



# FRIENDS

Newsletter of the Ragpickers Education & Development Scheme (REDS) Bangalore, India  
Volume 4 - Issue 1  
January 2006

## REDS - Ranchi

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Day celebration of REDS Ranchi was held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2005 at Nirmala School, Samlong. 20<sup>th</sup> November being the day that India Ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Children, the celebration resonated REDS commitment to uphold the Rights of Children and facilitate their holistic development.



Mrs. Chand Farhana the First Lady of the State of Jharkhand was the chief guest of the day. She was welcomed in a traditional manner by the children with much warmth. In her inaugural speech she appreciated the work done by REDS saying that working with the poor especially ragpickers REDS was doing excellent work for the society. She was happy to see so many children and felt the REDS was playing a major role in their lives, making each of these children into precious pearls. The other guests of honour for the day were Mr. Sanjay, Editors of the 'Prabhat Khabher Ranchi' and Fr. Anand, Parish Priest of Samlong Ranchi.



The talents and enthusiasm of the children was evident in the colorful display of dances, songs and role plays that the staged. The First Lady was very impressed with the performance of the children and encouraged them to study well and achieve much in life.

On this occasion a few children who have being doing well in studies and extra curricular activities were selected and awards were given for the best students. The First Lady

distributes shawls to the children, honoring them for the hard work and excellent performance. The children who received awards were:

Rukhmani Kumari, Manoj Munda, Anup Toppo, Gudia Mahto from Doranda Center.  
Hemanti Kumari, Baldev Sahu, Salini Suman Nayak, Sumit Oraon from Hatia Center.  
Vishal Lohra, Puja Lohra, Rita Kumari Sahu, Anshu Tirkey from Mousibadi Center.  
Inder Ram, Rita Kuamri, Rocky Ram, Bando Kumari from Khadgarha Center.  
Chotu Lohra 'A', Pinkey Kachhap, Arvind Mahli, Anita Lohra From Pahari Center.  
Neelu Tirkey, Govind Lakra, Marianus Xalxo, Anjali Teer from Toki Toli Center and  
Fulmani Kujur, Radha Mirdha, Indu Kuamri from Prerna Training Center.



Five girls Sanju Kumari, Sunita Bhutkumari, Anita Nagjuar, Jyoti Runda and Leena Tiru from tailoring section from the training unit were awarded certificates for completion of the

training program Instrument Boxes were distributed to all children attending Formal and Non-formal classes at the various Centers.



The day ended with a meal and all children were very happy with the gifts and prizes that they had received.

We take this opportunity to thank Mr. Birendra Kumar Shukla, Mr. Gupta Bandra and The Proprietor of Neelam Textiles for their contributions to make this day successful. We also thank Mr. J.V. Francis, Principal - St. Anthony's School and Mr. James Lakra, Principal - Xavier's School for providing busses to transport

children from the areas to Samlong.

### *Soccer Tournament at Ranchi*

On 29th of October, an inter - center football Tournament was held in which the six centers of REDS - Ranchi participated. The matches were held at the Toki toli center, Samlong.



The tournament was held especially for children going to school. There were two teams from each of the canthers; one was an all boys team and the other an all girls team. All the children were very happy to come to play football match at the Samlong. The children displayed excellent skills and talent.

Children from the Toki Toli center excelled, the finals saw both girls and boys from the centers playing against Mousibari boys and Hatia girls for the title. Children from The Toki Toli centers were champions beating teams from Mousibari and Hatia.



Trophies and medals were given to the winning team and the runners up. Children from Toki toil center, both boys and girls walked away with the trophy and gold medals. Boys from Mousibari were the runners up in the boys section and the girls from Hatia were runners up. They were given sliver medals.

Consolation prizes were given to the two best players from each center. The man of the match in boy's section was Lucas Runda and the outstanding playing of the match in girl's section was Shradha Mirdha. All the children were very happy to see the match; they supported the teams with encouraging cheers. It was wonderful to all children participate with such enthusiasm. Every one was very supportive and cooperative. The tournament went on very well, and thanks to the weather which was also very cooperative.



The Chief Guests for the day, Fr. Anand Bhengra, the Parish Priest of the Samlong Church, and the Principal of Nirmala Boys School, Samlong gave away the prizes. He was very happy to see the match especially the girls playing and said, "First time I have seen girls playing football match near by in my parish". He encouraged all the players and suggested that not only to put their hearts and mind in studies but also take interest in games too.



## Makkala Mela

**November 14<sup>th</sup>** was a day to be remembered by all REDS. Together with 'Children's Day' we also celebrated '25 years' of REDS service to the ragpicking children and their families. This year we had children from REDS - Bangalore as well as the Skill Training Center participating in the 'Makkala Mela' that was organized at Deepahalli. The day began with registration and breakfast being served for the children. 1000 children from the areas, skill training center and the local govt. schools participated.



The Inaugural event began with Ms. Prema Manthesh welcoming the chief guest, Ms. Nagaratnamma the local councilor and the other guests of honour for the day Sr. Lalitha of Jyothi Nivas College and Fr. Ignase - District Provincial, the Marianists. The event began with a prayer song by children of the Heeligi Govt. School. She then called upon guests to light the lamp, this signified not only the inauguration of the 'Children's Mela' but also commemorated '25 years of dedicated service'.

She then called upon the chief guest Ms. Nagaratnamma to address the children. She captivated the children her heartwarming speech. She said that she was pleased to be invited by an organization like REDS which has strived for 25 years working with the downtrodden to help them come up in life. Ms. Nagaratnamma said that though she was not sure of how she would be able to help the program she assured us of her solidarity and prayers and would definitely return to meet with the children to understand their difficulties and sorrows. She lauded the organisation for the good work it was doing and said that many children would benefit from its services.

