

DON BOSCO ANBU ILLAM

news

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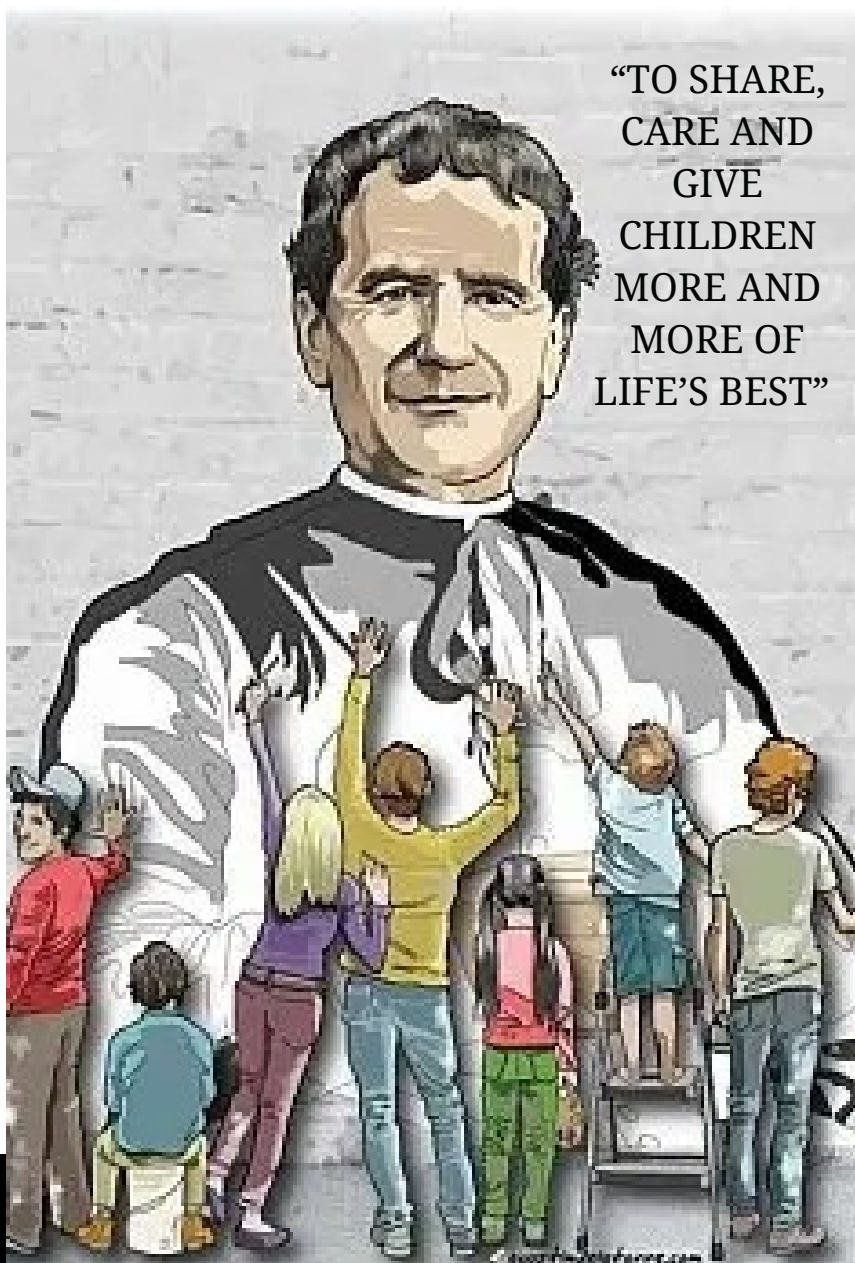
WELCOME TO THE LATEST EDITION OF "VOICES OF HOPE" THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF DON BOSCO ANBU ILLAM, CHENNAI. THIS PUBLICATION SERVES AS YOUR COMPREHENSIVE SOURCE FOR THE LATEST UPDATES, INITIATIVES AND PROGRESS AT DON BOSCO ANBU ILLAM. OUR MISSION IS TO EMPOWER COMMUNITIES THROUGH IMPACTFUL PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE WELL-BEING, EDUCATION, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, MAKING A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES WE TOUCH.

