



# ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020



# DON BOSCO ASHALAYAM

HOWRAH LILUAH KOLKATA KALYANI

*Empowering the Young through Education and Skill Training*





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# About Don Bosco Ashalayam

## OUR VISION

The Vision of Don Bosco Ashalayam is to create a child friendly society that owns up offers sufficient possibilities for all its children to grow to full potential with right and responsibilities and becomes agent of social harmony.

## OUR MISSION

To empower

- the Young at Risk through the specially designed Empowerment process of Don Bosco Ashalayam to keep
- the community to own up and offer child friendly environments which enables every child to actualize herself/himself and influence the stakeholders to help ensure children enjoy their basic rights of survival, protection, development and participation.

## EMPOWERMENT PROCESS

Thus through the achievement of desired objectives and goal, with active participation from the children themselves, Ashalayam tries to ensure socio-economic rehabilitation of the beneficiaries by mainstreaming them back into society. It starts from street contact, to providing facilities in Don Bosco Ashalayam's Drop in Centre, Night Shelter, Transit centre, Children's Homes right up to Training and Placement opportunities: the complete rehabilitation process empowers and enlightens the children as to their rights and responsibilities, builds up their self-esteem to ultimately become responsible and contributing members of society.



Six Steps of  
DBA's Empowerment Process





# Directors note



present this annual report in the backdrop of the unusual and strange situation we find ourselves in. The pandemic and the lockdown forced a change in our routines; not all of them to our liking, nevertheless for our own sake, we had to adapt and adjust ourselves to what's now come to be known as the "new normal"; it's certainly new but definitely not normal. Most activities had to be stopped or curtailed but disruption in education is the biggest worry for us. It's not just the loss of education or studies but a disruption of a whole way of life. Children get restless; being confined within their homes that are usually cramped and very basic. They are missing out on more than just studies. Going to school meant walking or cycling to school, meeting friends there, interacting with teachers, playing and a lot more; in fact their entire social life has gone for a toss leading to psychological issues like depression and anxiety. Just before the imposition of the lockdown in March most of the hostel children went home. Some children stayed back because their guardians couldn't come to take them due to the transport restrictions. With the gradual easing of the lockdown from August onwards we have been bringing back the children in phases while maintaining all the safety protocols. Our hostel children have a regular routine of education, sports and games and recreation. Counselors are available to address any teen issues. Our counselors deserve appreciation for attending not only to our hostel children but also the gone home children and families as well as children in the outreach areas.



The pandemic combined with the sudden lockdown brought economic activity at a standstill, millions lost their jobs and livelihood. In our neighborhood itself we saw families struggling to survive and quickly organized ourselves to provide relief by way of food rations and hygiene materials to the distressed families. I'll not go into the particulars as all our relief activities are detailed in this report. I appreciate our staff members ably led by Rajib Goswami and Sontu Ali; their respective teams worked day and night to identify the neediest families then ensuring that the food rations and other essentials like masks and soap reached them in the quickest possible time. I'm also grateful to our donors for their proactive approach; their prompt relief assistance saved more than 6000 families from sure starvation. I pray to the almighty to give strength to all of us to weather this crisis and I'm hopeful that 2021 will be a harbinger of good tidings for all of us.

Fr. Mathew Parakonath SDB  
Director

# Salesian Team



Administrator for ten years in DBA, **Fr. Mudkampurath Jose** plays an important role in the running of the Institution. The entire accounts, finance and asset management of DBA is in his able hands. He's in charge of the Vocational Training and the Howrah and Kalyani hostels as well. Fr. Jose is the Scout Commissioner of Howrah District. Despite the huge responsibilities and hectic schedule Fr. Jose works with clockwork precision and all the programs and celebrations in DBA bear the imprint of his quiet efficiency.



**Fr. Siby Vadakel** joined as Assistant Director in June 2020. Fr. Siby has long experience in working with children having been principal of Don Bosco Schools in Park Circus, Liluah Bandel, Kalyani, Azimgunj & Malbassey. In DBA he's in charge of Education, Kolkata hostels, professional courses, documentation, PR & fund raising. He is an educational advisor to many prestigious schools in Kolkata. Fr. Siby's rich educational and administrative experiences coupled with deep understanding of children are sure to significantly enhance the quality of the work we do for children.



A qualified and dedicated social worker, **Fr. Cheriatt Jose** hit the ground running as soon as he joined as Assistant Director last June taking charge of DBA's Outreach Projects like Railway Childline, District Childline, Asha Sishu Siksha Project and National Child Labour Project. He's also in charge of the Bhattanagar hostels and being a keen sportsman himself is leading DBA's sports program keeping our children involved in basketball, rugby, football, swimming and other sports; all within the safety of our campus.



A senior Salesian, **Fr. P.V. Thomas** is our guide and mentor in many ways. Fr. Thomas has served in various Salesian Institutions in the province in the capacity of educator, counselor and youth animator. Fr. Thomas has attended youth counseling programs in Italy and Germany. An experienced counselor Fr. Thomas's sage advice and guidance will benefit the youth and staff of Don Bosco Ashalayam.

# Empowering Children and Youth through Education and Skill Training

## Overview of services and facilities offered to children staying in DBA Hostels

Hostel facilities	318 children staying in 16 hostels located in Howrah, Liluah, Kolkata and Kalyani.
Education	318 children in schools, 56 youngsters pursuing higher education.
Counseling & Therapy Program	Individual counseling and regular group therapy programs.
Life Skills Education	Build social skills and to prepare young people to cope with challenges of life. All students Class VIII onwards covered under this program.
Sports Program	Daily sports and coaching for basketball, rugby, football, hockey and self defense.
Extra Curricular Activities	Music, theatre, dance, mime, painting, photography and more.
Vocational Training	Training facilities for 12 trades in 3 Vocational Training centres in Howrah, Pilkhana and Kalyani.
Staff capacity building	Staff trainings on child protection and development issues.
Placement	24 youth placed in jobs during the year.

