DON BOSCO ANBU ILLAM

Annual Report

2025-26

A Home of Love for children and communities at risk, Chennai

"It is not enough to love the young; they must know that they are loved." — St. John Bosco



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Walking with the Young in Hope



Rev. Fr. Andrews Stephen Raj, SDB

Executive Director

Dear Well-wishers,

"It is not enough to love the young; they must know that they are loved."
— St. John Bosco

As we look back on 2025 at Don Bosco Anbu Illam, Chennai, my heart is filled with gratitude to God and to all those who have accompanied us in our mission of caring for vulnerable children and communities.

For us, this mission is more than an institutional responsibility; it is a vocation to accompany young people with love, dignity, patience and hope. Every child who comes to Anbu Illam carries a unique story, and our calling is to create an environment where each child can experience safety, acceptance and the possibility of a better future.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

A Year of Grace and Growth

With the generous support of the Salesian Mission, including support received through the 2025 US visit, we were able to undertake important improvements at the Boys' Home, including the renovation of the toilet block and dormitories. The chapels in both Homes were also renovated, providing renewed spaces for prayer and reflection.

At the Girls' Home, we renovated the kitchen, study hall and children's refectory, along with painting and other essential works. These improvements contribute to creating healthier, safer and more dignified spaces for the children.

The visitation of our beloved Rector Major was a special blessing and source of encouragement, reaffirming our Salesian commitment to young people, especially those who are most vulnerable.

We were also grateful to receive two APF grants supporting the Children's Home and CWRP. We remain thankful for our partnership with Misereor and HCLF, which concluded during the year and contributed meaningfully to strengthening our mission.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Challenges That Call Us to Greater Commitment

Alongside these achievements, 2025 also brought challenges that remain important areas of concern.

Ensuring continuity of care with nutritious food and educational support, particularly for children whose circumstances involve different states or longer-term arrangements, remains challenging. This reminds us that child protection requires not only a safe place to stay, but also trust, counselling, family engagement, careful follow-up and a strong sense of belonging beside the generous contribution of good people like you.

Another pressing and continuing concern is securing sufficient and predictable resources for our daily operations. Food, education, healthcare, staffing, utilities, maintenance, counselling and safeguarding services require sustained funding. While we remain deeply grateful to our partners, building a more stable financial base is essential for the continuity and quality of our work.

These challenges are not reasons for discouragement. They are an invitation to strengthen our systems, deepen our partnerships and seek new ways of serving responsibly.

"Let us not become weary in doing good." — Galatians 6:9

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Serving with Love and Dignity

Throughout the year, our dedicated staff worked tirelessly to ensure that children received nutritious food, education, emotional support, protection and a secure environment.

We have also begun reaching out to deserving communities, facilitating access to government schemes, entitlements and essential services. Through this work, we hope to move beyond immediate assistance and help families build greater resilience, dignity and self-reliance.

This remains the heart of the Salesian approach: being present to the young, listening to them, understanding their circumstances and walking patiently with them.

A Heartfelt Thank You

I offer my sincere gratitude to Mrs. Roseline, Churches, well-wishers, educational institutions, volunteers, sponsors, staff members and communities who have supported this mission.

We are deeply grateful to our donors and institutional partners — Government of India, Misereor, HCLFoundation, Azim Premji Foundation, Guardians of Dreams, Invisible Girl Project, Salesian Mission and Don Bosco Bonn — for their generosity and trust.

We also thank the DCPU and CWC for their continued cooperation, and the children, parents and guardians for the trust they place in us.

Above all, I thank God Almighty for the privilege of serving and for the many generous people who make this mission possible.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

A Humble Appeal to Help Us

The needs we encounter cannot be met by us alone. We need a community of people who are willing to stand with vulnerable children for the long journey, not only in moments of crisis.

I therefore humbly invite our friends, benefactors, Churches, institutions, companies, families and individual well-wishers to become partners in this mission.

