

VOLUNTEER'S COLUMN

Volunteering at Shelter Don Bosco was a very good and inspiring experience for me. It taught me the true essence of caring and sharing. It was fun to be with the kids and teach them as well as learning from them. I still remember, the warm greetings I would get on my arrival every day, it always made my day. They looked so happy when they would see me or any volunteer who would come to teach them. They were very co-operative and always showed interested in learning something new.

At first, I was very sad thinking about these boys but now I am glad that these boys have the best Shelter possible. The time I spent there will always remain my cherished memories. I was touched by the feeling of humanity, the way the shelter home took care of the boys and now I am proud of being part of this Shelter Parivar.

- Agnorra Aranj, Sophia college.

Shelter Don Bosco is extremely grateful to the volunteers from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Nirmala Niketan, St. Xavier's, St. Andrew's, Kirti, and Sophia College students for their dedicated service at Shelter. You have made a difference in the lives of our boys!

MANZIL KO PANAHAMARI UDAAN

Bosco Care Centre (UDAAN) is a residential facility provided to the ex shelter boys (18+) who are pursuing their career with higher studies. It is a group home living concept, where needy boys are studying and staying together under the guidance of caretaker. Constant follow up about their progress is been taken and they are assisted in their timetable and other activities.



STORIES WORTH SHARING



Five-year-old Adrian (Muttu) Fernandez lost his parents in a car accident. Unable to bear the harassment he had to suffer due to his uncle and aunt, eleven-year-old Adrian ran away to Bangalore. Adrian was forced to work in a scrap shop without wages. He was spotted by the outreach Staff at Kurla station, and brought to Shelter don Bosco. He was given a place to stay, assigned a tutor and exposed to sports. He later went to St. Dominic Savio School and lived in its hostel in Andheri. He excelled in football, basketball and hockey and won numerous awards for his school. Today, he is working as the head basketball coach at his old school while studying for a B.com degree at St. Xavier's College. He expresses his gratitude saying, "Whatever I am, everything I own today is because of sheer hard work and the incredible support I received from Salesians of Don Bosco."



An apprehensive young Sachin Shedde travelled across Maharashtra alone after he was told that his mother had died in an accident at a construction site. Instead of robbing or doing drugs like his fellow companions he chose to polish shoes to earn a living. Sachin was rescued from the railway station and exposed to the world of opportunities at Shelter Don Bosco. He learnt English and was enrolled in St. Joseph School, Wadala and later sent to St. Dominic Savio school and hostel, Andheri where he outshined in studies, music and Computer animation. At present, Sachin is working with Quartz Sports and has been traveling across India to supervise the construction of sports fields. He says, "We all have choices, and our lives depend on what we choose. I am glad that I had people who helped me make appropriate choices. I got a second chance at life through Shelter Don Bosco for which I will be forever grateful."

Adrian and Sachin were awarded by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) for their achievements in the presence of Honourable Pankajatai Munde & Diya Mirza and other Dignitaries at Y.B. Chavan Auditorium, Nariman Point.

OUR ACHIEVERS

Congratulations to all of you... God Bless You!



SHIRAJ
STD 10th, 75 %

Keep it up... in your coming future ALL THE BEST!



JAVED
STD 12th, 66.31 %



IRFAN
STD 12th, 60.15 %



PANKAJ
STD 12th, 51.54 %



AKRAM
STD 12th, 47.54 %

THANK YOU! GRAZIE! DANKE!

Thanks a million Dear Fr. Jesu Robinson for all the hard work and dedication at Shelter Don Bosco. He efficiently managed the posts of Coordinator, Asst. Director and Administrator of Shelter in his five years of gracious service. Fr. Jesu Robinson has moved to Don Bosco Yuva Sanstha, Karjat to uplift the lives of youngsters from marginalized section of the society. We also express our gratitude to Clerics Kiran Ruptakke and Nevelle Coutinho, who inspite of their regular college studies, assisted boys and staff in various activities. We wish them All The Best for their future endeavors.



FR. PRATAP

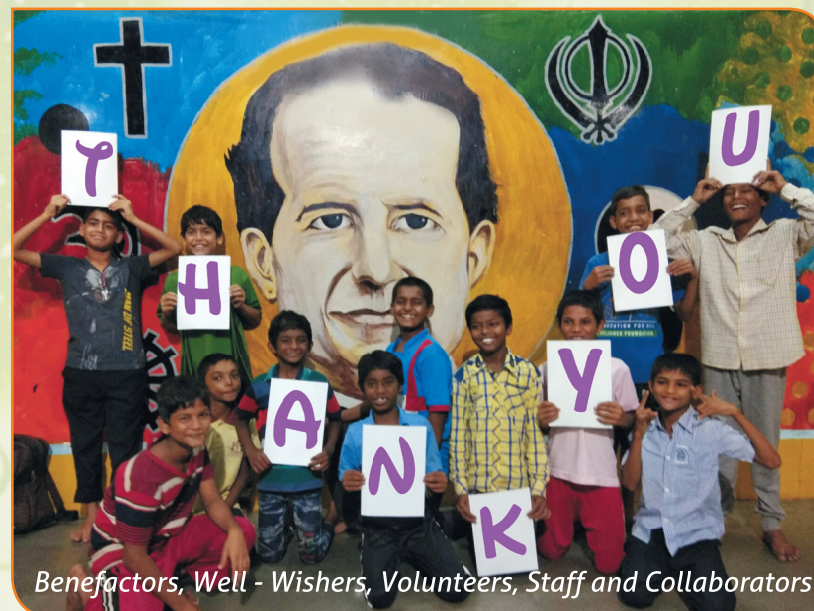
A Hearty Welcome to Fr. Pratap & Cl. Agnel.