# Residential Facilities

## Arindam's story

*I* lost my mother when I was around 9 years old, that time my brother was just 6 months old and sister around 12. My father used to work in construction sites as a daily wager but being an alcoholic, he never had a steady income. I was eager to study but received no encouragement from my father instead he sent me to work in Jamshedpur. I did not like it there; my employer was rough and beat me often so I went back home but there too I was beaten by my father. I decided to leave and stay on my own, luckily I got job in hotel near Jamshedpur bus stand. My job was to clean the dishes and table, wages were two meals a day. Around two months later the owner sent me to work in his relative's place, here I worked for 3 months, again without any wages, whenever I asked for a salary I would get a slap in return. Once my employer sent me with 10 rupees to buy vegetables. I was so fed up I decided to go to Mumbai and try my luck there. From Tatanagar station I boarded a train thinking it was bound for Mumbai but it wasn't, I landed up in Howrah instead. I was looking around seeking to board a Mumbai bound train when two persons approached me and asked me about my whereabouts. They were DBA Outreach staff. Thereafter they took me to the Railway Police where they once again offered to escort me back home but I refused saying that I did not want to go back and get regularly beaten again, I wanted to go to school and study. After completing lot of paperwork at the police station I was brought to Don Bosco Ashalayam which became my home for the next fifteen years, It's a golden period of my life. I stayed in DBA's Bhattanagar Hostel and admitted in a nearby school. I enjoyed everything in Don Bosco Ashalayam like group activity such as playing with friends, yearly summer camp, sports and everything else needed for a child to grow up with a happy mind. I completed Madhyamik in 2008 and then joined technical course in Don Bosco Technical School, Liluah. On completion of this course I got campus placement in a company in Dankuni. During my stay in DBA, Father's would encourage me to reconnect with my family. After 12 years accompanied by a staff member I went home to my village in Purulia. After 12 long years it was difficult to recognize my village and my family, but my family and neighbors received me with happiness.



Being interested in academics I decided to study Mechanical Engineering which I completed in 2017. Now I am working as an Technical Instructor in Don Bosco Technical Institute in Kolkata. I also got married and have a son. I'm grateful to Don Bosco Ashalayam for giving me opportunities to explore and maximize my potential.



# Residential Facilities

## Children's Hostels in Don Bosco Ashalayam

*O*ur hostels are children friendly with all amenities and services that are needed for the healthy all round development of children. In addition to good infrastructural facilities DBA's residential care program gives primacy to the fulfillment of child's emotional and psychological needs. Love and care for children are integral to Don Bosco's philosophy and finds reflection in all the work we do for and with children. The hostels have dormitories, study rooms, recreation room, kitchen, bathrooms and ample space for playing. The Liluah and Kalyani units have large playgrounds and parks within the campus. The daily activity routine is worked out with the active participation of the children to infuse a sense of purpose in the young minds. The children attend formal schools and the senior boys and girls also learn a skill in the vocational training centre. Children get tuition support to help improve their grades in school. Computer classes, sports, karate, music, photography etc are a part of their hostel routine. Presently 322 children are staying in DBA's 12 hostels located across Howrah, Kolkata, Liluah and Kalyani.





# Education

*D*on Bosco Ashalayam accords the highest priority for education. It is compulsory for all children to attend school. Most children admitted in DBA have never been to school or had to drop out early due to economic compulsions it's a challenge to get them to take interest in studies. To overcome this barrier the children learn the basics in the Bridge Course Schools located in DBA's Bhattanagar and Kalyani Campuses where they are prepped for integration in the age appropriate class in formal school. Presently 322 children living in DBA's 12 hostels in Howrah, Liluah, Kolkata and Kalyani attend regular school. 86 youngsters are pursuing Higher Education/Training after school. The disciplines include, Nursing, Teachers Training, ITI in Civil, Mechanical, Automobile, Electronics, Graphic Printing, Sports Management, Hospitality Management or Graduation courses in Arts, Science, Commerce, Computer Applications etc.

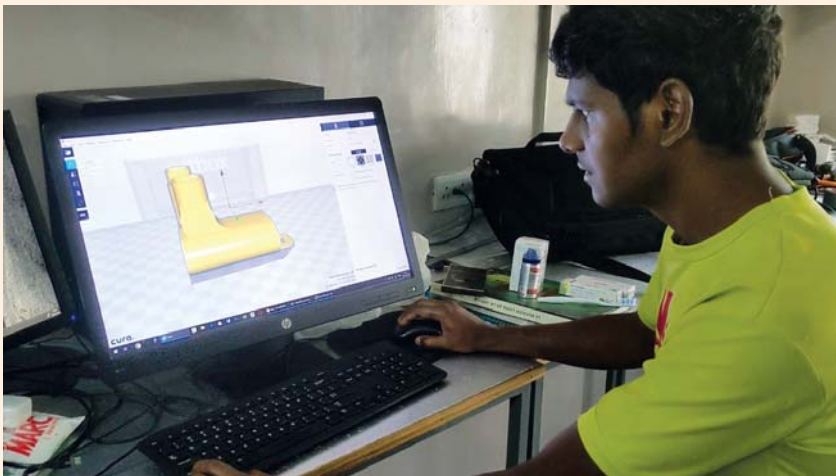




# Education

I

am **Ghanshayam Kumar** studying in Class XII and staying in Asha Tici hostel of Don Bosco Ashalayam. I've been staying in DBA since 2009 when I was just 7 years old. My younger brother Vishal is also staying in DBA, he's in Bhattanagar hostel. I'm interested in studies and secure good marks in exams, I want to study further and become successful in life.. Apart from education I'm learning many things like, karate, skating, computer applications, life skills and much more. I love sports; rugby and cycling are among my favourite sports. I'm grateful to the Father's for giving me this wonderful opportunity.