Your valuable support can help us sustain the everyday essentials of residential care — nutritious meals, education, healthcare, counselling, child protection and a safe home — while also enabling us to strengthen our facilities and extend our work to deserving communities.

Whether through regular giving, sponsorship, institutional support, infrastructure assistance, educational support or volunteering, every contribution becomes part of a larger story of hope.

We particularly encourage our well-wishers to consider sustained and recurring support, because the needs of a child do not end when a particular project or grant ends. Long-term partnership gives us the stability to plan responsibly and accompany children consistently.

When you support Don Bosco Anbu Illam, you are not simply supporting a programme. You are helping create a safe space in which a child can learn, heal, grow and hope.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Looking Ahead with Faith and Hope

The Gospel reminds us:

"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." — Matthew 18:5

These words remain a profound call to us at Don Bosco Anbu Illam.

As we move forward, our priorities are clear: to strengthen safeguarding and follow-up, sustain quality care, expand educational opportunities, support families and communities, and build reliable partnerships for the long-term sustainability of our mission.

We may not always have every resource or every answer, but we have faith in God, the spirit of Don Bosco and the strength of a community that believes in the dignity and potential of every child.

I invite you to walk with us. Let us ensure that no vulnerable child has to face the journey alone.

May God bless all who have supported this mission and guide Don Bosco Anbu Illam to remain a home of compassion, protection, hope and new beginnings.

Together, let us continue to walk with the young, serve with love and build a future filled with hope.



Rev. Fr. Andrews Stephen Raj, SDB.
Executive Director
Don Bosco Anbu Illam, Chennai

WHO WE ARE

Organisation profile

- Founded in 1985 by the Salesians of Don Bosco, DBAI is a child rights organisation for at-risk youth, part of a global network focused on young people at risk.
- Residential and community-based care for vulnerable, neglected and marginalised children, including those living in slums and on pavements.
- Shelter, nutrition, medical care, education, counselling and vocational training, plus after-care for higher education and careers.
- **Boys' Home:** Bosco Illam, MKB Nagar.
- **Girls' Home:** Saranalayam, Madhavaram.
- Runs the Government of India's ICPS through three contact points, Evening Study Centres in five slums, and skills training for women.

Also: care for elderly community members and creches for toddlers aged 7 months to 2 years.

1985
year founded

5,000
households reached

~12,000
family members supported

3
ICPS contact points in Chennai

WHAT DRIVES US

Vision, mission and approach

Vision

Creating a child-centred environment in society that protects and promotes child rights.

Mission

Enabling and empowering vulnerable children, youth and women to become agents of child rights.

01

PREVENTION

Awareness on life, social issues and academics, so children know they are watched over with care.

02

PROTECTION

Training children to be proactive in any situation and achieve better results.

03

PROMOTION

A model aimed at holistic transformation of every individual.

