

# VINIMAG

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# FROM THE EDITORIAL DESK

Dear Friends,

*“Every time you tear a leaf off a calendar, you present a new place for new ideas and progress”. These words of Charles Kettering, an American inventor were fresh in our minds as we at Vinimay welcomed 2015 by reiterating our commitment to the welfare of underprivileged children and youth through new ideas and renewed zeal to carry on our activities.*

*In every organization, one would find people who work quietly behind the scenes, contribute enormously to the work being done and accept all challenges with a smile. One such Vinimay volunteer is Mrs. Dhanya Suresh (Dhanya didi to all of us). In this issue, we feature her journey with Vinimay and her experiences in our column “Our Volunteers Our Strength”. Truly, there is enormous strength behind that quiet demeanor and sweet smile of hers.*

*Vinimay's camps are a highlight of our activities during the first half of each year and this year was no different. The Personality Development camps for boys and girls from various CWIs in Mumbai were held in May 2015 and were immensely enjoyed by all the children. Likewise, this period is also one where all the Std X children from CCH, BKN and DSIS (the CWIs where we are active) are taken for a picnic to celebrate the commencement of the holidays after a hectic study schedule for a whole year.*

*Vinimay Milan, the annual gathering of the Vinimay family was celebrated on 26th Jan 2015 and the issue outlines the activities carried out during this event. A health camp held for the Tarun Sadan boys also finds mention in this issue.*

*A round up of our regular activities during the period Jan to June 2015 also forms part of this newsletter.*

*To keep us motivated, we request all our readers to send us your contributions and/ or feedback to [info@vinimaytrust.org](mailto:info@vinimaytrust.org) or to the postal address given at the end of this newsletter.*

Warm regards,

Editorial Team

Dr. A.K. Das

Mrs. Kala Mahadevan

Ms. Anita Ramachandran

Mr. Ankit Pilia

# OUR VOLUNTEERS, OUR STRENGTH



**Mrs. Dhanya Suresh (Dhanya Didi)**

Mary Rose McGeedy, a Roman Catholic nun who devoted her entire life to the service of homeless youth once said, "There is no greater joy or greater reward than to make a fundamental difference in someone's life". This quote perfectly expresses the thoughts and emotions of Mrs. Dhanya Suresh (Dhanya didi to the Vinimay family). Dhanya Didi has been associated with Vinimay for the past 14 years and this article attempts to encapsulate her journey with Vinimay and how her bond with Vinimay continues to strengthen with every passing year.

Dhanya Didi hails from a small village called Adakkaputhur at Palakkad, in Kerala. Didi has grown up seeing her parents and others in her village always being part of an environment wherein social involvement was a way of life. Activities with a focus

on education, counseling, and mentoring always have been central to her life, having parents, both of whom were teachers in the nearby schools.

Once Didi completed her post-graduation from IIT Madras, she moved to Mumbai in 1983 to join BARC where she completed her training and started working in the Chemistry Division. In 1985, Didi got married to Suresh Babu Sir, who was her colleague in BARC. Although she was generally happy with her life, Didi felt trapped in the daily hectic schedule at work and at home and felt there was something missing in their lives. She felt the need to go beyond doing things just for themselves and reach out to help others which was what she had seen and practiced during her childhood days. Suresh Sir knew about this urge in her and both were excited when he got to know about Vinimay and its work from Mr. Umesh Mahapatra, his senior colleague in BARC. However, connecting with the Vinimay team or participation in any activity had to wait since at that time, they lived in Vashi and Didi's priority was to give her time beyond office hours completely to nurture their two daughters.

In 1997, Didi and Suresh Sir shifted to Anushakti nagar, the sprawling BARC complex in Mumbai. It was in June 2001, that Dhanya didi with the help of Umesh Sir & Anu Didi who were senior teaching volunteers at the time, joined the Vinimay family in their tutorial activity at Chembur Children's Home (CCH).

