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ELEVATE

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EDITOR'S DESK

*"INDIVIDUALLY, WE ARE ONE DROP. TOGETHER, WE ARE AN OCEAN."
- RYUNOSUKE SATORO*

In a world brimming with challenges and complexities, the St. Ann Sisters have emerged as beacons of hope and agents of change, sailing together to empower people and create a healthier, more equitable society. With a holistic approach encompassing child-friendly programs, youth welfare activities, marginalized community support, climate resilience initiatives, and environmental protection efforts, they epitomize the spirit of collective action for a better world.

As Mahatma Gandhi once said, "The future depends on what you do today." Recognizing the truth in these words, the St. Ann Sisters have embarked on child-friendly programs that not only nurture young minds but also sow the seeds of consciousness. Through education, creativity, and encouragement, they provide a fertile ground for the leaders of tomorrow to flourish.

In the words of Mother Teresa, "It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving." The St. Ann Sisters embody this philosophy as they reach out to marginalized communities, standing beside them to build resilience in the face of challenges. Through their tireless efforts, they foster well-being, instilling hope and transforming lives one step at a time.

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now." - Chinese Proverb. In a world grappling with the effects of climate change, the St. Ann Sisters take action that aligns perfectly with this adage. By building climate-resilient communities, they not only mitigate the impacts of environmental shifts but also empower individuals to be stewards of their surroundings. Through education, sustainable practices, and community involvement, they sow the seeds for a greener, safer world.

In the tapestry of social engagement, the St. Ann Sisters' efforts stand as vibrant threads, weaving a narrative of empowerment, resilience, and unity. Their dedication exemplifies the power of collective action, reminding stakeholders that when we sail together towards a common purpose, we can weather any storm and navigate towards a brighter horizon.

"We cannot accomplish all that we need to do without working together." - Bill Richardson

Sr. Suguna Francis SAL

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SEEDING CHANGE

ONE VOICE FOR MOTHER EARTH

*THE MEGA ENVIRONMENTAL
RALLY'S INSPIRING CALL*



On June 28th, the "Mega Environmental Rally" brought together a diverse range of participants, including schoolchildren, K.C.P cement factory employees, and government officials. The rally featured active involvement from schoolchildren, women, men, staff of K.C.P cement factory, and government officials, including notable persons; Sri Sreeram Rajagopal Rao, the former MLA of Jaggayyapet, Mrs. Samineny Vimala Banu, Sri Ch. Malleswarao, the Municipal Commissioner, Sri R. Ragavendra Rao, Municipal Chairman, Sir Prabhakar Rao, Municipal Vice Chairman, Sri. Ramarao SI, Sri. Madhusudana Rao, the Vice President of KCP Factory, Sri. Vidhya Sagar, Forest Range Officer, and various ward members, totalling an impressive participation of around 900 individuals.

Uniting communities, the rally emphasized responsibility for our planet. It prompted joint efforts to address critical environmental issues, highlighting the impacts of pollution, deforestation and climate change. This collective movement advocated for a sustainable planet. The underlying urgency, emphasized the need of preserving the environment for the well-being of current and future generations. The rally intended to pave the way for a cleaner and greener world, driving transformative behavioral changes.

In essence, the "Megha Environmental Rally" served as a beacon of awareness, igniting a fervent movement dedicated to nurturing a healthier planet. Its ripple effect aimed to inspire positive shifts in behavior and practices, ultimately leading to a legacy of environmental harmony passed down to generations to come.



UNITY IS STRENGTH



The united efforts of the women of Dahiphal and Mali Chincholi village in Beed district and the continuous motivation of St. Ann's Social Centre have resulted in getting the road in the village approved and the work has started.

We have successfully trained women to participate in Gram Sabhas which is the local governing system and avail government schemes for their own benefit as well as the development of their villages. The women have now realized that unless they come together and ask for their rights it will never be theirs. One by one they are now becoming politically literate and aware of things that affect them.

Dahiphal and Chincholi villages are nearly 20 km away from the city of Beed.

The people in the villages were ignorant, going to the city was no less than a nightmare as there was no proper road. The absence of road maintenance, coupled with the constant passage of heavy trucks supplying cement factories, has resulted in accidents and fatalities among village commuters due to ditches, potholes, and pits along the route. We initiated awareness programs and meetings, educating the villagers. The women of the village in the gram sabha submitted a written application for the maintenance of the road and street lights to the District collector. After the Gram Sabha the women did not remain passive but took part in a rally in front of the Collectorate demanding the construction of the road.