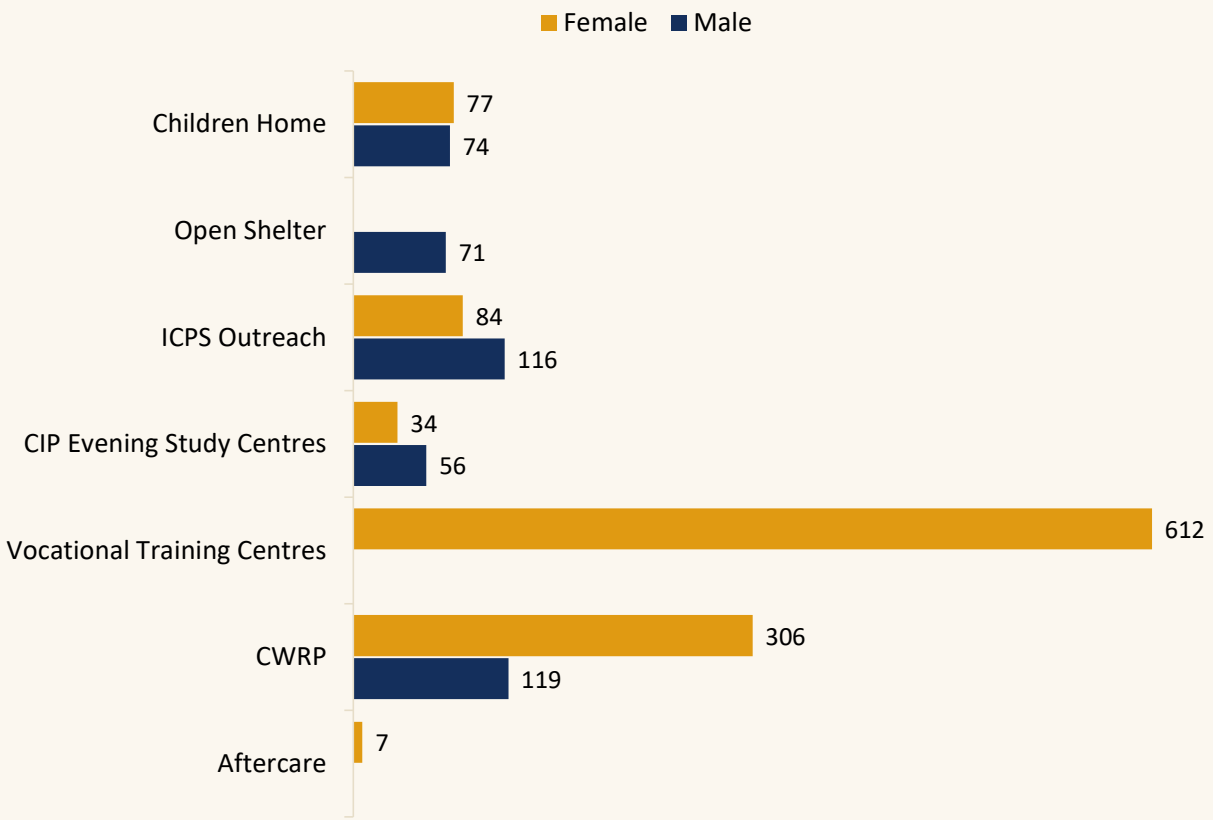
04

PARTICIPATION

Making sure no child is left behind, for any reason.

OUR REACH

Beneficiaries 2025-26



1,556

beneficiaries across all projects

72%

are women and girls, led by the Vocational Training Centres

151

children in residential care (74 boys, 77 girls)

RESULTS AND RECOGNITION

Achievements of the year

Board exam results

83%
highest score, Class 10 (20 students)

91.5%
highest score, Class 12 (9 students)

10 of 20
Class 10 students scored 60% or more

4 of 9
Class 12 students scored 60% or more

- **Award:** National Young at Risk – DB YaR Forum Social Media Award 2024-25, won for the 3rd consecutive year.
- **Recognition:** Best Homelink Coordinator 2024-25 went to Mrs. Jyothi Priya of INM Province.
- **Alumnus:** Mr. Manimaran completed his Printing Course at SIGA.





MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Leadership visits and alumni homecoming

- **Rector Major, 13 Feb 2026:** Fr. Fabio Attard, global superior of the Salesians, visited with the INM Provincial and Vice Provincial. He appreciated the work of Anbu Illam and blessed the community.
- **Provincial Visitation, 14 Nov 2025:** Fr. L. Don Bosco blessed the renovated Boys' Home chapel, met staff and past pupils, presided over the Scout Investiture and joined the Children's Day programme.
- **Past Pupils Meet, 25 Jan 2026:** Alumni from many walks of life returned to share their journeys and became real-life role models for the children.









MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Safer, healthier, more dignified spaces

Boys' Home

- Toilet block renovated, blessed 9 Dec 2025
- Dormitories for younger and older boys newly tiled
- Chapel renovated, blessed 14 Nov 2025

Girls' Home

- Kitchen, refectory, study hall and veranda newly tiled
- Fresh coat of paint across the premises
- Chapel renovated, blessed 9 Dec 2025









Chapel renovations in both Homes were supported by Salesian Mission, USA.

