

# INSPIRATIONAL STORIES WORTH SHARING

## Shahul Hamid

Amongst the few fortunate ones is Shahul Hamid who had a very dreadful past. When he was just a 5-year-old kid, he lost his mother in a train journey where they got separated by the crowd in Delhi. A hotel owner spotted him and promised to look after him, but was treated very badly by the hotelier's wife. After running away from Delhi, he ended up in "The City of Dreams"- Mumbai, where he got a little ray of hope. A staff member rescued him from the street life and brought him to the Shelter where his life took a U-turn. He took keen interest in learning things and equipped himself with education. He successfully completed his M. S. W. from Bangalore and now, he is working at Kotak Education Foundation in Deonar as the vocational skill trainer so that he could help kids who had a background similar to him who struggle and have no one to look after. On the personal front he continues to search for his mother. He is very grateful to Shelter Don Bosco for creating opportunities in his life to succeed and intends to do the same for needy youngsters.



## Mukesh Singh

A timorous boy, Mukesh grew up in a quaint district of Rajouri in Jammu & Kashmir. He was persuaded by his friends to leave the small town and accompany them to experience life in big cities. However, he was deserted by his friends the moment they reached Delhi. He worked on the tea stall to feed himself. From there, somehow, he reached Mumbai, after few weeks of struggle, he was found by the outreach staff on Dadar station and brought to Shelter Don Bosco. He was assigned a tutor and exposed to sports. He discovered his love for football and took part in several tournaments. After completing his SSC exams, he did a technical training course in Don Bosco Institute in Chinchwad, Pune and got a job as an electrician. He has gone from strength to strength after that first step. He pursued a course in Hotel Management and bartending in the same institute and earned a prestigious job in Vivanta by Taj in Pune. His dream is to find decent job abroad now. Sometimes, he visits railway stations and speaks to the young children living there, counseling them and hoping that this could bring similar change in their lives.



## Volunteering Experience

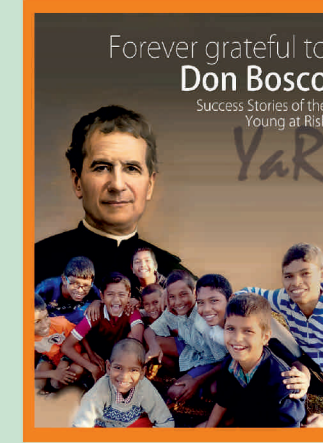
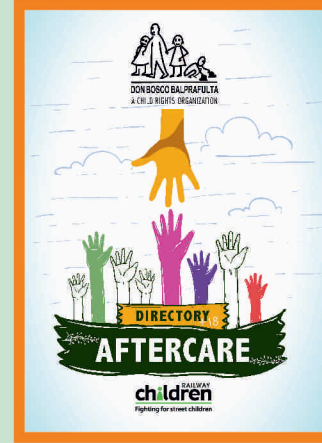
We truly believe that we just don't need knowledge, but also wisdom, and wisdom comes with experience. Our experience of spending time at Shelter Don Bosco has taught us the different shades that life can show us. Every child has a difficult past story, yet they don't complain; whereas most of us with so much, cry about little things. At Shelter, each day becomes memorable which will be etched in our memories forever. The smile on the children's faces are brighter than the sun that have lit up our days. We have come out as different personalities and a great salute to the staff of the Shelter who actually sacrifice and work for these kids tirelessly. - Vishva Patrawala BTTC.



*Shelter Don Bosco is extremely grateful to the Volunteers from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Nirmala Niketan, Vidyalkar, St. Xavier's, St. Andrew's, BTTC and other Colleges & Parishes. Dear Volunteers, You all have made a big difference in transforming the lives of our children.*

## Books Released by Rector Major

*After Care Directory will be instrumental for the marginalized youth above 18 years of age. This directory will not only guide our youngsters who are at risk after 18 but it will also help different NGO's who want to place their children in the right organization.*



*Forever Grateful to Don Bosco is a collection of Success Stories of the boys of YaR Centers. This book is dedicated to Late Fr Steve Rodrigues SDB, a Salesian who showed us how to love and care for the young at risk who are lost, least and last.*



## Book Post

Donation to Shelter Don Bosco are tax exempt u/s 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Cheques / Drafts to be drawn in favour of Shelter Don Bosco.

