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ELEVATE

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EDITOR'S NOTE

We are delighted to present the first edition of our Social Apostolate magazine, where we celebrate the power of community and the spirit of togetherness. In today's fast-paced and increasingly individualistic world, it is more important than ever to foster connections and build meaningful relationships. In this issue, we bring you a range of interventions and uplifting stories, from individuals and marginalized communities who are leading the way in the efforts for entitlements, justice, and equality. We also showcase the incredible work of volunteers and activists who are working tirelessly to create a brighter future for all. At the heart of our magazine is the belief that together, we can create a better world. We hope that you find this edition of our social Apostolate magazine both informative and inspiring and that it encourages you to become an active participant in your community and a force for positive change in our world.

Sr. Suguna Francis

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1. Legally Aware

They know their rights!

A senior advocate named Mr. Venkateswarlu conducted an awareness program on child rights for 50 women. During the program, he educated the women on how to protect their children from exploitation and abuse and also made them aware of their responsibilities towards their children.

The women were informed about the consequences of violating child rights, and how they could prevent such instances. Mr. Venkateswarlu emphasized that parents must provide basic needs like shelter, food, clothing, education, and medical care to their children until they attain the age of 18. Additionally, he explained the importance of emotional and social nurturing, as it helps children grow into responsible and empathetic individuals in society. Parents were advised to create a safe home environment for their children, free from all forms of abuse and neglect. Overall, the awareness program helped the women to understand their roles and responsibilities as parents, and the importance of protecting the rights of their children.

Jaggayyapet

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2. Women got Wings

Womens Day Celebration

Our center celebrated International Women's Day on March 8th with a grand event. Mrs. Thaneeru Sudha Rani, the correspondent of Vignan High School, and Sr. Mary Anto, the Superior of Jaggayyapet community, graced the occasion as the chief guests.

The highlight of the event was a powerful motivational speech delivered by Mrs. Sudha Rani, who encouraged and appreciated the women present to continue excelling and fighting for their rights. She emphasized the need for women to stay determined, no matter what challenges they face, and never give up. Mrs. Sudha Rani also highlighted the importance of unity among women and the valuable role they play in the family.



Avanigadda

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3. Naturally Nurtured

Organic Farming

In Umwahlang village of West Khasi Hills district, farmers are engaged in the cultivation of various crops such as paddy, ginger, potato, and vegetables using organic farming methods without any pesticides. To support their efforts, we collaborated with the Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA) to register 42 farmer groups and provide them with training and awareness programs to enhance their organic farming skills and productivity

Through this initiative, we aim to promote sustainable and eco-friendly agricultural practices in the region while also empowering local farmers to improve their livelihoods. The use of organic farming methods not only contributes to preserving the environment but also provides healthier produce for consumers. Our partnership with MBMA has been instrumental in providing the necessary resources and knowledge to farmers, helping them to become self-sufficient and build a more sustainable future.



Umwahlang, Meghalay

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4. The New Feathers in Their Hats

Internship

Sarvajana Sneha Charitable Trust organized an internship program for 37 students from Government Degree College and Pratibha College Tiruvuru. The program included various activities such as tailoring, computer training, spoken English classes, and motivational sessions on topics such as career guidance, time management, and stress management.

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This initiative by the government provided the students with an opportunity to prepare for a better future by exposing them to different fields and helping them to develop skills to deal with stressful situations. The program also helped to build self-confidence and tap into the students' talents, making them realize their self-worth. It equipped them with the necessary skills to earn a livelihood, even if they did not get a job according to their qualifications. Overall, the program was a unique and valuable experience for both the students and the center.

Tiruvur



5. CNC TechPro

Computerized Numerical Control

Thirteen girls, who were either orphans, semi-orphans, or from poor backgrounds, stayed at St. Ann's Sneha Bhavan shelter home in Chakan, Pune, and completed a six-month course in Computerized Numerical Control (CNC) from Rasquinha Don Bosco Technical School.

They received certificates for completing the course in February 2022. Ten of the girls were sponsored by the NGO Pandita Rama bai Mukti Mission for their education, while the remaining three came from other backgrounds. St. Ann's Sneha Bhavan provided accommodation and necessary support to enable them to complete the course. These girls have now secured employment in various companies.



Chakan, Pune

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6. Stitching a Brighter Future

Empowering Tribal Girls Through Tailoring and Garment Making

St. Ann's Sneha Bhavan in Chakan, Pune took a noble initiative to empower 22 tribal girls from Takar vasti by training them in the art of tailoring and garment making. These girls belonged to poor backgrounds and had to work in fields away from their homes to earn their livelihoods. However, the staff at St. Ann's Sneha Bhavan motivated them to join the tailoring course, and 22 girls enrolled in 2 batches. The course was taught to them free of cost, and within just 6 months, these girls learned the skill of tailoring and garment making. They were able to make fashionable dresses and garments, and were awarded certificates from St. Ann's Sneha Bhavan upon completion of the course.

The most inspiring aspect of this initiative was that the girls were able to use their newly acquired skills to generate income. They were able to find customers for their products and earn a living. This not only empowered them economically, but also gave them a sense of pride and selfworth. This initiative played a significant role in transforming the lives of these 22 tribal girls from Takar vasti, giving them a new hope and a better future. It is initiatives like these that can help bridge the gap between the rich and the poor and create a more equal society.