CHILDREN HOME

Care, wellbeing and growth for 151 children

Residential care for children aged 6 to 18 in need of care and protection: Bosco Illam (boys) and Saranalayam (girls).

- **Life skills:** sessions on mindfulness, stress, anger management, leadership, boundaries, resilience, substance abuse and an introduction to AI tools.
- **Health camps:** eye, dental and general checks at Bosco Illam (7 Dec) and Saranalayam (14 Dec); heart screening by Child Heart Foundation (21 Dec).
- **Emotional wellbeing:** leadership group session by Niraivagam Psychological Service Center (27 Aug); behavioural management animation session (30 Nov).
- **Career guidance:** study techniques and post-12th options for boys and girls (27-28 Nov).









CHILDREN HOME

Observances and celebrations

Commemorations

12 Jun	Day Against Child Labour: poster competition
21 Jun	International Yoga Day
26 Jun	Anti-drug day: drawing and essays
6 Oct	Mental health awareness session
11 Oct	International Girl Child Day
25 Jan	National Girl Child Day
26 Jan	Republic Day
8 Mar	International Women’s Day

Celebrations

15 Aug	Independence Day
1 Oct	Ayudha Pooja
20 Oct	Diwali with Rotaract Club visitors
14 Nov	Children’s Day
23 Dec	Christmas with gifts for all children
15 Jan	Pongal with traditional games
31 Jan	Feast of St. John Bosco, our patron









CHILDREN HOME

Exposure visits and sports

Exposure visits

5-6 May	VGP Universal Kingdom
27 Jul	Nakshatra Sports Event: 35 boys, prizes in chess and track
26 Sep	Marina Beach picnic for 19 children
22 Nov	Rotary Club of Madras: first prize in drawing
4 & 11 Jan	Tada Falls
16 Jan	Vandalur Zoo
01 Feb	MGM Theme Park

Sports and games

2025-26	Regular Silambam training for girls at Saranalayam
2025-26	Carrom (22 Jul), inter-chess (2 Aug), cricket (16 Aug)
02 Oct	Staff v children volleyball: the children won
01 Nov	Inter Club Kabaddi organised by the children
16 Nov	Friendly matches with Don Bosco Perambur
10 Jan	Football coaching from 10 Jan, led by a past pupil









CHILDREN HOME

Summer Camp 2025

A 10-day camp for the girls under our care plus a one-day amusement park visit, inaugurated on 24 April 2025.

Spoken English	Child rights
Women’s rights	Menstrual hygiene
Life skills	Alumni sharing
Movie screening	Singing, dance and skits
Fancy dress and mimic	Talent show
Folk dance: Karaga, Parai, Oyilattam	Volleyball, throwball, carrom, badminton

The camp closed with prizes for the winning team and new garments for every participant.









VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES

Skills and financial independence for women

612
women enrolled in 2025-26

5
tailoring centres in urban slums

- **5 Sep 2025:** Onam and Teachers' Day at the Sathuma Nagar and Vinayagapuram centres, with YMCA officials and local leaders.
- **11 Oct 2025:** Ayudha Pooja at the Mannady centre with local leaders and women from the community.
- **19 Dec 2025:** Christmas at Mannady: dances, carols, a blessed crib, gifts and cake.
- **24 Jan 2026:** Trainees organised their own Pongal day with shared cooking and games.









MISSION VATSALYA (ICPS)

Child protection at the community door

3
contact centres

200
outreach children (116 boys, 84 girls)

90
children in evening study centres

Contact centres in high-risk communities give children and families accessible support, awareness of child rights and timely intervention.

