



## CHEER UP.....AND WELL DONE.....HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS!

TARA, a centre run by SOFOSH for physically and mentally challenged children is located at Pimpale Gurav, Pune. A few of our students, namely - Chaitrali, Aishwarya, Anuradha and Kartiki, at TARA are studying at Kamayani School in Patrakar Nagar, Pune. We feel extremely proud to state that this year too these students have cleared their exams with flying colors. Chaitrali, studying in Std. 4, stood second in her class while Kartiki, Std. I student, stood first in the class. Hearty Congratulations to our little ones! Don't you all too feel that their efforts are definitely worth a pat?

Navakshitij, an organization in Pune, had also arranged Parvati hill climbing competition for the mentally challenged girls. Chaitrali who participated from the Kamayani School won the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize.

One may feel so what is so great about it. But when one considers the condition of these children at the time of their admission in the Institute then one would realize that it is not a small achievement. The credit goes to the affectionate care taken by the staff and the volunteers, and the doctors who helped them in their overall development.

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*Dear Readers,*

This year is a special one for the entire SOFOSH team and we are proud that SOFOSH will step into the Golden Jubilee year in the month of September 2013. It's been a long road for us and walking on this challenging path would have not been possible without the support of our innumerable donors, supporters and well-wishers. SOFOSH commenced its patient welfare services in the year 1964 and gradually broadened its horizons. It was in 1974 when our Child Care Centre, Shreevatsa, came into existence. Today SOFOSH is also one amongst the leading licensed adoption agencies in Pune.

To continue with our services towards the needy sections of our society, we call for incessant support from all of you as always. We incur a cost of Rs. 5000/- per day to feed all the children in our centre. At any given time, we care for about 100 children at our Centre. (SHREEVATSA and TARA) Similarly, with the price hikes in fuel prices over the past few months, it is a challenge and an additional financial strain on the institution. We incur a cost of RS.2000/- per day towards the fuel expenses (including the gas and the electricity charges). We are seeking to create a fraternity of 365 friends, each one undertaking to support a day's cost of our food or fuel expenses. We appeal to you to be a part of this fraternity called "SHARING", and support our program by sponsoring the food/fuel on any calendar date/s that is important for you. Hope to receive a helping hand from our well-wishers which would certainly ameliorate our financial strain. ❖

Nivedita Gogte

## CONGRATULATIONS!

SOFOSH family would like to congratulate its senior social worker, Mrs. Ratan Bhagwat who is the recipient of the Late Prematai Kamtekar Memorial Award sponsored by 'Vanchit Vikas'. This was awarded to her to commemorate her conscious efforts and her contribution in the field of social welfare. SOFOSH has always been proud of its committed staff. The dedication with which each one works is certainly commendable. ❖

## PATIENT WELFARE

The PLH group (People living with HIV) was founded in the year 2002. Since then, this group established by SOFOSH, has been conducting various programs for the benefit of its members. As and when required, educational help is imparted to them keeping their progress in mind. These students, even in their difficult and bleak circumstances make good educational progress. They certainly deserve appreciation and keeping this in mind SOFOSH also arranges a special function for them.

A special such function was organized on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at Manohar Mangal Karyalaya, Pune. SOFOSH was privileged to have Dr. Seema Sahay of NARI (National Aids Research Institute) as the chief guest. Also, Mr. Mahesh Chavan and Mr. Vandan Bhojne of Cognizant, Mr. Anand Saraf (Seva Mitra Mandal) and Mr. Milind Panchanadikar honoured us by being present for the program.

The program commenced by a welcome song presented by the Support Group members, followed by Ganesh Vandana in a dance form presented by children of the Mrudung group. Mrs. Madhuri Abhyankar-Director SOFOSH welcomed all the guests. This year about 130 students, (STD I to a student studying Engineering), were rewarded for their efforts. Specially appreciated amongst these were two students – one who has completed her BCS degree and now is an independent earner and the other about to complete his engineering degree. Also, special thanks for our social workers Ms. Asha Kanade, Mrs. Purva Thakar and Mrs. Ratan Bhagwat, whose untiring efforts have always been valuable for our various support group activities. The program was thus concluded by a vote of thanks to the guests and tons of best wishes for the students for a bright future. ❖

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*Total no. of adoptions from  
April 2013 to June 2013*

*Indian Adoptions- 16*

*Girls- 3*

*Boys- 13*

*NRI - 0*

*Foreign Adoptions - 0*

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## BURNS CASE

Piya Shinde, a 20 year newly married young girl proved to be one of the countless victims of marital violence. She got married about eight months back to a boy who worked as a driver on daily wages basis. This marriage was against her parents wishes. Her husband turned out to be severely alcoholic and eventually after marriage started harassing her for monetary reasons. On her refusal to his demand of extorting money from her parents, he attempted to burn her and thus she was admitted to Sassoon General Hospital's Burns ward.

