



SNEHAVAANI

Bimonthly E-Newsletter from Snehagram | Vol. 1 Issue. 1 Jan, 2014



Director's Desk

May I wish you the Joy and Peace of the Christmas season. May the Lord Bless you abundantly and guard you in His care and Love.

It's a special Christmas for us at Snehagram, as we celebrated the first Christmas in this quite far away village at Nachikuppam. In the quietness and simplicity of the new place, we welcomed baby Jesus into our home and hearts with carols and crib and prayers. Truly it felt like the first Christmas of Bethlehem where the savior of the world was born.

I am also happy to share with you our Christmas gift: SNEHAVAANI, the E-Newsletter of Snehagram which will bring you the tidings of our young adolescent boys and girls growing up and building their lives at Snehagram. We call it SNEHAVAANI as it will be the voice of love resounding from the hearts of our young students through their writing skills. You will hear them speak about their lives and it will be a wonderful way to stay in touch with each one of you who are accompanying them through your support and prayers.

Our first issue comes to you after six months of our life at Snehagram. You will hear our children how they went through this exciting and often challenging life experiences at Snehagram. Keep talking to them through email or face book as they will keep updating you every month about their life in Snehagram.

Wish you again a wonderful Christmas Season and a Blessed New Year.

Fr. Mathew Perumpil MI
Director, Snehagram
Camillians, India



Message from the Vicar Provincial

Life is beautiful, live it to its fullest

Snehagram is a village of love and life. It is in this village of love, life buds and blossoms to its fullness. Life is a beautiful journey, each one of us must travel our own way, with memories behind us, and dream up ahead, and a brand new beginning each day. Snehagram is a place where our children live their life to its full. The purpose of life is a life of purpose. It is in this Snehagram where these children live a life of purpose. I am sure that these children are given possible opportunities to translate their God given qualities and abilities into action. It is here they might experience the real meaning and significance of life. Life without meaning cannot be borne. It is here they grow into the culture of life. It is here they learn and develop the human virtues and values as well. I am indeed glad to know that Snehagram is bringing out its creativity and spontaneity through a News Letter, Snehavaani, and I do appreciate our dear Fr. Mathew, Fr. Prakash and dear sisters as well for their great and remarkable efforts to make it happen and for being Good Samaritan to these less fortunate in the society. I do also appreciate my dear children for their hard work and great enthusiasm for this endeavor. I also do appreciate and acknowledge the constant support and encouragement of our beloved benefactors and well wishers. Without faith, hope and trust there is no promise for the future and without a promising future life has no direction, no meaning and no justification. The doors we open and close each day decide the lives we live. Teaching from life, being happy doesn't mean that everything is perfect. It means that you have decided to look beyond the imperfections. It is faith in something and enthusiasm for something that makes a life worth living. Have a Blessed New Year 2014. God bless you.

Fr. Baby Ellickal MI

Vicar Provincial, Camillians, India

A Brief History and Overview of Snehagram

The vision of Snehagram was conceived when we first started talking about the care of HIV infected children and at the starting of Sneh Care Home in 2008. Although we have been taking care of the children through our Snehasadan program in Mangalore, we began to ponder the challenges of these children growing up and becoming adults with the advent of better treatment options. Around the world we still don't have a clear picture of what will the future of these children be. Most people in the HIV care field think of their medical needs and forget that they are first and foremost children who need to grow up like any other children to be happy adults. Added to their HIV status, most of them are orphans or will soon be orphans as their parents succumb to the illness. Almost all of them are from the poorest families and their survival and options for building a bright future is very slim. SNEHAGRAM is a humble attempt to respond to these questions and evolve some potential answers that can be replicated across the country and in the world, by the Camillians in India.

The land was purchased in 2009 and some initial fencing works were done after that. On September 12th, 2012 the foundation stone was laid by the Bishop of Dharmapuri, Lawrence The construction works began on February 12th, the day after the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World day of the Sick. The first batch of students – 12 girls and 13 boys moved in to the new campus on June 22nd and the Snehagram campus was formally inaugurated by Bishop Lawrence on July 20th. Snehagram was erected as a residence of Trichy community by the present administration and currently Fr. Mathew as the Director and Fr. Prakash as Administrator runs the program.

We have been blessed to associate with the Daughters of Divine Providence who has joined us in guiding and caring the girls in our program. They have established a formal community here where three sisters will be engaged in both the ministry with the children and extending community based health promotion and care in the surrounding villages. Sisters currently live with the girls in the Girls Hostel.