- **19-20 Jun:** library visit for outreach students; parents' meeting at Bojaraja Nagar.
- **26 Jun:** anti-drug day drawings; First Responder BLS and trauma life-support training at Stanley Hospital.
- **11 Oct:** International Girl Child Day at the Bojaraja Nagar centre.
- **16-18 Jan:** Pongal at the Bojaraja Nagar and Otteri study centres.









CHENNAI WELFARE RIGHTS PROGRAM

Helping families reach their entitlements

6
intervention units

~12,000
family members reached

- **Jul-Oct:** Trainings - slum profiling, Frappe data tool and induction training for coordinators.
- **Jan 2026:** Trainings - housing, land and rights; income certificate and CMCHIS; Aadhaar services.
- **Feb 2026:** Semmencherry resettlement visit; child rights and Juvenile Justice Act training.
- **5 Mar 2026:** DBAI Resource Center opened at Srinivasapuram, Pattinapakkam.
- **5 Mar 2026:** Women's Day on cyber security with about 45 women; Income certificates and CMCHIS cards handed out.









STAFF PROGRAMMES

Investing in the people who care

- **2 Apr 2025:** capacity building on dedication, behaviour, approachability and integrity.
- **1-3 May:** three-day staff refresher tour to Yercaud.
- **4 Oct:** child-friendly approaches and child rights legislation, with Fr. Joseph Leo and the University of Madras.
- **12-13 Nov:** Homelink DIGI data management training for INM centres.
- **23 Dec:** staff Christmas with Mass, games and gifts.
- **7 Mar 2026:** stress management, work-life balance and professional ethics, led by Arul Prakash, Head of Talent Acquisition, Logitech.
- **18 Mar 2026:** positive discipline: guiding children with care instead of punishment.









SUCCESS STORIES

Lives changing with care

A journey towards empowerment

Tamil E.

Tamil came to Saranalayam in the 6th standard, when her father had left and her mother was struggling with mental illness. She grew into a confident, focused student with a passion for art, completed Class 12, and is now pursuing a B.Com. Her dream is to become a bank manager.

Class 12 completed · now studying B.Com

Building confidence and hope

John, age 11

After losing his mother and his father leaving, John felt lonely and distressed. Assessment at the Institute of Mental Health found a specific learning disability. With counselling, regular IMH visits, individual learning support and group activities, his behaviour, coping skills and confidence have improved markedly.

Counselling · individual support · growing resilience

LOOKING AHEAD

Priorities and how you can help

Our priorities

- Strengthen safeguarding and follow-up
- Sustain quality care
- Expand educational opportunities
- Support families and communities
- Build reliable partnerships for long-term sustainability

Ways to partner

- Regular giving or sponsorship
- Institutional or corporate support
- Infrastructure assistance
- Educational support
- Volunteering

“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.”

Matthew 18:5

Sustained, recurring support gives us the stability to plan and to accompany children consistently, because a child’s needs do not end when a grant does.

WITH THANKS

Our donors and institutional partners

MISEREOR IHR HILFSWERK

HCLFoundation

Azim Premji Foundation

GUARDIANS OF DREAMS

INVISIBLE GIRL PROJECT

SALESIA MISSION

DON BOSCO MISSION BONN

मिशन वात्सल्य
MISSION VATSALYA
Ministry of Women & Child Development, Govt. of India

DB YaR ForUm

GREATER CHENNAI POLICE
TAMIL NADU

We also thank the Government of India, the DCPU and CWC for their cooperation, our churches, schools and volunteers, our dedicated staff, and the children, parents and guardians who place their trust in us.

Thank you



Together, let us continue to walk with the young, serve with love and build a future filled with hope.

Contact

The Don Bosco Anbu Illam Social Service Society
#25, Kulandai Street, Park Town, Chennai-03
044-25352101 · +91 9444031098
director@donboscoanbuillam.org
donboscoanbuillam.org

Account details

Don Bosco Anbu Illam Social Service Society
A/C No: 0042053000006317
IFSC: SIBL 0000042
South Indian Bank, George Town branch