

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME # 10, ISSUE - 1



# DON BOSCO ANBU ILLAM

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2025

Welcome to the latest edition of Voices of Hope, the official newsletter of Don Bosco Anbu Illam, Chennai. This publication serves as your comprehensive source for the latest updates, initiatives and progress at Don Bosco Anbu Illam. Our mission is to empower communities through impactful programs that promote well-being, education, and sustainable development, making a meaningful difference in the lives we touch.

**“To share, care and give children more and more of life’s best.”**

## ABOUT US

Don Bosco Anbu Illam Chennai is a Child Rights organization Started by Salesians of Don Bosco in 1985 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, South India. It's a globally well-networked organization which serves the young at risk, drawing Inspiration from Don Bosco, a Catholic priest from Italy. It Offers Residential care for street and working children and family-based care for vulnerable children in the slums and pavements. It is Registered under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration act 27 of 1975 S. No. 34/1986. Income tax exemption is available under 80G. The home is registered under JJ act 2015.

Don Bosco Anbu Illam operates multiple shelter homes dedicated to providing care and protection for children. Our organization extends its reach through various community centers, offering support and intervention to children in underserved areas. Through these initiatives, we aim to create a positive impact and foster a safe environment for children in need.



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## Director's Message

Dear Well-wishers of Don Bosco Anbu Illam,



Loving greetings from Fr. Andrews. I trust all of you are healthy, happy and blessed. As we move from January and February into March, we are all geared up to say goodbye to the winter and welcome to the summer. These are times where staying hydrated with traditional drinks like butter milk, nannari sarbath and koozh besides good old drinking water becomes very important for a healthy, happy and blessed time ahead.

March is also the month where we celebrate the spirit of womanhood. The greatest of all relationships is that of motherhood and as we remember all the women, we specially pray for their well-being to the Blessed Mother who intercedes for their health, safety, peace and happiness. Let us remember the women in our families and make not just the 8th of March, but every day of their lives special and memorable. Let us also remember the women who work in our institutions and learn to respect and value their contribution. I also take this opportunity to gently remind all of you that we have a lot of girl children in our children's home at Pope John Paul's Garden in Madhavaram. During the season of Lent, your blessings will double if you remember them fondly and in your own beautiful way, you make their lives just a little easier by your valuable help.

**May you all continue to be blessed and happy in the time to come.**

Lovingly,

**Fr. Andrews Stephen Raj sdb**

"Without confidence and love, there can be no true education. If you want to be loved, you must love yourselves, and make your children feel that you love them." – St. John Bosco

# Don Bosco Anbu Illam

## PONGAL AT BOSCO ILLAM WITH CHILDREN

DBAI celebrated Pongal on 11th January, 2025 at Bosco Illam with our children and Staff. The staff members conducted fun-filled traditional games for children and played along with them which brought the joy of togetherness. The Pongal was blessed by both Fr. Andrews Stephen Raj, Director and Fr. Regan Jude, Administrator of DBAI. The event ended with the core component of expressing gratitude to the nature and fellowship meal.



## PONGAL AT SARANALAYAM

On 14th of January 2025, The festival of Pongal was celebrated with great enthusiasm and traditional fervor at Saranalayam. The children, dressed in beautiful traditional attire, added charm and joy to the occasion. Girls adorned themselves in vibrant saris and pavadai sets. The highlight of the celebration was the preparation of Pongal in the entrance of the home, following the age-old customs. A traditional clay pot was used, and the dish was cooked over an open fire, symbolizing prosperity and gratitude towards nature. As the milk boiled over, the children joyfully chanted "Pongal o Pongal," marking the spirit of the festival. Father Regan graced the occasion and blessed the Pongal, invoking divine blessings for the well-being of all. After the blessing, the children eagerly relished the freshly prepared Pongal, savoring its rich and sweet taste. Following the feast, the children participated in various traditional games, adding an element of fun and excitement to the day.

## WOMEN'S PONGAL

The Vocational Training Centres celebrated Pongal on 25th January, 2025 at Bosco Illam which was a great success in bringing happiness to the women. They were all involved in various games and refreshed themselves. Also, they prepared variety of foods and shared with the children.



## PONGAL AT DBAI-HCLF PBGCS

The Pongal celebration was celebrated in all the 20 clubs by conducting competitions and games, also price distribution was carried out by the clubs. 850 Children actively participated in the program.



## ICPS PONGAL

Pongal celebration was held on 16th January 2025 at Bojaraja Nagar and Otteri ICPS centers.



