

Friends Society
C/o N M Petit Library
Fatehgunj Main Road, Vadodara 390002
Half yearly Activity Update
(July-Dec 2020)

Dear all,

Season's Greetings!

Although due to Covid 19 pandemic, activities at Friends Society too suffered heavily but with the zeal, enthusiasm and involvement of our volunteers we could sustain some of our activities. We are happy to share below an update of various activities carried out under the banner of Friends Society during the half year (July to December20).

New board of trustees and executive committee were formed in the month of July 2020. The new executive committee (EC) of Friends society (FS) brainstormed on the ideas of activities during pandemic period. Dr. Sagun Desai and Ms. Gowrie Rajendran carried out orientation meeting of the executive committee members. FS has developed a beneficiary registration details form which would provide most of the required information for the beneficiary and about his family.

Sunday school: Mr. Kamleshbhai Trivedi and Mr. Fahad our Sunday school beneficiaries performed on FB live show Jashn e Zindagi by Dorai foundation. BSW field work placement students completed filling up of beneficiary registration details forms for all Sunday school beneficiaries.

Virendra Rana, our Sunday school beneficiary and also associated with FS at present with Sunday Club activity was felicitated on world disabled day by Ummeed Helpline Foundation, Rajasthan. We congratulate him for his achievement

Blood donation: A blood donation camp was organized at N M Petit Library on 15th August 20. Due to pandemic, donors were reluctant to come forward. 12 units of blood was collected.

Balwadi: Teachers utilised the month of July and August to revise curriculum, make educational Aids and carry out admission procedure. 12 to 14 videos were uploaded by Balwadi teachers in the month of September 2020 for online classes. Balwadi online sessions held for 22 days for total 66 hours catering to 12 beneficiaries.

Program for Future Leaders: FS launched online teaching platform during pandemic period to cater to education need of the needy. The program was styled Reach Youth to Teach Youth. 15 facilitators conducted 373 online one hour each teaching sessions for 15 students from September 20 to November 20.

Program for University Youth: 19 sessions of Excel workshop was conducted by Aman Sharma for FSites. 9 participants took advantage of these sessions. Each session was for duration of an hour. This was aimed at enhancing participants' efficiency to use excel in their day to day working.

PUY started uploading book reviews on FS instagram page. Four videos of book review are uploaded.

Online session on Cyber Security (Data Protection) was conducted by Mr. Rajesh Sapkal, IT Security Infrastructure expert was conducted. It was attended by 25 participants and lasted for an hour.

A debate competition was organized on the topic of Reservations in India.

Youth Club: Bharti Nikhilesh Shah donated 31 sets of big book, note book, pencil box, pen for needy children. These sets were distributed to youth club beneficiaries. It should be noted that Bharti was beneficiary of such items from FS during her childhood days and now she is giving back to the society.

Library: Gujarati books were arranged alphabetically.

Other activities and events:

MAARG Foundation handed over 100 corona health kits for distribution to the under privileged working class and Health care staff. These safety kits contained Face shield, Masks, pair of Hand Gloves. These kits were distributed to housekeeping and security staff of Samsara apartment, Rosewood Residency, Narhari Aarogya Kendra, Autorickshaw drivers at Fatehgunj.

25 kits containing mask, sanitizer, sanitary pads, hand wash, donated by Fly Higher India, were distributed among sewing classes beneficiary girls.

During the half year under report, three donors provided ration kits on different occasions to Sunday school beneficiaries' families.

FS started preparing face masks at the sewing class. Some masks were sold and some distributed free to the needy (Premdas Vruddhashram, SSG Hospital and visually impaired beneficiaries) from the donations received from Ms. Bhamini Amin for the same purpose.

Flag hoisting was carried out at on 15th August 20 with minimum participation and keeping social distance. Also on the same day, renovated accessible toilet block with financial support from L&T was inaugurated by Mr. Sudhir Nambiar, CSR Head of L&T Hydrocarbon.