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.

"TO SHARE,
CARE AND
GIVE
CHILDREN
MORE AND
MORE OF
LIFE'S BEST"



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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

A Warm greeting from Don Bosco Anbu Illam

Hope all of you are in good health by the grace of the Lord.

Each year, **World No Tobacco Day** serves as a powerful reminder of the harmful effects of tobacco use on individuals, families and communities. Tobacco is one of the leading causes of preventable disease and death globally, contributing to cancer, heart disease, respiratory illness and many other serious health conditions.

This year's theme launched by WHO is "Unmasking the Appeal" highlights the urgent need to address the attractiveness of tobacco, nicotine and other related products through appealing designs, flavours and other agents particularly to the young adults. As a society each one of us are responsible to protect the current and future generations from the deadly consequences of tobacco use and the manipulative tactics of the tobacco industry.

We call upon everyone—individuals, families, schools, healthcare providers, policymakers and community leaders—to take action. Whether it's through quitting tobacco, supporting someone who is trying to quit, or advocating for stronger tobacco control policies, each step brings us closer to a healthier, tobacco-free world.

Let us reaffirm our commitment to a smoke-free future, where health and well-being are valued above addiction and disease.

Say no to tobacco. Say yes to life.

Regards

Fr. Andrews Stephen Raj, sdb



CHILDREN'S HOME

EYE CAMP

An eye camp was successfully organized on Sunday, March 9, 2025, at Bosco Illam by the AKAK Clear View Foundation in partnership with ACSR Initiatives by IQVIA. The camp aimed to deliver essential vision care and eye check-ups for children. The screenings were carried out by skilled optometrists Mr. Samuel Premkumar, Mr. Karthikeyan U, and Mr. Karthikeyan B. In total, 80 children and staff members took part in the camp. Each individual received a comprehensive eye exam, along with appropriate advice on further treatment or corrective actions, if needed.



POWERING LIVES

A Handing Over Ceremony was held at Saranalayam to mark the donation of a new EB line, inverter, and printer on March 11, 2025 by Chennai Environment Industries. This thoughtful contribution reflecting their dedication to corporate social responsibility and community welfare.



ROTARY CLUB YOUTH MEMBERS VISITATION

As part of their community outreach project, the youth members of the Rotary Club visited the Child Care Institution (CCI) on March 15, 2025. The event commenced with a unique ritual of placing fish in a pot, a symbolic act of prayer and prosperity. The children participated with enthusiasm, finding both joy and meaning in the tradition. Following the ritual, an engaging interactive session took place, during which the Rotary Club members had heartfelt conversations with the children about their dreams and future goals. The children openly shared their aspirations and the exchange proved to be both inspiring and confidence-boosting for them. To wrap up the day, a drawing activity was held, giving the children an opportunity to express themselves creatively through art. The event was filled with warmth and positivity, creating an encouraging environment that nurtured connection, self-expression and hope.



SPIRITUAL RENEWAL AND JOY



On Saturday, March 15, 2025, the staff members of DBAI embarked on a refreshing retreat to Magimai Madha Church, Pazhaverkaadu (Pulicat). More than just a break from daily routines, the trip offered a deeply meaningful experience enriched with spiritual reflection and team bonding. The day began with a Holy Mass at Magimai Madha Church, where the staff came together in prayer, seeking grace and inner renewal.

After the service, the group made their way to Pazhaverkaadu Beach for a scenic boat ride. Gliding through calm waters, they soaked in the natural beauty and enjoyed the refreshing sea breeze, which lifted their spirits. The trip was filled with laughter, cheerful conversations, making the outing both joyful and unforgettable. The trip beautifully balanced spiritual growth with relaxation, leaving everyone feeling recharged and connected. It was a day of faith, fellowship and fun trip to remember.