I

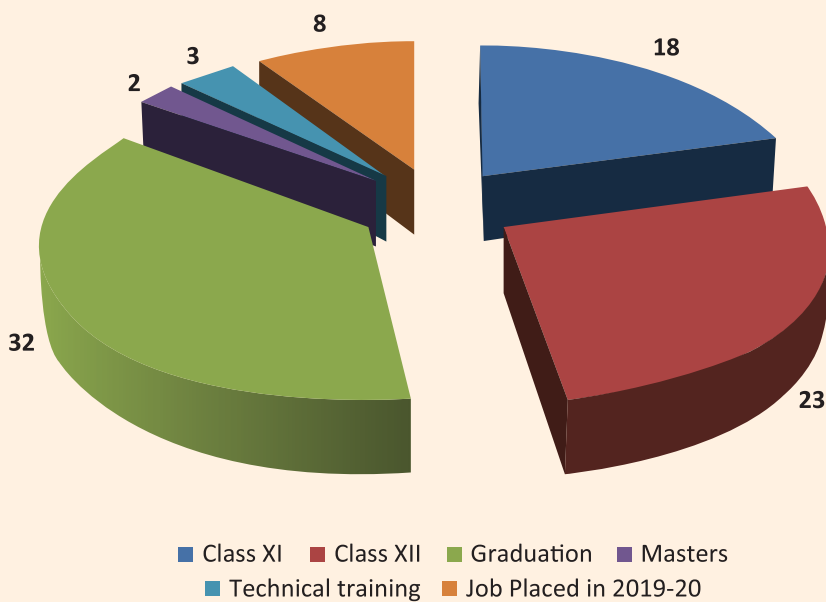
got separated from my family and was lost in Howrah station. I stayed in the station for several days before I was rescued by DBA Outreach staff. They took me to DBA's main campus in Howrah where I saw many children who seemed to

be happy, I liked the place and decided to stay here. I stayed in DBA hostels in first in Kalyani and later in Bhattanagar and attended the schools there. After completing Higher Secondary I did ITI in Electronics from DBTI. I'm presently staying in DBA's Asha Tici hostel in Bakrahat and doing B-Tech in Electronics & Telecommunications now in my 4th year. I love designing stuff and during the pandemic I designed a ventilator mask that is suited for hospitals in emergency for Covid-19.

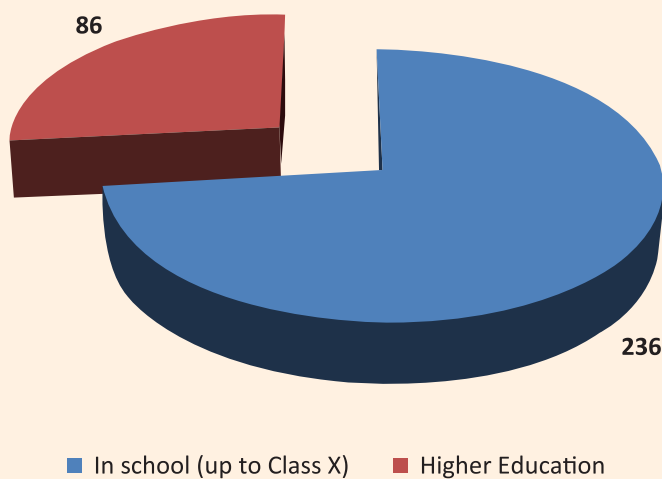


# Education

86 Youngsters  
in HS, Graduation, PG & Technical Courses



322 Children  
in school & higher education



# Social Integration through Education cum Work Experience

*T*his education cum work model in DBA's Asha Tici hostel is based on the German system of education and this project was conceived and initiated by Christophe Plais and supported by Fr. Mathew Parakonath. The project objective is to ensure that on completing education the youngster has sufficient job ready skills required for employment.

1. It assesses the specific needs and requirements of students.
2. The goal is to prepare the student to become ready for the job market.
3. It encourages the student to become progressively independent and autonomous by giving them responsibilities.
4. It's based on an integrated system of study cum work experience; students attend classes 4 days a week and 2 days internship in a partner company.
5. The program focuses on imparting computer, functional English and professional skills in the student and at the same time reinforcing the values of respect and solidarity they acquired as juniors in DBA hostels.
6. Boys and girls are encouraged to participate in various sporting activities with the aim to foster team spirit and personality building.
7. The senior students mentor and motivate the younger ones by taking classes and helping them cope with academic and other challenges.



# Counseling & Therapy Program



Counseling and therapy sessions have assumed greater significance due to the disruption of normal routine of school and college students. It's not just education that's been paused; the teenager's entire social life has been upended. Meeting and socializing with friends, sports and other activities are no longer possible thus creating a sense of restlessness and anxiety in youngsters. Counseling and therapy sessions help our children to unwind by evaluating the present situation and exploring possible alternatives. Counseling, therapy and life skills education is an ongoing program in DBA and covers all resident children. Counseling services are also provided in our outreach areas with tele-counseling for rescued children restored back to their families or referred to government homes.



# Medical Care

*W*

ith an infirmary in each of DBA's four units, medical assistance is available to all children staying in the 12 hostels and the Open Shelter. A qualified nurse tends to the children and also takes them for doctor visits as and when required. All children have been provided with protective face masks and a hand sanitizer per family. DBA staff explained and demonstrated precautionary and hygiene practices like;

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water (hand washing technique was demonstrated).
- Wear masks every time you step outside the dwelling place.
- Sneezing or coughing in the upper sleeve and not into your palms or hands.
- Avoid touching face.
- Practice physical distancing – stay at least 2 meters away from other people. Strictly avoid group gatherings.



The children who have gone home are being followed up over phone on a weekly basis. The families are being advised to follow the aforementioned precautionary and hygiene measures and to observe government guidelines on this issue. A Covid-19 test was for our children staying in the main campus was arranged. The tests were done to detect and treat possible infections if any. Fortunately all the 33 children tested negative. We are not relaxing our guard and the precautionary measures like thermal screening, frequent hand washing and sanitizing and periodic sanitization of the entire building continue like before.



