LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

“How marvellous it would be if, at the end of the day, each of us could say: today I have performed an act of charity towards others!” - Pope Francis

Human being tend to live for others and this is made clear in the words of Pope Francis when he said: “Rivers do not drink their own water: trees do not eat their own fruit; flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living beings do not spread their love and freedom and peace.”

Our Vision: “A just and harmonious society rooted in the gospel values of love, freedom and peace.”

Our Mission: “To restore the dignity and potential of marginalized individuals and communities by facilitating access to holistic education, health, livelihood, and stable shelter.”

**EDITORIAL**

Along with this quarterly update of Karunya Trust activities, I am happy to introduce the extension of our intervention areas. Three more new holistic development centers are added to the Gyanashree street children program and the tribal development programs are also extended to 45 new hamlets.

Reinstating of Tata Mumbai Marathon is opened another opportunity for promotion and fundraising. As we know that in the previous edition of the TMM Karunya Trust reached the top ten list. As we are entering into 25 years of service in 2023 we have several plans for Jubilee Year and one of the major plans is to construct 25 houses for the tribal people. Requesting you all to support and let other people do good things. It is our collective action that brought considerable change in the lives around us. Wishing everyone the blessings of Holy Christmas and a fruitful new year.

Fr. Joby Kurian
Executive Director

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“United with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals”

Reach out to the needy through Karunya Trust in 3 simple steps

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Send Whatsapp message to 8442001011

I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT.

**STEP 2**
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**STEP 3**
Click on the link and select donate button for donation

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“...the one who began good work among you will bring it to completion...”

December, 2022

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**KARUNYA NEWS LETTER**

Vol.: 10 | Issue: 2

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**KALYAN DIOCESAN SOCIAL ACTION (KDSA)**

PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

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“...Leaving no one behind...”
Blessing and Opening of Holistic Centres

This year, Gyansaathi expanded its centres to other three areas of Govandi (Baba Nagar, Indira Nagar and Nirankari Nagar) inside the community for sustainability programs for youth and women. These centres were inaugurated in May and June by the Director of Karunya Trust. During the blessing ex-students of our community, and women were present and shared that they are happy that after the std 10th, Gyansaathi will still connect with us and provide vocational and sustainability support to them.

- From Project Gyansaathi

Exposure visit to Rani Baugh

During summer vacation, Gyansaathi arranged an exposure visit to Rani Baug for all the students. The objective of the visit was to expose to different animals and have fun after lockdown. The children were given information about different types of animals and birds (reptiles, aquatic, domestic and wild animals). They got to know the difference between domestic animals and wild animals. After the visit children enjoyed rides, see-saw, sliding, jungle Jim etc. The children had lots of fun and enjoyed the nature. The exposure visit ended with tasty lunch.

- From Project Gyansaathi

Nehru Science Centre Visit

Gyansaathi organised an exposure visit to the Nehru Science Centre for students. The students experienced the Odyssey show which was based on Dolphin’s life, then enjoyed the 3D show and Science on Sphere which was about galaxies, planets and solar systems. And Children did some science activities under the guidance of the science trainer with a science kit. The children experienced many science activities and got an opportunity to learn science in a fun way. They enjoyed it a lot.

- From Project Gyansaathi

Core team meeting with C4, Y4 & W4

Gyansaathi Holistic Centres (Nirankari Nagar, Baba Nagar and Indira Nagar) have a Child Right Protection Committee whose objective is to strengthen child rights protection and to work with the community. In the CRPC( Child rights protection committee) team, there are children (12 to 17 years), youth & women (17 to 25 years) working for the protection of child rights in their community. The Core Team (leaders) meeting was conducted on 5th August 2022 at Gyansaathi centre. To select leaders for the core team they had an election and as per the highest vote, the position of Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Secretary were given and also given information about their roles and responsibilities.

- From Project Gyansaathi
Strengthening of Gram Sabha is the key

“This was my first gram sabha. I had never attended a gram sabha and always wondered: What do the men discuss there?” curiously said Mrs. Shankuntala Dhumal, a woman from Santepada village. Santepada is a village situated 25 kilometres away from Kalyan city in the Thane district. The major population of the village belongs to other backward classes (Aagni-Kumbi). 106 families are residing in the village and the population is 521.