It was the first time women came out and had a direct dialogue with the District collector in the month of July 2023. The Collector in return promised to look into the matter and do the needful. Within a month's time, the surveying was conducted and funds have been allocated to the concerned department. So far, 6 roads connecting to nearby villages have already been constructed and within the month of August, the road from Dahiphal and Chincholi is expected to complete.

"It has instilled in us a lot of confidence that we too can get things done", says Renuka Bandhal one of the women leaders of the village.

Beed, Maharashtra



INNOVATIVE ACTIVISM IN ACTION

A powerful display of youthful environmental activism, the children of Avanigadda's Eco-Club organized a unique toy sale to raise funds for climate change initiatives. With a clear understanding of the threats their future faces, these young advocates crafted toys, attracting community support and attention.

On the event of Green Carnival, showcased the children's resourcefulness and commitment to sustainability. The toys, not only raised funds but also promoted eco-consciousness.



Funds generated from the toy sale will be directed towards planting trees, awareness creation and environmental education. The Eco-Club's youngsters exemplify the potential for all ages to drive positive change.

Avanigadda, Andhra Pradesh

Small Hands, Big Impact: Kids Take a Stand for the Environment

On August 11, 2023, a tree plantation drive was held at Zilla Parishad School in Waki Khurd Gram Panchayat, Chakan, aimed at sensitizing children towards environmental care. The event featured a succinct program with a talk by a representative from St. Ann's Sneha Bhavan. School management, including Principal Mr. Bache, Vice Principal Mr. Borade, and staff participated. The enthusiastic children took charge of planting 20 saplings class-wise around the school premises. Their active involvement and commitment were evident as they pledged to nurture and protect the newly planted trees.



RISING STRONG

*GUIDING YOUTH TOWARDS
HOLISTIC PERSONALITY
DEVELOPMENT*



A "Personality Development" program for youth was conducted in the month of July, and 50 youths participated in the workshop. The program was designed to empower young individuals with essential skills and insights for personal growth and self-improvement. Mr. Mahitha Raju, an esteemed expert in the field of personality development, served as the resource person for the session.

Key topics included self-reflection, self-awareness, goal setting and planning, and time management. Interactive sessions, such as group discussions and the sharing of personal experiences and challenges, fostered a supportive learning environment. Most of the participants opined that it was a transformative event.

Jaggayyapet, Andhra Pradesh



06.

Training on Organic Farming

On July 27, 2023 a training session for farmers focused on the practices of organic farming was organized, along with exploring potential livelihood opportunities. Mr. Eknath Karale, a recognized trainer and an expert organic farmer trained 53 farmers. The impact of the session was evident as these farmers gained an awareness and appreciation for organic farming practices.



Our commitment to spreading the benefits of organic farming extended beyond this event. Over the course of just two months, we successfully reached out to and sensitized an additional 75 farmers in the surrounding villages. Through a combination of hands-on guidance, on-site visits, engaging discussions, information sharing, and training sessions, these new farmers have begun to embrace the principles of organic farming.

Interactions with these farmers revealed their genuine interest and eagerness to delve deeper into the realm of organic farming. While they understand the fundamental concept of organic farming as a zero-budget approach, it's worth noting that some apprehension exists regarding its perceived slower pace and the delay in achieving immediate results.

Chakan, Maharashtra

BLOSSOMING BEYOND BOUNDARIES

Ms. Asha (name changed) is a minor girl. Her life took an unfortunate turn when she lost her mother at just one year old. Left in the care of her father and stepmother, she grew up in the shadow of her longing for maternal love. Her early years were marked by a profound sense of loss and a yearning for care.