Chakan, Pune

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7. Self-Confidence for a Brighter Future

Skill Training Programme

We have taken a step towards empowering young girls who had to drop out of school for various reasons. Our skill training program focuses on improving their computer skills, spoken English, and tailoring abilities, which are essential for them to become self-reliant in life.

The program provides free residential facilities to the 30 girls who are part of it. By teaching them basic computer knowledge and spoken English, we aim to equip them with the necessary skills to work in different sectors. The tailoring classes will teach them valuable skills that can help them earn a livelihood. Our goal is to instill confidence in them and help them build a brighter future where they do not have to depend on others.



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8. Planting Seeds of Change

Children Eco-club

The Avanigadda Children Eco-Club is a unique initiative that aims to educate 50 students about ecology and environmental protection. Through this club, children learn about the significance of conserving natural resources and become aware of their role in protecting the environment. The club teaches them about various aspects of ecology, such as water conservation, plant and animal life, and deforestation. Moreover, it promotes gender equality and instills in children the importance of respecting all individuals.

To make the learning experience more enjoyable and effective, the club conducts various activities and games. Children participate in tree planting drives, create seed bombs, and engage in other eco-friendly activities. By participating in such activities, children not only learn about the environment but also understand how to take action to protect it. Through the Avanigadda Children Eco-Club, children become responsible citizens who are mindful of their actions and understand their role in preserving the environment.



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9. With Love and Compassion ... to society and community



Social Apostolate Day

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Mother Walburga Schmid, Keerthi Mahila Gangam held a Social Apostolate Day on April 26th. Women from the Keerthi MACS organization came forward to help the poor in their community. The leaders of the group collected Rs. 41,800 from members and used it to buy provisions, which they distributed to 22 widows, 5 differently-abled individuals, 5 orphans, and 40 elderly and destitute people.

Jaggayyapet

On the occasion of Social Apostolate Day, we had a small gathering where we celebrated by helping widows in need. The event started at 10:30 am with a prayer, and a few of the board members and group leaders joined us. We took this opportunity to explain the work of our society and how the sisters started this apostolate by visiting families and recognizing the need to help the poor. We also highlighted how this work has continued with other sisters.

To support the cause, the board members initiated collecting twelve rupees per year from members, and we gathered the amount to help 60 widows who were in need. We provided them with provisions and also served them tea and snacks. The widows expressed their gratitude for our small but significant help, and we were glad to have made a positive impact on their lives.

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10. Success story

In Rajavaram and surrounding villages, we have initiated an effort to support 10 young people and women in earning alternative income through selfemployment. By leveraging their existing skills and knowledge, we have empowered them to become self-reliant and gain financial independence.

We have provided them with necessary resources and financial assistance, enabling them to establish their own enterprises in their local communities. This has boosted their confidence and improved their standard of living. For instance, D. Meramma from Bothanapalli, who lost her husband and mother-in-law during the pandemic and has two partially disabled sons, now has an additional source of income through selfemployment. Similarly, Golla Ratna Kumari from Edara has been able to set up a successful petti shop and a small tiffin center, earning a daily income of Rs. 800-1000. This initiative has not only helped individuals in their personal growth and development but also contributed towards the socio-economic growth of the local communities.

Rajavaram

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11. Overcoming Adversity: Ramalakshmi's Journey of Resilience



Ramalakshmi, a 70-year-old woman, was found in a dumpyard in Mangalagiri, alone and in a state of depression. She was rescued by the police department and brought to our Asha Kiran Destitute Home, Nunna. Upon examination, it was found that she had several health issues, including a severe bone infection in her right leg. She was immediately provided with medical treatment and counseling to help her overcome her psychological trauma

Despite her age and health challenges, Ramalakshmi was determined to recover and live a happy life. Doctors worked with her closely at St. Ann's Hospital in Vijayawada, who diagnosed her condition and treated her with great care and attention. With their help and her own perseverance, she was able to recover from her illness and regain her strength.

Today, Ramalakshmi is living a healthy and happy life in our destitute home. She has been provided with a safe and comfortable place to stay, along with the medical and psychological care she needs.

Nunna

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12. From Doubt to Conviction

Sunil Kale, a farmer from Chakan, had been struggling to make ends meet with conventional farming techniques. It was becoming increasingly difficult for him to earn a livelihood and support his family. That is when the staff of St. Ann's Snehha Bhavan stepped in and introduced him to the concept of organic farming.

Initially hesitant, Sunil Kale decided to give it a try and began the process of transitioning to organic farming in 2020. With the guidance and support of St. Ann's Snehha Bhavan, he learned the necessary techniques and practices required for successful organic farming.

Fast forward to 2023, and Sunil Kale is now a successful organic farmer with a bountiful harvest every season. He has grown a variety of crops using organic farming techniques, and he has never experienced a loss since making the switch. Sunil Kale is now a firm believer in organic farming and the positive impact it has had on his life.

The success story of Sunil Kale is a testament to the transformative power of organic farming and the importance of supporting and promoting sustainable agriculture practices. It is heartening to see the impact that a little bit of guidance and support can have on the lives of individuals and communities, and we hope that more people will be inspired to make the switch to organic farming in the future.

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"I am happy and grateful to St. Ann's for helping me opt for organic farming," says Sunil Kale with a smile. "Their guidance and support have made a world of difference, and I can't imagine going back to conventional farming methods."

Chakan, Pune





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