“We have to face the issue of drinking water, improper drainage and road while roaming inside the village. Grampanchayat was not taking any effort to listen to our problems. Our children were getting sick due to impure problems. Our children were not able to speak clearly and with confidence, with the help of guidance received from the team. We all are happy that we can demand the gram sabha and raise our issue and we hope that we shall be able to resolve these issues with the proper guidance. When I understood that gram sabha is our right and we can put forward our concerns and issues. Now I will encourage every woman in our village to attend the gram sabha.” – Mrs. Ashwini Bhoir who is an active woman from Santepada village.

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much

Nalmbi is a small hamlet situated 21 kilometres away from Kalyan block. This hamlet comes under Ane-Bhisol gram panchayat. 68 families residing in the hamlets belong to the ‘Thakur tribal’ community. Labour and farming are the main occupations of the community. Karunya Trust has been working with this hamlet for the last 5 years. “We were facing lots of trouble while passing through the road, especially in monsoon, children, ill person and women had to face problems. Initially, we started visiting the gram panchayat office but no one was there to listen and understand us. We asked the Jeevan team to guide us regarding the issue. This first common meeting was conducted on 22nd March 2018. In that meeting, all the people were encouraged to participate and fight. Some leaders came forward then the staff has shown us how to write the application and to take the OC of it.” – Mrs. Sandhya Aghan, one of the active women from Nalmbi hamlet.

“We had written first application and submitted to gram panchayat office and took the OC. But got no response, after waiting for one year, we 25 women took the OC and wrote the application to BDO and visited the Panchayat Samiti at Kalyan as the staff suggested. In those days, fortunately, one of the women from our hamlet was elected as a BDO at Kalyan Panchayat Samiti. Then we continuously took follow up on the issue after the pandemic. BDO madam sanctioned 5 lakh rupees from the Panchayat Samiti fund and finally, the internal road was completed on 10th March 2022. Now everyone can pass through it easily without facing any problems. We are happy that we didn’t give up and got the facilitation from the Jeevan team. Now we are motivated and feel confident to solve other issues too.”

– Mrs. Nisha Ughade, one of the women leaders from Nalmbi hamlet.

The wait is over for the internal road

Dahivali is a tribal hamlet situated 25 kilometres away from Kalyan city in Thane district. The major population of the village consists of the Katkari and Thakur Tribal communities. 63 families are residing in the village and the population is 378. Farming and selling forest produce is the main occupation of the village, and these few are daily wage earners. “In the beginning, we were not able to walk comfortably on the internal road of our village as it was raw with sharp stones and mud over it. We do all our daily activities by passing through it and in monsoon we face a lot of trouble while walking through it. We visited the gram panchayat office on 20th December 2019 and submitted the application written by Mrs. Pama Sawant regarding the issue. We didn’t get a response from the gram panchayat. Next month we demanded gram sabha and we raised the issue in gram sabha on 17th January 2020 and asked the sarpanch and gramsevak to give us the deadline. They said we would work on it as soon as the tender would pass. After the lockdown was imposed due to corona. Later when restrictions were lifted up, we prepared the strategy with the help of the Jeevan team.”

– Mrs. Barkabai Fasale is an active woman from Dahivali village.

“We all 20 women visited the Panchayat Samiti and filed an application. Then later, we met the gramsevak and came to know that the tender has been passed and work will begin as soon as possible. Thus we fought hard together and now on the 4th of February construction has begun. We are happy and proud of our efforts and grateful to the Jeevan team because, without their guidance it wouldn’t have been possible. Now we are free from all the trouble we were facing while walking and our children can roam comfortably now.” – Mrs. Pushpa Jadhav, active women leader from Dahivali village.
### Exam Preparation

Exam preparation session for 10th & 12th STD children held on 19th March 2022 at Nahur Church community centre. 45 children participated in the session. Ms. Julie started the session with an activity to increase concentration. She also explained to the students how to prepare a timetable to cover all portions well in advance. She told them to solve last year’s papers and also explained the importance of relaxation tips to practice during exam days. The children were very much impressed and expressed their gratitude to the Savli project for the session. One of the Trustee of Karunya Trust, Rev. Msgr. Francis Elushigal (Vicar General of Kalyan diocese) and the Director, Rev. Fr. Joby were present to wish and bless the children. Fr. Joby asked the children how much they prepared for their exam. Also, he promised them prizes for those who score good marks in the board exam, which will also help them for further studies. He prayed for them and gave them good luck. Education kits and dry fruits were distributed to all the children.  

