

Karunya News



...the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion... (Phil.-1:6)

Karunya Trust focuses on enhancing the living conditions of the rural and the urban communities of Maharashtra. We do this by organizing women through Self Help Groups, farmers' groups, youth groups, providing disaster management skills, health care and education and fighting for children's rights.

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Bishop's Message: Lent - The Time For Karuna



Dear loving Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
The spirit of Lent can't be limited just to the abstinence of food because it would not mean much as so many of our brethren are undergoing this suffering daily. Often Lent is a synonymous for Fasting which is obviously very important for our spiritual growth but I would like to invite you all to mark this liturgical season in yet another way. "Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them." Looking around all of you would unanimously agree that cum patire is the need of the time. St. Paul in his second letter to the Corinthians write, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves received from God."

Physical hunger is not the only kind from which humanity suffers: many of them are also hungry and thirsty for dignity, freedom, justice, and for food for their minds and souls. The people of God should have the feeling of empathy towards them. Sharing things does not consist only of giving away what we do not need; sometimes it also consists of giving away what we do need, like the widow in the Gospel who knew that what she was giving away was the only means for her livelihood. Let us always remember that to share is to give to others what God intends for them and which is only entrusted to us.

Let us reflect whether we are still standing idle in the market place because no one has called us to work! The vineyard of Christian Charity is short of workers; the Church is calling you to it. In this Lenten season which is a preparation for the Resurrection of our Lord, let us renew and re-live the real spirit of Lent.

May Almighty God bless you abundantly!!!

Mar Thomas Elavanal, Bishop of Kalyan

Safety Net to Poor:



Maharashtra Chief Minister Shri. Prithviraj Chavan hands over the Key of 100th house build for the rural poor by Kalyan Diocesan Social Action, Karunya Trust at the Silver Jubilee Celebration on Nov 10, 2013

Best SHG AWARD to Karunya Trust:



Prassanna Self Help Group from Kudaran village, Ambarnath formed by Karunya Trust receives Second Best SHG Award 2013 in Thane district on 16th Jan 2014 at Mahalakshmi Saras.

Birthday wishes

Karunya Trust Board of Directors



Mar Thomas Elavanal
(Chairperson)
28 March



Dr. Ashok Mehta
(Board Member)
22 November



Mr. C. Babu Joseph
(Board Member)
13 February



Fr. Francis Eluvathingal
(Board Member)
26 February

Pope Francis Speaks:



"In the heart of every man and woman is the desire for a full life, including that irrepressible longing for fraternity which draws us to fellowship with others and enables us to see them not as enemies or rivals, but as brothers and sisters to be accepted and embraced.

"Fraternity is an essential human quality, for we are relational beings. A lively awareness of our relatedness helps us to look upon and to treat each person as a true sister or brother; without fraternity it is impossible to build a just society and a solid and lasting peace."

Pope Francis' Jan. 1 from World Day of Peace message

Editorial: Lent: LENDING our Hearts...



During a Lenten collection a group of people approached a man. He said to them, "Do you know that my mother is ill and under treatment for the last seven years, my elder brother will be undergoing a major heart surgery in the next week, my younger brother's daughter is doing her third year nursing and struggling to pay her fees. Hearing a series of issues one of them said, "Sorry we were not aware of your problems, we will pray for you". The man replied, "That is not the matter, I don't even give a penny to any of them then why I do have to give to you".

Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel, tells that "in itself mercy is the greatest of all the virtues, since all the other revolves around it... (p.36). He says "God shows that poor "his first mercy"... Inspired by this, the church has made an option of primacy in the exercise of Christian charity, to which the whole tradition of the church bears witness" (p.153).

Lent invokes us to LEND our hearts to our needy brethren and exercise the Christian Charity in its true spirit which resounds in Isaiah 58:7-8 that:

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.

Fr. Paul Kunduparambil, Director, Karunya Trust

Karunya Award 2013:



Mr. Nilesh Nandoskar receives Karunya Award 2013 from Msgr Jacob Porathur at the occasion of Gyansaathi Annual day on February 8, 2014. Nilesh is doing his volunteership at Child Rag Picking project Gyansaathi for last 2 years.

Karunya Volunteer Award 2013

Mr. M. V. Josph & Mr. Puthiyaveettil Joseph Abraham received first Karunya Volunteer Award 2013 from Rev. Fr. Francis Eluvathingal, for the dedicated volunteer ship in Jubilee Action Network (JAN), program for destitute



Karunya Trust Excellence Award 2013

Mrs. Rose Joseph, Gyansaathi project In-charge receives "Karunya Trust Excellence Award 2013 from Kalyan Diocesan Chancellor, Rev. Fr. Francis Eluvathingal.



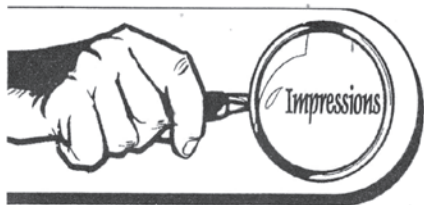
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Mrs. Bharati Wadhate





It was really a wonderful experience being with Karunya Trust. Both in Shivaji Nagar as well as Kalyan Rural Villages. We really appreciate the good works you do for the poorest of the poor, in the slums & in the rural village. Your team has made a very good impact in the villages who regard them as their own. Your approach towards all categories of people without any discrimination with love and cheerfulness is well appreciated.

Fr.Jose Karipadam, MSFS, Assam Don Basco University, Guwahati- Assam



Karunya News

Jeevashraddha HIV/AIDS Awareness Programme

In Jeevashraddha project, Karunya Trust in collaboration with Public Health Foundation India(PHFI) is running a HIV Awareness and Prevention Program for the male and female migrant population in Thane. The different program activities conducted by us are as follows:

HIV free testing, Street play for Awareness, Health games, Free counseling through well trained and qualified counselor,



Networking with other NGO's/ICTC center/ART centre, Community awareness, Advocacy meetings with the stakeholder, Congregation events for the community, Drop in Centre for High Risk Group (HRG) population for their recreation activity.