# Sports

Access to high quality sport and physical activity is a part of the holistic development of children. In Don Bosco Ashalayam, regards sports and physical activity as integral to education and not viewed as extra-curricular activity because apart from physical development, sports promotes resilience and helps build team work, problem solving and communication skills. Our founder St. John Bosco deemed physical activity as central to the child's emotional and spiritual well being. Our regular sports and games include basketball, football, cricket, hockey, rugby, swimming, skating, golf, karate, table tennis and more. Many of our children have excelled in state and national level sport competitions.





# Life Skills Education Program



Academic skills alone may not make for a fulfilling life. Resilience, independence and confidence are required to face the challenges of everyday life in the 21st century. DBA's Life Skills Education (LSE) program aims to equip students with knowledge and skills in core areas like self-management, communication, teamwork, financial literacy and critical thinking skills. The LSE training and development programs are implemented through workshops, camps, exposure visits and community work experiences. During the last financial year LSE program covered 180 resident children of DBA.



# Vocational Training Centre

*V*ocational training in DBA equips students with practical experience and technical skills in a specific trade or field. It provides the young person with alternate pathways to career development. Vocational education prepares trainees for jobs in practical activities like bakery, hair dressing, mobile repairing, garment making, ethnic jewelry, woodwork, cycle & sport training and several other trades. The trainee develops expertise in specific trades and crafts. Vocational Training is offered to residential students of DBA studying in class IX to XII. For Class XI & XII the Vocational Training is combined with apprenticeship training as employers prefer to hire people who have gained the necessary practical skills through vocational training hence vocational training increases the employability quotient of the youngster. Vocational training inculcates a sense of work ethics in the trainee; a critical factor in the character building process of the youngster.



# Vocational Training Centre

## Number of Trainees in each Trade

S/N	Name of Centre	Trade	Number of Trainees		
			Boys	Girls	Total
1.	Howrah Centre	Paper Bag & Candle Making	08	-	08
		Tailoring	07	-	07
		Carpentry	14	-	14
		Card Painting	04	-	04
		Bakery	13	-	13
		Book Binding	08	-	08
		Mobile Repairing	06	-	06
		Saloon training	05	01	06
2.	Pilkhana Centre	Tailoring	-	18	18
3.	Asha Nirmala, Kalyani	Tailoring	-	12	12
		Jewelry Making	-	08	08
		Beautician	-	08	08
4.	Asha Tici, Bakrahat	Sports Cycle repairing	16	-	16
		Carpentry	02	-	02
		Retail Training	08	08	16
TOTAL			91	55	146

# Placement Cell



*I* came to DBA in the year 2003 from Howrah station through Childline. I was staying with my aunt but as she didn't like me very much or care for me I had to leave the place. I was roaming in Howrah Station when I was rescued and sent to DBA. In DBA I stayed in Mayer Asha Girls Hostel and was admitted in a nearby school. I completed my Madhyamik in 2014 and higher secondary in 2016. I got good marks in HS exams and was admitted to a nursing course in Assam. I successfully completed the Nursing course in 2019 and now I am working in a hospital in Bongaigaon, Assam. While I was in DBA apart from academic studies I have learnt other things like dance and life skills and also developed a strong sense of values which I shall always cherish throughout my life and try to become a responsible citizen of our country. I thank the Father's and Sister's for giving me this wonderful opportunity to develop my life and career.