BIRTHDAY OF SUPERIOR



On Wednesday, March 19, 2025, Saranalayam was filled with joy and heartfelt gratitude as the community gathered to celebrate the birthday of Superintendent Sr. Sujigan Sumathi. The celebration began with a holy mass, prayers offered for her well-being, happiness and continued dedication to service.

The celebration came alive with a vibrant display of cultural performances. The children lit up the evening with soulful songs and elegant dance routines, creating a warm and cheerful atmosphere. A memorable moment of the event was the address by Director Fr. Andrews Stephen Raj, who spoke with admiration about Sr. Sujigan's dedication, commitment, compassion and the profound impact she has made at Saranalayam.

As the celebration drew to a close, Sr. Suji shared a heartfelt message of thanks, expressing deep appreciation for the love and effort shown by everyone in making her day so special. Her sincere words of appreciation touched everyone present, leaving a lasting sense of connection and gratitude. The joyful celebration ended with a delicious dinner, where everyone shared in the happiness of the occasion, strengthening the bonds of unity and love within the Saranalayam family.

CAREER GUIDANCE PROGRAM ON LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION

On Tuesday, March 25, 2025, a career guidance program focusing on life skills education was successfully held, supporting children in their personal and career development. The program was designed to help participants build essential life skills, including active listening, financial literacy, effective communication, time management and personality development. To create an engaging and supportive atmosphere, the session also featured interactive ice-breaker activities that energized the children and encouraged participation.



GYNAEC CAMP

On Sunday, March 30, 2025, Gynaec camp was conducted at Saranalayam to support the health and wellness of adolescent girls. The camp was held under the expert supervision of Dr. Supraja, an experienced Gynaecologist, who offered medical consultations and led an informative awareness session. After completing the medical check-ups, Dr. Supraja conducted a comprehensive session covering key topics such as menstrual hygiene management, understanding irregular periods and breaking common myths and misconceptions. The session was highly interactive, with the girls actively participating, asking questions and voicing their concerns. Dr. Supraja also shared valuable tips on maintaining a nutritious diet, staying well-hydrated and identifying symptoms that may require medical attention.



REIGNITION FOR SOCIAL WORK



The Capacity Building Program was conducted for the DBAI staff on April 2, 2025. The session was led by Mr. Mark Antony, who shared valuable insights and facilitated interactive activities aimed at enhancing staff professionalism, motivation and interpersonal skills. He highlighted key values crucial to the field of social service.

These included:

- Dedication- remaining committed to the mission and duties despite challenges;
- Behavior- upholding a professional and compassionate attitude toward children and colleagues;
- Approachability- being open, accessible and non-judgmental, particularly with children and team members.
- Integrity- Being honest and upholding the moral values in this profession

To encourage active participation, staff were divided into four groups and assigned to do a role-play or presentation on these 4 topics. These creative activities enabled staff to demonstrate their understanding of professional ethics in an engaging manner. In a particularly reflective segment, Mr. Mark invited each staff member to share their personal journey into the field of child care and social work exploring what motivated them to pursue this path. This sharing exercise strengthened emotional bonds, reignited their passion for service and fostered a renewed sense of unity and shared purpose among the team.



SUMMER CAMP FOR BOSCO ILLAM AND SARANALAYAM CHILDREN

INTRODUCTION

Every Year the DBAI organizes a Summer Camp for the Children who are under its care for providing them with the opportunity to learn and experience the valuable life skills that helps their personal growth and development. Likewise, this year the organization planned to host a 10 days Camp for the girls and 1 day visit to amusement park.

SUMMER CAMP INAUGURATION

The summer camp inaugural ceremony was held on 24th April, 2025 at 6:30 PM with a spirit of devotion and joy. The gathering was addressed by Fr. Andrews Stephen Raj, sdb, Director of The Don Bosco Anbu Illam Social Service Society. In his keynote address, he warmly welcomed the children and staff, emphasizing the importance of discipline, learning and joyful participation during the camp days.



SUMMER CAMP DAYS

ENGLISH

Throughout the camp days, “the Parts of Speech” was taught to the children everyday for 2 hours. Br. Arun William and Br.Vignesh made these sessions interesting and exciting through their funny examples, story telling tactics and practical hands on exercises to make the children the concept better.





