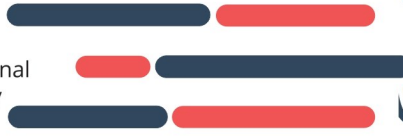




BREADS

Bangalore Rural Educational
and Development Society



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Slice

Director's Message

BREADS, in its efforts to reach the marginalised and poor, is the proud partner of many outstanding Don Bosco social work organisations as well as networking agencies. **Don Bosco Sneha Bhavan in Kochi**, has been a stalwart in the Salesian province of Bangalore, leading the way for the work of the rescue and rehabilitation of the young at risk (YaR). In 2024, Sneha Bhavan reaches a momentous milestone—its golden anniversary of service to children and youth at risk. This edition of Slice celebrates the existence of this organisation and the tremendous impact it has had on the individual lives of children and youth, as well as the Province of Bangalore, as a proponent of focused work with the YaR sector over the years.

On behalf of BREADS, I offer my sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Salesians, the staff, children and youth of Don Bosco Sneha Bhavan, Kochi. May all your dedication and hard work bear abundant fruit and continue to illumine the lives of many children/young at risk!



Fr George PS
Executive Director, BREADS



Don Bosco Sneha Bhavan

Colouring the lives of young at risk since 1974

Don Bosco Sneha Bhavan is the invaluable result of the collaborative efforts of the Salesians of Don Bosco and the Kochi Municipal Corporation, in response to the vagrancy and destitution of children and youth on the streets of Kochi, Kerala. Much like in the times of Don Bosco, there was an urgent need to intervene in the lives of these children to direct them away from self-destructive illegal activities, towards stable and productive lives, within a loving home environment. Thus, DB Sneha Bhavan was started in 1974, with Fr Varghese Menachery as its first Director; and later registered under the Travancore-Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Registration Act, 1955.



This trailblazing public-private partnership has had enormous impact both on the city, and on the lives of thousands of people who benefitted from it. DB Sneha Bhavan continues to enjoy the well-earned confidence and support of the local government administration as well as numerous corporates and individuals who have witnessed its tremendous contribution to the state of Kerala, and Kochi city in particular.

Since its inception, numerous other offshoots and services have been created in response to the evolving needs of the children and the situation on the ground.

- * **SNEHA BHAVAN** in Kochi is dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of children from the streets/at risk. Forty boys under 13 years of age currently reside in a family-like environment with the best of care, attending school, or being prepared to do so.
- * **BOSCO NILAYAM** is an open shelter for boys and youth above 18 years, looking for a safe space in Kochi city.



* **DON BOSCO BOYS' HOME** is where, in keeping with child safeguarding norms, older boys in the age group of 13-17 years, continue their formal education in Palluruthy. This year, 49 boys are pursuing higher education and professional courses here. Skill development through arts and crafts is promoted for those who are not academically inclined.

* **VALSALYA BHAVAN AMMATHOTTIL** was started in 1997 in collaboration with the Kochi Municipal Corporation.

Girls younger than 13 years, who are rescued from abuse or abandonment and neglect, receive formal education here.

- * **VALSALYA BHAVAN ANNEXE** is currently home to 21 teenage girls in need of care and protection, undergoing higher education and life skills training.

- * **DON BOSCO PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT CENTRE** offers the children and their families crucial psychosocial support in the form of counselling and life skills training, to improve their lives. Its services also extend to children, guardians, and educators from the surrounding schools and the community.



- * **CHILDLINE** is the free government emergency phone service operated by Don Bosco Sneha Bhavan in Kochi, providing 24-hour responses to children in need of care and protection, as well as referring children to long-term rehabilitative services. CHILDLINE helpdesks at sensitive locations play an important role in rescuing children in difficult circumstances.

Fostering Children with Loving Care

In keeping with its innovative approach to children in need of care and protection, DB Sneha Bhavan promotes their holistic development, fostering individual talents through appropriate training and exposure. Children receive psychosocial and emotional support in addition to their school education. They are encouraged to explore artistic and sporting abilities. In collaboration with corporate partners, DB Sneha Bhavan facilitates skills trainings and other programmes which support young people to access more opportunities in their lives.

