

SEPTEMBER 2023

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Official Newsletter of FMR India

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Greetings to our Asha Niketan FMR India family! September brought a blend of joy, unity, and heartfelt remembrance. While we celebrated the vibrant Vishwakarma Puja and cherished our growing national and international connections, we also mourned the loss of our dear member, Mr. Uma Shankar. Join us in this September 2023 newsletter as we honor his legacy and share the remarkable journeys of our residents, Lancelot and Hoithem Kipgen. Together, we continue to uphold the values of love, care, and unity that define our Asha Niketan family.

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Subin Varghese

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
FMR INDIA



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In the spirit of unity and progress, the recent General Body Meeting in Kolkata brought us together to discuss matters crucial to the wellbeing of our core members and assistants. We have decided to prioritize employee health insurance for all, ensuring access to private hospitals during emergencies. We also explored L'Arche Asia Pacific's operations, emphasizing the impact of core members, caregivers, and our dedicated board. As we anticipate the 50th anniversary of the Kolkata Community, our FMR Kolkata family is gearing up for a remarkable celebration. Stay tuned for more updates in our upcoming newsletter.

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Dr Premanand M E

NATIONAL PRESIDENT
FMR INDIA



From the desk of the President, FMR INDIA

BY DR PREMANAND M E

The core of FMR India is the integration of communities and individuals with and without intellectual disabilities, enabling mutual benefits from cohabitation, employment, and mutual learning. These communities, in whatever form or magnitude, are reciprocal and transformative; they alter our own perceptions of ourselves as well as the way the people of India and the rest of the world view individuals with disabilities.

The General Body Meeting took place in Kolkata in September. Many topics were covered at the significant gathering, particularly those pertaining to the wellbeing of the core members and assistants. The decision was made to proceed with employee health insurance. It is crucial to look into insurance choices for core members, even if the majority of core member communities have already enrolled their members in government insurance policies. This is especially important in emergency situations where admitting members to private hospitals becomes imperative. We're hoping to find sponsors to cover core members' costs, particularly those related to their hospital stays and medical related expenses..

Additionally, Mr. C. C. Rajeevan, the International Delegate, gave a presentation about L'Arche Asia Pacific's operations. He talked about the key players in every community (core members, care-givers, board) who have a significant impact.

Everyone's attention is now on the 50th anniversary of the Kolkata Community. I am positive that the whole FMR Kolkata community will put on a good show. We'll wait for the next newsletter for more news about it.



Warm regards

Dr Premanand M E
National President
L'Arche FMR India.

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September did not disappoint in delivering moments of joy and positive news, although it was marred by the challenging loss of our cherished member, Mr. Uma Shankar. He leaves a lasting legacy through his wonderful sense of humour and the valuable lessons he imparted on love. We will miss you greatly but will forever hold you in our memories.

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Bharathi Gopalakrishnan

NATIONAL LEADER,
FMR INDIA



Collaborative Exchange with L'Arche International Leaders

This month saw the esteemed visit of Mr. Sylvain Brabant, Chair of the International Stewardship Board of L'Arche International, and Mr. Fabien Augy, Financial Aid Manager of L'Arche International. They received a warm reception from Asha Niketan Kolkata and Asha Niketan Asansol. This provided a fantastic opportunity for the exchange of ideas, the sharing of experiences, and mutual learning.



Community Building and Knowledge Sharing

Mr. Sylvain was actively involved in the National Council, where community leaders presented reports on their respective communities and engaged in discussions to build their community and seek solutions to community-related issues. This served as a meaningful platform for sharing with and learning from each other.



Governing Body Meeting: A Gathering of Enthusiasm, Dedication, and Distinguished Guests

As always, was conducted with high levels of enthusiasm and dedication. Essential and vital subjects were deliberated and determined during the session. Furthermore, the meeting was graced by the presence of Mr. Sylvain and Mr. Fabien along with Mr. Rajeevan, the International Delegate for Asia South Pacific at L'Arche International.

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In the spirit of skill and creativity, September's Asha Niketan Asansol newsletter brings you the vibrant celebrations of Vishwakarma Puja, an ode to innovation and excellence in craftsmanship. We're thrilled to extend our family to both national and international members. Despite unexpected rainstorms, our dedicated garden team is tirelessly restoring our green haven, from cutting firewood to nurturing new seedlings. Join us on this journey of growth and unity in our loving community.

