

## Newsletter November 2014

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## Message From The Director

Dear Friends,

Cordial greetings from the staff and children at Ashalayam!

I believe these few lines find you all in the best of health after a colourful celebration of the national festivities. As usual the children were eagerly waiting for these celebrations, gifts, bursting of crackers and of course relishing of abundance of sweets and delicious dishes.

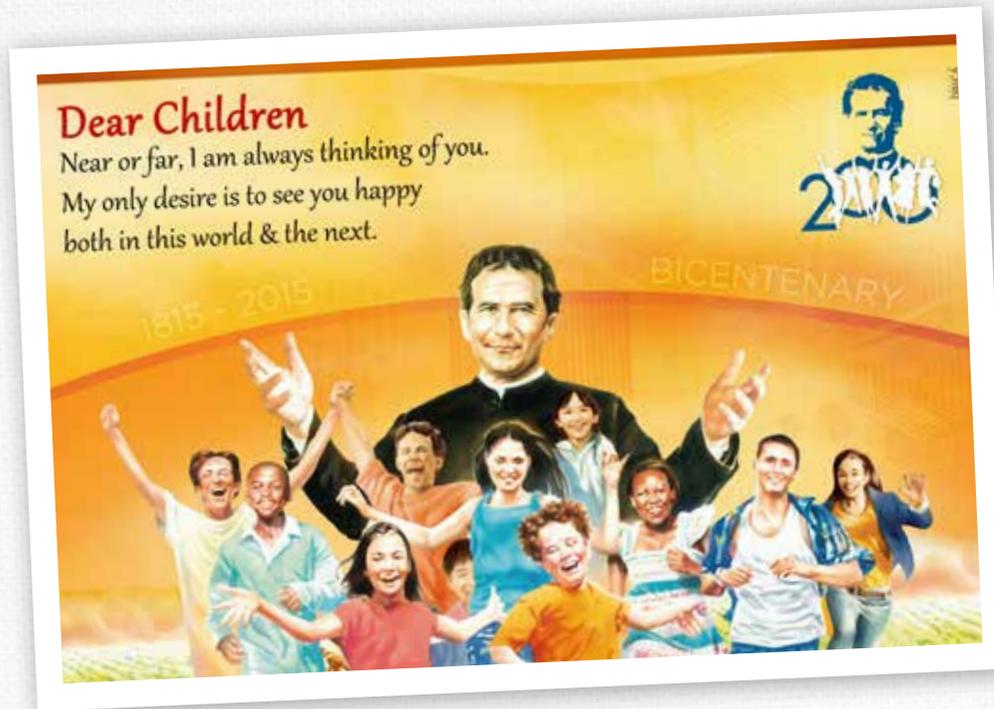
On the day of Dusshera Children had been to see the burning of Ravan, which is the destruction of evil powers and the victory of goodness. Deepawali celebrations were much more exciting for the children and all enjoyed it very much to their heart's content. I am sure the victory of light over darkness will enlighten everyone to enjoy the fullness of life which is primarily a precious gift from God.

You have been with us to make a difference in the lives of our children who have lost the joy of childhood and we are grateful to your valuable contributions.

May God bless you  
With warm regards,

**Father George  
(Director)**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George', written over a horizontal line.