Mrs. Chhaya Gadage, Program Manager, Jeevshraddha



Focus Group Discussion with migrant's done by Karunya staff

Mumbai Marathon 2014

Karunya Trust thanks all its supporters who generously contributed and ran for our cause in the recently concluded Mumbai Marathon on January 19, 2014. Our Special thanks to D'decor company and Deutsche Bank employees who participated in this Marathon. We thank in a special way Mr. Nilesh Nandoskar, Mr. Satish Babu, Mr. Ajimon Francis, Mrs. Shiny Varied Ajimon and all the participants of the Marathon for your whole hearted support.



Mr. Kevin Jose Ponmany, Program Manager, Karunya Trust



Karunya Team with the Runners of Mumbai Marathon 2014

Seeds sown in Samooth Vivaah..Bloomed into a family...

On 4th April, 2013, Karunya Trust had conducted Samooth Vivaah in Dombivli where girls belonging to economically weak families were married owing to the financial support received from Karunya Trust. One such girl was Fatima from Govandi. Her economic condition was poor. Her mother was the only working member and they were barely able to meet their expenses. In such a situation, getting Fatima married was a challenge. But today, as a result of Samooth Vivaah she is married and stays with her husband and in-laws. Her husband works as a decorator. She has expressed her gratitude to Karunya Trust before as well. It is with great joy she called KarunyaTrust to tell that she was blessed with a baby girl on 4th February, 2014. She and her family are very happy today.



Suvarna Ghadge, Counsellor Gyansaathi



Love of Jesus impels...

I can do all things through him who strengthens me (Phil- 4:13)

I cannot but extend my heart and hands to him/her who is not able to handle his own affairs by himself, who cannot stand on his own legs because of the rejection by the near ones...

Once I see abandoned brethren I do not think of the consequences like where to go, what to do with them, how to manage etc. For example I used to be a frequent visitor to Kalamboli Jyothi Aids center. Once I noticed that a sister was attending to patients barehanded and I asked her why she was not using gloves. She replied that if by tending to these poor souls should she get affected, she would accept it as God's disposition.

This may be the Holy Spirit's influence on me. By God's grace I was able to lend a helping hand to more than 38 destitutes. One such case was an elderly person found at the railway station. It was a phone call from a friend which led me to this elderly person. On asking him, he said he was an alcoholic who had left his house about 11 years back. He worked in many hotels for the past 11 years and eventually became an alcoholic. He said he had a wife and three kids of which he had not seen his third kid. He was taken to Seal ashram and later to Kalamboli MGM hospital. After two days the person expired. As I didn't want to do the funeral of this person as an unwanted body, I requested to keep this body in mortuary. With the help of Kanjurmarg church members I started to enquire about his family. After two days their family was located in Vikhroli (E). I personally went to their house and told them about him. It was what made me cry when this last kid fell on my feet and thanked me for at least getting her father's body, whom she had always wanted to meet.

As a member of the church it is my experience that the Church extends its tender care to all who act in this way. Even though we are in the midst of manifold affairs, if we have Jesus in mind then we will be able to see, hear and impelled to act on behalf of Jesus.

JAN (Jubilee Action Network) has helped me to grow in this direction. You have experienced the tender care and concern of the Diocese of Kalyan regarding the neglected and sick. I also acknowledge the ever readiness of Fr. Paul Kunduparambil to support the Jan volunteers as they are appreciated for their commitment and dedication..... in short, I am happy to be a Jan volunteer!



Mr. Shajan, JAN Volunteer

To be broken for you...

On the 7th day of the demise of Ms. Shivakamy Iyer (State Rep.CRS, Maharashtra) during my visit to her family, her father Dr.S.S.Iyer had shown the certificate of gratitude received from the donor for donating the eyes of Ms.Shivakamy which has given sight to two people. Ever since I was taken up by that incident and passionate about doing something more for the people and learnt that even after our death we can give life to people. And these days we are quite familiar with organ donation drives and the information in the media which highlights the consent certificates given by individuals, groups irrespective of caste and creed. It also emphasises the need to create awareness among the communities and the society in general.

Karunya Trust has initiated the noble venture of organ donation (Mruthunjay) and Eye donation (Drishti2020) in the Diocese through the Nodal centres with the support of Mathrusangam of the Diocese of Kalyan. This was inaugurated on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the Diocese where our beloved Bp. Mar Thomas Elavanal has given his consent to donate his eyes representing the diocese. The Nodal centres at Panvel, Kandivili(E) and Mira Road has given the consent forms and donor cards have been issued to the donors. Also the Corporates like Crompton Greaves, D'decor and AXIS Bank Foundation are in the process of doing the same.

As we are preparing for the great Feast of Easter may our charity during this Lenten season be the readiness and the consent to donate our organs, so that even after our death may our lives spread the fragrance of the love of Christ.

For further information kindly contact at karunyatrust@hotmail.com or **022-25798625**.

For declaration form kindly visit www.karunyatrustononline.org
Sr. Betty George, Program Co-ordinator, Karunya Trust



Project Mruthunjai – organ donation drive was inaugurated by Mar Antony Chirayath and hands over to Karunya Trust coordinator Sr. Betty George at the Silver Jubilee Celebration on Nov 10, 2013

Travel Diary: An exhilarating experience at 'God's own country'!

Ever since the destination for the annual trip was fixed, I have been preparing for this trip with the right kind of clothes and gadgets. As we boarded the train for Kerala, I was already excited of this place which I had heard from so many people. I was on en route to my dream destination that I could hardly wait to see everything that was Kerala, right from the state border. I didn't sleep the night as the train coiled in an unusual hurry, as if it shared my excitement of going to 'the Kerala'. As the train rushed into the lush lap of the green fields, by the smell of the smoky mud pots and the array of banana trees sautéed on the front and backyard of almost all the homes with the coconut trees weaving the periphery of every mountainous horizon, I didn't need the name board of the forthcoming station to declare that we had reached 'the Kerala'. It was a feast to my senses to see, to smell and to be right here! The throng in every beat synchronizing with the spirited mood of the onlookers made the elephants, the God of the moment. Capturing those beats and the mesmerizing spirit of the moment right in my mind helps me hear them anytime I wish to, even in the silence of my nights!