Along with precise treatment and palliative care by the doctors at the Sassoon General Hospital, SOFOSH too stepped in at this moment with the nutritional support coupled with the much needed emotional and moral support to the patient and the family members. Continuous counseling sessions added to her strength and eventually she agreed to change the false dying declaration she had made under her husband's pressure. This helped the police arrest her husband. By God's grace she has now been discharged from the hospital and is staying with her parents. ❖

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*Upcoming programs for Shreevatsa*

*11<sup>th</sup> August – Nagpanchami*

*15<sup>th</sup> August 2013 – Flag hoisting*

*20<sup>th</sup> August 2013 – Rakshabandhan*

*29<sup>th</sup> August 2013 – Gokulashtami*

*9<sup>th</sup> September 2013 – Ganapati*

*Every Saturday- Picnic for children*

*Birthday celebration on the third Saturday  
of every month.*

*For Sponsorship or participation please  
contact Shreevatsa- 020 26128219*

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## Thalassemia Day

The 8<sup>th</sup> May, every year, is observed throughout the world as Thalassemia day, with a purpose of educating the patients, their family members and the entire community as a whole about this ailment. The program which was organized by SOFOSH this year was conducted in the Thalassemia ward. Mr.G. Jatin, who himself is a Thalassemia patient and presently works for Red Cross Society blood bank, was the chief guest. The program was held under the able guidance of Dr. Sandhya Khadse (Head of the Children's ward at Sassoon) and Dr. Bharati Kinikar. (Assistant Head of the Children's ward) Almost 35 children with their parents were present for the program. ❖

## POST ADOPTIVE COUNSELING MEET - EFFECTIVE PARENTING

A counseling session was organized by Dr. Kavita Kareer for the parents who have adopted children from SOFOSH. This was held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at Shreevatsa. The topic covered this time was effective parenting. Dr. Kareer efficiently guided the parents on issues like understanding the children both physically and emotionally, their phases of growth, importance of diet, illnesses in children etc. It is equally important to have faith in your children and allow the children to contribute in the decision making of the family. Regular counseling sessions thus organized by SOFOSH for parents help them to deal with the children in a better way. This was then followed by a question and answer session by the parents. ❖

**JOIN US TO CELEBRATE  
THE GOLDEN JUBILEE  
YEAR COMMENCING  
FROM SEPTEMBER 2013  
BY GENEROUSLY  
SUPPORTING SOFOSH  
FOR THE JOURNEY  
AHEAD**

## A HAPPY ALLIANCE

Karuna (name changed) aged 25, has been a beneficiary of SOFOSH for the past 8 years. She underwent a traumatizing period and her life was shattered down. She was referred to SOFOSH and was rehabilitated by the efforts of our social workers. 2 years back her name was enrolled by SOFOSH in the marriage bureau run by Rohini magazine. As luck would have it, an alliance found its way. They met in March 2013 and after formal talks and mutual consent they got married. Her husband, though being handicap is an auto rickshaw driver and an independent earner. The efforts and support by Mr. Anand Saraf of Seva Mitra Mandal, Mr. Raju Gire, Mr. Nitin Kakade, Mr. Tharde and many others too are worth mentioning. We all from SOFOSH wish Karuna the best for her future and a happy married life. ❖

### Your help is always welcome and valuable to us.

*You can offer your helping hand in the following ways:*

- 1) Sponsor one meal for 50 children - RS 1000/-
- 2) Sponsor one day meal for 50 children – RS5000/-
- 3) Educational help per child - RS 500/-
- 4) Sponsor one child per month - RS 7500/-
- 5) Sponsor one child per day – RS 400/-
- 6) Sponsor for medicines
- 7) Sponsor the groceries or other food items
- 8) Sponsor a caregiver - RS 5000/-
- 9) Sponsor one day expense of SOFOSH - RS 30,000/-

*Donations to SOFOSH are exempted under Section 80G of Income Tax Act 1961 – (50 % tax benefit)*

*Donations to SOFOSH Dhadphale Centre are exempted under Section 35 AC of Income Tax Act 1961 – (100% tax benefit)*

*Please contact SOFOSH for further information  
Telephone: +91 20 26124660 TeleFax: +91 20 26128219 Email: director@sofosh.org*

## Celebrations at a Glance



*Children enjoying the picnic*



*Dental check-up for our children*



*Session conducted by Dr. Mona on First Aid*



*Various events are organized at Shreevatsa. Also we celebrate different occasions at the Centre. Festivals are an integral part of our life and we try to celebrate each and every festival for our little ones at Shreevatsa in a traditional way. Also picnics and outings are arranged for the children every week to nearby locations.*

*You can also be a part of the celebrations and the outings. If you wish to sponsor any such event for Shreevatsa, we request you to contact the organization for the further details.*

*Telephone: +91 20 26124660 Fax: +91 20 26128219*

*SOFOSH runs entirely on donations. Along with this we also value volunteer support. If you wish to help us as a volunteer, please contact SOFOSH.*

*SOFOSH- Where human tragedies are treated with love.....*

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