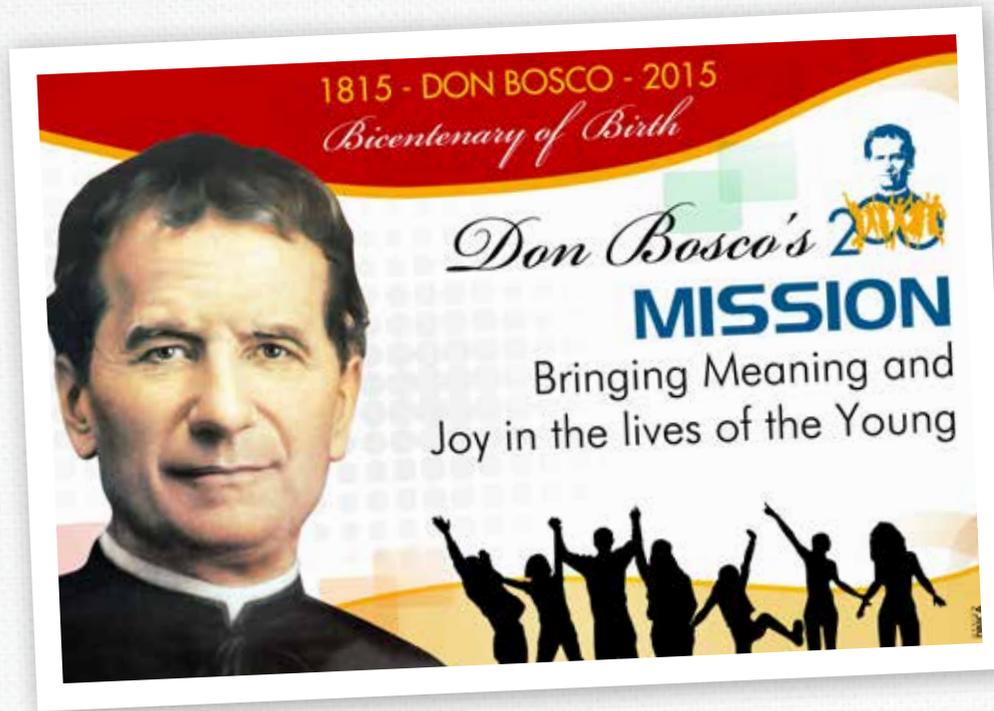


## Believed Insane!

Don Bosco was harassed not only by the Civil Authorities but by his own confreres who tried very hard to impede the development of his work. What was most galling was that among these priests were some of his earliest friends. It was precisely these people who were convinced that Don Bosco had gone out of his mind, that his preoccupation and time spent with the youngsters were a mania. And like good friends they tried to persuade him to abandon his undertaking.

A few of them visited him and, with all the kindness they had in their hearts, explained that he was compromising the dignity of the priesthood, that by joining those “rascals” in their games and accompanying them through the streets and squares he was losing his respect and being ridiculed. Don Bosco knew for certain that his work served a just cause, and that, therefore, it was impossible to move him by the logic of their arguments.

Nevertheless, his friends, far from being discouraged, continued pleading with him. Finally, convinced of his insanity, they told him that his mind was no longer functioning properly, that he should be patient and should not become obstinate —



**Believed Insane!...**

could not do the impossible! Still, Don Bosco was not dissuaded. One of them said: "Do you not see that even providence is against you, and you cannot even find someone who will rent you a house to carry out your work?"

Lifting his hands towards Heaven, Don Bosco said: "You are wrong! It is Divine Providence that has sent each of these little ones to me and I will not turn even one of them away! Since no one will rent me a place, I shall build one. There will be huge edifices with laboratories, classrooms, offices, playgrounds, cloisters, and a magnificent church. There will be seminarians, art instructors, professors, assistants and many priests. Providence has always helped me and will do everything that is necessary. You will see!" As he said these words his entire expression lighted up with a singular splendour. His friends were really moved by what they heard and saw in them a real proof of his insanity. When they had left him, they shook their heads saying: "Poor man, he has really lost his mind! We must do something about it immediately."

Don Bosco, who had accompanied them to the door could read their thoughts, and understood their intentions. Patiently he awaited developments ever ready to face the most difficult struggle.



On Thursday 2nd October, birthday of the Father of our Nation, the Prime Minister inaugurated "SWATCH BHARAT" campaign to make a true homage to Mahatma and to imbibe his values. The children had to go to school to clean the school premises together with the teachers. On returning home they also contributed their share in cleaning in and around the premises. It was nice to see the enthusiasm and the spirit of hard work for a common cause.

## Gandhi Jayanti





On 11th October, we had a surprised visit of 20 boys and girls from Taiwan, Hongkong, Canada and England, organized and accompanied by Snow Leopard Adventures Pvt. Ltd. to have an interaction with the children. They were welcomed by the children with songs and dances. Sharing of experiences and were very enriching to both groups and then the culmination of the day was basketball match, which was enjoyed by both groups.

## Students from abroad





Fourteen children from Modern Convent School, Dwarka visited Ashalayam on Wednesday 15th October, for a social awareness programme of their school. They also distributed books and stationeries for the children.

## Modern Convent School





As a part of social awareness initiatives taken by Sachdeva Global School, Dwarka, 45 students along with 2 of their teachers visited DBA on Tuesday, 21st Oct 2014. They presented a short Cultural programme of music and dance for the entertainment of children. The students had collected and brought with them toys, sweets, clothes and raw material for eatables for the residents of Ashaayam. Our children showed their appreciation by spontaneous items.

## Sachdeva Global School





## Dance by Ambassadors of Hungary



The same day evening was a surprise for everyone at Ashalayam, as the Hungarian renowned Folk Dance Group "Csillagszemu (Starry-Eyed) Dance Ensemble" came to entertain the children for an hour. The Csillagszemu Dance Ensemble was founded by Sándor Timár and his wife Böske Timár in 1993. The group is counted as the biggest independent Dance-Group of Hungary with its 750 members. Their mission is to represent the country's culture in the world, that's why they are called "the Dance-Ambassadors of Hungary". Over the past 20 years, they traveled around the world and received most prestigious Hungarian prizes. In 2012, after a successful tour to 13 Indian cities, the group performed at the Delhi International Arts Festival.

The Group participated with 22 members, wherein there were 17 Performers, 3 members of Folk and Music Group, 2 TV Personnel who were covering all of their performances, during the tour in India. The group performed for 45 minutes and kept the children spell bound.



## Happy Deepawali

Early in the morning on 23rd October, thirty of our senior boys had gone to Sector 10, Dwarka, to participate their community programme of lighting the lamp and sharing the joy of Deepawali festival organized by the yoga group.

