



# DBAI NEWSLETTER



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## EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

### *Don Bosco: A Journey from 'Fatherless' boy to 'Father and Friend of the young'*



I am indeed very happy to share with you the life of Don Bosco, who is the source and inspiration for our mission in Don Bosco Anbu Illam, Chennai.

Don Bosco, an Italian Catholic Priest was born on 16 August, 1815 at Becchi in Castelnuovo d' Asti, Italy. When he was barely two years old, he lost his father. Family situation could not support his studies but he was determined to study and become a priest. He joined the seminary at Chieri in Turin and was ordained a priest on 5 June, 1841.

In the wake of the winds of industrial revolution, urbanization, political unrest, moral and religious emptiness that swept across Italy, Don Bosco found young people who migrate to the cities in search of labour being exploited and becoming victims of situations. The sight of countless young people behind bars of the prison mostly for minor crimes moved him to respond to the situation and dedicate his life for their betterment. In this way the mysterious dream he had at the age of nine began unveiling to him the path of his mission.

He welcomed the brick layers, blacksmiths, chimney sweeps, street urchins, young delinquents, the homeless and the abandoned and gave them trades in shoe making, turning the lathe, carpentry, printing press, tailoring and prepared them to be honest and responsible citizens. This won him admiration and respect from both the church and the state authorities.

Don Bosco breathed his last on 31 January 1888 at the age of 73. Acknowledging his contribution, the Church conferred on him the title 'Father and friend of the young'. The mission of Don Bosco is presently carried out in over 134 countries with more than 15, 000 of his followers fulfilling his dream of educating young people for life.

On 27<sup>th</sup> January Family day was celebrated to thank and appreciate the sponsors and well wishers who help us in actualizing the dream of Don Bosco for Anbu illam Children. The feast of Don Bosco was celebrated in a grand manner on 31 January. This edition of E-News reaches you as Bi-Monthly bringing highlights of December 2017 and January 2018.

**That you are young is enough for me to love you – Don Bosco**

**Fr. Joseph Leo – Director**

## ***DBAI SHELTER HOME PROGRAMMES***

### ***CHRISTMAS WITH SHELTER HOME CHILDREN***



The cutting of ribbon to open the much awaited traditional crib prepared by the children set the celebration mood for the Christmas celebration at Bosco Illam on 23 December, 2017. A meaningful prayer service was followed by creative stage performances prepared on the theme. The Children were presented with special gifts and Christmas dresses which they themselves selected weeks before the celebration. To add to their surprise, they were thrilled upon seeing a heap of hot pizzas and soft drinks that arrived in time as their surprise festive dinner for the evening. DBAI thanks its generous sponsors and well wishers for making this Christmas celebration a memorable one for our deserving children.

**-Bro. Jerome Cyril**

### ***FOLKLORE TRAINING FOR SHELTER HOME CHILDREN***

The shelter home children were exposed to picking up cultural art forms like 'Parai, Oyil, Karagam, Kolattam and Street Theatre during Pongal celebration from 13-16 January, 2018. The children actively involved themselves in the training and perfected the art forms taught to them. On the last day of the training they performed the art forms learnt before the staff and other children. Special thanks to Mr. Dinesh, our former DBAI Staff, Mr. Anand and Ms. Lilly who trained the children in these art forms.



**-Bro.Cruz Robert**

### ***MEDALS HAUL FOR BOSCO ILLAM CHILDREN IN KARATE***



The 24<sup>th</sup> Chennai Inter-school Sports Karate Championship was held at St. George Anglo Indian Hr. Sec. School, Shenoy Nagar, Chennai, on 28 January, 2018. More than 600 Children from various Schools participated in the competition for championship. Four of our children from Bosco Illam participated in the competitions and bagged five medals and certificates. Master P. Akash, secured first prize in Katta and Fight respectively while Masters. Shankar, Siva Subramani and M.Vijay finished third in Katta according to their age category. Special thanks to Master. P.K. Kishore Kumar, who trained the children and SSA, Chennai, for adding feathers to the cap of the children.

**-Mr.Antony**



### **GRAND CELEBRATION OF DON BOSCO FEAST IN DBAI**

The feast of St. John Bosco was celebrated with great pomp and solemnity on 31 January, 2018. Rev. Fr. Don Bosco, the Vice-Provincial of Salesian Province of Chennai presided over the Eucharist and graced the occasion. The shelter home children staged spectacular cultural programmes during the event which were both entertaining and educative. The postponed birthday celebration of Fr. Bosco and Br. Arul was also celebrated along with the feast. They were appreciated and thanked for their selfless service to the growth of DBAI.



