



# FRIENDS

Newsletter of the Ragpickers Education & Development Scheme (REDS) Bangalore, India  
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## *A Visit to India ...*



Rev. Joshua, Mr. Alton L. Tew, Ms. Tammy Wilmoth, Ms. Judy Toney, Ms. Liz Montgomery, Ms. Diane Sanner, Ms. Sheila Core and Ms. Rebekah Chandier of the Salem Fork Christian Church, Dobson USA visited India and participated in the REDS Program from 29<sup>th</sup> July 2005 to 12 August 2005.

After an orientation about the history and development of REDS, the vision of the program and the activities undertaken, they ventured out meet and interact with the children and the communities where REDS works. They visited the areas where REDS - Bangalore is working, and interacted with the children at the Day care centers and Play schools.

They spent time with the children at REDS Skill Training Center and particularly at the Play Schools in L.R. Nagar volunteering to help with the education at the Play School. They spent time teaching the children alphabets in English, poems and games.

The program concluded on 12<sup>th</sup> August, with a farewell program where the staff and children of REDS bid then farewell with heavy hearts but with also happy moments to remember.

We take this opportunity to thank them for taking time off their busy schedules not only to visit the REDS program but also spending time with the children and participating in the activities at the Play school. Their contribution is greatly appreciated by REDS staff and children. Thank You! for everything.....



When Someone Cares . . .  
it is easier to speak, it is easier to listen,  
it is easier to play, and it is easier to laugh. Thanks for caring  
about us!

The only thing nicer than your gift was the thoughtfulness behind it.  
You have the lives of these children more beautiful, and their hearts much happier.  
THANK YOU!



## News in Brief

### REDS - BANGALORE

✚ The last three months have been busy with many events and programs taking place at the REDS - Bangalore program. To begin with a Staff Development Program was organized for the staff from the 30<sup>th</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> July. The workshop saw resource persons addressing the staff on topics like Counselling & Listening Skills, Psychology of the child on the street, importance of presence on the street first contact and Case work & Assessment of children. Evaluation of the present programs and simulation games to facilitate interpersonal relations were also included.

✚ For a change, 30<sup>th</sup> July was a day of fun and frolic for the staff at REDS. A picnic was organized to Shivasamudram, which everyone enjoyed.



✚ After relentless work, finally on August 8<sup>th</sup> the Day Care Centre at Vinayakanagar was inaugurated. This space provides them with respite from the environment the work in - time to reflect on their present situation and above all freedom to express their feelings and emotions. A special thanks to Ms. Natalia Aguado Leon of Spain for her generous contribution, which helped, start this center.

✚ A workshop was organized from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> August for a few members of the Self Help Groups. The women gathered to learn how to make artificial flowers and paper bags. The workshop, which was sponsored by Jyothi Nivas College, had 20 women participating. With regard to this a follow-up meeting was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the possibility of the women who have undergone training starting a small-scale production and sale of paper bags.

✚ On the 19<sup>th</sup> of September Council Member of the Marianist Society visited the Bangalore Program of REDS. Fr. Ignatius and Bro. Sukrit visited the Day Care Centers, Play Schools and Tailoring Units. On 20<sup>th</sup> a meeting was organized with the staff for an interaction with the Council members.

### REDS - SKILL TRAINING CENTRE

✚ Independence Day was celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> August. On the solemn occasion the National flag was hoisted and the children and staff paid their respects by singing the National Anthem. In the afternoon a football and cricket tournaments was organized between the boys from the Skill Training Center and the Day Care Center at Shivajinagar. The children enjoyed the event and participated wholeheartedly



- ✚ On the 16<sup>th</sup> of August children from the Skill Training Center were taken to Lalbagh to view the annual flower show. They children enjoyed the colorful display of flowers.
- ✚ On the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of September the Regional Council Member of the Marianist Society visited the Program of REDS – Skill Training Center. Fr. Ignatius and Bro. Sukrit were happy with the programs and activities visited the Day Care Centers, Play Schools and Tailoring Units. On 20<sup>th</sup> a meeting was organized with the staff for an interaction with the Council members.
- ✚ Trainees from the Carpentry and Welding units participated in an exposure visit on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2005 to Sevasadan, a vocational Training Units managed by the Franciscan Brothers.

### REDS - RANCHI

- ✚ **Teacher's Day** was celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2005 at Gyan Deep and at the different Day Care Centers. Children presented beautiful songs and dances in the honor of Teacher's Day. The girls of Prerna cutting section arranged all programs. The children were very happy to display their skills and talents by performing modern songs and dances and the teachers were very happy to see the children perform with enthusiasm. Sweets and bread were distributed to the children. It was an enjoyable day for both the children and the teachers.
- ✚ In the month of August the second injection of Hepatitis 'B' was given to all the children at the center and children going to school children.
- ✚ The Regional Council members visited to Reds centers at Ranchi. They met with children and teachers in different centers. A staff meeting was held on 10<sup>th</sup> of September with the council members. All the staff members shared with the Council members, their own experiences with the Reds and discussed what can be done for the children we work with, so that they could be given better options in life.
- ✚ On 24<sup>th</sup> of September all the staff from Reds - Ranchi went to Jamshedpur for one-day picnic. They visited Dimna Nala, Jubilee Park and the Zoo. It was a day of fun and enjoyment for all

*Projects in Progress*



### REDS - Skill Training Center

- ✚ Much is happening at the STC especially with the construction of the Multi-Purpose building. The wall for the grounds floor of the building which houses the classrooms and the dinning hall has been raised and work is in progress to lay the roof.
- ✚ With generous contribution from *The Hackett Foundation, Inc, New Jersey* the Welding Unit and the Carpentry Unit Children at the STC are working on Bunk beds for the Dormitories.
- ✚ They are also working on furniture for the dinning hall and the classrooms. The instructors and students are working on tables, benches and stools for the new building.

### REDS - Ranchi

- ✚ The dream of starting a Vocational Training Center for boys at Ranchi is finally becoming a reality. Land has been identified for the Center, which will house training units similar to the program at Bangalore. Thanks for the *Marianist Communities, Austria*.
- ✚ Construction of the Skill Training Unit for girls, which had been stall, will be recommenced soon. Thanks for the Italian, *Foundazione P. Alessi Fratelli Dimenticati*. We pray that work goes on without any obstructions.

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!