- From Project Savli

### Summer Flame 2022

Vacation camp was organized on 29th & 30th April, 13th & 14th May at Christ the King Community centre, Nahur. The vacation camp was named “Summer Flame”. For the inaugural program Project in charge Sr. Mini & Bhandup ration officer, Prachi Pandit were present. 249 children and 62 parents participated in summer camp. Team building activities were conducted by Magic foundation (Pankaj and Deepali). For entertainment, a magic show was arranged for children. Different games, competitions and talent shows were conducted with children. The students put up different skits on various topics like the importance of education, child labour, and superstition etc. CP children were given different responsibilities during vacation camp. Prizes were distributed for the winners from all the groups. Also, the prize was distributed to the best camper boy and girl. From the Bhandup police station, they gave information about Nirbhaya Squad. For the closing ceremony, Fr. Joby, the Executive Director and former Corporator Mr Suresh Koparkar were present. The students gave their feedback to the director. The CP children were appreciated for taking the lead role for the entire program.

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Happy to Share the Score Card of Savli Children who appeared for HSC & SSC in 2022

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Gauri C. Kale
Canara Bank,
Branch Manager, Rahatoli.

Montfort care intervention centre (Health camp)

Life Skill Session on Precautions during Monsoon Season

On 24th August 2022, Savli organised a meeting with transgender people and 40 of them were present. The Executive Director Rev. Fr. Joby was present for the meeting. The resource person Dr. Manoj gave a session on skin diseases. He also said there are many types of infections on the skin, and how can be free from such infections. He spoke to the group about Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and how they pass on to other persons through sexual contact. The doctor also told the group how to recognize STDs and STIs, as well as what should be done about them. The doctor explained in detail about HIV/AIDS, how it is spread and the treatment. The session was very informative to the Group.

- From Project Savli

Mental Health Program

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- From Project Savli

Child Rights & Childline Session

Life skill Session on Child Rights and Child Line was organized on 16th & 23th July 2022 at Nahur community centre. 206 children & 128 parents participated in the session. During the session, the resource person Mrs. Poonam explained to the children who are called children, what are the rights of the children and the Government Departments working for children’s rights. She also explained what is child line, and how it helps the children, she also shared with the children the child line number and gave details about how chidline works through a video and also explained who all are the children need help. It was an informative session where the children clarified most of their doubts.

- From Project Savli

...Leaving no one behind...

It was nice to see good work of Karunya Trust on the occasion of International Women’s Day. It was really nice to see the work done by Karunya Trust amongst the weaker section/Tribal people. Karunya Trust is working for upliftment and empowerment of marginalised section of society and will go a long way towards development of country. My best wishes for the good work in the future.

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Montfort Care Centre works on hearing loss and hearing problems with children. Gyansaathi organized a health camp for hearing-impaired children. The ear and sound checkup were done by the team. Around 85 children took advantage of this camp. They also gave information about how can we take care of our ears.

- From Project Gyansaathi

Life skill session was organised on 11th & 25th June 2022. 163 children participated from different zones. The topic for the session was precautions during monsoon. The resource person Ms. Julie explained about different seasons in common and especially the rainy season. Further, she told to the children about what precautions we had to take for our good health, such as personal cleanliness and cleanliness in our surroundings to avoid mosquito breeding and related diseases. She told to the students to avoid eating outside and instead eat homemade food. She also spoke to the students about the importance of having eight hours of sleep daily. Ms. Julie said that during the monsoon season we should try and use home-based remedies like turmeric, honey, etc. for treating cough, cold and fever. Avoid wet clothes during this season. It was an interactive session.

- From Project Savli
Finally, that glorifying day has arisen

Chavare is a small tribal hamlet situated 22 km away from Kalyan Block. This hamlet comes under Chavare-Mhasrund gram panchayat. The population of the hamlet is 276 and 55 families are residing there. Their main occupation is based on forest resources. The majority of them are landless and few do labour work and migrate to other places for brick kiln work. “For us, road issue was the biggest and major problem since the ages. We were facing many issues while walking barefoot on it. When the Jeevan team started working with our hamlet, people started coming together and working on common issues. Thus in 2016, we conducted our first common meeting to solve this issue. So after attending training and awareness programs on governance and gram sabha from the Jeevan team on 26th August 2017 we have written the application with the help of Karunya Trust staff regarding the issue and took the signature of all of us. – Mrs. Jija Jadhav, active women leader from Chavare hamlet.”