Numerous children—Eby, George, Mohan, Sanju, Novel, Saji, Christy, Madhu, Unni—to name just a few this year, are doing extremely well in school and college and winning recognition for their achievements in diverse fields. Older youth have always been supported to start their own careers and families; a fact to which, thousands of DB Sneha Bhavan alumni can testify. Their lives took different trajectories because of the faith and confidence that DB Sneha Bhavan invested in them. Many of them return to acknowledge and support their alma mater as they achieved stability and success in their lives.



Alukaran, a True Son of Don Bosco

Alukaran, as a child facing a broken family and extreme financial constraints, landed in DB Sneha Bhavan in 1974. He lived here for 10 years, imbibing the spirit of people like Don Bosco and Mother Teresa, through the institution. Like Don Bosco, he also dreamed of saving lives.

In 2000, he joined CHILDLINE as a volunteer for about 3 years. Saddened by the pitiable state of children and destitutes living on the street, he resigned his job, and started rescuing and rehabilitating such people in centres across Ernakulam district.

Many like-minded individuals helped him set up his new mission. Over the years, Alukaran and his team have rescued about 4000 people. In 2018, he started Jeeva Karunya Bhavan for the rehabilitation of destitutes.

Alukaran says that Sneha Bhavan inspired him to become a life-saver. If we measured the success of an institution, Alukaran would be a gold medal for DB Sneha Bhavan.

DB Sneha Bhavan, YaR Initiatives in the Bangalore Province & BREADS

DB Sneha Bhavan's pioneering work with the Young at Risk in the Salesian province of Bangalore (INK), inspired many others to take up such initiatives, to the extent that the Province earned the moniker of being the *YaR Province*, because of its focused interventions in this sector. Since then, the INK Province has continued to invest its resources and energy—through BREADS, other Don Bosco organisations, funding agencies, corporates and individuals—in addressing the issues of children and youth in difficult circumstances.

Both BREADS and DB Sneha Bhavan are exploring the different ways in which children and youth are at risk in today's society, and are concerned about appropriate responses to these issues. Mental health and addictions are definitely challenges for today's youth, demanding an urgent response. Similarly, urban migration is a worldwide phenomenon, creating new populations of young urban poor from rural areas, giving rise to numerous human rights problems.

BREADS collaborates closely with DB Sneha Bhavan on two major programmes:

DREAM: BREADS piloted the Drug Rehabilitation Education and Mentoring (DREAM) programme with Sneha Bhavan in 2018, reaching out to thousands of children and youth to prevent substance abuse and other addictions through awareness, counselling and advocacy services. Based on its success in Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram, the DREAM programme is currently implemented in ten districts of Kerala. DREAM is making a huge difference in the lives of vulnerable children and youth, supporting their mental health, and helping them make positive life choices.

KISMAT: Kerala Interstate Migrants' Alliance for Transformation (KISMAT) supported by BREADS, reaches out to hundreds of thousands of interstate migrants across 14 districts of Kerala. DB Sneha Bhavan partners with BREADS in Ernakulam district to provide emergency help, awareness about entitlements, advocacy for worker rights, inclusion in local communities, and coordination with government departments. Thousands of migrant workers in Ernakulam district have benefitted by KISMAT's support in various ways, notably during the COVID pandemic. These included emergency services, awareness programmes, medical camps, cultural events, and creation of community structures like the Migrant Welfare Committee, that are responsible for migrants locally.



In its 50th year, as Don Bosco Sneha Bhavan continues to move forward, “*inspired by Don Bosco and challenged by marginalization, striving by its attitudes, way of life and actions, to empower children and young at risk, to create a child-friendly society by networking with like-minded individuals and groups*”, BREADS will continue to support and collaborate with it to achieve this vision.

Animating Youth and Communities to a Spirit of Service

Don Bosco Youth Services (DBYS), Karnataka is responsible for animating young people with good spiritual and social values through various programmes. Recently, BREADS also supported these programmes to promote the spirit of community and social service among the youth.

- * DBYS facilitated a Youth Christmas Programme on 9-10 December 2023 at Don Bosco Prakashpalya with over 100 youth participants from various parts of Southern Karnataka. Led by Fr. Uday Kumar, the Karnataka Youth Director, the young people prepared spiritually for Christmas while also enjoying camaraderie and fun with carol singing and campfires. Fr. Varghese Kapplikunel, the Youth Ministry Delegate of the Province was also present. The youth visited the Holy Cross Hospital in Kamagere, where they spent some time with the patients and distributed fruits and snacks, to share the spirit and joy of Christmas. The programme was a great success, providing the youth an opportunity to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.