The style of teaching at that time in CCH was unstructured and informal. Didi would visit a Kutir (dormitory) and be available to the children to help them with their school work, solve their doubts &

answer their queries twice in a week. Soon Didi grew very fond of the children and started enjoying the hours spent with them and felt that she was learning much more from them than what she was teaching them. Didi remembers how some of their innocent questions and remarks would prompt her to think and introspect. She realized that many ideas and facts that we take for granted are completely unknown or irrelevant to these children and that she could also learn a lot from them.

*A fond memory that Didi has of her initial teaching days is when a child from another Kutir approached her for help in studies. The children who were being taught by Didi claimed her as their own by calling her "Humara Didi" and were hurt when she taught these new children as well. Seeing the immense selfless love, care and possessiveness of the children, Didi was overwhelmed. Many such small incidents strengthened her bond with the children and were the key motivators for her to continue her association with them.*



**Dhanya Didi with the boys at Tarun Sadan**

Over a period of time, Didi started getting involved in other activities like the Birthday Program at CCH and participating in the volunteer meetings. She was

very impressed by the lively and energizing volunteer meetings, where each volunteer had immense enthusiasm and zeal to take up problems, and discussed the pros and cons of the various options in detail. In a sense, attending these meetings strengthened her resolve to stay with Vinimay as she realized that Vinimay always put the needs of the children first. Each decision was carefully weighed to understand how it would impact the children. Didi found the amount of care and concern in each of the volunteers for each individual child astonishing and saw in Vinimay, a big extended family. In her own words, "The most important thing for Vinimay was the "CHILD" which was what sealed my bond with Vinimay".

Over a period of time, Vinimay commenced structured tutorial classes at CCH and BKN. Whilst Didi initially started teaching Mathematics to children in the higher classes in CCH, she also used to take up other subjects as and when required. Gradually, Didi also got involved in Vinimay's Supplementary Nutrition Program, conducted on every Saturday for the children at Bal Kalyan Nagri (BKN) and on the last Saturday of every month at David Sassoon (DSIS), Mahim.

Currently Dhanya Didi is the coordinator for the Supplementary Nutrition program at Vinimay and is also involved in coordinating the education program at CCH along with another volunteer Manini Didi. As we come to the end of our interview, Dhanya Didi shares the excitement she feels when she sees the first batch of her students getting settled in life, how she still sees them as the eager and excited young faces, who were responsible for bonding her life with Vinimay. With a broad smile with which we are all very familiar, she says, "*Vinimay added an altogether new dimension to my life!* "

# ACTIVITY ROUND UP

## I. CHILD WELFARE

### A) Making Learning Fun with Vinimay Camps

- Come May and it is time for Vinimay's "Making Learning Fun" camps – an attempt by us to impart Life Skills through a fun-filled weeklong camp for boys at Khandala and girls at Tarapur. This year 52 boys and 50 girls participated in the Khandala and Tarapur camps respectively. The participating children came from various CWIs like CCH, BKN, DSIS, Anand Kendra, A.D. Bawla Female Orphanage, Naunihal Trust, Sevasadan Society, Maze Maher and Aakar Projects, Khandala which was participating for the first time in a Vinimay camp. Nilesh Mapgaonkar was the camp leader for the Khandala camp while Mangesh Khamkar was the Tarapur camp leader.

- A key feature of the Khandala camp this year was a special session on "How to Study". In the "Khushi ka Jeevan (KKJ)" session, the volunteers explained to the children about mental and physical health and wellbeing and its importance & benefits in maintaining a balanced and healthy life.

- At the Tarapur camp, the girls were engaged in multiple activities like creative greeting card making, paper fancy dress competition, physical training activity sessions, outdoor games, fun at the beach, Khana Khazana and much more. Discussion sessions on topics like "Banking and Savings", "First Aid and Personal Hygiene", "About Atomic Power" and "How to face Society" were also held. The children were also taken on a visit to the Tarapur Atomic Power Plant, and Camlin Factory. The beach picnic at Chinchani beach was thoroughly enjoyed by all the children.