SESSION ON CHILD RIGHTS

Mr. David conducted an awareness session on Child Rights which aimed to educate children about their fundamental rights in a simple and relatable way. Through stories, discussions and question-answer interactions, children were able to understand their rights to education, protection, participation and survival.



SESSION ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Advocate Ms. Yuvasree conducted an informative and empowering awareness session on Women's Rights. The children were introduced to fundamental rights, safety and the importance of standing up for themselves and others. She also emphasized the habit of reading books, encouraging the children to explore the world of knowledge through literature. Her talk inspired several girls to share their thoughts and ask questions.



SESSION ON MENSTRUAL HYGIENE

Ms. Deepshi Reyan led a highly informative and sensitive session on Menstrual Hygiene. Topics covered were: Proper hygiene practices for maintaining cleanliness in private areas; Frequency of changing sanitary napkins; Awareness on PCOS (Polycystic Ovary Syndrome) and PCOD (Polycystic Ovarian Disease); The impact of unhealthy lifestyle choices on fertility; Preventive measures through yoga and balanced nutrition. Ms. Deepshi patiently addressed all queries raised by the children, creating a safe and respectful space for discussion. The session was both educational and empowering, especially for adolescent girls.



SESSION ON LIFE SKILLS



The life skills sessions were conducted on following topics by different facilitators during the camp days. The topics were

- Self Esteem
- Time Management
- Understanding Emotions and Emotional Intelligence

These sessions focused on helping children to understand their self-worth, self- confidence, to develop a strong character, to organizing their priorities, to understating various emotions, empathy, etc. The sessions were interactive and engaging, allowing children to express themselves freely and participate in meaningful discussions.

EXPERIENTIAL SHARING

A college-going alumnae of the Shelter Home visited and shared their real-life experiences after completing school and leaving the Shelter Home. They spoke about the challenges they faced, how they overcame and encouraged the children to remain resilient, determined and hopeful about their own future. The heartfelt session was inspiring.

SCREENING OF A MOVIE

The Children watched the recently released film "The Good Bad Ugly", and thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment. It was a joyful and relaxing end to a productive and meaningful day.

COMPETITIONS

The children participated in different competitions

- Singing
- Dance
- Skit competitions were performed on one of the following themes by each team: Child Marriage, Child Labor and Saving the Environment.
- Fancy dress
- Mimicry



TALENT SHOW

The Talent Show was organized, where each child got an opportunity to showcase their individual talents. The performances included a variety of acts such as acting, singing, dancing, beatboxing and more. Children performed with enthusiasm, representing their respective teams proudly. The event was filled with cheer, applause and vibrant energy, highlighting the unique potential of each participant.



FOLK DANCE PRACTICE

For 3 consecutive days, the folk trainers gave practice folk arts such as Karagam, Parai and Oyilattam.



SPORTS AND FUN GAMES

The children participated in indoor and outdoor games like Volleyball, throw ball matches, carroms, Badminton, fun games and etc. The games encouraged team spirit, physical activity and bonding among the participants. The activities were supervised and well-organized, ensuring everyone had a chance to play and enjoy.



VALEDICTORY CEREMONY

The Camp was concluded with the speech of Fr. Albert Nelson Kumar, sdb, Assistant Director and Fr. Regan Jude, Administrator who delivered a heartfelt speech and appreciated the active participation and growth of the children throughout the camp. He emphasized the importance of such platforms in shaping character, confidence and creativity. Following that, prizes were distributed to the winning team and to further motivate the children, new garments were presented to all the participants as a token of encouragement.

Further, the girls performed the Karagam folk dance, leaving the audience impressed with their energy and vibrant expressions of traditional art. The day ended with a community dinner, fostering a sense of togetherness and celebration.



EXPOSURE VISIT - VGP

On 5th and 6th of May 2025, the outing was organized separately for boys and girls to provide a refreshing break from their routine, enhance their social interactions and offer an opportunity to experience joy, freedom and adventure in a safe, recreational environment. The children were taken on a one-day trip to VGP Universal Kingdom, a popular amusement and water theme park. The children were accompanied by staff and volunteers who ensured their safety and well-being throughout the day.