The construction of the campus buildings are done in phases. First we focused on building the hostels, Multi-Purpose Hall, Kitchen and Dining. The Girl's Hostel and Multi-purpose Hall was completed by July and the Kitchen was commissioned in September. The Boys hostel was completed the boys moved to the new building on December 4th. Both hostels can accommodate 100 students each. The entire facility is planned to accommodate 200 students to undergo residential training. The next phase of the construction will begin next year to complete the Training centre, Chapel and community house.

The campus now has 17 acres of land most of which we are slowly developing farming and agriculture to train the children and sustain the program. We are also developing the campus eco friendly and follow organic farming principles for all our cultivation. We have constructed two biogas-cum-waste management units to manage our wastes and use recycled energy and manure.

The present batch goes through non formal education and preparation for their 10th exam through the NIOS curriculum. They are also given exposures and training on various vocational skills to know their aptitudes and guide them to develop a career that would help them to stand on their feet and live their lives and responsibly and happily.

Snehagram is still in its infancy stage. We are making small steps and we hope slowly with God's grace and guidance we will be able to build a hope-filled future for many children and develop as a model program for HIV children around the world.



Life at Snehagram

We moved to Snehagram on 22nd June 2013 with our Fathers and Sisters. After we came to Snehagram we did lot of works in our campus. We planted so many trees and plants. When we came to here I don't have much idea about our program. Later I could realize it is a Vocational Training and Education Center for adolescent children. Within six month we had so many events like Independence Day, Diwali and Children's day. Within six month there is lot of changes in our campus. Before we had a small kitchen Room, but now we have a big Kitchen and Dining Hall.

Sukesh K.

First when I came to see Snehagram campus I was frightened. In my life first time I could see how the people are constructing the building. Here I got chance to work along with our three sisters. Our brake time sisters use to give food for us. They are giving special care when we will become sick. Our Fathers and Sister talk to us about our roles and responsibilities in Snehagram and how it will help to our future life. When I have any doubt about our classes, I use to ask others.

Chandrakanth

Moving to Snehagram

When we were in Sneha Care Home we feel our self as a child. After came to Snehagram I could realized we are growing to adolescent group. Before coming from Sneha Care Home we use to come to Snehagram for some preparation. With two fathers and three sisters we moved to Snehagram. After came to Snehagram first few days we were not happy. Now we are enjoying our class and other activates.

Pooja

Children's Parliament

We started children parliament at Snehagram with the help of INSA INDIA. They explained us the duties and roles of each one. In our parliament we have Prime minister, Deputy Minister, Environment Minister, and Health Minister and also we have Opposition leader and team. Once in fifteen days we are conducting Cabinet meeting and once in a month organizing our Parliament. In our cabinet we are discussing our issues and we are finding the solution also. Prime Minister and Ministers are maintaining our records.

Babu



Academic Programme

At Snehagram Residential School we are following NIOS syllabus. In our first semester we studied English, Business Studies, English Grammar and Mathematics. After the first semester Evaluation our class was divided into two divisions and started separate classes for fast learners and slow learners. Sometimes we have teachers from foreign Countries. Our study programme is based on the self directed learning model. We are making our own time table for Saturdays and Sundays. We have to prepare five subjects for our NIOS exam. Our regular classes start from morning 9 O' clock to one O' clock. We help each others in our studies. Our motto is to do education for surviving our life.

Meena

Farming and Gardening

When we came to Snehagram first we prepared our land for cultivation and planting trees. After that we started to cultivate vegetables and made flower garden. In our 17 acres of land we have planted five hundred Bananas, three hundred Mango trees, seventy five Lemon trees, Sixty Coconuts, fifty Leechi, one hundred Papayas, and many other varieties of fruit trees. We take care of our plants by pouring water in the morning or in the evening. Recently we harvested groundnuts from our farm and some of which we could share with Sneha care home.

Varalakshmi

Health Food and Kitchen

At the beginning we had a small kitchen room. After we completed the building work our kitchen moved to new place. Now we have a nice Kitchen with dining hall. We are helping sisters in the kitchen. Sisters are teaching us the cooking. Every day we are getting different types of healthy food. In our food we have rice, vegetables, fruits, grams, etc.

Chandrakanth

Spiritual Life

At Snehageam, We still don't have separate place for prayer. We are using one of our rooms for prayer and Mass. Every day morning and evening we are gathering for prayer. After coming here we could learn many spiritual songs and prayers. We use to read the bible in public. Some time we use to do rosary by walking around the campus. When we have prayer life we are getting peaceful and Joyful mind and we believe God will guide and lead and he will give strength in our body and mind.