Health & Hygiene Session



Paper Fancy Dress Competition



Creative Greeting Card Making

## **B) Education**

- This academic year we had 46 (CCH – 16, DSIS – 17, BKN – 13) students who appeared for Std X board examinations of which 23 (CCH – 11, DSIS – 2, BKN-10) of them passed the board exams.
- Our teaching volunteers have for some time, been contemplating the use of visual media to teach the children in their tutorial classes. This was put into action by one of our teaching volunteers who donated a projector that is now being used to teach the students Science and English. The children have taken to this new mode of teaching very enthusiastically.
- Vinimay conducted its yearly Film Festival for children at CCH, AOH & NOH this year too on every Saturday during the summer vacation i.e. April to June. Children enjoyed watching films along with delicious snacks. This activity was immensely enjoyed by all the children. On the last day of the film fest, children from CCH were served noodles and the younger children from AOH & NOH were served muffins, which was a great treat for them, thus bringing yet another film fest to closure.

- The students who had appeared for the Class X exam from CCH, BKN and DSIS, were taken for an outing on 23rd March 2015 to Shiv Ganga Water Park at Panvel. The day commenced with the entire group enjoying a filling breakfast followed by a whole day of fun and games at the water park. The children enjoyed themselves to the fullest in the pool, various water rides and the rain dance. After the lunch break, Mukta Didi conducted a brief Career Counseling session for the children, wherein Didi guided them on different avenues they can choose from after completion of Std X. She also briefed them about the role that Vinimay Trust can play to help them build their careers.



**Students enjoying Rain Dance at the water park**



**Career Counseling Session by Mukta Didi**

## **C) Nutrition**

- The Supplementary Nutrition Program at DSIS & BKN continued as usual. The kitchen at BKN has been renovated and this provided a cleaner environment for the children and the volunteers. Sambar or Usal with lots of vegetables is usually the menu every Saturday at BKN. Mr. Janardanan, a nutrition volunteer at Vinimay has got a custom made idli stand manufactured so as to ensure that at a time, more than 100 idlis can be made. This was put to use during the Nutrition program at BKN in April. The children were able to enjoy hot idlis with their all-time favourite sambar. We thank Janardanan Sir for his kind gesture and are humbly grateful for having well-wishers like him.

- At DSIS the Nutrition program is a big hit with the children who are always eager to help out in the kitchen by chopping vegetables, washing the dal etc. In April 2015, Vinimay organized a cricket match between DSIS and Tarun Sadan boys. Vinimay volunteers made the morning snacks and also served juice to all the children. The match was enjoyed by one and all with DSIS boys winning it. Cricket bats and balls were distributed as prizes. Lunch was the ever-popular sambar made by the Vinimay volunteers with help from the children. The DSIS boys were quick at resolving a minor issue in the kitchen with a creative idea. There was a cooking gas shortage in the kitchen, but the DSIS boys rose to the occasion, by making a "chulah" with firewood in the open, outside the kitchen. This was done in a safe and efficient manner by the children.

#### **D) Recreation – Play Centre**

- Play Centre activities at CCH, BKN and DSIS continued as usual. Play Centre has 21 new children between the ages of 6-11 years who have shifted to CCH from AOH & NOH. Presence of young children has made the Play Centre activity extremely lively. The children have lots of energy which they expend while enjoying both indoor and outdoor games.

- At both DSIS and BKN, Vinimay needs volunteers to help out with the play centre activities. Interested individuals are requested to get in touch with Vinimay through the contact details provided on the last page of this newsletter.

#### **E) Other Activities**

- The Annual function to celebrate the New Year was conducted by Vinimay in BKN on 3rd Jan 2015. Prior to the function, various competitions like Quiz, Fancy Dress competition using Newspapers etc were held.

A magic show and a fun fair were also held as part of the function. The event was well attended by the BKN children and staff, Vinimay volunteers with their families, and Tarun Vinimay members and their families. The event was enjoyed immensely by one and all.

- A one day camp was held by Vinimay at DSIS. This was the first time such an event was conducted at DSIS by Vinimay and it was a huge hit. Various activities like fort making, passing the ball game, quiz, fun fair and cultural program were carried out and the children participated in all these activities with gusto and cheer. Around 20 Vinimay volunteers chipped in to make the breakfast, lunch, tea and evening snacks for the children. The staff at DSIS too enjoyed the program immensely and requested Vinimay to conduct such an event every year.