- * DBYS organised Boscotsava 2024 on 13-14 January 2024 in Don Bosco Tumkur, for the youth of Hospet, Davanagere, Chitradurga and Tumkur. The event was led by Fr. Regi, the Hospet Zonal Director, and Fr. Uday Kumar, the Karnataka Youth Director. Nearly 100 youth gathered to celebrate the feast of Don Bosco. The event was a great success—the youth could learn about Don Bosco through a mega quiz, immerse themselves in spiritual activities, as well as enjoy sports competitions, campfires and prizes. The presence of the animators added the essence of guidance and leadership to the event. Boscotsava 2024 was a perfect blend of spiritual and physical activities, providing the youth with a holistic experience.



- * BREADS also supports the Provincial House of the Salesian province of Bangalore, in executing a *Care & Share* programme, which feeds 100 people in need everyday. Funds are donated by benefactors, who wish to provide a hot meal to the needy to mark a significant day in their own lives, such as birthdays, anniversaries etc. This initiative means the world to the mostly elderly people, who receive the hot cooked lunch everyday.



On 22 December 2023, *Care & Share* organised a Christmas function for its beneficiaries. The local benefactors from Provincial House and Lingarajapuram parish joined in the celebration, giving Christmas presents to the poor people, who otherwise would not receive anything. This meaningful celebration of Christmas brings home its true spirit: God sharing his love for humans, especially the down-trodden. It would indeed be great if we took this spirit forward throughout the year—by caring and sharing with the poor.

Calendar

December 2023

- Core team meeting with APF- Empowering children through education and child rights promotion project
- Christmas celebrations in BREADS
- Annual outing of the BREADS team
- Project monitoring visits by BREADS team
- Employee engagement programmes with CSR partners
- WELivE programme restarted in four districts of Karnataka

January 2024

- Inauguration of Don Bosco ICSE School, Bidar
- Inauguration of Don Bosco School, Hospet
- Project visits by BREADS' funding partners
- Monitoring visits by BREADS
- Celebration of the feast of Don Bosco by DB partners

BREADS NEWS



Training of Yadagir Staff

Don Bosco Centre for Social Action, Yadgir, organised a two-day training on 4-5 December 2023, for 32 staff members as part of the Empowering Children through Education and Child Rights Promotion initiative. [...more...](#)



Core Project team meeting- Empowering children through education and child rights promotion

The core team for the project "Empowering Children through Education and Child Rights Promotion," supported by Azim Premji Foundation (APF), met on 15 December 2023 at the APF District Institute, Kalaburagi. [...more...](#)



A home for Muddukappa's family

Muddukappa and his family have been an integral part of the child labour mission in Don Bosco Devadurga for over 15 years, living on the premises in a small house. Muddukappa served as the driver [...more...](#)



Brittania spreads Christmas Cheer!

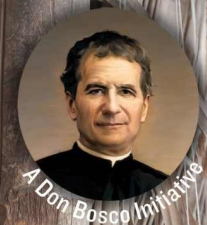
It was a special Christmas celebration at the Brittania offices in Whitefield, Bangalore, on 22 December, 2023. Children from BOSCO Mane (a BREADS-supported halfway home for young boys preparing for a life [...more...](#)

[Click here for more news about BREADS.](#)

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RUN FOR SHE



28
April
2024

Shaping Her Education

TCS World 10K Bengaluru Marathon

BREADS is running to provide quality education to 100 girl children. Join us!



DONATE NOW

SHE has a dream!

A big shout-out for your support!

- Nigel Fernandes
- Nibedita Dutta
- Sherin Rose
- Ramesh N
- Joy Nedumparambil
- Sheba Satish
- Nileena Wilson
- Neethu K D
- Jijo Joy
- Ujjal Mukherjee
- John Philip
- Sheila Remidos
- Lorraine Moreira
- Bosco Motha
- Lakshmipathy Reddy
- Jitto Joy
- Justina Sumathi
- Catherine
- Joe Francis
- Neetu Das
- Cheryl
- Suresh N