The giggle of the brooks bursts into laughter of waterfall is the view of Athirapilly waterfalls and Vazhachal. I have never seen such amazing view as the water gushes and breaks free dancing down from mountainous heights to a straight steep downfall of hundreds of feet at the go, spraying its chill water on everything around its radius, the thrill of getting a chance to dip myself in these fast flowing waters with an undercurrent weaved with adventure was worth the chance. The Mullassery Church, Guruvayoor, Palayoor, Vellarpadam Church, Marine drive, Kumarakam... I have captured them in my eyes to be recalled at my will. The houseboat was another piece of monument I kept gazing during the 2 hour house boat ride through the backwaters. The entire team was fully sunk in the gaze of this scintillating landscape, virgin in its breathtaking view, the trip was treasured for its joyful, rejuvenating moments as my dream of visiting this heavenly piece of Earth came true. The camaraderie of the team is the treasure of the trip. The team along with our ever adventurous Director made this trip a gallery of enjoyment and this passage of time when we crossed each other's path will be carried away with a smile in my heart!!



Personal experience of Somnath Raut described by Julie Philip

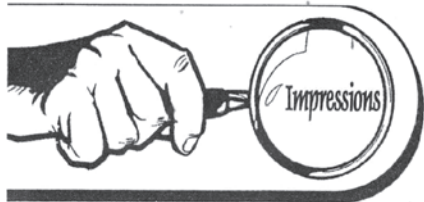


Our heartfelt thanks for your generous contribution

Agencies / Associations:- Reetha Die Works- Vasai(E), Mathrusangam-Dhobithalao Zone,Dept of Social work –Vimala College Thrissur, Citytech Marine Pvt Ltd.-Mumbai, St. Thomas Catholic Church –Karunya Trust Unit- Dapodi, St. Thomas Catholic Church- Virar, Catechism Department- Antop Hill,Holy Family Convent – Vasai (E),St. Thomas Church –Vashi, St. Mary's School- Andheri, Alphonsa School- Kalewadi.

Corporate:- United Way of Mumbai, M/S Isha Enterprises,

Individuals:- Annie George-Kalina, Mary Joseph- Goregaon, T. Baby Joseph Anushakthi Nagar, Leelamma Joy- Goregaon, Mary Joseph- Pune, Marykutty Joseph- Mulund,Daisy Anthony- Mulund Pavu Nettieoth,Tresia Francis- Mira Road,Kunjamma Baby- Mulund,Baby Joseph- Mulund,Yashwant Suttur- Thane, V.V. Shaji- Lonavala,K.D. Jose- Mulund (W),Dayson Chandy-Assisi Nagar,Rose Joseph- Vikhroli,Simon Kolamkanny- Vidhya Vihar (W),Katherine Mathew – Mumbai,Lissy- Dapodi,Shaji Jose-Assisi Nagar,Binoy Thomas Kuruchithara, Sony Rappai- Virar,Fr. Wilson Kannanaickal,Varghese Jose-Vasai (E),Dr. Jaya Cherian- Thrissur,Sheela Davis Kanjurmarg (W),Rosamma Antony-Nasik,B.V. Bhandary-Sanpada,K.T. Varghese-Sion, Rosy Anto- Kalyan (W),J.C. Palathingal-Kandivli (W),Santhosh George- Dahisar,Mariamamma George- Malad (W),Daisy



I am short of words to describe what I saw today in Gyansaathi the school for the underprivileged, the care and concern for these children and an undying commitment to spread the light of knowledge

Dr. A.S. Reddy, Pediatric Surgeon, Wadia Hospital



From the heart of India: News from Rural Project

BHARARI: News Concept & New Horizons

Project BHARARI is a “Child Focused Community development” program. We conducted various get together of the parents of 16 tribal villages for the purpose of making them understand the project “Bharari” and their participation in it. The response was good and in the process we realized that our tribals are hoping to bring some change in their life though partnership with Karunya Trust. They believe that Karunya Trust is a free gift of God to them and to their children who don’t dare to dream of better and bright future. In the leaders meeting some of the concerns shared or are bothering some of the tribal leaders are, in this fast changing society do they and their children have any place to hope for a better... Yes, we together shall strive for that hope which will change our tribal children’s future.



Inauguration of Project BHARARI by Ambernath Sabhapati Mrs. Shila Borade

PARTICIPATORY RURAL APPRAISAL (PRA): for Sustainable Development

From 18th Dec. to 30th December participatory rural appraisal was conducted in 16 villages under CFCD (Child focus Community Development). We need to enhance people’s participation in this project more which will have sustainability. We need to update them with available government schemes and how to tap it. Women’s participation was more than men. Women feel the need of getting help and guidance from Karunya to change their standard of living. We need to join hands with all the likeminded people which give us more strength to reach out maximum people in need.



Karunya Team conducting PRA in tribal villages

Bharari: Take off to a New Life...

Survey of 16 villages was an eye opener for all of us. We found that our tribals don’t own even the basic needed assets i.e. no land, low daily wages, drinking habits among the men folk, no education so no good job. Odd jobs which demands hard work, no enough food thus health deterioration. A lifelong debt which leads bonded labours... endless problems and few solutions... best solution is to build community organization to raise their voice collectively. Baseline survey has made us understand the actual existing situation of our tribal people. Our facilitation will bring substantial change in the lives of the people.



Karunya Team is at survey in tribal villages

CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE STAFF:

It is a need for the time that our staff’s capacity must be enhanced in order to empower the people whom we wish to bring in the main stream of society. Thus various trainings were organized for staff such as water & soil conservation at Ahmदनगर from 12th to 15th Jan, SHG & Federation at Ranchi on 18th to 26th. Basic training on how to teach children who are slow learners, how to identify the malnourished children and what supplement must be given to them was conducted. Staff meeting for the review of the various service rendered to the people is a regular activity of Karunya Trust. Evaluation was conducted of the work done. We are happy that our beneficiaries are open and have accepted us. We realize that we need to enhance their participation, to certain extent they have understood that at every stage they need to contribute for the betterment of their society.