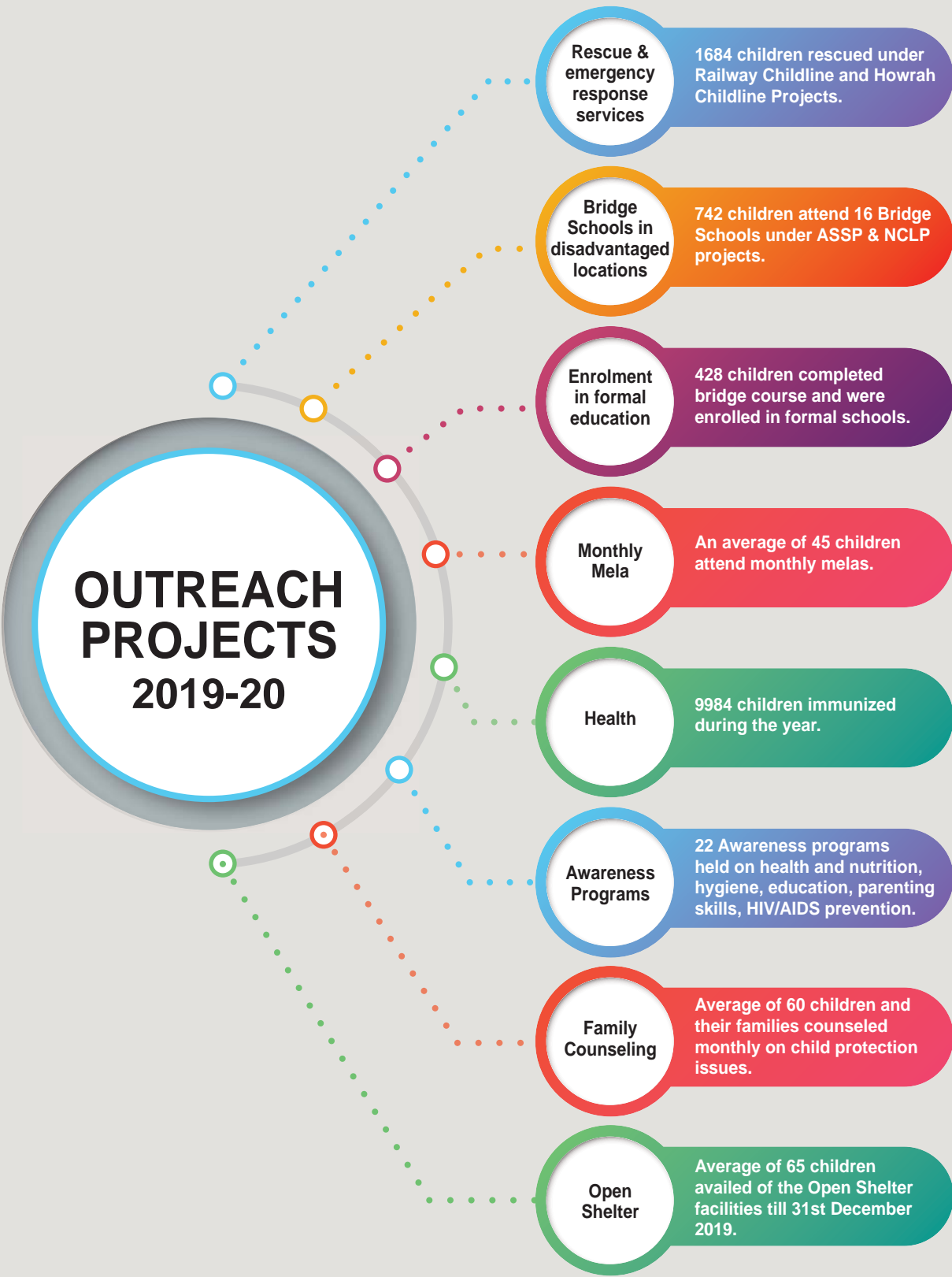




Annual Sports Day 2019



# Overview of Outreach Projects



# Asha Sishu Siksha Project (ASSP)



on Bosco Ashalayam's ASHA SISHU SHIKHA PROJECT (ASSP) has been running since 1996. It has 11 non formal education centres in the slum areas of Howrah and Hooghly districts of West Bengal. These centers Provide facilities such as Basic education, Medication, Immunization Programme, Livelihood Programme and Nutrition- to the children who are mostly found in the slums around the railway stations, streets, pavements, platforms etc. The effort is to provide necessary basic facilities to these children and consequently mainstream them through Local resource mobilization and networking with NGO's, Municipalities, School and local administration. Each year around 25 children from each centre making a total of 250 children are mainstreamed into Formal Schools. Presently the Project is networking with various local NGO's for the children's immunization Programme and Lively hood Programme for the adolescents of the Slums. Every month around 1000 children are been immunized through immunization Programme.

**Project Goal:** To mainstream and empower children at risk through education and life skill Programs.

## ASSP Centre statistics (2019-20)

S.N.	Education Centre	Male	Female	Total
1.	Chengail	31	30	61
2.	Uluberia	13	20	33
3.	Sijberia	19	20	39
4.	Dasnagar	20	22	42
5.	Tikiapara	25	10	35
6.	Pilkhana	15	19	34
7.	Baidyabati	33	22	55
8.	Premchand	21	36	57
9.	Sheuraphuli	17	23	40
10.	Bahirgangarampur	31	27	58
11.	Jagannathpur	28	16	44
Total		253	245	498



# Asha Sishu Siksha Project (ASSP)



ASSP Centre Chengail



Sports Day in ASSP Centres

# Asha Sishu Siksha Project (ASSP)

## ASSP activities for the year (2019-20)

S.N.	Description	Total Beneficiaries
1	Immunization Camps held	9913
2	Enrolment to formal School	220
3	11 Animation Programmers	501
4	6 Cultural Programmes	498
5	110 Parents meeting held	3417
6	10 Awareness Programme held	612
7	Educational materials distribution	498
8	2 Staff Training Programmes	23
9	Annual Sports	498
9	Annual Sports	498





# National Child Labour Project (NCLP)

Since 2008, Don Bosco Ashalayam has been working for elimination of child labour in the project area. We have mainstreamed more than 1100 child labourers for the past two decades. Every year we identify new dropout children and admitted them in our special school.

DBA monitors these Special Schools for Child Labourers in Howrah, under the National Child Labour Elimination Programme (NCLP) with Support from Howrah District Nodal, Collector's office, Howrah Maidan headed by additional District Collector. Children here get Non formal education and grooming is done again to shift them back to the formal school. The classes are conducted 3hrs a day from Monday to Saturday. Midday meals are also provided along with a monthly stipend to every child .Health screening camps are periodically conducted in collaboration with Primary Health Centre, Howrah District Hospital.

No. of days center was run during the year	No. of children enrolled	No. of new children enrolled	No .of children mainstreamed	No. of drop outs
254	Male 103, Female -97, Total -200	Male- 48, Female-19 Total-67	Male-37 Female -31 Total -68	Male -16 Female- 14 Total -30





# Railway Childline



CHILDLINE is a national 24-hour, free, emergency phone (CHILDLINE 1098) and outreach service for children in need of care and protection. Initiated in 1996, as a pilot project in Mumbai, CHILDLINE is currently operational in 570 districts across 35 states and UTs in India. CHILDLINE project across India is supported by Union Ministry of Women and Child Development under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS). From March 2015, the Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Railways have jointly taken an initiative to ensure the care and protection, security and well-being of run-away, unaccompanied and trafficked children who come in contact with the railways. A Standard Operating Procedure is formulated and implemented in first 20 major railway stations. In Howrah, a Child Help Desk / kiosk/ booth was set up as per SOP on 1st July 2015. Railway Childline, Howrah reaches out to the most marginalized children living in the platform as well with the aim of providing them rehabilitation and care from unsafe situations. From May 2017 onward, Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives is helping Howrah Railway Childline to strengthen the Childline services, prevention, intervention and linkages to long term rehabilitation services. The prevention-based activities focused on youth and the community; activities to promote children towards holistic development including physical and social development; the rehabilitation program on a long-term basis, including those children addicted to substance abuse and mainstreaming these children; and intervention of cases reported to 1098/Child Help Desk.