We submitted that application to the gram panchayat and asked to group the resolution as soon as possible. Sarpanch and gramsevak have promised we shall do it as soon as possible. After waiting for it so long, the pandemic situation has come in the year 2020 but we didn’t stop to take the follow-up. We visited the gram panchayat office and raised the issue again and again. Then on 23rd November 2021, we came to know that 2 lakh rupees have been sanctioned for the road from the remaining fund of the different hamlets.

The Duragadevi SHG was formed on 14/7/2014 at Chon Pawar, one of the active young women from Chavare hamlet. “We submitted that application to the gram panchayat and asked to group the resolution as soon as possible. Sarpanch and gramsevak have promised we shall do it as soon as possible. After waiting for it so long, the pandemic situation has come in the year 2020 but we didn’t stop to take the follow-up. We visited the gram panchayat office and raised the issue again and again. Then on 23rd November 2021, we came to know that 2 lakh rupees have been sanctioned for the road from the remaining fund of the different hamlets.” – Mrs. Lata Pawar, one of the active young women from Chavare hamlet.

There is a place called Dedhadwali which is 7 Km from Badalapur. This village has got 25 families. They belong to the Kalkari tribe. They are very poor and not afford to meet their basic needs. Though Gramachayat has provided bore well, it had no sufficient water. Karunya Trust provided them with a water tank and tanks so that now they can collect enough water. They also have common toilets which are provided by Gramachayat.

Karunya trust took initiative to bring the women together and empowered them through SHGs. The NGO provided them with knowledge of government schemes, and different training like leadership etc., which gave them the confidence to fight for their right. Once they were aware of their rights, women came together and wrote an application demanding from Gramachayat a common place/hall to conduct different programs and celebrations. After several follow-ups in 2019, they got permission for building a common hall. As they began the work forest department and with the influence of politicians brought a stay order and they had to stop the work. Despite the stay order, the women didn’t give up their hope, and finally the women succeeded in getting permission to construct the hall. Now the hall is used for multi-purpose like business, tuition for children and different common programs. Not only are the women who are empowered by Karunya trust but the men are also inspired by the women’s activities and they fully support the women for the development of their village.

This is the story of the three orphan children who lived with their parents in Kuradpada, Badalapur. They were happy family sharing their joys and sorrows. Parents took care of them well. Their father’s name was Vilas Shinde. Everything was going well but suddenly something happened in their life. The father started drinking and became addicted to it. Every day he used to drink and come home and beat up their mother and it brought conflict within the family. He lost his job and was facing financial problems. The mother took her children and went to her mother’s house and was staying there. This affected the education of the children.

Mother started work in a company. A few years later, mother got sick and died. The children were taken care of by their uncle but after a few days, the children were brought to their father. The father didn’t bother much about his children and continued drinking. Later he too got sick and died. The children became orphans and had no one to take care of except the uncle who took care earlier. Since he was poor and jobless he could not afford to take care of these children. He was struggling to take care of his three children, since the death of their parents, the children had no proper facilities neither could fulfill their basic needs. With the intervention of Karunya Trust, the children are kept at Mahatma Gandhi Nirmal Niketan residential school. Now they have a shelter and good education facilities.

“Leaving no one behind...”

The Karunya Trust is doing a great job. Please keep it more and thank you for hosting the session

Sahil Kadam
Deloitte Volunteer

Vol: 10 - Issue: 2  Dec. 2022

MAGIC COMES IN PIECES!

HOME IS WHERE YOUR STORY BEGINS!

NEVER STOP LOOKING UP!!