Training to staff in Non Formal Education



Sr. Edith Gonsalves,
Programme officer, Kalyan – Rural projects

CHILDRENS DAY CELEBRATION (November 14)

On this day children from all 16 villages gathered together at Mulgoan village for the Children’s Day celebration. 250 children were the part of this celebration. Prior to this event, sports competitions were conducted at the village level, and the entire winners were invited for the celebration. Children put up some cultural programmes. This was followed by a beautiful gift for every child and refreshments. Mrs. Shaila Borade, Sabhapathi of Panchayat Samithi, Ambernath was the chief guest of the programme. She emphasised on the importance of education and the role of the parents. She also congratulated Karunya Trust’s efforts to bring the tribal children and people to the mainstream of society and assured her full support and co-operation.



Children’s day celebration on 14th Nov at Mulgoan village

CELEBRATION of Joy: CHRISTMAS

Vishnubaug at Devoliee on 14th December had 210 children and women leaders participate in it. Our tribal children who have never gone out of their village had a chance of having exposure to the educational tour. An opportunity makes difference to our lives. Children experience real joy. They felt loved by Karunya trust. The response of the children was I will never miss any programme or activity organized by Karunya trust because it gives me a sense of being wanted and loved.



Bharari Children at Xmas celebration

SPORTS COMPETITIONS:

Sports competitions were conducted from November 2 – 12 in all 16 villages. Children whole heartedly took part in the competition. Winners were extremely happy and the team has learned that the children are very capable if they are given an opportunity to express themselves with the support of their parents. Also it can be improved with proper training.



On a march... children at sports competition

Enhancing Education through TUITION CENTERS:

Tuition centers inauguration on 17th of January in the three villages that are Morachapada, Katakariwadi, Pimploliwadi. The purpose of it is to empower our children and make them smart and successful in their academic studies. Parents are very happy because children are able to sit and study and learn more. Gradually people understand that we are trying to help them to participate in their own development. They have begun to trust us. People’s support and participation is very important for their development. We decided to focus on the children who are really in need of our assistance. We need to promote the education of the children and therefore we shall be very careful in identifying and selecting the children for sponsorship. Identification of the malnourished children was done and along with it we have identified the children for sponsorship. The meetings were conducted to explain the people why we need to have the sponsorship and who are selected and what will be the role of parents and the community in the sponsorship process.



Tuition centre inauguration

DENTAL CHECKUP AND AWARENESS

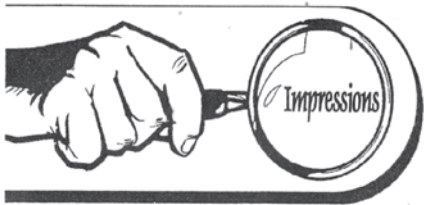
Dental checkup and demonstration of brushing the teeth in Savorwadi, Devoliee, Kanoorwadi, Katakariwadi, Kuradapada, Pimploliwadi, Morachpada on 30th & 31st Jan. 250 children’s dental checkup was done. Around 225 parents were given awareness of keeping teeth healthy. Interviews of the parents were taken. We realized that most of our village’s children have very bad teeth and we need to plan a well dental program for them to protect from further damages to the teeth. We also need to spread awareness and educate our parents regarding healthy teeth.



Dental camp was conducted by Dr. Tracey & Dr. Carole from Germany



Sr. Anjeline,
Karunya Trust Rural Co-ordinator



I was happy to meet with the staff with whom Sr.Edith works and reaches to the people who need help to get our miserable situation. Sr.Edith gives her service as Holy Cross Sister and makes our Charism visible in Karunya Trust. My impression is that people trust Karunya. May God bless the activities of Karunya abundantly.

Sr. Marija Brizar, Mother General of Holy Cross Sisters of Kalyan.



Gyan Saathi: waste to worth

BHAAG MILKHA BHAAG

The marathon organized by Deutsche Bank is an annual event that Gyansaathi participates in. This year, the participation was memorable. On 2nd February, 2014, 11 children and 1 staff member participated in the marathon. Under the category below

14 years, our 12 year old student, Firoz Khan came in third, competing with children double his size. He ran a whole kilometer to achieve this feat. It was indeed a feather in the hat for Karunya Trust to see our child stand on the winning podium!

Somnath Raut, Gyansaathi, Animator



A DAY AT THE CINEMA

26th November, 2013 was a memorable day in the life of children at Gyansaathi. Deutsche bank had arranged for this rare chance for our children at the film theatre in Oberoi Mall, Goregaon. There were 183 children who got to enjoy this experience. Going to a mall and watching a film in the air conditioned theatre is something rare in the lives of these children. Hence, this was a treasured experience for the children.

The children got to see- Stanley Ka Dabba, a good film about the life of a struggling child and the importance of good friends. This was not all, they also got to meet and closely interact with the director of this film- Mr. Amol Gupte. He shared with them his views on education, sharing and friendship. The children were also treated to a box of popcorns and cold coffee.

Komal Thombre, Gyansaathi, Animator



KALAKARI 2014/Annual Day/ Gyansaathi bole-Bum Bum Bole

“The thing about performance, even if it's only an illusion, is that it is a celebration of the fact that we do contain within ourselves infinite possibilities.”- Sydney Smith

Gyansaathi's most awaited event is the annual day. It is not just an event but a culmination and climax to the year's hard work and a show case of the talents of our children. This was celebrated on 8th February, 2014 at Gita Vikas hall, Govandi. The chief guest for the event was Ms. Janet D'Souza who eventually could not make it due to prior commitments. But that did not stop the celebrations. Fr. Jacob Porathur inaugurated the event with the lighting of the lamp. Some other guests who graced the occasion were Inspector R.S. Agarwal, Dr. Naina Athalye from HCDDI, Fr. Francis Eluvathingal, DR. Iyer and family. Some of our supporters, well wishers and benefactors were present to see this day unfold.

