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VIEW POINT

The Retreat - Don Bosco, Yercaud

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View Point, the e-magazine, showcases a comprehensive report on the various social interactions and activities carried out by the SPS India Foundation and its sister Organization, Shevaroyhills Tribal Development Institute (STDI), at the Retreat Don Bosco in Yercaud.



Spice Making Training

On January 19th, 2024, a livelihood initiative offering training in spice-making commenced. The SPS India Foundation, in collaboration with the Desai Foundation Trust, organized the event at The Retreat Don Bosco in Yercaud. Following a one-day in-person training session, participants will engage in a month-long online practical training program. Mrs. Priyatharshini Ranganathan, an accomplished self-employed artist, will lead this online program, with guidance from Ms. Sangeetha, the project manager of the Siragugal Foundation, who will support beneficiaries throughout the course.

The primary goal of this initiative is to enhance the self-employment capabilities of each participant, fostering economic independence and overall well-being. Central to the program is the provision of practical knowledge essential for producing spices and organic goods profitably and sustainably. Participants will learn about pricing strategies, market dynamics, and avenues for product distribution, with a focus on establishing connections between participants and potential marketplaces or customers.



Don Bosco Month

To instill in the boys the moral and spiritual essence of Don Bosco, the SOTCHO boys were organized and given opportunities to learn, analyze, and emulate Don Bosco's life as a father and mentor to youth for approximately one month. The central theme of this period, dubbed "To Dream like Don Bosco," was inaugurated on January 8th and extended until February 5th.

The objective was twofold: to prepare the boys to honor our founder's feast with enthusiasm and to introduce them to the Salesian environment. At the outset, the boys were organized into four teams. Various competitions, including drawing, poetry, singing, and quizzes focusing on Don Bosco, were conducted. The culmination was a Don Bosco Night held on February 5th, where the boys participated eagerly and energetically. Devoting a month to understanding and studying Don Bosco presents an excellent opportunity for the boys in our institutions to be inspired and encouraged to embody his principles.



Medical Camp at Piliyur, Yercaud

The SPS India Foundation, in partnership with the Desai Foundation and the Piliyur Ilam Thendral Youth Volunteers, coordinated a large-scale medical event aimed at providing essential healthcare services to tribal communities in Piliyur, Yercaud. Supported by SKS Hospital and The Eye Foundation, Salem, the SPS Foundation took a leading role in orchestrating the event, highlighting its dedication to community welfare. The medical camp included gynecological screenings tailored to the specific health needs of tribal women, showcasing a holistic approach to healthcare that acknowledges and prioritizes the diverse requirements of the community. The eye examinations conducted by The Eye Foundation were integral to the camp, while the collaboration with SKS Hospital expanded the initiative to offer comprehensive general health check-ups, catering to a wide range of medical needs.

Additionally, the camp facilitated blood donations, underscoring the importance of community involvement in healthcare initiatives. This not only benefits recipients of donated blood but also fosters a sense of unity and shared responsibility among participants. The organizers' commitment demonstrates their dedication to reaching remote areas where healthcare access may be limited. By bringing together skilled professionals and eager volunteers, the initiative aimed to bridge the healthcare gap for tribal communities in the region. In sum, the collaborative efforts of the SPS Foundation, Desai Foundation, Piliyur Ilam Thendral Youth Volunteers, SKS Hospital, and The Eye Foundation in hosting this medical camp exemplify the positive impact achievable through collective action in addressing healthcare inequalities and promoting community well-being.



Dabur Products Distribution

SPS India Foundation, in affiliation with the Desai Foundation Trust, recently received a shipment of Dabur products from Coimbatore on January 26, 2024. This generous donation included a diverse range of items such as juices in various flavors, honey, hair oil, toiletries, and ginger garlic paste. The foundation distributed these products to beneficiaries in Yercaud, which included children from government schools, attendees of evening study centers, youth oratories, women and youth volunteers, participants of medical camps, and other deserving individuals. Through these efforts, the foundation successfully provided essential products to those in need, making a positive impact on the community.

The beneficiaries are overwhelmed with gratitude for the things received. It brought a sense of joy and comfort to their lives. The act of kindness from the donors has created an effect of goodwill in the community, inspiring others to come forward and support people. The collaboration between the SPS India Foundation, the Desai Foundation Trust, and Dabur exemplifies the power of collective efforts in creating a brighter and more compassionate society for all.