## PBGC PONGAL

Pongal celebration was held at K5 Peravallur PBGC from 14th to 16th January, 2025 with Police officers and children. As part of this celebration, inter club Football match was conducted to add more joy to the event.



## A LONG AWAITED REUNION

At Bosco Illam, the Feast of the Founder St. John Bosco was celebrated with the Alumni of Don Bosco Anbu Illam on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2025. Members from different passed out years came together for the purpose of celebrating the founder. Additionally, the program created a space for all to cherish the good old memories and renew their friendships.



## FOUNDER'S DAY

The feast of St. John Bosco was celebrated with the DBAI staff on 31st January, 2025 at Bosco Illam. The day highlighted the programs such as quiz about St. John Bosco, fun filled games, The Holy Mass and fellowship meal. The event was more special to everyone because of the arrival of Former Directors of DBAI, Fr. Johnson Bashyam, SDB and Fr. Joseph Leo, SDB who concelebrated the eucharist mass along with our own religious.



## YAR DAY 2025

The Children from Bosco Illam and Saranalayam have participated in the Province level DB Young at Risk Day which was held on 02nd February, 2025 at Don Bosco Beatitudes, Vyasarpadi. Around 296 participants from Don Bosco Anbu Illam-Chennai & Kavrapettai, Don Bosco Beatitudes-Vyasarpadi, Anbagam – Pope John's Garden, ANAT Farm, We Live Foundation-Chennai, St. Thomas Orphanage, Marialaya-Chennai & Pothur have witnessed the program. Both our Shelter Home children has showcased their true talents and skills through various arts forms like dance, singing, mime and skit on DB YaR 2024-2025 theme of "Family is Where I Belong". at the close of the event, the children from Bosco Illam have bagged 2nd prize and Saranalayam secured 3rd prize. The valedictory function, graced by Mr. Churchill, CWC Member, Chennai Central and Mr. Daniel, Probation Officer, DCPU Chennai honored the winners and top academic achievers from the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades (2023-2024) at the province level. From DBAI, 3 students from 10<sup>th</sup> std and 4 students from 12<sup>th</sup> std received the prizes for placing in the top 5 in the province level.



## FRIENDLY VISIT

On 25th of January 2025, Saranalayam had the honor of welcoming three esteemed persons from the Netherland—a businessman, a neurologist, and a sportsman. As a gesture of hospitality, the children sang a heartfelt welcome song to the guests. Later, they the guests interacted with the children during which, the children placed curious questions and aspired to become a renowned personality like them. In turn, the guests appreciated the children and showed encouragement & support for their growth.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO BRO.WILLIAM

The Birthday of Bro Arun William was celebrated at Bosco illam on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 with the Children. They have expressed their sense of gratitude towards the birthday celebrant and staged a few cultural programs which added beauty to the event.



## DAY OUT TO MURASOLIMARAN PARK

On 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2025, A delightful and enriching day was organized for the children at Murasoli Maran Park, Perambur, during the evening hours. The children had a fun-filled experience at the park and attended the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Chennai Sangamam Namma Ooru Thiruvizha 2025 which demonstrated variety of traditional performances such as Naiyandi Melam, Karakam, Devarattam, Kadhakoottu, Pambayattam, Irai Nadanam and Rajasthan Ghoomar Dance.



## DLIC VISIT

On 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2025, the visit was conducted as part of the District Level Inspection Committee (DLIC) to assess the overall functioning of the Child Care Institution (CCI), ensuring compliance with the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, and related guidelines. The team aimed to inspect the maintenance of records and registers, infrastructure facilities, and overall well-being of the children residing at Saranalayam.



# "Home is where love creates a family." - St. John Bosco..!

## TAHSILDAR VISIT

On 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025 Mr Sivakumar, Tahsildar, Tondiarpet Taluk along with Mr. James, Probation Officer visited Bosco Illam. They inspected the home with various parameters including cleanliness, hygiene, play area, dormitory and records & registers maintained in the CCI. They also checked the CCTV footage and interacted with staff and children.



## FEAST OF ST. JOHN BOSCO - CHILDREN CELEBRATION

On 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2025, the feast of St. John Bosco celebration began with a solemn Holy Mass at Bosco Illam, where the children actively participated in prayers, hymns, thanksgiving and honoring the legacy of St. John Bosco. Following the Holy Mass the children enjoyed the delightful breakfast.



## REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS

The 76<sup>th</sup> Republic Day was celebrated at all the project centers of DBAI by hoisting the National flag and singing National Anthem. All the participants showed patriotism and took oath to uphold the values of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.



# Children Home..!

Bosco Illam and Saranalayam

## VISIT FOR GUIDANCE

On 3rd of January 2025, Fr. Joe Prabhu, Director, National YaR Forum and Mrs Jyothi Priya, Hub Coordinator, INM Province visited Saranalayam to oversee the ongoing activities and assessed the operational efficiency. They provided strategic inputs for improved functioning. The visit also included discussions regarding the Node Status and implementation of Home-Link DIGI. During the visit, the Hub Coordinator conducted a thorough review of all registers maintained at Saranalayam. The focus was on ensuring proper documentation, accuracy in record-keeping.



## RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY - DRAWING

On 11th of January 2025, a recreational drawing session was conducted for the children to encourage creativity, self-expression, and enjoyment. The session began with an introduction to different drawing techniques, followed by an open-ended creative session where children were encouraged to sketch and colour based on their imagination. They expressed their thoughts and emotions through their artwork, drawing various subjects such as: Cartoons, Flowers and others. The outcome of the activity included fostered imaginative thinking and artistic skills. Presenting their artwork boosted their self-esteem and confidence.



## SKILL DEVELOPMENT SESSION FOR CHILDREN

On 12th of January 2025, a skill development session was conducted by Ms. Deepshi Reyan, Child Welfare Officer, aimed at enhancing the children's essential life skills. The session focused on imparting time management skills, encouraging daily reading and writing habits to 8 to 11 years old children. She explained how effective planning and prioritization can help children balance their studies, playtime and other activities efficiently.



She recommended techniques such as using timetable, setting small goals and minimizing distractions to discipline the routines. To instill a habit of continuous learning, she encouraged children to read books, newspapers and short stories, and to maintain a daily journal or diary. She explained how reading broadens knowledge and writing enhances creativity and expression. To make the session more interactive and enjoyable, ice-breaking activities were conducted.

## JOYFUL COOKING: A BACKYARD CULINARY EXPERIENCE

On 18th of January 2025, "The Joyful Cooking: A Backyard Culinary Experience" was a delightful and engaging event where children actively participated in preparing a delicious meal – Biryani. This experience not only nurtured their culinary skills but also fostered teamwork, discipline and joy. The backyard setting created a warm and traditional atmosphere, making the activity even more memorable. Each child took on different responsibilities such as chopping vegetables, cleaning the meat, helping in preparation and ensuring an organized and collaborative cooking experience.



Love builds, guides and transforms."

- St. John Bosco

## MENTORING VISIT

On 23rd of January 2025, the mentoring visit by Miracle Foundation was conducted to assess the activities and challenges in the reintegration and adoption process. The visit involved interactive sessions with staff, a review of Individual Care Plans (ICP), discussions on specific child cases and a life skills training session for the staff.



## POSTAL LEARNING

As part of the Skill Development Program organized by We Live Foundation, a group of children aged 15 to 17 visited the Anna Nagar Post Office. The Post Man provided valuable insights on various postal services, including savings schemes, types of post and their purposes, procedure involved in sending the post and form filling formats. It is evident that the visit provided an educational experience as well as practical knowledge to children.



## PARENTS' MEETING

Every Month's second Sunday, DBAI holds parents' meeting in both Bosco Illam and Saranalayam. Likewise, on 09<sup>th</sup> February 2025, 20 parents visited the CCI to meet their Children. The meeting ensured meaningful interaction and awareness among parents, children, and CCI Staff. It served as a valuable platform to strengthen the bond between parents and the institution, ensuring better cooperation for the well-being of the children.



## NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY CELEBRATION

On 26th of January 2025, National Girl Child Day (Every year falls on 24<sup>th</sup> January) was celebrated with enthusiasm and purpose through a sensitization program focused on Responsible Sexual Behavior. The focus group was 13 to 17 years old girl children. Ms. Harrsida, the Counselor, led the session and sensitized the participants on various crucial topics, including: Disparity between Love and Infatuation, Process of Menstrual Cycle, Safe and Unsafe Touch and Consequences of Teenage Pregnancy. To ensure active participation and engagement, ice-breaking games were conducted throughout the session. A short film titled 'Maa' was screened for the children, reinforcing the themes discussed in the session through a visual and emotional narrative. At the end of the session, all participants provided handwritten feedback, sharing their learnings and reflections.