The children had prepared sincerely to put up an array of events. The tiny tots had prepared from a film song number- bum bum bole. It was a sight to see them all dressed in cute outfits dance along with a joker. All credit to the teachers who trained them. The young teenage boys and girls had prepared a different dance known as modern dance. The underlying meaning of which was that good always defeats evil. The boys had staged some wonderful stunts as part of tis dance. What was interesting is that these steps were learnt by themselves and not one that was taught to them. The young adolescent girls had put up a traditional dance of the Kerala muslims. It is called opana- a dance performed by friends of the bride a night before her wedding. It was a heart cheering performance to see the girls all dressed and teasing the bride. Well if the girls can, the boys can too. They had put up a mime based on the Life House skit. It received a thundering applause. Well if the children were able to put up something, the mothers were not far behind. They sang the commencing prayer song. What was different is that despite Marathi not being their mother tongue, they sang a whole Marathi bhajan.

After all the cultural events, awards were given to appreciate students who had given their best during this academic year. All this would not have been achievable without the hardworking and passionate staff at Gyansaathi. Their services were appreciated with an honour. Just when everyone thought that it was all over, the young dynamic girls came up with a surprise performance. They had performed a patriotic dance choreographed by themselves. At the end of which, all were left speechless at the heart warming performance of these girls. As mentioned before, performance contains infinite possibilities. With each Annual Day, our children have just proved that. Sincere thanks to all our benefactors, donors, volunteers and well wishers for their prayers and support without which Gyansaathi would not have reached the heights it has reached.

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Sakina Sayyed, Gyansaathi, Animator

Awards to Karunya Trust:



Fr. Paul Kunduparambil, Karunya Trust Director receives Tru Indian Samaj Sevak Puraskar 2014 by Tru Indian Information & Guidance Society from Mr. P.K. Aanandan in the presence of Mr. C.G Warier, the president of the Society.

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET GO.....

“Do you know what my favorite part of the game is? The opportunity to play.”- Mike Singletary

The opportunity to play that is what our students got on Sports Day. It was organized on 27th January, 2014. Under the hot sun at the local ground, our children had a chance to put their athletic skills forward. We had 77 children who participated in the various sporting activities. Sporting events were organized based on their age groups namely 7-9 years, 10-14 years and 14 years and above. We had events like sprint, sack race and needle and thread race. It was a sight to see the children giving their best. Sports is not something that they regularly get involved in, hence for many it was the first time, for some others it was about overcoming their discomfort and for most it was a time of fun and cheering their friends. Not to forget, we also had an indoor sports day for our children below 7 years, also known as the balwadi group. For the tiny tots we had organized two games- lemon and spoon and throwing balls into the bucket. The winners of these sporting events were awarded with winning trophies on the Annual Day. Magic Bus (NGO) supported us in this endeavor.



Swapnil Kadam, Gyansaathi, Animator



HUM KISI SE KAM NAHI

“Happiness comes when we test our skills towards some meaningful purpose. “-John Stossel

A long awaited dream of Gyansaathi has been a vocational training centre of its own. In November, this dream came true. The project has rented a two room space to conduct the vocational training from 1st November, 2013. It has 24 hours water supply and electricity along with bathroom facilities. It is well furnished. It has been equipped with 5 sewing machines and 3 computers. The adult literacy class which was conducted within a dimly lit space in the community has now shifted to the new space. Although it is a little away from the community, the number of women coming have not reduced but has rather increased.



This is not all. As the world moves closer to a digitalized world, the students and their families at Gyansaathi too have taken their steps towards getting digitalized. Computer classes have begun not only for children but their mothers as well. As the saying goes- there is no age for learning, no matter what the obstacles may be. The mothers were initially hesitant but have firmly decided that they want to grow with the changing world.



This is not all. To enhance their skills, tailoring has also started. This is based on our tie up Yuva Parivartan. It is a 20 days training course. The students will receive a certificate from the Ministry of Labour and Employment at the end. Thus, Gyansaathi has derived more happiness from learning new skills for a meaning purpose.

Andriya Chandy, Gyansaathi, Co-ordinator

EXPLORING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Lok Seva Bal Sansad (children's parliament) had some interesting visits in the past few months in their neighbourhood. On 3rd January, 2014, they visited the local police station. They were briefed on the various types of arms and ammunitions available

and when each of them was used. The children were amazed and thrilled at what they heard and saw. Some even asked their doubts regarding the usage of various arms. They were shown around the police station. Based on their special request, some were even shown the lock up. The children came back awed.

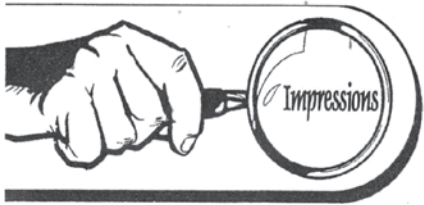
The next visit was to the local post office on 7th January, 2014. The postal department was cooperative and showed and explained everything in detail. The children found it very informative especially when they heard about the history of the postal department and how it has evolved until today.

The final visit was to the BMC Ward office- M-East ward on 26th February, 2014.

This was an extensive and informative visit. The children were introduced to the various departments functioning at the office. Along with gaining information, children also put forward their queries, their concerns to the respective departments. All these visits have not helped the children to grow in knowledge but also have helped build their self-confidence.

Prashanti Wagh, Gyansaathi, Animator





Thank you for participating in our dental screening camp. We enjoyed your lovely assistance and children. All God's blessings for you

Dr. Tracey & Dr. Carole Germany.



RETURN GIFT

When I wrote a fundraising appeal for Karunya Trust during the SCMM2013 (Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon), I had no idea how the response would be and what was in store for me. Until then my “giving back to the society” was limited to my annual donation to a NGO and all I expected in return was a 80G tax relief certificate. This was the first time I had identified myself with a cause and made a personal appeal to my friends and colleagues. So far, however, I hadn't got out of my chair! The response I got to my appeal was overwhelming. It was as if people were just waiting for a chance to do good. The tremendous response to my appeal made me feel personally responsible to ensure the funds were well spent.