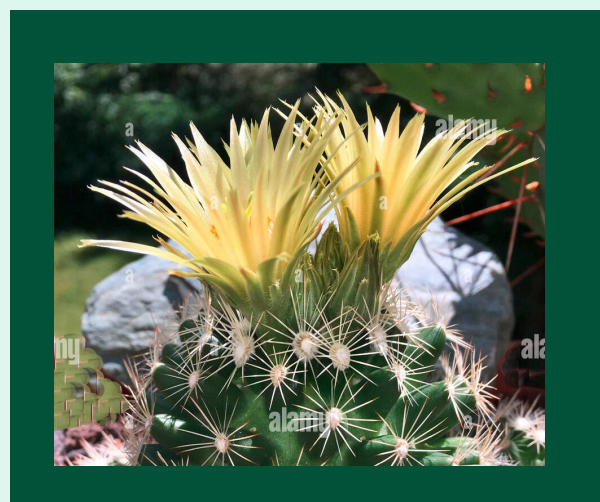
When she turned five, Asha was enrolled in school. Despite her challenging home life, she clung to a dream that seemed to light up her days - a dream of becoming a teacher. However, life had more challenges in store for Asha. Her stepmother's indifference was unbearable. Still, fate had other plans as she was pushed into an arranged marriage at 16, an age where dreams of education and self-discovery should have taken precedence.

She fell ill due to her circumstances, and the recovery period became a time of reflection. She found herself at a crossroads, torn between societal expectations and her own aspirations. With the guidance of a kind-hearted neighbor, Asha mustered the courage to take matters into her own hands. Filing a case against her parents, she sought liberation from the suffocating constraints of her circumstances. This brave step paved the way for a new chapter in her life.

With the help of the police, she reached Meyers's home in Mangalagiri. There, she found more than just shelter; she discovered a supportive community that valued her and believed in her potential. The safety and encouragement she found at Meyers's home rekindled the flames of her dreams. Determined to rise above her past and the challenges she faced, Asha now desires to pursue her studies and secure a government job.

Asha's story is one of resilience and hope, a testament to the power of the human spirit to overcome adversity. From the depths of hardship, she emerged as a beacon of inspiration, a symbol of the transformative journey from a vulnerable child to a determined young woman charting her own course.

Crisis Intervention Center –
Mangalagiri, Andhra Pradesh



HARVESTING HOPE

The support initiative for local farmers has yielded tangible outcomes, as we enabled the farmers to avail a diverse range of services offered by KVK (Krishi Vigyan Kendra) of West Khasi Hills. A number of schemes have been provided to support local farmers, including:

- On 28th July, the distribution of seeds and fruit saplings for 109 farmers in 6 villages for free of cost.
- A significant development is the establishment of a farm school in Umwahlang, which has brought immense joy to the villagers. This initiative was initiated after consultations with the Agriculture Department at the Block Office. On August 10th, a visit was conducted to the chosen site for the farm school by Mr. Richborn Marwein, the block technology manager, and Mr. Fullmoon Puhwein.
- An informative training program was conducted by the Agriculture Department on July 20th. The program aimed to educate farmers on effective paddy field cultivation techniques, drawing the participation of 52 farmers.

These efforts collectively contribute to the growth of sustainable agriculture practices and the empowerment of local farming communities.

UMWAHLANG, MEGHALAYA



ORCHARD MISSION FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Launched in July 2023, the Orchard Mission Initiative seeks to empower marginalized individuals by offering financial aid for the plantation of mango saplings across ten acres of land. This innovative program is dedicated to fostering sustainable livelihoods among farmers, while concurrently promoting eco-consciousness. At its core, the initiative is designed to guarantee income stability and enhance climate resilience for socially disadvantaged communities.

Through this project, a carefully chosen group of ten farmers have been provided with comprehensive assistance to facilitate the successful planting of mango saplings. This initiative not only aims to enhance farmers' economic prospects but also aims to promote environment-friendly approaches, aligning with the principles of ecological sustainability. By offering financial support and guidance in growing mango orchards, the initiative aspires to create a positive cycle of prosperity for these farmers, thereby aiding in poverty alleviation and ensuring long-term food security.

S.A. Peta, Andhra Pradesh



BRIDGING HEALTH CARE GAPS THROUGH MEDICAL CAMPS

A medical camp was organized in Umwahlang to provide essential healthcare services to the community, addressing the lack of accessible medical care. The PHC Nonglang; doctors and nurses offered their commendable services. Prior to the camp, Dr. Phoshna delivered a health talk on various crucial topics:

- Importance of consuming nutritious foods to maintain good health and overall well-being.
- The adverse effects of child marriage on physical and emotional well-being.
- Balanced diet for pregnant women, ensuring their health and the health of their unborn children.
- Encouraged to undergo regular health check-ups and to choose hospital deliveries instead of home births for safer childbirth experiences.