## TRANSITION CARE

The Staff Capacity Program on Transition to Aftercare was organized by We Live Foundation on February 7, 2025, in which 7 staff from DBAI has taken part to get the insights into effectively preparing youth for their transition from Child Care Institutions (CCIs) to independent living.



## GUIDANCE TO YOUNG ONES!

The Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC) organized a program focusing on skill development for all the CCI children. Our children from Bosco Illam and Saranalayam between the age of 14 to 18 years old attended the program which highlighted the TN government initiatives for empowering the youth through various skill development programs. During the program, the children received the guidance for different career pathways.



## REFRESHER TRAINING PROGRAM BY DCPO

A refresher training program was organized by the DCPO at the Collectorate on 26th February 2025. The program commenced with a warm welcome address by Mr. Mathiazhagan, DCPO, District Child Protection Unit, Chennai North. The training shed light on topic including Family-Based Alternative Care, Stress Management, Behavioral Issues of Children, roles and responsibilities of CCI staff in the well-being of children, the challenges faced by of CCI staff and the difference between Institutional and Non-Institutional Care.



## DON BOSCO MONTH CELEBRATION

The 'Don Bosco Month' celebration was started at Bosco Illam. The Children were divided into 4 groups namely Comollo, Colosso, Bosco and Margaret and conducted quiz and drawing competition



## DON BOSCO NIGHT

On 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025, the 'Don Bosco Night' was commemorated at Bosco Illam. This event mainly focuses on the intellectual mind of the children and Brought out active participation from the children.



"Every child deserves the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive."

# Don Bosco Anbu Illam

# HCLF - Police boys and girls club

## YOUNG KALAM SCIENCE FEST

14 Students with 7 science models from the H-5 New Washermanpet, H-8 Tiruvottriyur, R-2 Kodambakkam & T-14 Pallikarnai Police Boys & Girls Club participated in the Young Kalam Science Fest, organized by HCLF at Maraimalai Adigal Government School, Pallavaram.



## ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

On 4/01/2025, Mr. Veerakumar, a former student and Sub Inspector of Ennore police station visited K-8, Arumbakkam Police Boys & Girls Club. He addressed the students of classes 10th, 11th and 12 Std students and conducted a special class on education, discipline and anti-drug awareness.



## NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY

The national girl child day was celebrated on 24th January, 2025 on the theme of "Empowering the Girl child for better tomorrow" at T-16 Semmencherry PBGC. A rally had been organized to commemorate the day with the scout movement in which the J9 Thuraipakkam, T14 Pallikaranai, T15 Kannagi Nagar, T16 Semmencherry & T17 Perumbakkam clubs participated with 25 scouts and guides and 55 club children. The program sensitized the community child rights. Ms. Vaishnavi, Assistant Commissioner had delivered the motivational speech on empowering the girl child.



## MARATHON

Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women, Department of Social Welfare & Women Department and Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board together in collaboration with T-17 Perumbakkam Police Station, organized marathon at Perumbakkam. The children of T17 Perumbakkam Police Boys & Girls Club participated in the event and won the first three places with trophies, medal and cash prizes.



## BOXING QUEEN

Red Corner A. J. Akshaya from the N-2 Kasimedu Police Boys & Girls Club won the gold medal and awarded the best boxer at Punjab Guru Kashi University.



## THE EXTRAORDINARY ONE!

K-8 Arumbakkam Police Boys and Girls Club student Pooja, secured the first place in Silambam, first place in Long Jump, third place in the 100 meters race, and third place in the 200 meters race in District-level competitions organized by the Greater Chennai Corporation at Nehru Indoor Stadium.



## THE NUMBER ONE!

Carrom champion Ms. Keerthana from H5 New Washermanpet PBGC, participated in T.N Carrom Championship and won 1st place.



## CHAMPIONS OF CARROM

The Children of F-1 Chindaripet Police Boys & Girls Club won the second, third and fourth places in the District Level Carrom Competition Under 12 - 15 years category



## MOVING AHEAD

In the 3rd Tamil Nadu State Beach Pencak Silat Championship, our Kannagi Nagar Police Boys and Girls Club players won 4 gold medals and 3 bronze medals in this state-level competition. Additionally, Kaviya and Vijayalakshmi have been selected for the South Zone Khelo India match.



## NO TO STRESS

As the Exams are approaching for 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students, a Stress Management session was conducted by Ms. Logapriya, Sports Counsellor, DBAI-HCLF in 4 Police Boys and Girls Club and Avadi Girls Hr. Sec. School. Totally, 69 students from the PBGC and 9 from the Avadi School participated. The session shed light on the meaning of exam stress, its effects, and coping mechanism for handling stress like mindfulness.