**-Bro.Jerome Cyril**

### **DBAI CELEBRATES FAMILY DAY**

Don Bosco Anbu Illam received its benefactors and well wishers who help the shelter home children in various ways (Education, Medicine, Food and other needs) and thanked them for their much valued unfailing help in bringing up our children. 175 well-wishers from 65 families turned out for the event on 28 January, 2018. Fr. Bosco Francis, addressed the gathering on the art of 'Listening and Accompaniment' (Strenna 2018) with focus to today's family life and highlighted the importance of responsible parenting. It was followed by a row of cultural events performed by our children. The guests were screened a video that presented the highlights of the annual year 2017, underlining their contribution in actualizing them. Fr. Joseph Leo, the director thanked the benefactors and invited them to join hands with DBAI in ensuring happy childhood for our deserving children.



**Bro.Jerome Cyril**



### **SEMINAR FOR SHELTER HOME CHILDREN**



Seminar on title 'Vettri Kodi Kattu' (Path to success) was organized for the shelter home children on 8 January, 2018. Dr. Einstein, Psychologist and Counselor was the resource person. His inspirational talk aimed at improving the self-esteem and self-confidence in the children to appreciate themselves and prepared them to face life situations. Videos screening, ice-break games and actions songs used as strategies to strengthen the theme. 25 boys benefitted from this seminar.

**-Bro.Cruz Robert**

### **WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME**

#### **SKILL TRAINING FOR WOMEN'S GROUP**



Don Bosco Anbu Illam organized Skill Training programme on Jewel making (Jimikki Kamal) for women's group at Thiruvottiyur Club on 25 January, 2018. More than 30 women participated in the programme. After initial inputs and demos, the participants came out with creative and personalized designs of their own.

**- Ms.Margaret Malini**

#### **SEMINAR ON POCSO ACT AND PARENTING SKILLS**



Seminar on the POCSO Act and Parenting Skills was conducted for our beneficiaries in three community centers. Ms. Gifty, a freelancer on Social Awareness, was the resource person of the day. The seminar was aimed at instructing on the prevention against sexual offences and responsible parenting. Around 150 people attended this seminar and got benefitted.

**-Mr.Revanth Kumar**



## **STAFF SUPPORTIVE SERVICES**

### **DBAI STAFF CHRISTMAS 2017**



DBAI staff came together for Christmas celebration on 23 December, 2017. A meaningful Eucharist celebration was presided over by Fr. Joseph Leo, the Rector and Director. It was followed by a well participated family circle, in which the staff performed their cultural items (making instant cribs, carols singing, Fun games, Christmas 'Thamasha') and exchanged their Christmas gifts with each other. The celebration came to its close with a fraternal agape.

**-Bro.Jerome Cyril**

### **DBAI STAFF ANIMATION—SOFT SKILLS & PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT**

Rev. Fr. Johnson, Rector - Don Bosco Technical Campus, Basin Bridge, Chennai, inaugurated the workshop on 'Soft Skills and Personality Development' for DBAI staff on 12 January, 2018. Mr. Vijayaganesh, (Tips Academy - Chennai) who conducted the workshop highlighted the importance of knowing the Self, Goal Setting, Management of Priorities, Decision Making in groups and importance of communication skills.

**-Ms.Margaret Malini**



### **STREET THEATER WORKSHOP FOR DBAI STAFF**



Dr. Kaleeswaran, Director - Alternative Media Center, Loyola College, Chennai, conducted a workshop on 'Street Theatre' for DBAI Staff on 13 January, 2018. The history and basics of street theatre, awareness songs and types of street theatre were covered in the workshop. Post lunch the staff divided themselves into four groups and performed street plays on child related topics like, Child Marriage, Child Abuse, Childline 1098 and Child Labour. The training was aimed at helping our staff effectively promote awareness at the community level.

**-Ms.Margaret Malini**



### DBAI STAFF CELEBRATE PONGAL WITH SHELTER HOME CHILDREN



The staff members of Don Bosco Anbu Illam celebrated pongal with shelter home children on 16 January, 2018. Mr. Pugazhenth, Inspector of Police, P6 Police Station, Kodungayur, Chennai, inaugurated the pongal celebration and addressed the children in Bosco Illam. The day was filled with number of traditional and cultural games and activities. The climax of the celebration was the volley ball match between the staff and the children. Special thanks to the staff who organized and spent an entire day with the children.