Fr. Ignase speaking to the children said that he was happy to see so many children gathered to celebrated this day and wished them the very best and asked them to enjoy the day since it was 'their day.' Sr. Lalitha also spoke a few words. The inaugural ceremony ended with Bro. Prasad thanking the chief guest and the other present on the dais.

This was followed by a cultural program where children from the areas and the skill training center put up group dances and songs. This was followed by chance games which they thoroughly enjoyed. The scorching sun and the excitement made the children tired but their spirits were high and they were enjoying themselves. At 1.30 pm the children were given lunch.



The last event for the day was what they were all eagerly waiting for - the orchestra. They sang the local hit songs to which the children danced. The day ended at 5.00 pm.

We take this opportunity to thank the Brothers of Foustino Community - Deepahalli, Brothers of Scholasticate Community - Deepahalli, Brothers of St. Joseph's Community - Deepahalli, Aspirants from the Marianist Society, Novices from Augustine

Missionary Sisters, MSW students of Bangalore University and Ganga Cauvery Institute and our NFE and Play school teachers who helped with the program



## *Chilli Pili Mela*

For the first time a Get-together and cultural program was held for the children from the Play Schools. The program titled 'Chilli Pili Mela' was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December at the Jyothi Nivas college grounds. Children from the 10 Play Schools and the parents participated in this day long program.

The chief guests for the day were Mr. B.B. Ashok Kumar, Asst. Commissioner of Police, Mr. Dawood Khan, Police Inspector - Viveknagar Police Station and Sr. Lalitha, Vice Principal - Jyothi Nivas College. The program was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp by the chief guests, Fr. Pragasam and Bro. Dass. In his inaugural speech Mr. Ashok stressed on the importance of education and encouraged parents to educate their children and not to send them to work.



All present were awe-struck by the performance of the little children in the cultural programs that followed. Groups dances saw the children dancing to the latest hits from regional movies. The fancy dress competition saw children dressed as vegetables, fruits, prominent personalities, fairies and even a butterfly. Parents thoroughly enjoyed watching their children on stage and encouraged them.

The afternoon program after lunch began with a magic show by master Karun, but the rain played spoils-sport and the program had to be closed. Nevertheless the children left with presents given by Jyothi Nivas College.

We take this opportunity to thank the volunteers from the college and Mrs. Prema who agreed to take on the difficult task of judging the performance of the children. We also thank Sr. Lalitha for allowing REDS to make use of the college premises and for the gifts given to the children.



## *Visit by Superior General of The Marainists*

Fr. David Fleming, Superior General of The Society of Mary visited the REDS program at Ranchi and in Bangalore. He visited the programs at Ranchi on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December and on the 16<sup>th</sup> programs at Bangalore.



At Bangalore he was welcomed by the children at the various Day Care Centers with flowers and songs. On 17<sup>th</sup> he spent time with the staff sharing with them the ideologies of the Marianist and their characteristics of education. Life of Fr. Chaminade and his work with the poor especially the chimney sweeps. He also explained about how the followers of Fr. Chaminade continue to work with the poor not only in India but in other parts of the world too where people require compassion and help.

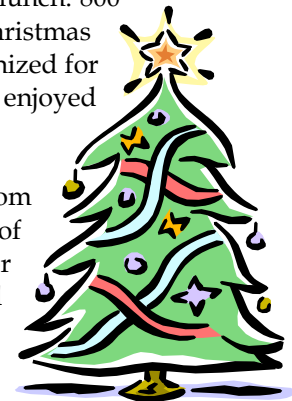


He visited the Skill training Unit and programs at Hosur too. He was very impressed with the work that is being done and encouraged the staff saying that they too were a part of the Marianist Family and all should work together to help the poor and the down-trodden. His words that REDS was often used as an example of a systematic and well planned program doing excellent service was truly encouraging.

## Christmas

On 18<sup>th</sup> December Bishop Cotton Boy's School invited our children for lunch. 800 children participated in this program. At both places the message of Christmas was shared with the children. Games and cultural programs were organized for them. The day ended with lunch for the children. The children enjoyed themselves and had a lot of fun.

On 20<sup>th</sup> December a get-together was organized for the children from REDS who had been admitted to school. Ms. Anu one of the members of the Marianist Lay family and her friends organized a Christmas party for the children. 25 children participated in the games and cultural programs that were held at the NFE Center at L.R. Nagar. Ms. Anu sponsored snacks and gifts for the children.



Christmas get-together was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> December for the boys of REDS - STC. Along with the message of Christmas, gifts were distributed to the children. Cultural events were organized and the day ended with lunch. At Ranchi children at the different center gathered to celebrate Christmas on different days. Some of the center children were even invited by the local schools. The month was filled with happiness in celebrating the birth of the Lord.

Staffs at REDS wish you  
A happy and prosperous New Year!



## *Projects in Progress*

### **REDS - Bangalore**

The construction of the new building which will house the office of REDS - Bangalore and the residence of the Marianist working at the program has begun. On 21<sup>st</sup> December the foundation stone was blessed by Fr. Dave Fleming in a ceremony that was attended by the Marianist brothers and staff of REDS - Bangalore



*Our Earnest Appreciation and Sincere Gratitude to the following people for their generous contributions to the REDS programs in India...*

Mr. & Mrs. Donald J. Gass, Jr., Chandler

Rev. Fr. Gerald Hammel & Rev. Fr. Jerry Pleva – Our Lady of Guadalupe Church

Rev. Fr. James Tobin – Our Lady of Pillar Church

THANK YOU!