## OFFICIALS VISIT

During the month of February Mr. Settu, Inspector, J1 Saidapet, Mr. Venkatesan, Sub-Inspector, R2 Kodambakkam, Mr. Madavan, Sub inspector, H8 Tiruvottriyur and Mr.Saravanan, Inspector, P6 Kodungaiyur visited their respective clubs. Their visit was crucial as they have pointed out to the children on the importance of Education, motivated to do the exams well and encouraged them to take part in volley ball games.



## NEW LEARNING

On 18, 21 and 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025, totally 67 students have attended the Scouts & Guides orientation. The event provided knowledge on History of Scouting Movement, Benefits of Scouting, Attributes obtaining from scouting to the students.



## WORLD THINKING DAY

On 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2025 at Thoraipakkam PBGC in memory of Lord Baden Powel 'World Thinking Day' was commemorated by Scouts and Guides.

The World Thinking Day was also celebrated at Avadi Girls' Hr. Sec. school by hoisting flag followed by all faith prayer led by Mr. Gunaseelen, Scout Leader with 17 Guides.



## JAMBOREE

A special jamboree organized by Bharat Scouts and Guides was held in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, from January 28th to February 3rd at the SIPCOT Industrial Area. This international program brought together 18,000 Scouts, Guides and leaders from India and abroad under the theme "Empowered Youth, Developed India" Under the leadership of Tamil Nadu Education Minister Mr. Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi.

The camp was a great opportunity for our club members. DBAI sent 2 Scouts, 6 Guides and 2 Leaders with 25 tents supported by HCL Foundation. Master Gunasealen led the team and was in charge of all adventure activities at the camp.

Our students won three awards: Participation Award, Adventure Activities Award and Best Activity Participants Award. Additionally, two Scouts, Mr. Thamin and Mr. Anbu, received special badges from Baden-Powell's grandson for their work in Global Village and Environmental Safety.

Our Scouts and Guides actively took part in cultural activities. The camp concluded with a valedictory ceremony led by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Mr. M.K. Stalin.



"Activate the mind, inspire the heart, and engage the hands."

### CAREER ADVANCEMENT TRAINING CENTRE

On 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2025, an orientation session on the CATC program was held for six college students at J1 PBGC, with classes at K-8 PBGC. Students learned about batch details, schedules, and TNPSC exam topics, including age limits, process, reservation, evaluation and notifications. The TNPSC exam categories were explained in detail, considering first-time aspirants' needs. The session ended with a Q&A, clearing students' doubts.



### CYBER SAFETY

On 01<sup>st</sup> February 2025, a Cyber Crime Awareness Program was held at J9 Thoraipakkam, led by Inspector Mr. Prabhu from Greater Chennai Police. Over 1,000 people attended the program which explained the cybercrimes, modes of reporting cybercrimes i.e online via cybercrime.gov.in and Helpline 1930. The event aimed to educate the public on cybercrime prevention and safety.



### HEALTH DETECTION AT DOOR STEP

On 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025, an Eye check-up camp was conducted at our T17 Perumbakkam Police Boys and Girls club, organized by the HCL Foundation in association with Sankara Nethralaya Eye Hospital. The PBGC club students, the general public and Police department officials participated and benefited from the camp.



On 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025, a General medical camp was held at Chintadripet PBGC, organized by the Chennai Municipal Corporation Primary Health Centre. In this camp, Students and Parents of the Police Boys and Girls Club underwent medical check-ups and were provided with medications.

### KABBADI CHAMPION

On 02<sup>nd</sup> February 2025, a district-level Kabaddi competition was conducted by the Rani Anna Nagar Sports Club. On behalf of the T14 Pallikaralai Police Boys and Girls Club, one team participated and played exceptionally well. It has bagged first prize in the Under-17 category amidst by 16 teams.

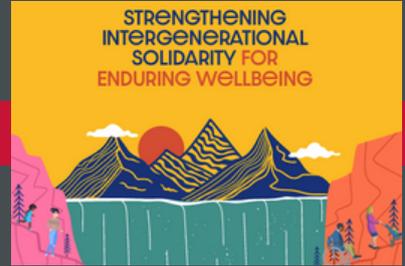




## Celebration and Commemorations-2025



Happy Birthday



## THANK YOU READERS...!

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