It was time now to get off the chair! Rose, my friend from college, has been involved with the Gyaansathi project from the inception and it was she who had introduced me to Karunya Trust in the first place. She said a good way to start would be to see the basti (settlement) for myself. The memory of my first visit to the basti in Rafik Nagar, Govandi and the Gyaansathi school is a blur of stark images and acrid smells.

This was a totally different world and there were just too many things to see, understand and assimilate. Of course slums are nothing new to a Mumbaikar and I passed by this area every time I drove to Pune. From far it was just a slum, but walking in the basti along with Rose and meeting the people was totally different... the sounds were real, the stench was real, the gutter overflowing at my feet was real and the person describing how much he had to pay to fill up a Adhaar card form, was real. The plight of the young children was even more gut wrenching. The dumping ground which is the source of livelihood for these children was also their worst enemy.. eating away at their health and corroding their self worth. The whole area was enveloped in a cloud of despondency.

In the midst of all this, the Gyaansathi school was a safe harbour. In the basti there was squalor and abuse and addiction. In the school there was clean water and laughter and poetry. The school was perhaps the only ray hope for these children and I knew immediately, that I wanted to help it grow. I had no idea how I could help. I knew I could never match the dedication and sheer grit of the Gyaansathi staff. It takes a special kind of strength to go into the basti each day, coax the parents to leave their children at the school, teach the children, serve them food and at the end of the day play and dance with them. Since I could visit only on weekends, Rose suggested that instead of teaching the children, I teach the staff. They were keen to learn English and Computers. I was comfortable with the subjects but I had never taught before. I reckoned there was nothing to lose, even if I didn't do a good job at teaching, the staff would at least get a weekly break from the routine.

After a couple of weeks, I realized that the staff were actually beginning to enjoy my classes. Secretly I was relieved that I had discovered one real life skill (working for years in a faceless multinational can leave you with such doubts). Visiting the school every Saturday morning became my new routine. Prashanti, Sakina, Komal, Foziya, Salma Apa, Suvarna tai, Somanth, Pooja and Firoz became my students as well as my heroes. I watched them as they tackled a new challenge everyday with a doggedly cheerful attitude and I knew I could never let them down.

In the last two years I've watched this school grow into a big support centre for these kids and even their families. We have started activities like vocational training for teenagers and now adult literacy for their parents. This year we raised even more funds during SCMM2014. The new vocational centre can now afford to provide offer more facilities and courses. Coming face to face with people who have been denied even the most basic human rights has made me painfully aware of how lopsided our progress has been. Understanding the day to day struggle of these children has given me a deeper appreciation of the comforts we take for granted in our cushy lives. Observing the work



of the Gyaansathi staff and other social workers has given me a cause to believe that in spite of all that is wrong in the system there is still hope.

Experiencing the infectious laughter and the indomitable spirit of these children has given me proof that goodness shines in all of us. I feel truly grateful for all that I have got from Gyaansathi. All I expected in return was a 80G tax certificate!

Mr. Nilesh Nandoskar, Volunteer, Gyaansathi

NODAL NEWS: San Jos Church, Wagle Estate

Meetings held on every last Sunday of the month at church office after the morning holy mass. Meetings are presided over by Parish priest Fr.Jijo Kallely, committee comprising 15 members, including Sr. Maria and 2 trustees and 3 women members. All requests are discussed and verified and appropriate support is provided accordingly.

For clarity and fairness most of the aids are provided directly to the institutions /service providers.

Following are the major charitable activities done during the current year from April 2013 on-wards.

- 1) Meals for a week Rice kit to 5 Families every week.
- 2) Christmas Joy of sharing: Distribution of Rice & Dal to 350 families in Thane locality and Christmas food kit gift to 20 needy families from parish with a budget of Rs.80000.00in collaboration with Pithruvedi.
- 3) Environment protection awareness and tree plantation drive in collaboration with youth of the parish
- 4) Medical aid to 17 persons worth Rs.73650.00
- 5) Education aid to 16 persons worth Rs.58845.00
- 6) Support to Uttrakhand relief fund Rs.10000.00
- 7) Self Employment generation Support to one person For 10500.00
- 8) Mukta Jeevan Ashram (AIDS , HOSPICE, LEPROSY RELIEF & REHAB. CENTER) Shahapur social visit & support Rs.25000.00
- 9) St.Mary's home for blind Faridabad support of Rs.20000.00
- 10) Vijay Ashram (Children's Orphanage) Vikhorli social visit & support in collaboration with Catechism students
- 11) Naya Orphanage, Asangaon social visit & support of Rs.7000.00 in collaboration with Mathrusangam.
- 12) Home renovation to one family during Christmas Rs.30000.00

Fr.Jijo Kallely, Parish Priest



NODAL NEWS: St. Thomas Church, Mira Road

Life is never a bed of roses and we cannot dream a life without pains and struggle. Through the concern and the desired action towards the larger society we can ease the pain caused by the struggles and carve a smile on many teary eyed faces.

St. Thomas Church, Mira Road, celebrated its tenth anniversary in November 2013. With a view of not limiting the commemoration to celebrations alone, the day saw a social tinge under the leadership of the Karunya Trust Unit of the parish. The Bible is replete with verses encouraging charity works. As doers of the Word, the parishioners found the people in need to reach out to them in a meaningful way



The finance for the celebrations was collected from the parishioners, out of which 20% was used for the deeds of charity. Providing finance is an easier way to help the poor, but the parishioners took efforts to find out the needs of various needy individuals in the society to provide them with the required things. A total of 12 sewing machines were distributed to the poor sections of society out which 7 sewing machines were distributed to the needy and deserving

residents of Mira Road and 5 machines were donated to Gyan Saathi Project, Govandi.

An Aquaguard was donated to Ashraya Old Age Home, at Hajmalank, which is an off shoot of Kalyan Diocese's concern for the larger society.