## **II. YOUTH WELFARE/ TARUN SADAN**

- During the period January to June 2015, there were 15 new admissions and 11 farewells at Tarun Sadan.

- On the occasion of Makar Sankranti, a small celebration was held at Tarun Sadan which included the distribution of Til Gul sweets.

- Around 32 boys from Tarun Sadan went for a picnic to Shiv Ganga Water Park on 17th Jan 2015. They were accompanied by 5 Vinimay volunteers. All the boys enjoyed the outing to the water park immensely.

- "Vinimay Milan", our annual get together of the entire Vinimay family was celebrated on 26th January 2015 at Tarun Sadan. The program began at around 5 p.m. with the registration process wherein Vinimay volunteers, Tarun Vinimay members and their families and resident boys of Tarun Sadan registered their name at the registration desk.



**Lowering of the National Flag in the evening**

- There was a lot of excitement amongst Vinimay volunteers, Tarun Vinimay members and the boys at Tarun Sadan on meeting old friends at the event. Before the commencement of the cultural program, the flag lowering ceremony was done by Rajendra Sir & Sanjay Sir. The evening began on a musical note with a devotional song followed by a quick round of introductions done by Vaidya Sir introducing our Chief Guest for the evening, Mrs. Divya Kotak from Make a Wish Foundation. Mrs. Kotak gave a brief presentation on the activities of "Make a Wish" foundation.
- After the presentation, a dance competition – "Vinimay Can Dance" was held among the participants

of the program who were divided into various groups. From the young ones to the senior Vinimay volunteers, each person put their best foot forward in order to help their team win the competition. This was followed by a game of Housie and high tea thereafter.



**Vinimay Can Dance**



**High tea @ Vinimay Milan**

- Holi was celebrated by the students at Tarun Sadan along with Vinimay volunteers with great cheer.
- Lalya Chandar and Ajay Jadhav from Tarun Vinimay were selected by the Ramakrishna Mission for training in vocational skills. While Lalya will be joining the Mission for a three month course in driving, Ajay will be pursuing a one year course in Electronics.



- 33 of the Tarun Sadan boys celebrated their birthday amidst the Vinimay family members. The birthdays were celebrated amidst cheer and fun with cake cutting and were enjoyed by all the boys.

- A Health Camp was organized in Tarun Sadan during January-February 2015 by Vinimay alongwith the Sathya Sai Group. The camp commenced on 26th January 2015 at Vinimay Milan with blood collection for testing. 61 boys and girls gave their blood for testing.



### Health Camp – Blood Collection

- The follow up to the health camp was carried out in the months of Feb and March 2015 wherein around 15 children were sent for further check-ups on ailments detected during the health camp.

- Tarun Sadan's Annual Day celebrations were held on 24th May 2015. The annual day celebrations included various games and competitions. On this day some of the Ex- students of Tarun Sadan were also present. They shared their life experience with the boys and motivated them to work hard and create a future for themselves.



### Medicine van at Tarun Sadan from Sai Prem Hospital

- On 8th February 2015, volunteers from Sai Prem, Vashi, joined Vinimay volunteers for the Health Camp. Doctors from various fields attended the camp and based on the blood test reports and other test reports, the doctors prescribed medicines to the residents of Tarun Sadan and other participants.

- Dr. Damodaran (one of the doctors from Sai Prem, Vashi) spoke about Swine Flu and other diseases along with the precautions that can be taken to avoid falling ill. Rajendra Sir gave a short vote of thanks and also handed them a token of appreciation on behalf of Tarun Vinimay members. As a gesture of appreciation, the Tarun Sadan boys cooked lunch for all the doctors and participants of the health camp.

