



RAPHAEEL

October to December 2019

Events - Special Education (SE) Programme

Mental Health Awareness Programme



October was declared the Mental Health Awareness Month with a special focus on the prevention of suicides. On 15 October 19, RAPHAEEL in conjunction with the National Institute of Loco-motor Disability (NILD), organised and conducted a workshop for the members of Staff of both institutes. Ms Priyo Lall delivering the key-note address highlighted the growing concern over the rise in the numbers of people with mental health issues and the challenge it poses.

Floor Ball (Hockey) National Championships

In November four students – Mukul, Gaurav, Sonali and Aarti - were selected to represent the State in the Floor Ball (Hockey) National Championship to be held in the State of Himachal Pradesh in January 2020.



Big Bazaar Initiative



RAPHAEEL welcomes a recent initiative by the Big Bazaar chain of Department Stores to 'include' children with special needs in their commercial activities. On 7 December, Big Bazaar in Dehradun invited our children to visit and shop in their premises. The members of the shop floor staff were well prepared for their visit: they were kind, helpful and understanding and to cap it all served the children refreshments at the end of their outing.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPwD)



Dehradun celebrates IDPwD on 03 December each year. The Day serves to draw attention to the diversity of individuals in every community and society. This year's theme was – 'the future is accessible'. RAPHAEEL's children participated in the National Institute of Locomotor Disability programme and others went on an outing to the public park – the Gandhi Park. At the latter venue a kindly gentleman, Mr Raman Saini paid for the children to have fun rides in the park!



Programme for the International Award for Young People (IAYP)

The IAYP (previously The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme) in India lays emphasis increasingly on providing self development opportunities to children with special needs. This December, 22 children from RAPHAEL attended a three day Gold Medal Standard camp in the scenic Maldevta Area. It involved camping & cooking in the outdoors, trekking in the forests and hills; crossing fast streams and rivulets; and negotiating various types of obstacles. The camp was established in a facility generously loaned, at no cost, to RAPHAEL. The exercises were conducted under the enthusiastic, compassionate and ever watchful eye of Mr Bivujit Mukhoty and his team of professional Instructors.



Bishop Charles Drennan who spent half a day with the children writes how “satisfying it was to watch how the expert staff were moved by the courage of the RAPHAEL children. Obstacle courses and high rope activities are for anyone, a demanding physical task requiring great trust. But to watch for example a young person with Cerebral Palsy step out along the rope ‘is something else’. It warms the heart, strengthens the resolve to work for an inclusive society and places our own challenges and trials in a bigger perspective”.

Picnic at Manduwala

On 18 November, Mr Radhesh Lall, the Managing Director of KAREYN, a precision machine tools manufacturing factory, very generously, invited all of RAPHAEL to picnic at his factory premises at Manduwala. It is a beautiful location, about 20 kms from Dehradun deep in the Sal Forest with a delightful river running by.



Four busloads of staff and excited residents with a quartermaster vehicle in tow, winged their way to the site singing and ‘selfieing’ the journey!



At Manduwala, while some soaked in the sun, the children were painstakingly taken around the factory in groups by the factory staff. Quite a few were fascinated by the machinery and the parts being manufactured and their interest was obvious by the questions they asked.

After the factory visit it was time to play, eat and make merry. Badminton on grass was popular but the sack races were the sporty highlight of the day.

Jamie McCartney writes that lunch – *paneer, rajma* and a mixed vegetable stew – was “delicious” and that the day’s end saw everybody “worn out but in good spirits”.



Celebrations

Diwali

This year Diwali was celebrated on 27 October 2019. The Shiv Sadan ladies were pleased to receive the customary gift of a *saree* each. There was a *pooja*, followed by the lighting of *diyas* and environment friendly fireworks.



Christmas



The Special Education (SE) School and Day Care Centre closed for the winter break on 20 December. Before going home, the SE staff and children decorated a Christmas tree, sang carols and had a treat.

Christmas Day, 25 December, was made special for the permanent residents by Mr & Mrs Gaurav Pundir and their family, residents of Dehradun. They first sought the wish of each individual; organised the collection of gifts by means of a voluntary 'Gift a Wish' programme and then presented each individual the gift he or she desired at a party. The residents were absolutely delighted. God bless the Pundirs.

Visitors, Volunteers and Interns

Mr Sudhir Pitre, Director CSR, Garware Bestrech Social Foundation Ltd., Pune accompanied by his wife visited RAPHAEL on 11 November 2019. Garware Bestrech has been helping us generously over the past three years. Last year they very kindly presented us with two eighteen seater buses. This visit was to finalise their assistance for the current year.

Bishop Charles Drennan, Trish Twaits and Jamie McCartney were with us again this quarter: it is always nice to have them here.

We have had interns come to us from Delhi, Chandigarh, Pune and Dehradun and this is what two of them had to say:

"My experience ... come back" – Ambika (Dehradun)

"It was ... world altogether" – Harsh Jain (Haryana)

Wedding Bells

We are very happy to announce that Anchal, a former resident of Barbara Cottage, who was rehabilitated with her family in 2012 after four years at RAPHAEL is now happily married to a young man who is a carpenter by profession. This is what Anchal's parents had to say about her time at RAPHAEL – "It is thanks to Raphael that Anchal is independent enough to get married today."

Obituaries

Dewan Ram: Died on 24 October 2019

Dewan Ram came to Raphael in 1978 at the age of 25 years. Initially he worked at a spinning wheel in the weaving workshop. Later, he started to work on the water pumps, controlling the water supply. He was married to Devki. He was a busy man, going from one building to another to check or repair the water pipelines. Dewan was also known to cut off water supply to a building if not in a good mood or wanted to teach someone a lesson! Dewan fell ill in September, and was diagnosed with cancer.

Gulab Singh: Died on 16 November 2019

Gulab Singh was admitted in Shiv Sadan in 1967 at the age of 26 years. He married another leprosy patient, Jashoda who was blind. After coming to Raphael he was trained to weave and he worked in the weaving workshop every morning. He was a caring husband who did the entire house work. For the last 10 years he had a lot of pain in his joints and used a tricycle to move around. He fell ill suddenly and died of respiratory complications. He is survived by his daughter Sumati.

WE WISH ALL OUR FRIENDS
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

How You Can Help!

Do visit our revised website:

<http://www.raphael-ryder-cheshire.org>

- Rs 500 will provide a glass of milk to 1 child for a month
- Rs 5000 to sponsor 1 meal for 150 residents
- Rs 6500 to support a child with disability for a month.
- Rs 5000 to support a patient in the TB hospital for 15 days
- Rs 3000 to support a resident in lifelong care for a month.

Donations can be made:

- Directly through Razorpay on our website
- By cheque in favour of "Raphael"
- Bank transfer through:
SB A/C No 85152010003933 & IFSC: SYNB0008515

Email: raphaelcentre@gmail.com; Telephone: 0135-2674901 Ext 23/24