for their generous contributions to the REDS programs in India...

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THANK YOU!