### **III. VINIMAY FAMILY PERSONAL NEWS**

#### ***New Beginnings***

- During the period Jan – June 2015, four of the Tarun Sadan boys joined reputed organizations. Bharat Wandhare and Vijay Acharya joined BARC Mumbai, Narayan Gadhave joined Mazgaon Dock & Vilas Pawar joined Mahadiscom as wireman at Nasik.
- Sachin Barshikar, an ex-student of CCH and member of Tarun Vinimay, married Sadhana on 23rd April 2015. The wedding was attended by many Vinimay and Tarun Vinimay members. Vinimay had helped in the technical education of Sachin. Sachin is an active Vinimay volunteer and has been involved in Bal Mahotsav (a week-long sports and cultural meet for under-privileged children), Out-station Camps for such children as well as organizing annual picnic for Tarun Vinimay. We wish Sachin and Sadhana all the best in their life.
- Ajay Ramanna, an ex-student of CCH and Tarun Sadan, was blessed with a son, Aarav, on 4th May 2015. Ajay is employed in BARC. Ajay has been a volunteer in Vinimay's week long camps for children.
- Tarun Sadan ex- student Subhan Shaikh got married on 16th May 2015. We wish him all the very best in his married life.
- Prashant Shikhare, a Tarun Vinimay member, got the Dadasaheb Phalke award for best animation film in the children's educational category in May 2015. When Prashant was a student at Bal Kalyan Nagari (BKN), Vinimay had arranged for his training with an artist at Anushakti Nagar in 1998. Subsequently in 2000, after he left BKN, Vinimay arranged for his job in a computer animation company. Vinimay had also arranged for his part-time apprenticeship in a product

promotion company belonging to Mr. M. G. Menon, a volunteer of Vinimay. All through, Dr. Anu Kamat, a volunteer of Vinimay, was his mentor. We are proud of Prashant and congratulate him on his success and wish him all the best for his future.

- Digambar Madhekar, an ex-student of D. N. Sirur Balakashram and Tarun Sadan, who is successfully running his own business, got married to Sujata, an ex-student of Manav Seva Sangh, on 30th May 2015. A large number of Vinimay and Tarun Vinimay members attended the marriage. We wish Digambar and Sujata a long and happy married life.
- Ashok Narsappa Baswal, an ex-student of CCH and a member of Tarun Vinimay, got a job as an assistant cook on a passenger ship. Vinimay had helped him in many aspects of his personal life. He is an excellent cook and has prepared food during many Vinimay functions as well for the out-station camps conducted by Vinimay for under-privileged children. He has got a very deserving break in his career. All the best Ashok!

# FROM OUR PHOTO ARCHIVES

## TARUN SADAN – FROM BRICK TO HOME



**Bhoomi Pujan of Tarun Sadan**



**Brick by brick, pillar by pillar**



**Construction in full swing**



**Smt Coomiben Babubhai Shah Tarun Sadan  
Our Labor of Love, Our Pride and Joy**

# HOW YOU CAN HELP

## Fund a Program

- Your Donation of Rs. 5,00,000 (Rs. Five Lakhs only) can help us to cover the expenses of one youth at Tarun Sadan on an ongoing basis
- For Rs. 30,000 you could sponsor the cost of groceries for one month at Tarun Sadan
- For Rs.10,000 you could sponsor the cost of vegetables for one month at Tarun Sadan
- For Rs. 3000 you could sponsor monthly expenses of one youth at Tarun Sadan
- For Rs.6000 you could sponsor the Annual get together dinner for 50 children
- For Rs.6000 you could sponsor a weeklong camp for 5 children
- For Rs.3000 you could sponsor the birthday of 25 children or birthday clothes for 10 children
- For Rs.1500 you could sponsor Supplementary Nutrition Program for 300 children

Donations to Vinimay Trust are exempted under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act. Vinimay Trust is registered under the Foreign Contribution Act and is authorized to receive donations in foreign currency.

Cheques may be drawn in favour of "Vinimay Trust" and sent to VINIMAY TRUST, C.B.S. Tarun Sadan, Plot 21, Sector 23, Kopar Khairane, Navi Mumbai - 400 709. You can also send your donations directly by NEFT to the following account:

Name of the account	: Vinimay Trust
Bank and Branch	: Punjab National Bank, Kopar Khairane branch
IFS Code	: PUNB0662700
Account Number	: 1207000100256662

## Work as a Volunteer

Contact Smt. Manini Ganguly  
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## Spread the Word

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