We do not know the value and worth of things until we do not possess them at all. Keeping in mind the needs of the differently abled members of the society wheel chairs, crutches and hearing aid were given to the needy and the deserving.

Fr. Shaju Kotaram, Parish Priest,

Being in the image of God:

Extract from “The Human Person As The “Imago Dei” (Extract From Compendium Of The Social Doctrine Of The Church)”

The fundamental message of Sacred Scripture proclaims that the human person is a creature of God, and sees in his being the image of God the element that characterizes and distinguishes him... Therefore, “being in the image of God the human individual possesses the dignity of a person, who is not just something, but someone. He is capable of self-knowledge, of self-possession and of freely giving himself and entering into communion with other persons. Further, he is called by grace to a covenant with his Creator, to offer him a response of faith and love that no other creature can give in his stead”[204].

Love must be present in and permeate every social relationship. This holds true especially for those who are responsible for the good of peoples. They “must earnestly cherish in themselves, and try to rouse in others, charity, the mistress and the queen of virtues... Selfishness, therefore, is the most insidious enemy of an ordered society. History shows how hearts are devastated when men and women are incapable of recognizing other values or other effective realities apart from material goods, the obsessive quest for which suffocates and blocks their ability to give of themselves. “In the evening of this life, I shall appear before you with empty hands, for I do not ask you, Lord, to count my works. All our justice is blemished in your eyes. I wish, then, to be clothed in your own justice and to receive from your love the eternal possession of yourself”.

Impactful memory in this last month :

Around 1 pm some children came running to school saying “JCB aaya hai Madam, aaj ghar thodenge, police bhi aaye hai. Aap log kuch kariye na”... Different pleas but all with an urge of help. As teachers we were at a loss and decided to go with the children to the basti. What we would do, we knew not but saying a prayer in our hearts we set off. So many times we read about bastis in Mumbai being demolished but it has personally never affected me. But standing there as the huge JCBs pulled down the shanties, people trying to save their belongings, the cops trying to maintain order, cries of some women and children, verbal arguments between the people and authorities, some drug addicts trying to run away with the people's loot.. All our children and staff were helping each other trying to save whatever they could. Some of my students came running over urging us to leave the chaos. Tears welled up. I realized deep in my heart a shanty is also a home to someone. It is a sense of security that is getting trampled over. As I went to sleep in the cold night ensuring to cover my children with the blanket, I realized how little I give. And like in all helpless situations, I surrendered to my Lord my limitations and to take care of my school children and their families. And HE did.



Mrs. Rose Joseph, Project Incharge, Gyaansaathi

Our heartfelt thanks for your generous contribution

Varghese- Borivali (W),Manju Manoj – Anushakthi Nagar,Robert -Borivali (W),Jose- Assisi Nagar, Sijin Jose,Jeril & Ronal- Vikhroli,Sony C.D.- Colaba, Varghese Joseph- Riyadh, Diju Jose- Mira Road,Chandrashekhar- Vile Parle, Toms Ouseph – Pune,Antony –Virar,Elizabeth Varghese- Old Panvel,Justin – Sakinaka, Shirley Rarichan- Dombivli,P.A Pappachan,Jinsy B. Thottan-Mulund (E)Jonsy B Thottan- Mulund (E)Aleykutty Chacko-Mulund, Prakash Joseph-Mulund, C.P. Thomas-Mulund, Lissy Thomas-Mulund (W),T.A.Paul-Mulund(W),Mariam Paul- Mulund, Jessy Anthony-Mira road, Reetha Lazar- Malad, T.K. Antony-Nallasopara,Thankamma Francis- Ghatkopar,Jessy George-Powai,Varghese Antony-Vasai (E),David Thomas-New Panvel,K.K. Lazar- New Panvel,Loveena Shaju,George/Omana George-Nasik Road, Sicily Vareed, Dimple Lijyo-Mulund,Mary Paul- Powai,Jose- Bandra,Jose T.V. & V.P. Baby – Kharghar,P.C. Johnson Nallasopara,Jeno Thomas – Nallasopara,Lilly Varghese-Nallasopara,Mariamamma Mathew Nallasopara,T.K.Varghese Nallasopara,K.J. George- Nallasopara,Agnes George- Nallasopara,Mary Yohanand Mulund,Mary Mani- Nallasopara,M.V. George- Mira Road,P.J. Jacob- Ghatkopar, Mrs & Mr.Peeyus- Powai,Elsy Chakkunny & T.P. Chakkunny- Nallasopara,K.G. Jeejo-Powai,K.D. George- Powai, John Francis & Beena John- Nallasopara,John Thoppil-Thane, Thresia John- Thane,P.J. Walter-Tikujiniwadi, Seeba & Paul Thekkuden-Powai,C.P.Devassy- Thane,Clara Devassy- Thane, M. Pappachan –Mulund,Thomas J. Alappatt- Thane, Varunny Rappai- Nallasopara, Jenny Varuny- Nallasopara, Xavier P.M. Thane (w), Saramma Xavier- Thane (W), Susamma Thomas- Tikujiniwadi,

You can donate your organs or Eyes. Please fill below given forms & send it to Karunya Trust address given below

“MRUTHUNJAI”

(Promoted by: Kalyan Diocesan Social Action, Karunya Trust in collaboration with ZTCC)

ORGAN DONATION DECLARATION FORM

District Code

(Please complete in CAPITAL LETTERS using a black ballpoint pen)

Nationality

First name

Last Name*

AgeDayMonthYear

SexMaleFemale

(Please tick the boxes that apply)

Blood Group

Organs

All OrgansCorneas (Eyes)KidneysHeartLungsLiverPancreas

I.D. Card No.

E-Mail

Mobile

Emergency Contact

Person NameAddressMobile

I hereby declare that, I am willing to donate my organs for social benefit as a life saving measure for patients suffering from permanent organ(s) failure. In the event of an unanticipated Brain Death occurring to me.

Date:Signature :

Full Name :

Reg. No.