Few of our DBAI Staff celebrated pongal with Shelter Home Girls in Saranalayam, Madavaram, Chennai. Fr. Joseph Leo, the Rector and Director of DBAI presided over the function and encouraged the children. A number of creative games were conducted by the staff for the girls to make their day special.

**-Bro .Jerome Cyril**



### CHILDLINE INTERVENTION

#### CHILDLINE HELP DESK REACHES OUT IN MARINA BEACH'



The Childline unit of Don Bosco Anbu Illam, Chennai reached out in Marina Beach during peak Pongal days from 14 – 16 January, 2018. The purpose of the helpline desk was to prevent Child Missing in Marina Beach and to restore missing children. The Childline Staff and volunteers in collaboration with police officials rescued 70 children and restored them back to their parents and relatives after the necessary procedures. Awareness about Childline 1098, child safety, child rights and child sexual abuse was given to the general public and to those who visited the helpline desk.

**-Mr.Prabakaran**



## SEMINAR ON POCSO ACT 2012 FOR POLICE OFFICERS



The Childline unit of DBAI, organized a seminar on the POCSO ACT 2012 for Police Officers in Commissioner office, Chennai on 27 January 2018. Mr. A. K. Viswanathan, IPS, Commissioner of police, Chennai. Mrs. M.P. Nirmala IAS, Chairperson TNSCPCR and Prof. Dr. Vincent Comraj, Former principal of Law University, Tiruchy inaugurated the seminar. Mr. Sesai, IPS, Mrs. Sheela Mohan and Mrs. Roseline –Member, Child Welfare Committee, Fr. Joseph Leo, Director – DBAI and Prof. Andrews, Loyola College were the other guests of honour present for the occasion.

In the seminar Dr. Vincent Comraj presented the outline of the POCSO Act 2012 and Fr. Francis Bosco, Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee – Vilupuram, presented the Implication of the POCSO Act in the seminar. The panel discussion was headed by Mrs. M.P. NIRMALA, IAS. More than 170 Additional Commissioners, Joint Commissioners, Additional Deputy Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, Child Welfare Police Officers and Social Workers were the participants of the seminar.

-Mr.Prabakaran



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

### FREE EYE CAMP

DBAI organized a free eye medical camp in partnership with M N Hospital, Thondiarpet, Chennai on 22 December, 2017. Residents of Iyodhikuppam slum centre were the beneficiaries of the camp. More than hundred people were screened and helped with necessary medication.

-Mr.Jayaprakesh





### **HUMAN CHAIN**



Don Bosco Anbu Illam Scouts organized human chain formation to mark 'World Aids Day' near C-2 Elephant gate Police Station, Sowcarpet, Chennai on 01 December, 2017. Mr. Venkata Krishnan, the inspector of Police flagged off the human chain in the presence of Mr. Ravi, The Asst. Commisioner of Police and Fr. Joseph Leo, Director – DBAI. Mr. Elangovan, former Tahsildar and Mr. Selvanathan, traffic guardian of North Madras. The scouts raised slogans and distributed pamphlets to the bystanders and onlookers to create awareness.



**Mr.Ashok Bosco**

### **TRIPLE CELEBRATION IN THIRUVOTTIYUR CLUB**

Triple Celebration (Christmas, New Year and Pongal) was celebrated together in Thiruvottiyur Police Boys and girls club on 18 January 2018. Mr. Kumar, Sub-Inspector of Police, K-18 Police Station and Mrs. Rajeshwari, former headmistress, Royapuram presided over the programme. 75 children participated in the event in which children who scored good marks in half yearly exams were awarded. Children were provided with sweet pongal and sugar canes to double their joy.

**-Ms.Margaret Malini**





## YOUTH DAY CELEBRATION



Youth day was celebrated on 22 January, 2018 at Royapuram Centre. Young people from various communities like Kasimedu, Ondikuppam, Iyothi Nagar, Singaravelan Street and together with them Students from Theagaraya college participated in the celebration. Mr. Raj Robert (Inspector, N1Police Station, Royapuram, Chennai) was the chief guest, along with Mr. Gopi and Fr. Joseph Leo - DBAI Director. Our children from Thiruvottiyur and Royapuram gave thematic cultural performance. Around 160 young people had turned out for the event.

**- Mr.Revanth Kumar**

## CHILDREN'S MELA



"Children's Mela" was organized by DB-ICSC at Royapuram centre on 27 January 2018. Mr. Murugesan, Inspector of Police, Royapuram, Chennai) was the chief guest along with Mrs. Asha, Fr. Bosco and Fr. Leo Joseph, DBAI Director. More than 500 children turned up for the mega event from all the centres. They performed dance and mime on different themes. During the event Children's clubs were inaugurated and prizes were distributed for the rangoli competition winners.