Fr. Pratap, who has stepped in as an administrator, had been the Youth Animator of the Jhabua Diocese for last several years. He has MSW degree to his credit. His knowledge and expertise will definitely benefit the institution.

The young Cleric, Agnel James who is like a Guardian Angel of our boys, is a multi talented personality. His skills will bring out the best from our boys for sure!



CL. AGNEL



Benefactors, Well - Wishers, Volunteers, Staff and Collaborators

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:

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From the Director's Desk...

Dear Readers,

Someone rightly said that, "Success is our own shadow. Don't try to catch it, walk your own way; it will automatically follow you. Remember your shadow follows you only when you walk towards brightness". As we begin the scholastic year, we are reminded to walk towards brightness and newness because shadows will always remain behind us. They will be part of us like thorns in the roses. Its only when we move in the right direction the path becomes clearer.

As we present to you Shelter Samachar, we would like to highlight all our past events with great joy and gratitude. We thank all our well-wishers, benefactors, collaborators, volunteers, staff, brothers and fathers who have been instrumental in bringing joy and love on the faces of the little ones.

With much joy and enthusiasm, we begin our Children's Home at Shelter. At the same time, we are happy to welcome some of our boys from Bosco Boys Home, Borivali.

On June 5th, we celebrated the World Environment Day at Shelter with the YaR day Theme "Caring for the earth, our common home." It is shocking that only 20% of land mass in India is covered with forests in comparison to over 30% in most countries in the world. Looking at our environment, Aarey Colony, the green lungs of Mumbai,

is a home to more than 20000 trees, 76 species of birds, 86 species of butterflies, 13 species of amphibians, 38 different types of reptiles, 19 spider species and 34 types of wild flowers, mammals such as leopards, civets and barking deer. Lack of green cover would be life-threatening in Mumbai given the concentration of pollutants and the concentration of population 20000+ people living per square kilometer! Aarey Milk colony is being cleared for constructing the Metro car shed, widening of Aarey Colony road, proposed central park and zoo, over an area of 28 hectares. This will lead to uprooting of approximately 3,500 trees.

Today it may be Aarey, but tomorrow it may be the green cover in other areas. All trees in Mumbai need to be saved. We do not have a choice. We must save our city from floods and catastrophic ecological imbalances. We must save our last hope for fresh, pure air and a healthy future. There needs to be a change in our mindset to protect and preserve our environment. It is the need of the hour and we should not cut trees for the sake of development. Rather protect it for the future of humankind.

We are proud to welcome the tenth successor of Don Bosco, Rev. Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime who is going to make his maiden visit to Shelter Don Bosco, Wadala on 12th November 2017. We welcome him with great joy and love.

Fr. Gregory Almeida, sdb
Director: Shelter Don Bosco

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MONTHLY MELA ACTIVITIES

Melas or gatherings are the highlights of every month for the street boys who come through our vibrant outreach program on the streets of Mumbai. There are about 80 to 100 outreach boys who participate in these Melas which takes place on 20th of every month. The main objective is to get these abandoned boys in the premises of Shelter and encourage

them to give up the carefree street life and start anew. They are counseled to go for detoxification or de-addiction followed by school or technical course for the holistic growth and development.

With the aim of transforming street boys to exemplary citizens, Shelter Don Bosco provides guidance to these poor and marginalized youth.



A DAY TO CHILL OUT FOR OUTREACH BOYS

A Picnic was organized for Street Boys at Boscowadi, Uttan. It was for the first time that these often neglected Street boys experienced such a treat. These boys enjoyed participated actively animated beach games and Housie. Obviously, swimming and sumptuous meal made their day more delightful. They were extremely grateful at the end of the pleasant day!

GIRL CHILD DAY CELEBRATION



In a bid to promote awareness for girls welfare from the slums of Wadala, a 'Girl Child day' was organized on September 8, a day that also marks the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. During the program, a power point presentation and a skit was performed to highlight the importance of the girl child.

Games were organized for the children and spot prizes were given. The concluding talk Fr. Gregory Almeida, the director said, "Girls you should be proud of 'who you are'. You are on an equal footing with the boys." He also mentioned that each girl possesses an inner beauty which they need to focus upon. Each girl child received a gift as token of appreciation. The Shelter boys contributed in making the day special for their sisters. Every month, these girls are invited in Shelter for some special occasions or celebrations which they look forward eagerly.

