

# Newsletter: October, 15th 2021 - January 15th 2022

## **Bindaas Bol**

Our world: Our story



## Children see magic because they look for it

'Looking forward to health, happiness and prosperity in 2022'

Since 1988, Salaam Baalak Trust is engaged with street and working children in Delhi-NCR. The Trust has 7 residential homes, 9 contact points and 3 Childlines through which we reach out to approximately 10,000 children every year. Through our programs we provide education, food, medical, psychological and holistic development

services to the children in need of care & protection. Our vision is to provide a safe & secure space where every child can blossom to his/her full potential.

#### In this issue, we share with you

- Heartfelt stories
- Know our staff
- The Outside World
- Vocational Trainings & Job placement
- Childlines & rescues
- Covid update
- Khel mela
- World Cancer Day
- Festival celebration

## Heartfelt stories



Zafar

Zafar had been living with his parents and 4 siblings in the Seelampur area of New Delhi. His father, a factory worker, lost his job during the pandemic. He was the sole earning member and was unable to even provide 3 meals for his family. Looking at the circumstances at home all the children had to drop out of the school as they were unable to pay the fee. Zafar was in the 12th standard and was heartbroken about discontinuing his studies. SBT's



Madhu

20-year-old Madhu lives with her father and a younger sister at a slum near the Hanuman Mandir (Connaught place). Her mother worked as a ragpicker and was dependent on drugs. Her father used to run a small flower shop but had to shut it as he got diagnosed with a

outreach workers at Seelampur contact point supported the family and helped re enrol all the children into school. Zafar was also provided academic support by the teachers during exams.He secured an amazing 94 % in his 12th board exams and is currently doing an ITI course.



### 23 years and counting | Ms. Olive Kanil

Ms. Olive Kanil joined SBT at a very young age as a Social worker and eventually rose to the level of a Coordinator. She recently completed 23 years in SBT and in these years she wore multiple hats. Her dedication, patience and undeterring approach has brought about changes in the lives of many vulnerable children. In her own words "the journey has been challenging yet very satisfactory, It was my dream to work for underprivileged children and gradually SBT became family, hence there was no looking back!"

terminal illness and his health has been deteriorating since then

Madhu started coming to our contact point when she was very young as her mother was unable to look after her and she found the staff encouraging and loving towards her. She always had the zeal to study and got all the support from the staff so that she could complete her studies.

Unfortunately, during the first wave of the pandemic; she lost her mother due to Covid. Despite this she was determined to study and gave her 12th class exams and secured 92 percent .At present, she is pursuing a B.A. (Hons) from Janki Devi Memorial College of Delhi University. Her amibition is to study hard and contribute back to society by becoming a civil servant.

#### The outside world

I was rehabiltated last month from Aarushi girls home in order to pursue a course in Aviation, Hospitality and Travel Management.

I love the independent life outside the Home most of the time but there are days when I miss the protective environment of the Home where I had to worry about nothing.



## Reaching new heights

Nothing is more satisfying than to see our children take step towards achieving their dreams. We feel exhilarated that 3 of our girls cleared the National Level entrance exams in the hospitality sector.

Priya - IHM Jodhpur, Diploma in food production

Laxmi – IHM jodhpur, Diploma in front office

Sheetal- Graduation in hotel management & Tourism



## Community Glimpse

### **Vocational Training**

Salaam Baalak Trust with support from Save The Children started a programme on Skill Development and Vocational Training. This has opened doors of opportunities for children who have never been to school or had dropped out due to their financial circumstances. During the last three months, 30 children from the homes and contact points were linked to the trainings.

Sr. No	Course	No. of enrolments
01	Stiching	17
02	Retailing	09
03	Office administration	04

## Rescues by Childlines

Seventy Six children were rescued from different areas of Delhi by our Childline teams. They were either being trafficked to work in factories or as domestic labour or would have been forced into begging. The children were mostly in the age group of 10 - 15 years.

Many rescue operations turned out to be very risky even though they were planned meticulously and with support from the Delhi Commission for protection of child rights & Sub Divisional Magistrate.

One such raid was conducted near Hanuman Mandir at Connaught Place and 6 young children were rescued who were being forced into begging. Our team of outreach workers had a narrow escape while rescuing these children as the mob, who were mostly drug addicts, attacked the staff and our damaged our bus. Nevertheless, the children were safely rescued and were provided shelter at a Children's home.

In another case, the Childline team received a tip off that a 17 year old girl was getting married. The team promptly intervened and reached the venue. The family of the girl was advised that the girl is a minor and marrying her off would be a punishable offence. The family was reluctant and turned hostile but the team was able to stop the marriage and the girl was counselled. The girl is now living at a shelter home and wants to continue her studies.

## Childline rescue pictures



#### **Covid Update**

During the ongoing third wave, our staff took all the necessary precautions to ensure that no child or staff gets infected. However 56 children and 25 staff members did test positive with mild symptoms. This did not deter the staff to reach out to the communities and spread awareness about Covid-19. Here is a glimpse of one of the Awareness programmes by the team at New Delhi Railway Station through Nukkad Natak by our talented street theatre team.



#### Vaccination drive

197 youngsters in the age group of 15-18 years from our contact points and children homes got their first vaccine dose in the month of December. The children look forward to joining their schools and colleges after the second dose. Anu shares "I clearly remember how terrifying the second wave was. There was an atmosphere of fear all around. So I am happy that I received the vaccine and will be safe now".



#### Khelmela

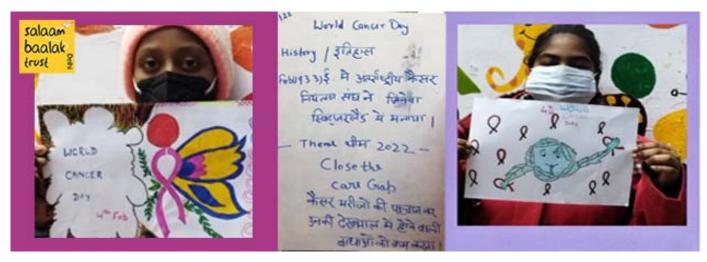
Sports Day Celebrations were held at DMRC Children home for boys, where children from all

centres participated under 13 competitions (indoor & outdoor)



#### **World Cancer Day**

On occasion of World Cancer day, girls were made aware about the disease and were made aware of good, healthy food habits.



## Festival Celebration-Photo Gallery

#### **Dussehra Celebration**

Dussehra was celebrated in all the homes with fervor and zeal. Our girls understood the message to identify the evil inside us and work on it to make this world a better place.



### **Diwali Celebration**

Diwali is incomplete without our alumni joining us. They were all happy to come back to their Homes after almost two years due to the pandemic. There was food, fun and laughter.



### **Christmas celebration**



# Salaam Baalak Trust celebrated its 33rd birthday on 16th December



#### How can you contribute?

- 1. Become a volunteer
- 2. Help us connect with institutes for scholarships/interships/job oppurtunities
- 3. Donate dry ration, gift a healthier childhood to street children
- 4. Follow and share our social media handles

**Donate Now** 

www.salaambaalaktrust.com

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