**- Mr.Revanth Kumar**





## ***DBAI HCL GURUKUL***

### ***ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURE VISIT TO YELAGIRI HILLS***



DBAI in collaboration with HCL- Gurukul organized three days of environmental exposure trip from 2-4 December, 2017 for 60 Children belonging to eight Eco-clubs. Fr. Joseph Andrews, Department of Social work, Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur, oriented the children on "Ecological & Plantation Making" and Mr. Ashok Bosco, our DBAI staff facilitated a session on "Organic Food". Mr. Newton (Senior Project Manager, HCL Foundation) joined the children for the valedictory programme. Camp fire, visit to park and boat house were some highlights of the trip. For a number of children this was their maiden trip to the hills. They enjoyed the lush greens and the

cool climate of the hill station and carried back home both memories and lessons for life.

**-Mr.Jaya Babu**

### ***FREE MEDICAL CAMPS***

Special eye camps were conducted by DBAI HCL Gurukul clubs in Thoraipakkam, Arumpakkam and Chemmencherry police boys and girls clubs. M N Eye Hospital, Thondiarpet, Chennai, conducted these free medical camps on different dates for more than 250 club children and community people. 35 free spectacles were provided and 12 cataract operations were promised free of cost through these camps.



**-Mr.Jaya Babu**

### ***MOTIVATIONAL SESSION FOR MADURAVAYAL HCL CLUB***



DBAI HCL Gurukul club organized a motivational session for 150 children in T4 Maduravoyal Police Boys and Girls Club on 20 January 2018. Dr. Raj Kumar MBBS, MD, the resource person motivated the children by citing real examples from daily life and his case experiences he drew their attention to maintaining good health and remaining hygienic

**-Mr.Jaya Babu**



## ***MIGRANT YOUTH SERVICES***

### **AWARENESS ON LABOURERS REGISTRATION UNDER MANUAL LABOURERS WELFARE BOARD**

Awareness on Labourers registration and benefits under Manual workers welfare board was given on 12 January, 2018. The Tamilnadu Manual Workers Act of 1982, concerning the employment of manual workers, conditions of their work and security of their employment were insisted in the awareness programme. MSW students from Loyola College, Don Bosco Anbu illam and representatives from Centre for Fruit, Vegetable and Flower laborers in Koyambedu organized the event in fruit and vegetable markets. Pamphlets were distributed on Know-how of registration during the campaign.

### **MIGRANTS APP SERVICES**



Fr. Thomas Aquinas, the Secretary of YaR Forum, Delhi was with Chennai Migrants help Desk, from 01 – 04 January, 2018. He tried to understand from the grass root experience, the issues and the plight of the migrants in construction sites, daily wages, fisher folks, slums, and coolies. He also met experts in the field of migrants and discussed with them prime themes like online registration, placement services, availability of labour, social security benefits and grievance redressal. A new App to help the migrants is under preparation.

### **UPCOMING INTER-DISTRICT AND INTER-STATE SLUMS IN KANCHEEPURAM DISTRICT**

Tamil, Telugu and Hindi speaking Migrants have landed in big numbers in Kancheepuram district for construction and other menial works. There are also unorganized and unskilled workers in the industry making a living in these upcoming slums. Some of the immediate slums identified are Kannagi Nagar, Ezhil Nagar, Kumaran Nagar, Thulukannthamman Koil, Semmencherry and Perumbakkam. Having identified them evening study centres have been started in these slums. Thanks to MSW students from Madras Christian College for their contribution towards opening evening study centres in these deserving presences.



### **TOWARDS UNIONIZING**

Chennai Migrant help desk in collaboration with Sakthi Pengal Iyyakam, VIA Polur, Thiruvannamalai district organized Unorganized labourers Sangam formation meeting at Polur on 20 January, 2018. Leader representatives from these SHG'S were present for the meeting. All the unorganized labourers from Thiruvannamalai who are working in Koyambedu bus stand and markets were asked to come together for their labour rights and benefits. A separate village level migrant desk for the unorganized was also discussed in the meeting. Thanks to Sakthi Pengal Iyakkam and Fr. Samson for making this event successful.

**-Fr.Francis Bosco**



## HIGHLIGHTS

### RANGOLI COMPETITION



### PONGAL CELEBRATION



### REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION





### AWARENESS ROGRAM FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN



### TAILORING UNIT



### CHILDLINE AWARENESS IN HCL





## JOY OF GIVING



*(Distribution of Christmas Gifts )*

### EDITORIAL BOARD

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