Howrah Station; Children protest against Child Labour

# Railway Childline

## Best Practices/Accomplishments of RCL Howrah :

- ◆ 100 Signage Boards placed in Howrah Station and its adjacent station
- ◆ Giant Screen LED Display throughout the Howrah Station
- ◆ Networking with Both Eastern and South Eastern Railways for enhancing strong security mechanism. All level stakeholders, all concerned railway departments could be reached and sensitized. Child Friendly Corner at the GRP/RPF
- ◆ Linked with different NGOs and Railway Departments for (Food, Clothes and education support). Monthly CHG Meeting (Fully functional Child Help Group)
- ◆ Community and involvement of peer group – stakeholders referring children to RCL
- ◆ Maximum children production before CWC
- ◆ Monthly Health Camp in collaboration with other organizations



Passengers stop to watch children enact a story through dance movements

# Howrah Childline



Childline 1098, a project of Ministry of Women & child development, caters to the needs of children in despair aged 0 days - 18 yrs. Childline reaches to street children, runaway children, abused children, and child labours seeking sustainable solutions for these children through an integrated community based, participatory approach that reinforces civil society as well as government initiative.

## The target group of CHILDLINE includes:

- Street children and youth living along on the street.
- Child labours working in the unorganized sector.
- Domestic help, especially girl domestics.
- Children affected by physical/sexual/emotional abuse in school, homes or government and non-government organisations.
- Children who need emotional support and guidance.
- Missing children
- Run-away children
- Children who are victims of substance abuse

Childline works 24\*7, reaching out to children in need of care and protection. At CHILDLINE, we follow an action process which starts at the first call and continues till the child in need of care and protection is safely rehabilitated.





# Howrah Childline

## Case Statistics 2019- 2020

Case Types	Number
Medical Help	130
Shelter	85
Restoration	47
Protection from abuse	251
Child Marriage	120
Education related	50
Missing	54
Counselling	126



POCSO Awareness in Schools

# Homelink



Homelink Network System (HLK) is on the World Wide Web and proprietary software to capture the information of children at risk across India to assist and restore them to the safety of a Home. The YaR Forum has two web-related services for the young at risk: [www.homelink.in](http://www.homelink.in) and [www.missingchildsearch.net](http://www.missingchildsearch.net) and they are executed through 277 Homelink Network Partners. These Network Partners are NGOs, Govt. Homes hosting children, Police, CWC, etc. spread out in 15 States & UTs of India.

Homelink is a web based service maintained by Don Bosco YaR Forum to facilitate their work for the young at risk, enabling them to maintain and share up to date information on child related issues, across the country. The system generates instant reports based on child profile, missing children, staff centre, sub-centre, and various analyses of reports at local and national level. It is a software tool for documentation. To help find the missing children, the Network Partners use the other website: [www.missingchildsearch.net](http://www.missingchildsearch.net). Created in association with UNICEF, the site has become a real boon for parents and organizations interested in locating/restoring missing children. The moment a centre gets details of a missing child, it is placed on the website. The site immediately generates a search in local and national database, which has the registered Missing Children Complaints. Homelink Network Partners at various locations in the country are alerted and they swing into action for locating or restoring the child. Families and agencies get in touch with Homelink Centres either in person or online and sometimes missing children are located within hours.

### Child Care System & its Stakeholders

This programme is keen to bring a comprehensive solution to the Child Care involving various stakeholders:-

- Monitoring bodies: Government ministries, Government bodies, etc.
- Child Care institutions: Children's home, Observations homes, etc.
- Legal Institutions: Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Juvenile Justice Board (JJB), Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU).
- Non-Governmental Organizations, Child Care Stakeholders, etc.
- Civil Society Participation: Caring Community, Peer Leaders, Social Activities, Volunteers

# Events

## French Ambassador's visit

*T*he French Ambassador to India **Mr. Emmanuel Lenain** and the Consul General in Kolkata **Ms. Virginie Corteval** formally inaugurated the ASHA TICI Hostel in the outskirts of Kolkata. ASHA TICI is training cum social rehabilitation project of DBA in collaboration with Terra Indica. Mr. Christophe Plais was also present during the program. Welcoming Mr. Lenain and Ms. Corteval, Fr. Mathew



observed that technology is fuelling rapid changes in the business environment, therefore its essential to equip the young with multi skill sets to help them adapt to change and be flexible and open minded to learn new skills in the future. The social integration project offers students ample opportunities to learn new and diverse skills needed for career and life. The ASHA TICI boys gave a presentation about the project objectives and activities. Mr. Lenain took a tour of the Asha Tici Campus and listened intently to the students' experiences and warmly appreciated the students' active participation in the program.

## YaR Seminar in Mumbai

*D*on Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk (YaR) seminar was held in Mumbai from 18 to 20 September 2019. The theme of the seminar was "Perspective planning for YaR Ministry – Journeying together into tomorrow". The seminar was presided over by eminent strategy planner who facilitated the strategy planning for the future with feedback from the participating provinces. DBA was represented by Fr. Mathew Parakonath, Alok Chaudhuri and Helene Tiffaine.



# Events

## Apna Bazar Mela

*D*BA's October Mela was a little different from the regular monthly mela. In addition to the regular mela activities this mela was loaded with lots of fun filled activities. More than **700 children** from DBA's Shelter Homes and Outreach areas in Howrah Station and ASSP centres had a rocking time in the Mela. Organised on Sunday 19 October 2019, this mela had an array of stalls with delicious snacks and exciting games and competitions were some of the attractions of this Mela. On the spot dance and singing competitions drew huge response from the children. The highlight of the Mela was the Bazar; a row of stalls stocked with items like clothes, accessories, stationery, sports items were up for sale. All the children were given money coupons buy any stuff they wanted. Instead of being passive recipients of charity they were free to choose and spend on whatever they desired. It was interesting to watch them bargain for the best possible deal. The Mela began early at 09:00 AM and came to a close at 02:00 PM with a delicious lunch for the children and volunteers. This mela helped children showcase their talents and also they learnt to prioritise and spend on what is important.