DBAI-HCLFPOLICE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

GETTING READY FOR EXAMS

500 students who preparing for their board exams in 10,11 and 12th stds. From all 20 clubs and at Avadi Girls' school, received stationery kits so that they prepare responsibly for their exams.



SPECIAL COACHING CLASSES

As the Board and Annual Exams are coming closer, the students were provided with Special coaching classes which held in all the 20 PBGCs in March and April, 2025. These sessions were focused on strengthening their academic skills. A total of 661 students participated 637 from the Clubs and 24 from Avadi Girls' School.

EYE CAMP

On 22nd and 23rd March, 2025 Eye Camp was conducted at J-9 Thoraipakkam Police Boys and Girls Club where 230 people were benefited.

CELEBRATING WOMEN

Women's Day was celebrated at J-9 Thoraipakkam and K-8 Arumbakkam Police Boys and Girls Club which was honoured by the presence of the Senior Police Officials.



DIGITAL LITERACY

Digital literacy is an emerging need of knowledge at the hour. Hence DBAI and HCLF initiated a program to sensitize the children on safe usage of online, privacy protection and identifying online threats. This program guided around 330 students where they have also practiced to be cautious.



DOUBLE DAMAKA

L. Keerthana from H-5 New Washermenpet Police Boys and Girls Club won both the Women's Singles and Doubles titles at the 52nd Carrom Nationals held in New Delhi on 25th March 2025.



SPORTS FOR FITNESS

The intern of DBAI conducted a Session on Healthy life through Sports as part of the community program at Kannagi Nagar on Police Boys and Girls Club for 30 students. The Event was facilitated by Mr Dinakaran, Football coach, DBAI, focused on physical activity and mental wellbeing through sports to bring their spirit, confidence and team work.



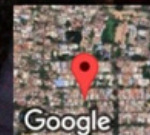
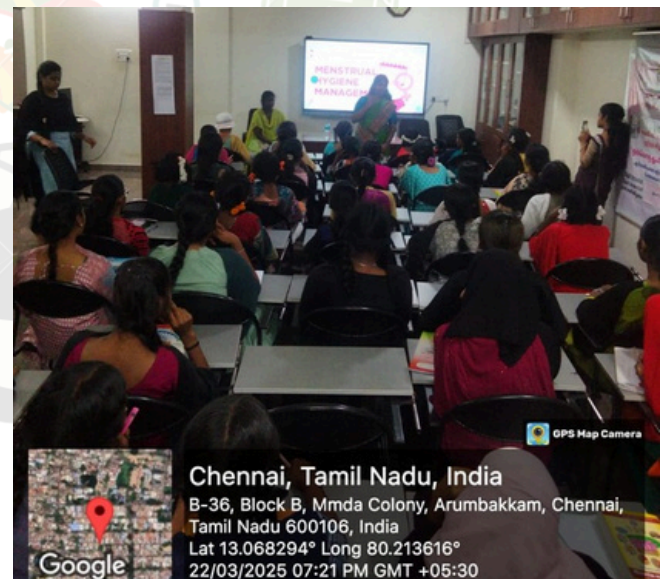
PARENTS MEET

E-1 Mylapore Police Boys and Girls Club conducted a parent-student meeting to discuss upcoming exams. Totally, 13 parents and 45 students attended the program.



SESSION ON MENSTRUAL HYGIENE

On 22nd March 2025 Interns of DBAI led a community program on menstrual hygiene at K-8 Arumbakkam Police Boys and Girls Club, facilitated by Dr Kavitha Viswanathan of WCF Hospital, which has seen a participation of 60 Girls.



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CELEBRATION AND COMMEMORATIONS - 2025



Fr. Mark

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO OUR
BOARD
MEMBERS



Fr. Edwin Vasanthan



INTERNATIONAL
DAY OF FAMILIES
15 MAY [2025]



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