For further information contact:

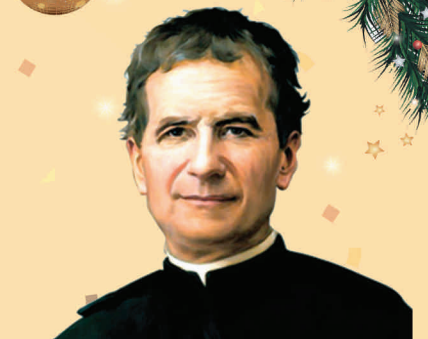
**Shelter Don Bosco**, (A Home for Children in Need of Care and Protection)  
Opp. St. Joseph's School, Wadala (West), Mumbai 400 031. Phone: 022 - 2415 0562, 2417 9112  
Web: www.shelterdonbosco.org • Email: shelterdb@gmail.com

• MERRY •  
**CHRISTMAS**

& HAPPY NEW YEAR

**SHELTER DON BOSCO**  
**SAMACHAR**

DECEMBER 2017 ◆ ISSUE NO. 76



## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK...

Dear Readers,

Let me begin with a touching story of one amazing man, Pastor Jeremiah Steepak.

Pastor Jeremiah Steepak transformed himself into a homeless person and went to the 10,000 member church where he was to be introduced as the head pastor at that morning. He walked around his soon to be church for 30 minutes while it was filling with people for the service... Only 3 people out of the 10,000 people said hello to him. He asked people for change to buy food... No one in the church gave him change. He went into the sanctuary to sit down in the front of the church and was asked by the ushers if he would please sit in the back. He greeted people to be greeted back with stares and dirty looks, with people looking down on him and judging him. As he

sat in the back of the church, he listened to the church announcements and such. When all that was done, the elders went up and were excited to introduce the new pastor of the church to the congregation. We would like to introduce to you, Pastor Jeremiah Steepak. The congregation looked around clapping with joy and anticipation. The homeless man sitting in the back stood up and started walking down the aisle and then the clapping stopped with all eyes on him. He walked up the altar and took the microphone from the elders and paused for a moment. Then he recited, "Then the King will say to those on his right, "come, you who are blessed by my father; take your inheritance, the kingdom is prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Then, the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you as a stranger and invite you in or needing clothes and clothe you? Sick or in Prison and visited you? The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me."

Finally, he said... Today I see a gathering of people and not the church of Jesus Christ. The world has enough people but not enough disciples. When will you decide to become disciples? He then dismissed the service till next week...

As we are approaching Christmas and New Year, we are not only reminded to share but also be grateful to God and to one another for all the blessings that we have received during this year. On behalf of the management, staff and boys, I like to wish each one of you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2018.

In this coming year may Almighty God, guide and inspire us to be kind and grateful, not only to those who are good looking but also those from whom we turn around.

Warm Regards,

Fr. Greg Almeida sdb



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# DON BOSCO AMONG US



**T**enth Successor of Don Bosco, Rev. Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime, the Rector Major of the Salesians visited Shelter Don Bosco on November 12, 2017. It was a historical moment, as for the first time Rector Major visited Shelter Don Bosco. The youth, staff and management of Shelter welcomed him with a traditional aarti and garland. The shelter boys serenaded Rector Major with a welcome song in English and Italian, telling him that he will never depart from their hearts. Rector Major was then felicitated with the customary Gandhi topi and shawl by Fr. Gregory. The other dignitaries were felicitated by the representatives of YaR centres of the Mumbai province who were also present for this auspicious occasion. Children from Snehalaya, Baroda, Bosco boys Home, Borivili and the girls from Anmol presented cultural and thematic dances. In his speech Rector Major said, "I'm glad that Fr. Provincial brought me here out of all the places. You are in our hearts before anyone else. All the Salesian fathers, brothers, and sisters are giving their life for you".

## PROVINCIAL VISITATION



Our Provincial, Rev. Fr. Godfrey D'Souza SDB, came on an official visitation to review and evaluate the projects running at Shelter Don Bosco and Don Bosco Balprafulta on 23rd and 25th November 2017. During his interaction with the staff, he highlighted the Salesian educational system based on Reason, Religion and Loving-Kindness. A special cultural program was set to give him the glimpses of the talents of our boys in dance, drama and Karate. During his speech, he appreciated the combined efforts of the management, staff and the collaborators and encouraged the boys to use the opportunities to make their dreams, a reality.



## CELEBRATIONS

### Beti Padhao, Aage Badhao

On the occasion of International Girl Child Day, girls from the neighboring streets/ slums were invited to Shelter Don Bosco on the 14th of October 2017. The program began with a prayer and an inspiring talk by the Rector, Fr. Gregory Almeida. He encouraged the girls to get well educated and help each other to fight for their rights, which was reinforced with few inspiring educational videos. The volunteers from Bombay Teacher's Training College assisted these girls to list down their problems and common solutions through open discussion and chart activities in groups. As for entertainment, lively games were organized followed by a dance session. The program ended with a sumptuous meal and gifts for all.