## Tree planting drive in Kalyani

*C*enturies ago Buddha had said that it is the duty of every Indian to plant and care for atleast 5 trees during his or her lifetime. Indeed if were to follow his philosophy then India would be a green and clean country with lots of fresh air and plenty of fruit bearing trees. There would be no shortage of food and the country would be self sufficient.

The need to protect the ecology is essential if we are to ensure a better future for our children. A tree planting ceremony was held in Kalyani on 24 October 2019. The children are aware of the importance of trees in our lives and they made an impassioned plea to shun plastic, reduce consumption and make efforts to plant more trees for a healthier and happy world. The Girls later planted 100 saplings and pledged to care for them.



# Events

## Don Bosco Feast Day observed as Child Rights Day

The Feast of Don Bosco on 31 January is dedicated to promoting the rights of the most vulnerable children. This year too a rally was held to highlight issues affecting children in India; issues like child labour, right to education, right to participation etc. The rally consisting of 600 children and around 100 staff and volunteers began the two kilometer march from Dhapar Math at 3 PM and reached DBA main campus around 04:15. After a short rest and tea break the program began with Fr. Mathew narrating the story of Don Bosco our founder; From its humble beginning in 1848, Don Bosco has grown into a worldwide movement for child rights and development spanning 132 countries across the globe. The children put up a cultural program with song and dance items. Chief Guest **Ms. Sudeshna Roy** – Special Consultant West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WB CPCRR) had a lively interaction with the children and appreciated their on-stage talents. Students of Class XI & XII read out the preamble to the Indian Constitution pledging to uphold the principles of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity and maintain the secular character of the nation. The Guest of Honour Mr. Debasish Nath, Inspector in Charge of Bantra Police Station appreciated DBA's efforts in promoting children's rights. Thanks to Mr. Nath our child rights rally went off smoothly as he had deployed police personnel to regulate traffic during the course of the rally.



## Claudine and Marie-Pierre visit DBA

ASA Members **Claudine Groc** and **Marie-Pierre Gouzy** visited and stayed with us from 01 to 06 February 2020. During their visit they reviewed the progress of the ASA funded projects and met with the children and staff. Claudine has been associated with DBA for nearly three decades and the children look forward to meet their Auntie Claudine every year. Claudine presented Fr. Mathew a book containing the thoughts of our founder St. John Bosco.



## Sports Camp in Bhattanagar & Kalyani

A sports camp was held in Bhattanagar from 14 to 16 December 2019 and in Kalyani on 28 & 29 December 2019. 144 boys and girls from Bhattanagar and Kalyani Hostels participated in the event. In fact it was a sort of mini Olympics, the sporting event tested the participants skills in rugby, basketball, archery, football, khoko, skating and handball. The children participated enthusiastically and even the cold and foggy winter mornings failed to dampen their spirits. The winning teams and individuals were awarded prizes and a citation. The entire event was organized by the ASHA TICI boys under Sports Coordinator - Akash Sardar's leadership. Incidentally Akash is a resident of ASHA TICI hostel and pursuing a graduate degree in sports management.



# Cyclone Amphan wreaks havoc in West Bengal



Close on the heels of Covid-19 came Cyclone Amphan piling more misery and destitution on an already hapless population. Cyclone Amphan with torrential rains and wind speeds gusting at 185 Kilometers per hour made landfall in coastal West Bengal on the afternoon of 20 May and just a couple of hours later roared its way into Kolkata smashing into houses, uprooting trees and blowing away electric poles like pieces of matchsticks. It left a trail of destruction in its wake and disrupted normal life for days, it took more than a week for power to be restored in the city. Fortunately the Government of West Bengal, as a precautionary measure evacuated people living in temporary dwellings and hutments to safer places like school buildings so the death toll wasn't very high but the destruction to property and agricultural crops has been massive and the rebuilding damaged property is likely to take years.

The crops in our Kalyani campus has been wiped out and a couple of buildings damaged, many trees have also toppled over. In Ashalayam, Howrah the glass panes of the south facing windows have shattered and water entered the building and all the rooms on the ground floor. We also lost several trees and the kitchen garden was completely devastated. Many of our past pupils houses have been severely damaged in this cyclone Ashalayam is reaching out to them with a onetime financial help to repair/rebuild their houses.





# Covid



In response to the unprecedented situation created due to the spread of Covid-19 infections across the nation, DBA with financial help from Don Bosco Mission, Bonn responded swiftly to help marginalized families who had lost their livelihood and facing starvation. In addition to food rations, DBA worked on and implemented a relief program aimed at the most helpless segments of the population who were unable to access even the meager government aid due to lack of or incomplete identity documents. The multi level intervention includes medical, preventive hygiene kits, cooked food for children living on the streets and stations of the city.

Our relief efforts have been majorly funded by **Don Bosco Mission, Bonn** and **ASA France**. Companies and Foundations like **Decathlon India**, **Raja Foundation Netherlands** and **Dr. Michael & Angela Jacobi Foundation Germany** have generously supported the relief works. We are grateful to our donors and sincerely thank all of them for standing by us and quickly responding to our appeals for help.