DANCE MOVEMENT THERAPY

The sessions by Rumya Natraj were full of creative activities involving different types of movements using props like balloons, streamers, colours, stretchable cloth, supported by instrumental and other abstract music. Although each activity had a goal and a structure, the boys enjoyed the freedom to move and be themselves. Their active behaviour was acknowledged and appropriately routed through the activities. Evident behavioural patterns like using foul language, hitting and kicking each other in anger or playfully were the issues addressed through the sessions. In the process, the boys were unknowingly exploring themselves and learning to function as a team.

SUMMERS ARE FOR CAMPING!

The annual Summer Camp for the year 2017 was held between 17 April 2017 to 21 May 2017 at various locations, filled with a variety of activities. It was befitting to name the camp 'Udaan' as a way to encourage the boys to reach out for their dreams.



Participants were divided into 4 groups and the group with the highest scores was to be declared the winner. First, the boys participated in a Scouting camp at Maria Ashiana in Lonavla, where they learnt the basics of first-aid, the motto, the rules, the signs, knots, gadgets and trekking. After their Scout Camp, the boys returned to the Shelter to showcase their talents in order to win points for their team. There was dance, singing, drama, public speaking, and etc. and each team did their best to earn points for their team. The boys were then taken to Boscowadi in Uttan for the last leg of Udaan, where they learnt swimming and Karate. As well, value sessions were conducted on anger management and team building. In the end, the each winning team and participants from each group were awarded for their effort. Master Shiraj was a declared as the best camper. We are grateful to brothers Ankit and Anil from Divyadaan, Nashik, who coordinated the entire Summer Camp Successfully.



Udaan was divided into three major parts - Scouts Camp at Maria Ashiana in Lonavla, followed by talent-based competitions at Shelter Don Bosco and then stay at Boscowadi, Uttan.



FLIGHT OF FANTASY



Jet Airways, India's premier domestic airline carrier, joined forces with various NGOs and corporate partners to organise "Flights of Fantasy" for 31 underprivileged children from Shelter Don Bosco on November 12.

Through the initiative, children from underprivileged sections of society are initiated into the world of aviation through a special dream flight around Mumbai. To make this event more fun, cartoon characters like Oggy and Shiva were brought in to entertain them. Children danced wholeheartedly to Bollywood music with Jet Airways staff. Bollywood personalities Athiya Shetty and Aditi Rao Hydari made a guest appearance at the event. At the end, the children were taken on an hour-long flight. "I couldn't believe my eyes as I was boarding the flight," a child said. "The experience left me mesmerised," another child added.

VISIT OF FIRST LADY OF BADEN-WURTTENBERG



On the auspicious occasion of India's Republic Day, the First Lady of the State of Baden - Wurttemberg, Germany - Gerlinde Kretschmann, along with other dignitaries visited Shelter Don Bosco. It was a special visit to learn more about how YaR i.e. Young at Risk works in the Mumbai Province. Dance performances from various YaR houses entertained the guests which brought out the vivid aspects of Indian culture. In her address, Kretschmann, appreciated YaR's mission and the efforts of all the Salesian institutes.

BOMAN IRANI VISITS SHELTER



This special visit was arranged at Shelter Don Bosco for JEEVODAYA, the girls NGO from Itarsi, M.P. who were on Mumbai Darshan trip. The philanthropist actor spent quality time with children and shared with them his own early struggling life story and how his hard work has paid off. It was truly inspiring to see this renowned actor speaking from his heart.



STANDARD CHARTERED MUMBAI MARATHON

The boys and the staff of Shelter Don Bosco participated in the Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon with the collaboration of United Way Mumbai with the theme 'RUN EXCEPTIONAL, Make it more than a finish line'. The main idea of the marathon was to give various social messages for the people of Mumbai. Our T-shirts bore the message, 'Be the Parivartan 2017 - Educate A Child'.



YOGA DAY DAY CELEBRATION

International Yoga Day was celebrated on 21st June with the assistance of Isha Foundation members. The video presentation on Yoga by Sadhguru was shown. Yoga was performed under the guidance of the trained instructors. Its beautifully said by Sadhguru, "The only way to experience true wellbeing is to turn inward. This is what yoga means - not up, not out, but in. The only way out is in."



EXPERIENCING BAHUBALI 2



Experiencing spectacular 'Bahubali 2 - The Conclusion' at PVR Cinemas, Sion was an overwhelming feeling for our boys. Special thanks to the staff of 'Why Stay Calm' and 'Arka Media Works,' who generously made it possible. it was indeed a grand affair with premium seats and snacks. The staff at PVR, Sion was extremely kind and treated our children with immense respect.

EXPERIENCING BAHUBALI 2

On the occasion of 'International day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking', Shelter Don Bosco invited a specialised



team of doctors and social workers from the government-run K. E. M. Hospital to conduct an awareness programme.

Seventy six parents and youth living on the streets of Wadala were present. The Doctors enlightened the gathering about the dangers of drug / substance abuse and then discussed ways to overcome these life threatening addictions. The queries of the participants were answered proficiently. They were also informed about the process of availing of the free services provided by K. E. M. Hospital to combat the menace.