Sruthi & Vanitha



SPECIAL EVENTS



Champion in me on 30th November and 1st December

First day we had cultural fest and on first we had sports meet. Children from 18 districts children attended this meet. Cultural meet we participated for dancing, group song, solo, fancy dress, Drama, etc. second day we participated Food ball, Throw ball, Athletics, etc. this was event exclusively for us. Through this event we could learn about team work, hard work and confidence. So many volunteers came to help us. We could meet a film actor on sports day. We got prizes in many events. Through this program we could know about our strength and capacity. We all enjoyed lot our Champion in me with our friends.

Vanitha & Mala



Starry Night

Our Starry Night Program started at evening 6.30. It was a wonderful night to each one of us. Starry night was a wonderful celebration and gathering. We liked the decoration and lights. We participated in the dance program. So many families were joining with us. We feel as a one family. We had a nice dinner with our friends and others. We had lots of variety food and snacks. So many people came from outside to see our programs. This time we could chat with other people those who came from outside. We all enjoyed with our beautiful Starry Night.

Sruthi, Meena and Mala





Diwali

We Celebrated our Diwali on 3rd November. We had lots of crackers and lights. Many other people came to here to celebrate the Diwali with us. It was a wonderful experience for us. People brought crackers for us and making us happy. When Diwali was over we were bit sad, because there is no more crackers.

Manik & Sukesh

Holiday at home

When I went for my holiday day leave, I thought my mother will come in the morning to take me to my home. I felt so sad, because my mother came late. After reach my home I could meet my old friends and we played tougher. On 23rd of October I came back to Bangalore. Coming time my mother brought me a new dress for my Birth Day.

Manjunath

Children's Day

On 14th November we celebrated children's day in our campus. Our Fathers and Sisters organized dance and speech competition also we had games. Our sisters gave gifts for all of us. I could know more about the history of Children Day. Our First Prime Minister Chacha Nehru was celebrating his birth day with Children. Now Children are celebrating Children's day on his Birth day across the country.

Kalesh



Merry Christmas

Preparation for Our Christmas in Advent Season

We started our Christmas season with four advents for four weeks. Each week had different topics for our learning and meditation.

The first week we could learn about Faith. This time I could know we have to be more faithful in God. And I could realize the God is with me when I will do something good for someone. In the second week we could learn about Hope. When I came to Chapel to read which I wrote about Hope, I realized Hope should have to be in our life itself. On the third week we could learn about Love. When I started to think about love I could realized how much love we are getting from our Fathers, sisters and others, its helps to think about how much God loves me. Before I was thinking no one loves me. Now I can say I am getting lots of love from others, I could learn love to others with real heart. Forth week we could learn about Joy. Froth week really joyful for all of us, because our Christmas celebration was on this week. When I started to learn about joy I can enjoy with real joy in my day to day life. Now I don't want to fill my heart with any bad things. I could participate to make our Crib. It helps to make real crib in my heart. This I help me to improve myself. When I was in Sneha Care Home didn't know the real meaning of the Christmas. I thought it is a celebration of Chocolate and Gifts. From Snehagram I could learn the real purpose of Christmas. While preparing for Christmas we all have to put lights to keep away darkness from our heart.

Sukesh



Grammy Night

On 26th after noon I was so excited for next day. Because our Sneha Care friends are coming to Snehagram. On 27th afternoon all of our Sneha care friends came our place. After tea we all played foot ball, I could chat with all of my friends. Evening we had a wonderful program. We celebrate the joy of Christmas tougher. We performed Carols, dance etc. they also performed with songs, dance and Skits. So many fathers, sister and families came to watch our program. We had a nice dinner with our friends and gusts. On 28th morning we had games and cultural program with Sneha Care Children. After lunch they said good bye and went back to Sneha Care Home.



Babu

Our Christmas Celebration & Preparation

We started to prepare our Christmas with practicing Carols, Decorating our Dining Hall, Multipurpose Hall Crib and trees in our Campus. We decorated our campus with lights, stars, balloons and color papers. We could make a small natural crib. I could help the team those who decorate our campus with serial lights. After the decoration our campus became more beautiful. On 24th night 10. 30 pm had Prayer, Mass and Shearing section. After the Mass we went to bless our Christmas Crib. After that we gave gift and wished to our Christmas friend. After the tea and snacks we went to the bed at 1 O'clock.

On 25th evening we had Christmas celebration with our neighboring villagers. After the opening prayer Fr. Mathew welcomed all the Villagers and gusts. We did skit about Jesus birth and sang Carols. We gave snakes and tea for all of them. More than two hundred people came to watch our program. This is our first Christmas celebration with our neighbors.

Punith & Meena



Wish you all a blessed New Year.

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