FS volunteers worked for a survey of the project, initiated by CSR department of GACL, related to the distribution of sanitary pads among females residing in the slums of Manjalpur, Vadodara

Individual Assistance:

Ration kit distribution: FS continued its monthly ration kit (15 Kgs) distribution on every third Saturday of the month to needy visually impaired beneficiaries, mostly girls coming from Anand, Bharuch apart from local Vadodara. This activity is consistently run since last two years. An anonymous donor sponsors these kits. FS provides the beneficiaries and their escorts lunch as they come from distant part of the state and city. Currently due to Covid only snack is provided. FS spends Rs. 7000/ for this lunch which is sponsored by different well-wishers and contacts of Friends Society. FS also provided them masks for corona protection. FS also extends support for medical assistance, school fees, house construction etc. directly or indirectly by connecting donor to beneficiary.

Majority of this group members are other than our regular beneficiaries of Sunday club and Sunday school.

Support to Visually impaired beneficiaries: Seven scribes were arranged to assist visually impaired in recruitment and competitive exams.

Manoj, our beneficiary (Visually Impaired), got selected by Indian Railways for posting in group D (clerical). FS helped him for a scribe at Ahmedabad.

Three physically handicapped persons near Motnath Mahadev temple Vadodara were donated tricycle.

Pravin, visually impaired, was provided with material for making door mats. Selling price of each door mat is Rs. 100/-. These mats are available for sale at FS.

FS recommended to Rotary Club to support Pradip, visually impaired beneficiary. Rotary club supported Pradip with a laari (approx. expenses Rs 7500 including colouring). FS arranged for stuff worth Rs 2000/- for sale and now Pradip is trying to earn his livelihood through this laari.

FS paid fees for 9 visually impaired beneficiaries. The total amount of fees so paid is Rs. 81437/-

Ketan Makwana, visually impaired, was supported financially to stock up his laari with saleable goods.

Leela and Harshal both visually impaired lost their job as music teachers at a school in Bhavnagar due to Covid. FS appealed to Narayan Powertech Limited, our well-wisher for a long time, to provide them job opportunity. Narayan Powertech Limited offered job to Harshal. FS with the help of its members and a Sunday school beneficiary family arranged a rental accommodation for them at Padra. Narayan Powertech provides conveyance to Harshal for commuting to his work location. Thankful to family of Vraj - our Sunday school beneficiary family for helping with suitable accommodation.

Our visually impaired beneficiary Ajay Garva got selected in SBI Bank. He completed his graduation from Baroda and he was supported for fees and writers for all the years of undergraduate education.

Sunil Soni our Sunday school beneficiary has chronic kidney disease and is on regular dialysis twice a week for last few years. He is also suffering from Hepatitis C. He was having Acute Urinary Tract Infection and he was hospitalized in the third week of December 2020. He was discharged soon from hospital after recovery on 22nd December 20. An appeal was made to FSites to contribute to support him financially to foot the hospital bill of s 43000/-. Within four days, from 23rd to 27th December 20, we could generate Rs 43000/- fund for him by donations from various individual FSites.

FS extended financial support of Rs 13000/- for medical treatment of physically disabled beneficiaries.

Membership:

Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development invited FS to present about it to their students of MSW. FS volunteers presented about the inception, activities and needs of the organisation. They oriented them about the membership.

We welcome Manisha Chavda, Bharat Choudhary, Mukesh Pasi and Vijender Rathod as our new life members. Life members as of 31st December 2020 is 32.

Active members enrolled as of 31st December 20 is 29.

Funds Received:

Donations: An amount of Rs.7, 85, 220/- was received as donation during the half year. (July-Dec)

Membership fee: Rs 1400, Life **membership fee:** 8000

General Information: Friends society is Vadodara based voluntary youth organization for community service. Donations to friends Society are exempted from Income Tax under section 80(G) 5 of Income Tax act, 1961. Cheque may be issued in the name of Friends Society. For online transaction the details are given hereunder.

Name of the account : Friends Society

Name of the bank: Bank of India, University Road Branch, Vadodara

Bank Account Number: 250510100007809

IFSC code: BKID0002505

Please mail on friendssociety813@gmail.com details of the transaction id, amount, name and postal address of the donor, mobile number and PAN details to enable us to issue the receipt.

Trustees

Friends Society, Vadodara