T E S T I M O N I E S

\[\text{Sahil Kadam, Deloitte Volunteer}\]

- From Project Bharari

- From Project Jeevan

- From Project Bharari

- From Project Bharari

- From Project Bharari
CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS FOR STAFF

- Effective Report Writing & Documentation
- Child Rights
- Training on Leadership
- Juvenile Justice Act
- Workshop on Food Sovereignty
- Basic Computer Training
- Leadership Training

INITIATIVES During Pandemic

KT news

Karunya trust has implemented a seven-month project supported by Caritas India and Caritas Italiana. Awareness of Covid-19 appropriate behaviour. The project focused on families infected affected by Covid-19. The program was conducted in 9 villages of Kalyan and Ambarnath block, Thane district. The contents of the project are to provide hygiene kits, cash transfers to the infected/affected families and awareness generation to the community. The project was implemented with local Grampanchayath leaders and volunteers of the Karunya Trust. Beneficiary selection is done by volunteers as per the criteria of Caritas Italiana. 250 families were selected for hygiene kits and 128 families for cash transfers. People were happy to receive support during the pandemic to meet their household needs. Awareness generation activity conducted on Covid-19 appropriate behaviour through pamphlets distribution, street plays and family as well as individual visits and discussion in the 18 villages of Ambarnath and Kalyan block. Throughout the activity, KT reached up to 2000 people.

Nishikant Rananaware

- From Project Rural
CELEBRATIONS

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav-Independence Day Rally

Gyansaathi organized a rally on the occasion of 75th Independence Day. It was held on August 15th 2022. The rally started from Gyansaathi Center to Shivaji Nagar Police Station. The members of C4CRPC, Y4CRPC and W4CRPC made many posters and slogans about patriotism for the awakening of the masses. The police guided the rally and reached the police station. At the station, the senior police officers and the core team members interacted. It was a great experience for members of C4, Y4 & W4 to meet with Police officers.

- From Project Gyansaathi

Independence Day celebration

Independence day was celebrated at Nahur Christ the King Community centre on 13th August 2022 at 10 am. The children’s parliament (CP) of Savli had planned and organised the entire program. Rev. Fr. Lijo, the assistant director of Karunya Trust, Rev. Fr. Bipin parish priest of Christ the King Church, Nahur, Thane ration officer Miss. Surekha Chauhan, Assistant Director Rev. Fr. Lijo and Mr. Jijo gave speeches on the occasion. At the end of the program, the toppers of the 10th class were honored with the prize.

Flag hoisting was done by Rev. Fr. Lijo and all saluted the flag and sang the National anthem. Prem Rane, one of the children of the Savli project, gave a speech where he remembered the Martyrs who laid down their lives for the country. Thane rationing officer Miss. Surekha Chauhan, Assistant Director Rev. Fr. Lijo and Mr. Jijo gave speeches on the occasion. At the end of the program, the toppers of the 10th class were honored with the prize.

- From Project Savli

Rakshabandhan Celebration

Raksha Bandhan is a cultural festival. It’s a sign of bonding and respect for each other. Gyansaathi students celebrated the Raksha Bandhan. The girls tied Rakhi to boys and shared sweets. By doing this we can create good thoughts about each other. The kids also liked the program and expressed that they liked and enjoyed it a lot.

- From Project Gyansaathi

ALUMNI MEET 2022

In Gyansaathi, for the first time the Alumni Meet Program was organized. The objective of this gathering was to get to know the status of the ex-students who were attached to Gyansaathi. Many ex-students shared their experiences with Gyansaathi and their current status (many of them are studying and doing jobs. Gyansaathi teachers shared the expedition of Gyansaathi and information about the new holistic centres of Baba Nagar, Indira Nagar and Nirankari Nagar. Many students shared their feedback that they loved it and were very happy to be a part of Gyansaathi and this Alumni Meet program. It was a proud and happy movement for us.

- From Project Gyansaathi

Drama performed at BMC school Bhandup

On 15th August, along with Children’s Parliament, Savli organized a drama and dance at Municipality School in Bhandup East. 23 children participated in the celebration. The school principal Ramesh Sir, teachers and students from 1st std to 4th std were present for the program. The topic of drama played by CP children, was “the importance of education”. Through drama, they motivated the children to attend school regularly. The principal also encouraged the students by explaining to them the importance of education. At the end of the program, one of the CP members proposed a vote of thanks to the principal, teachers and the students of the municipal school Bandup, also thanked the school for giving them a good platform for their personal development and learning. They felt great and honoured for giving the chance to perform the skit on the occasion of Independence Day.

- From Project Savli

"I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved."

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar
Former Minister of Law and Justice of India

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KARUNYA TRUST
NEWS LETTER

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(St. Matthew 25:40)