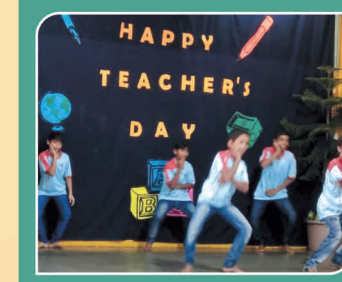


### Diwali Dhamaal

The festival of Light warmed up the hearts of our boys with series of celebrations in various ways. It began with delightful open-air Mumbai Darshan bus tours. The evenings were animated with creative games, curious quizzes and hearty dance competitions. The best was reserved for the last as boys enjoyed safe Diwali crackers. The bright smiles of our children lighted up the atmosphere around.

### Guru Devo Bhava

Teachers are like candles, they consume themselves to light the way for others. With immense joy Shelter Don Bosco invited all the school teachers associated with us. Boys performed energetic dances with a soul-stirring speech of gratitude. Symbolically, each teacher was presented with a sapling for their importance of nurturing our children with love and affection.



### Double Celebration

In the patriotic spirit, 15th August was the occasion for the double celebration as it coincided with Janmashthami, Dahi-Handi on the Independence Day. Mr. Jayesh Chandan, the alumni of Don Bosco, Matunga was the Chief Guest for the event. It was followed by the patriotic cultural program and fascinating Karate skills demonstration. Traditional Dahi-Handi breaking with human pyramid was the peak of the day for the boys as no rain, buckets of water could hold them back. At the end of it, all were soaked in joyous ambience.



### Monthly Melas

The marquee of Shelter Don Bosco, Monthly Mela Celebration of 20th functions with a purpose of spreading an alarming awareness on current issues and problems of the street boys. During the past few months, subjects such as skin diseases, HIV and moral etiquettes like respect for women and other religions with the knowledge about festivals were addressed. Apart from the awareness, the monthly melas are celebrated with ample amount of entertainment, which includes varied games, activities and movies. It has enabled many outreach boys to lead a conscious lifestyle and has literally pulled them out of their hostile situation of instability to stability and tranquility.

## NEWS BITS

### Humble beginning of Shelter Don Bosco, Nashik

The proposed Shelter Don Bosco in Nashik started with an outreach activity to identify needs and problems of Young at Risk (YaR). The results were alarming as more than 50 children were identified in a short span of time belonging to economically underprivileged and abusive families. These children were school dropouts and often forced to take up menial odd jobs, even adapted some malpractices to earn little income.

The victims of hate of the society and fate of perpetual hunger and poverty, the children needed a cut off from the communities they belonged to, the very source of all the trouble they faced. We decided to provide a safe shelter, recreation and love to these children. Under the guidance of Fr Gregory Almeida, we set up the space for Shelter Home. The donors generously helped with essentials things.

Fourteen most needy children arrived at the Shelter on 6th November 2017. We started study classes to teach them basic Math and to read and write. The children follow a routine that includes exercise, meditation, meals, study, games, recreation, and special celebrations.

Rev Fr Provincial, during his visit to the Shelter, asked, "What was that one thing that they liked the most", Sunny, a former rag-picker, whom we found on the railway-station, answered, "I like to learn". We believe that with your support, this new Shelter will become a means of hope for these children to become upright citizens of our country.



### Shelter Scouts are "Prepared"

Shelter Scouts are "Prepared", We are proud to announce that Seventeen Shelter boys were invested into Scouting Movement on the auspicious occasion of Gandhi Jayanti in preparation for BOSCOREE 2018 which is to be held in Nashik.

Fr. Rosario Vaz was the chief guest who invested the boys by putting the badges on their shirts and wearing the woggles in their scarves. After taking the solemn scout promise, the scouts beautifully

demonstrated the scout law and declared themselves as Scouts for life. These new scouts participated in the Province level GROMO at Lonavla and won the hearts of all.

### Dental Camp

With the association of Angel Dentists Network, Dental Camp was held on 5th December for our boys. These dentists formulated individual dental report plan for getting a brief understanding on any dental issues faced by children and subsequently the follow up will be conducted.

We were obliged to have such a serene team of doctors among us who had taken out their precious time for maintaining good health and hygiene of our children.



### Karate



A child can grow emotionally, academically and spiritually only when his physical and mental health is in uniformity. Shelter believes that making these kids engrossed in the martial art would improve their overall performance and would build the child strong from within by inculcating traits such as discipline, self-confidence, self-defense and boosting their concentration power.

We are glad to inform that our boys won 10 medals (4 Gold, 3 Silver, 3 Bronze) in the 8th Shotokan karate championship. Special thanks to our instructor Mr. Albert Bhandare, Black Belt from KAI and our very own ex-shelter boy Salman Khan, Black Belt who also assists in training the boys.