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Sibhasish Mondal

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN ASANSOL





We are delighted to welcome both our international and national family members into our family

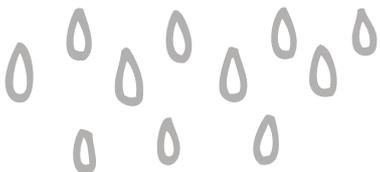


We celebrated Vishwakarma Puja in our community. This occasion is dedicated to seeking Lord Vishwakarma's blessings for skill, creativity, and success in our respective fields. Vishwakarma Puja also symbolizes a celebration of innovation and excellence in craftsmanship





Due to the unexpected rainstorms this month, our garden team has been working diligently to clean up our garden. Moreover, a significant amount of effort is being devoted to tasks such as cutting firewood, planting trees, and cultivating new seedlings in the nursery.



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Asha Niketan Bangalore - September Highlights

In September, Asha Niketan Bangalore celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi, fostered relationships with "Friends of Camphil India," and embraced an exclusive Ecotherapy program. These activities enriched our community spirit and opened doors to new collaborations, creating a memorable month.

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Charles

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN BANGALORE





Embracing Tradition: Ganesh Chaturthi 2023 - Our community unites in the absence of Mr. Shiva Shankar, as a dear friend steps in to perform the pooja.

happy गणेश चतुर्थी



Fostering Connections: A Heartwarming Day at Friends of Camphil India. Building bridges of collaboration and friendship as we actively engage with vocational programs and share smiles, tea, and lunch. A promising visit that promises growth and goodwill.



Nature's Healing Embrace: Our Enchanting Day in Lalbagh. Ecotherapy for individuals with intellectual disabilities, a partnership between the Horticulture Department of Lalbagh and Bangalore Environment Trust, brought smiles and connection on September 23rd.



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Our life is the most precious thing on Earth, and we should share, care for, love, and serve others while we are alive. This is the greatest gift in life because life is so short, and anything can happen at any time.

Therefore, always strive to be happy and nurture strong relationships with both God and others.

In the spirit of unity and devotion, our September 2023 newsletter brings heartwarming updates from Asha Niketan Chennai.

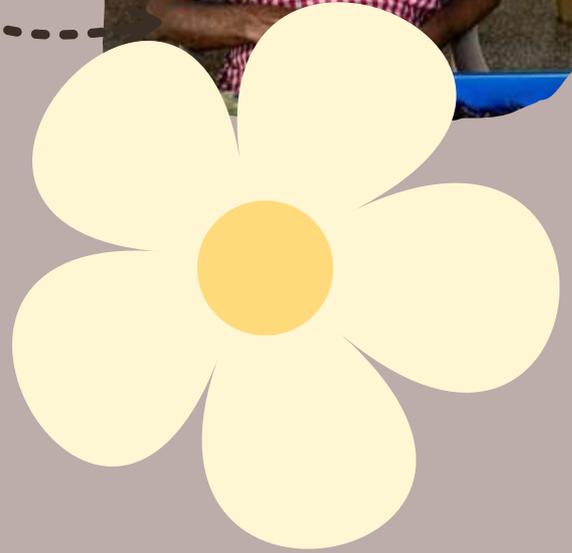
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Lozilo Kikon

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN CHENNAI



The month of September presented significant challenges for our community as it saw the hospitalization of our chairman, Aden Raj, Mr. Mathingmi's assistant, and Uma Shankar, a core member. Sadly, on the 26th of the month, we bid farewell to Uma Shankar, a core member who, at the age of 66, consistently exuded happiness, maintained a cheerful disposition, remained active, and lived life to the fullest. His absence has created an irreplaceable void. We extend our heartfelt condolences to our dear friend and dearly miss him. May he rest in peace.



The Samadhanam Care Group provides a personalized occupational therapy program for six of our core members, who engage in weekly outings every Wednesday to rejuvenate themselves and socialize with new acquaintances. The core members consistently express joy and satisfaction during these outings.





Mr. Tiwari will be guiding the Assistant on a spiritual journey, focusing on spiritual formation, scheduled for October 22nd.

A celebration of unity and Devotion celebrated by our Community on 19th, everyone was happy and enjoy the celebration. #UnityInDiversity.



The Assistants and Core members are living together happily as a family and following all the household routine accordingly. Proper Individual care and attention is given to every core member and they are encouraged to express themselves.