The medical camp included general health check-ups and the distribution of medicines. This initiative successfully catered to the needs of the community, with a total of 127 individuals benefiting from these services.

Umwahlang, Meghalaya





NURTURING TALENT

Commencing in August 2023, our centre at Tiruvur is presently in the midst of an enriching internship program, hosting a cohort of forty-two students from Govt Degree College. This comprehensive two-month initiative is centered around providing these students with invaluable hands-on experience in tailoring and beautician courses. The program not only emphasizes the acquisition of practical skills but also includes weekly interactive sessions aimed at fostering a well-rounded development approach. These sessions encompass a spectrum of vital subjects, ranging from career guidance and leadership to honing one's personality traits.

Tiruvur, Andhra Pradesh

PATHWAYS TO PROGRESS

In the month of July 2023, an initiative was undertaken in Rajavaram to uplift the economic prospects of twelve individuals. This effort involved providing them with financial assistance tailored to facilitate alternative livelihood avenues. The recipients of this support were individuals engaged in various occupations, including daily wage earners, farmers, seasonal laborers, and construction workers.

The financial assistance aimed to improve income and overall stability. Daily wage earners got a chance to explore steady income sources. Farmers got resources to diversify crops and adopt modern techniques for better yield. Seasonal laborers could tap into extra income during off-peak times. Construction workers, often underprivileged, could develop supplementary earnings for improved financial security.

This initiative signifies a step towards reducing economic vulnerabilities and enhancing the livelihoods of these families. By supporting individuals from various walks of life, the project aims to lay the foundation for sustainable economic growth. Through these measures, Rajavaram is fostering an environment where individuals can transition towards greater financial stability and self-reliance, thereby ensuring a more secure and prosperous future for themselves and their families.

Rajavaram, Andhra Pradesh



UNITING FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

PARTNERING WITH THE NATIONAL COOPERATIVE UNION OF INDIA



In collaboration with the National Cooperative Union of India, a range of skill training programs has been organized with the aim of empowering young women through essential skills. These initiatives have enabled them to acquire expertise in tailoring and beautician services. A total of 55 young women from Tiruvur have benefited from these programs. A sample program on candle making was conducted in Lakshmipuram, and a planning session, along with a sample program, was carried out to establish a jute bag production unit at Perzzonipet. The official launch of these impactful programs was honored by the presence of Chandra Sekhar Azar, who serves as the manager of Krishna Zilla Sahakarna Bank.

Tiruvur, Andhra Pradesh



MEASURING IMPACT WITH DATA



The 5-Day Data Computation Programme, organized for sisters actively engaged in Social Apostolate, was a remarkable achievement. Guided by Mr. Darshan, the event took place from August 9th to 13th, 2023, in Nunna. The program was exclusively tailored to empower sisters involved in Social Apostolate by equipping them with essential data skills. The primary objective was to enhance their capacity to collect, analyze, and effectively utilize data to elevate their Social Apostolate efforts. The success of the 5-Day Data Computation Programme, spearheaded by Mr. Darshan, was profoundly impactful for us sisters. We gained invaluable data skills that will undoubtedly amplify the effectiveness of our Social Apostolate work.

Nunna, Andhra Pradesh



SEEDING CHANGE

In an encouraging display of community-driven environmental action, children and women from the regions of Nunna, Avanigadda, Jaggayyapet, and Rajavaram have come together to prepare seed bombs with the dual purpose of enhancing green cover and fostering discussions about biodiversity preservation. The initiative, undertaken with great enthusiasm, has seen the active participation of locals who are concerned about the diminishing presence of numerous species. Throughout the initiative, participants engaged in conversations about the intricate web of biodiversity and the alarming disappearance of thousands of species globally. These discussions have served as an educational platform, raising awareness about the importance of maintaining a rich variety of life forms for the planet's health and equilibrium.

The collaborative effort has yielded impressive results, resulting in the creation of around 30,000 seed bombs during the current year alone. A remarkable aspect of this endeavor is that the seeds used in crafting the seed bombs were sourced by the children and women themselves, showcasing their commitment to the cause.

SSC Trust, Andhra Pradesh

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Thank
YOU