In the morning hours children were divided into four groups and had games and competitions. In the evening at 7.00 p.m. there was a prayer service organized by the boys to thank the Lord of light for the numerous blessings as well as imploring the grace to be guided by the true light in their life's journey. After a sumptuous dinner the children were all in a joyful mode of dancing, bursting of crackers and enjoying the fireworks programme. The day was filled with lots of fun and enjoyment for the children.





## Medical follow up



Dr. Kumar and team from Max life Foundation came on 26th October to give the fourth course of injection to our children.



**Deprived of opportunities but determination paves the path!!!!**

Sabana, 8 years old is a regular student of Non Formal Education Centre(NFE) at Sarai Kale Khan, after much struggles and difficulties. Though she resides very near to our centre with the parents and her siblings, opportunities were not accessible. The parents are daily labourers and she being the eldest takes care of her 5 siblings. She had come into contact with our NFE teacher and had shown keen interest towards education, but unable to attend classes, since she had to look after her siblings in the absence of her parents. The teacher tried her best to convince the parents the need of the child to get educated, but the parents were not moved as they had to work and earn their daily bread. So the teacher allowed Sabana to come to the Centre with her siblings and the other children too helped her to look after her one year old younger brother. Now she is a regular student interested in learning and is eager to go to the school for formal education.



**BEST  
DEEPAWALI  
GIFT**  
**He was lost, now  
he is found!**

Rohit, aged 10 years, who got separated 5 years back ( as stated by father of the child) was restored to his family on evening of Dhanteras,. He was transferred to Ashalayam by the CWC of Lajpat Nagar on 16.7.2014, after having stayed in Aman Biradri and Village Cottage Home-I, Lajpat Nagar from 2012-2014. He is a quiet boy but is also equally street smart. During numerous counseling sessions he used to tell that he is native of Garwal Region (Uttaranchal) but he could not remember the name of the Village. He also affirmed that his uncle lives in Sangam Vihar, but he is unable to recall his name. Numbers of visits were made near Sangam Vihar to trace out the family of the child, but all the efforts were in vain. He made all efforts to hide his

family whereabouts and it was observed that child was not interested to go back to his family. It was very difficult to make the child believe that he would not be restored without his consent. Fortunately he gave a clue that he used to visit Kalka Mandir very often with his friends and even alone. He also shared that he used to board a bus from his home and de-board it after 5-6 stations at Kalka Mandir. The social worker took the child to Kalka Mandir for a visit and showed him the places within the radius of 5-6 bus stops from Kalka Mandir. He was unable to recognize any surrounding areas except the road towards Chiragh Delhi, where he recognized a petrol pump and the park adjacent to it. Further enquires were done about the child and

somehow reached the house of a class mate of his sister. She told that his family has shifted from their previous address and she is unaware of the current address. The social worker followed up the case the next day and met the Child's sister at her school, Sarvodya Kanya Vidyalaya, Swami Nagar (Delhi). The current address was traced: a rented House No: 73, Chiragh Delhi, and the owner of the house was Phoolwati w/o Dharm Singh.

The child showed willingness to go back to his home after having met his dear ones and was restored to his family by orders of CWC on the evening of Dhanteras. It was best Diwali gift for the family to get back their son on an auspicious occasion.

## At Ashalayam

Number of children on the first day of the month	66
New arrivals	09
Restoration to parents	05
Transferred to other institutions	00
No. of children set free	00
Run Away	00
<b>Total No. of the month</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>No. of children on last day of the month</b>	<b>70</b>

## Monthly Statistics

### Shelter Home at Okhla

Number of children on the first day of the month	18
New arrivals	13
Restoration to parents	04
Transferred to other institutions	02
<b>Total No. of the month</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>No. of children on last day of the month</b>	<b>15</b>

## At NFE Centres

Meer Dard Road	52
Peswa Road	54
Nizamuddin	30
Okhla	40
Daya Basti	54
Sadar Bazar	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>278</b>

## At the Hostel

College going boys	16
Studies & Vocational Training	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>

# Childline Interventions Calls Statistics

	Calls	First Intervention	Multiple Intervention, if any									Total
			Medical	Shelter	Restoration	Repatriation	Rescue from abuse	Death Related	Sponsorship	Missing	ES&G	
<b>I</b>	<b>Intervention</b>											
	Medical Help	1									1	1
	Shelter	14		10	5						14	29
	Restoration (within the country)	3			3						3	6
	Repatriation (outside the country)											
	Rescue from abuse	16	1	3			6				6	16
	Death Related											
	Sponsorship											
	Referred by another CHILDLINE											
<b>II</b>	<b>Missing Children</b>											
	Child Lost											
	Parents Asking Help	4			1							
<b>III</b>	<b>Emotional Support &amp; Guidance</b>	6									4	5
	<b>Total I to III</b>	44	1	13	9		6				28	57



Thank you for reading our newsletters. We have one every month for you, so we can tell you our stories. Let us know if you enjoy reading them, it makes us happy. Do write to us...

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