Entrepreneurship Training

SPS India Foundation recently held an entrepreneurship training initiative for women who completed a four-month program focusing on producing value-added goods. These women are now registered as entrepreneurs on Udyam and have acquired FSSAI certificates to produce value-added food items. To enhance their marketing skills, a session was arranged with Mr. Prasanna, the Managing Director of Grand Palace - Yercaud, Mrs. Prasanna, and Mr. Ramesh, the Managing Director of Kurinchi Trust - Yercaud. They shared valuable insights and expressed their support for the initiative. The participants actively participated in the session, with Mr. Prasanna's interview with the entrepreneurs being a standout moment. Overall, the program proved to be enlightening.



Yercaud Health and Wellness Festival

On February 24th, 2024, an expansive medical outreach event aimed at aiding tribal communities took place at the RC Church in Yercaud, Salem District. Spearheaded by the SPS India Foundation in collaboration with the Desai Foundation Trust and with support from the Primary Health Centre of Vazhavanthi, Yercaud, the event offered a wide array of medical services. These included general health check-ups, eye screenings, tuberculosis X-rays, gynecological consultations, and patient discussions with physicians.

Within the gynecology section, specialized attention was given to women's health concerns, with experienced gynecologists providing consultations, screenings, and vital information on reproductive health. Women also had access to scanning facilities addressing family planning and menstrual health. Attendees appreciated the focus on preventive care and early detection.

The general health check-up area saw a significant turnout, catering to individuals of all ages with comprehensive assessments, physical examinations, vital sign evaluations, and health education sessions promoting lifestyle modifications and preventive measures.



Yercaud Health and Wellness Festival

(continues) Eye health was addressed through eye examinations, vision screenings, and the distribution of prescription glasses as needed. Eye care specialists emphasized early detection and intervention to prevent visual impairments. Specialized services for assessing bone health, particularly targeting osteoporosis risks, were provided through osteodensitometry check-ups. Attendees received bone density tests and advice on nutrition and lifestyle changes to promote bone health.

The introduction of Siddha medicines to attendees unfamiliar with synthetic drugs fostered confidence and awareness within the community. The collaborative efforts of healthcare professionals, Desai Foundation Trust volunteers, and local youth contributed to the camp's success, promoting a holistic approach to healthcare. The initiative underscored the significance of community-oriented healthcare in promoting well-being and preventive measures. Dr. Thompson, the BMO of Vazhavanthi, Fr. Selvakumar, SDB, the Project Director of SPS India Foundation, and other key individuals played pivotal roles in organizing the event.



PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT BETWEEN SPS & DFT

Plan & Review meeting

On February 14th, 2024, the Partnership Summit and Planning Meeting took place between SPS India Foundation and its partner organization, The Desai Foundation Trust (DFT). Representing DFT were Mrs. Mittal Gohil, Executive Director, Mr. Pratik Parekh, Senior Manager, and Mr. Pranav Pratap Singh, Program Manager. SPS was represented by Fr. Arul Maran, Secretary, Fr. Selvakumar, Project Director, and various center directors where projects are implemented. The meeting commenced with a prayer song led by the Project Director of SPS, followed by a warm welcome from the Secretary.

The Project Director then presented the impact report along with evaluations and suggestions for the upcoming year, which was followed by presentations from other directors regarding their respective impact reports. Subsequently, plans for the next financial year were discussed, including DFT's plans for Tamil Nadu. In the afternoon, there was a meeting with HFH volunteers at The Retreat Don Bosco premises. Both partners expressed satisfaction with the progress and implementation of projects in Tamil Nadu, fostering continued collaboration and cooperation.



Unity In Crisis:

Relief Efforts During Tuticorin's Severe Floods

In December, Tuticorin, particularly the southern districts, faced a severe flood that inundated nearby ponds, lakes, and rivers. The floodwaters surrounded people's living spaces, forcing them to seek refuge on rooftops to save their lives. Unfortunately, even after a month, the flooded water showed no signs of subsiding, causing extensive damage to homes and assets.

The devastating flood left the affected residents in dire straits. However, relief efforts from various sources, including NGOs, government organizations, and compassionate individuals, played a crucial role in providing essential aid. SPS India Foundation, Don Bosco Arts and Science College, Keela Eral College, and Desai Foundation Trust were among the organizations that stepped up to assist the affected population, recognizing the urgency of their situation.

These organizations distributed flood relief materials to families in the worst-hit towns, namely Tsunami Colony and Therasepuram. The volunteers from these three organizations demonstrated unwavering dedication throughout the relief efforts. They actively supported the entire process, from the export of relief goods to their delivery, displaying a remarkable spirit of cooperation without any resentment.

The collective efforts of everyone involved, dedicating their time and energy to this heartwarming moment, were instrumental in providing much-needed support to the affected communities. A special acknowledgment goes to everyone for their significant contribution and concern for the relief efforts.