## Brief Summary of emergency relief and response undertaken by Don Bosco Ashalayam

- Emergency food rations
- Cooked food for slum/station children
- Hygiene kits for families
- Personal Hygiene Kits for girls
- Medical assistance
- Educational materials
- Smart phones for education

DBA's Relief Program  
has supported  
**58,102**  
Beneficiaries so far

### Beneficiary Profile

- Slum dwellers
- Migrant workers
- Children in slums
- Children in railway stations
- Adolescent girls in slums

# Covid



Baby food distribution in Premchand



Food distribution in Howrah













Hygiene materials for girls



Food distribution in Uluberia

# Covid

## DBA Relief Work at a glance (From 15 April to 31 October 2020)

Type of Relief	Beneficiaries Families/Children	Brief Description
Emergency Food Aid 	<b>6500</b> Families ( <b>39,000</b> persons)	Food kits include; Rice, Dal, Potatoes, Soya bean, Edible Oil, Salt
 Cooked Food for slum & station children	<b>2800</b> Meals	Cooked meals for slum and station kids consisting of rice, dal, vegetable, chicken/egg/fish, chutney & papad
Baby Food 	<b>600</b> Baby Food Kits	Baby food kits distributed in slum areas (Horlicks, powdered milk, suji & biscuits)
 Hygiene Kits 	<b>12400</b> persons	Hygiene kits consisting of masks, soap, hand sanitizer
 Personal hygiene Kits for Girls	<b>1150</b> Girls	Sanitary pads and soap for adolescent girls and young women living in stations and slums
Medical aid 	<b>154</b> persons got medicines <b>42</b> Children tested for Covid-19	Prescription medicine for poor families. Covid test for DBA Howrah, hostel children. (All tested negative)
 Educational Materials	<b>1100</b> children	Notebooks, pen, pencil, eraser, color pens for slum and station children. Some children got text books
Smart phones for education 	<b>10</b> Smart phones Benefiting <b>200+</b> children	With Smartphones and internet access our Hostel children are able to attend online classes
 Direct Cash support	<b>156</b> families	Direct cash support for our children's families and past pupils who lost their livelihood during lockdown. Cash assistance for past pupils to repair houses damaged due to Amphan



# Homing

## 1. Homing; New houses for boys and girls

Six new houses have been built for boys and girls in Kalyani. The houses constructed on a 2.5 cottahs of land (1800 square feet) consists of one room, kitchen and an attached bathroom with provision for construction of rooms on the first floor if the occupant so desires. These



*Left to right: Sr. Joncy (Kalyani Coordinator), Fr. Mathew, Krishna, Moni, Ramu & Munna*

children came to Ashalayam at a young age have grown up into fine young men and women, their biological families remain untraceable. Among the six beneficiaries; Krishna Kumar is a year away from completing his Bachelor degree in Computer Engineering while

Munna Singh is in the final year Bachelor of electronics, Moni Roy is working as a driver in a company, Ramu works as a mason in building sites, Sagar Singh after a course in hospitality management was working as a waiter in a 5 star hotel till the covid-19 induced lockdown rendered him jobless. The sixth house is for Anjali and her sister who are currently staying in DBA.

## 2. Covid-19 Tests in DBA

A Covid-19 test for our children was arranged on Saturday 26 September 2020. The tests were arranged to detect and treat possible infections if any. Fortunately all the 33 children tested negative. We are not relaxing our guard and the precautionary measures like thermal screening, frequent hand washing and sanitizing and periodic sanitization of the entire building continue like before.



# Homing



# Acknowledgement

## **DBA Partners, Foreign (Organizations and Individuals)**

- ASA France
- Foundation Cora, France
- Frederic Boisset, France
- Fr. Andrew & Friends, UK
- SEED, France
- Raja Foundation, Netherlands
- Rotary Club Portugalate, Spain
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- IED, France
- Emmaus Forgeres, France
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- Japanese Consulate in Kolkata
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- Alfrink College, Netherlands
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- James Ortega, Guiomar de Carlos, David Madorran, Xelo Santonja, Spain
- Constantin, Norbert Steiner, Germany
- Patricia Delez, Switzerland
- Andrea Castelli, Italy
- Faith, Hope & Love, Thanh Dinh, US
- Christian Pachtner, Heidrun Abel, Germany
- David Gomes, Dubai
- Divya Babu, US
- Manesh Mathew, Kuwait
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## **DBA Partners - Government Departments**

- Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India
- Ministry of Railways, Government of India
- CHILDLINE India Foundation
- Government of West Bengal
- The District Magistrate, Howrah
- Howrah Municipal Corporation & Kolkata Municipal Corporation
- Kolkata & Howrah Police
- Superintendent of Police (GRP & RPF, Howrah)
- DRM, Howrah (Eastern Railway)



# Acknowledgement

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- RPF Commandant (Sealdah Division)
- Bantra Police Station, Howrah

## **DBA Partners – Local NGO's, organizations & individuals**

- Mennonite Central Committee
- DB National Forum for the Young at Risk (YaR)
- Catholic Relief Society
- Seva Kendra Kolkata
- Calcutta Samaritans
- Don Bosco Development Society of Kolkata (DBDOC)
- Calcutta Rescue
- South Point, Howrah
- Hope Foundation, Kolkata
- Lion Club International, Kolkata
- Leo Club, Howrah & Kolkata
- Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives
- Institute of Neurosciences, Kolkata
- Rajesh Chirimar, Kolkata
- Surinder Agarwal, Future, Howrah

## **DBA Scholarship Partners**

- Terra Indica
- Decathlon
- Mrs. Magpie
- Dev r Nil

## **DBA Partners, Schools & institutions**

- St. Mary's Loreto, Entally, Kolkata
- Mary Immaculate School, Ranaghat
- Mary Immaculate School, Chapra
- Auxilium School, Kalyani
- St. Peter's High School, Kolkata
- Chakpara Palli Samaj High School
- Swaika Girls High School, Howrah
- Bhattanagar Kula Kamini Vidyamandir, Howrah
- Howrah Sri Mahadev Vidyalaya
- Dasnagar Chapala Devi High School, Howrah
- Khidirpur Miloni Girls High School, Kolkata
- Bantra Girls High School, Howrah
- B.P.L.S. Niketan Boys School
- Vivekananda Adarsha Vidyalaya, Lichutala

## **DBA Partners – Congregations**

- Holy Family Sisters
- MSMHC Sisters
- Missionaries of Charity, Sisters
- Sisters of Providence
- Disciples of Christ





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