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September Highlights at Asha Niketan Kolkata

As the rainy season graced us with joy, our members embraced gardening and the creative wonders of art & crafts. Our daycare, outreach, and parent counseling initiatives continue to flourish. Lord Viswakarma's blessings enrich our celebrations. The loving bond among members, friends, and caregivers shines brightly. Plus, we're thrilled to welcome volunteers from Dhyan Ashram. Read on for the heartwarming September edition!

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Smritikana Mondal

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN KOLKATA



Nurturing Creativity: Art and Crafts in Inclusive Development. A colorful journey of early intervention therapy that sparks children's love for creativity and holistic growth.



Spiritual Celebrations: Embracing Lord Viswakarma's Creative Blessings. In our community, celebrations are a sacred tradition, and Lord Viswakarma's divine grace enriches our creative powers.



Empowering Families: Guiding and Involving Parents in Therapy. Our commitment goes beyond the classroom, fostering a supportive community where parents are equipped to care for their loved ones at home.





Celebrating Diversity: A Warm Embrace of Friends Worldwide. In our community, every day is an opportunity to welcome and honor friends from diverse cultures and countries.

Enriching Bonds: Welcoming Dhyan Ashram Volunteers. In the spirit of cultural exchange, three dedicated volunteers join us this month, fostering a harmonious union of communities.



Rainy Season Bliss: Cultivating Joy in Our Gardens. As the raindrops fall, our members' green thumbs shine. We're nurturing dreams of expanding and enhancing our garden's bounty.



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In the spirit of remembrance and dedication, we come together to share the latest updates from Asha Niketan Nandibazar for the month of September 2023. In this edition, we celebrate the remarkable journeys of our beloved residents, Lancelot and Hoithem Kipgen, along with a heartfelt tribute to the late Sister Jerosha Albert, who left an indelible mark on our community. Join us in reflecting on the warmth, resilience, and unity that define our Asha Niketan family.

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Lilly Rose

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN NANDIBAZAR



My name is Lancelot, and I was born in Trissur. In 1978, I came to Asha Niketan, where I received a warm and loving welcome from Ms. Chris Sadler, the Founder and Director of Nandi Community. Consequently, I became an essential member of our residential core group. I love food, find joy in drawing water from wells, and once experienced an incident when I accidentally fell into a well.

Fortunately, our team came to my rescue. I actively contributed to the craft center team, particularly in the crafting of candles and brooms. I am always eager to work and relish outings to destinations like the beach and the cinema. Furthermore, I am a devout churchgoer, attending regularly on Sundays, and I am recognized for my melodious singing voice. Regrettably, I've been facing the inability to walk or communicate verbally for the past few years. I am unable to stand on my own and am confined to my wheelchair. My brothers and sisters at Asha Niketan affectionately call me Lancyetta. When they address me with that name, it brings great joy to my heart, and I make a sincere effort to respond with a smile, despite the challenges.

Love and warm hug

Lancy



Memories





I'm Hoithem Kipgen, hailing from Manipur. I completed my degree in Master of Arts in Christian Counselling from South India Baptist Bible College and Seminary (Coimbatore) in 2021. Growing up, it was always my dream to work in social rehabilitation. This childhood dream of mine continued even when I was in college. But I was not really sure where or how I would get such opportunities. One day as I was talking to my friend Siam (who is currently working in Chennai community), he introduced me to Asha Niketan. As I was listening to him and understanding the community, I felt that this was the place that I had always dreamed of. So, I decided to reach out and apply to be part of this community, and thankfully, I was given that opportunity. It has been almost a month since I started working in Asha Niketan. Challenges are inevitable, but each day with new experiences, I am truly enjoying what I do and where I am. In my own perspective, I am truly and I am genuinely content with the path I am currently on. Thank you, Asha Niketan for giving me this opportunity. I am looking forward to working together with you all.

Twenty years ago, Sister Jerosha Albert served as a valued member of our Governing Council. She played a significant role in advancing the Nandi Community, offering comfort to those in need of assistance and actively engaged in numerous community events. She provided support as a companion and a counselor to Mrs. Elsy, an assistant at the Nandi Community. With deep sadness and heavy hearts, we regret to inform you of the passing of Sister Jerosha Albert on September 25, 2023. We humbly request that you hold her family in your thoughts and prayers as they navigate through challenging time.



Thank you!

We anticipate bringing you a plethora of thrilling news and narratives in the upcoming months.



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