Zonal Transplant Coordination Centre
L T M G Hospital, 1st Floor, Room No 29 A, Near Skin Bank, Dr Ambedkar Road, Sion, Mumbai - 400022 | **Telefax:** 24028197 | **Mob.:** 9167663469 / 66
Visit us: www.ztccmumbai.org | **E-mail:** organtransplant@ztccmumbai.org

Promoted by



Karunya Trust
Bishop's House, P.B. No. 8434, I.I.T. P.O., Powai, Mumbai - 400 076.
Tel.: +91 022 2578 5515, 2579 8625 | **Fax:** +91 022 2577 6100
Web.: karunyatrustonline.org | **E-mail:** karunyatrust@hotmail.com



Form for donation of Eyes after death
FAMILY PLEDGE FORM
EYE BANK COORDINATION & RESEARCH CENTRE
K.B.H. Bachooali Hospital,56/60,Jehangir Merwanji Street,
Near KEM Hospital,Parel,Mumbai-400012,INDIA
(Trust Regd. No. E-15994,Mumbai)
Tel.: 91-22-416 2929/2416 4342 | **Telefax:** 91-22-2416-8869
E-mail: ebcrc@mtnl.net.in | **Website:** <http://www.eyebankcrc.org>
Promoted by Kalyan Diocesan Social Action (KDSA), Karunya Trust
Supported by Kalyan Mathrusangam

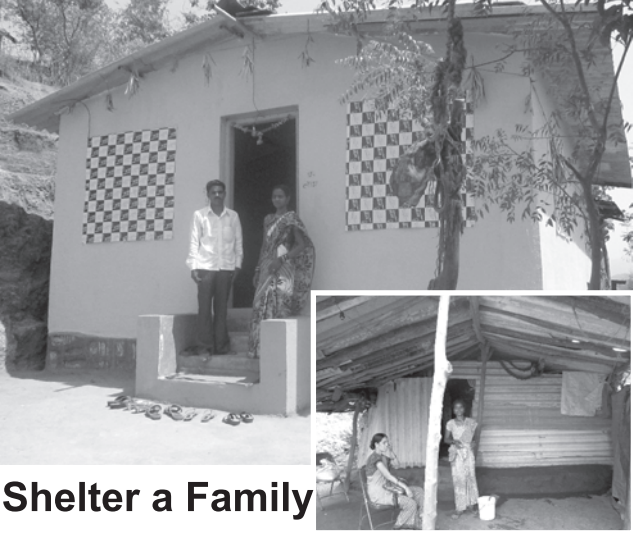
Dear Sirs,
We hereby voluntarily donate our eyes at the time of death to EYE BANK COORDINATION & RESEARCH CENTRE at K.B.H. Bachooali Hospital to be used to restore sight of some blind person or for research seeking to prevent blindness and to find cures for the disease of the eye.

Full Name	Age	Signature
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____

Residence Tel. No.
Residence Address:
TWO WITNESSES

Full Name	Res. Tel. No.	Address	Signature
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____

*Kindly fill the form and send it to Karunya Trust office adress given below, and you will receive the donor card.



Shelter a Family

So far Karunya Trust has sheltered 100 needy families. You can be a part of this Noble Cuase.
To provide partial support to build a house - Rs. 15000/-
To provide major support to build a house - Rs. 25000/-
To provide full support to build a house - Rs. 50000/-

Yes I want to get involved through Donation
(Donations are 50% deductible under section 80G of the Income Tax Act)

In Cash* ☐

Education Programs
☐ Rs. 600/- to educate a child rag picker for a month
☐ Rs. 1000/- to provide initial study for a poor student
☐ Rs. 1500/- to provide a scholar lantern to a poor student
☐ Rs. 6000/- to educate a HIV infected / affected child for a year
☐ Rs. 10,000/- to provide partial support for professional education for a student
☐ Rs. 20,000/- to provide professional education for a student for a year
☐ Rs. 25,000/- to educated child for five years (5th - 10th std)

Meal for the poor
☐ Rs. 1000/- to provide one time meal for a family, for a week
☐ Rs. 3000/- to provide one time meal for a day, for 100 street children
☐ Rs. 12,000/- to provide one time meal for a week, for 100 street children

Health Programs
☐ Rs. 2,500/- to support a bed ridden patient for a month
☐ Rs. 3,000/- to provide monthly medical check up, for 100 street children
☐ Rs. 9,000/- to provide quarterly medical check up, for 100 street children
☐ Rs. 9,000/- to provide initial care and support to a destitute
☐ Rs. 10,000/- to conduct medical check ups & provide medicine at rural village (for 300 people)

Income generation programs for rural women and farmers
☐ Rs. 4,000/- to provide initial support for organic farming
☐ Rs. 4,000/- to provide initial support for small scale IGP
☐ Rs. 5,000/- to provide two goats to a needy family in a rural village helping them for a steady income

Shelter Programs
☐ Rs. 7,000/- to provide partial support to build a house
☐ Rs. 15,000/- to provide major support to build a house
☐ Rs. 25,000/- to provide full support to build a house

☐ By Cheque ☐ or DD ☐ No. _____
Dated _____ In favour of **KARUNYA TRUST, Bishop's House, P.B. No. 8434, IIT P.O., Powai, Mumbai - 76, Maharashtra, India.**

In Kind ☐
☐ Library books for children
☐ Stationary
☐ Sports items
☐ Dress materials
☐ (other)

My voluntary service ☐
My proficiency _____

We will provide you with regular updates and the impact of your contribution in changing the lives of people in turn through our newsletters, reports & photographs etc.

My Name

:

My Address

:

E-mail

:

Ph. / Cell No.

:



Cut & Post this form to:
The Director, Karunya Trust
Bishop's House, P.B. No. 8434, IIT P.O., Powai, Mumbai - 76, Maharashtra, India.

Let us meet at:
e-mail: karunyatrust@hotmail.com;
Website: www.karunyatrustonline.org
Blog: karunyatrust.blogspot.com
Facebook: Karunya Trust, Diocese of Kalyan

“Welcome to Karunya Trust, Your presence and suggestions are valued in our organization”