

## **Annual Report of Friends Society for the year 2016-17**



### **PROGRAMME FOR UNIVERSITY YOUTH (PUY)**

On 1<sup>st</sup> April, the volunteers organized a screening of TED Talk on 'The Power of Introverts' by Susan Cain, where she states how introverts are misunderstood by the society and explains the difference between being an introvert and an extrovert. It was a thought provoking topic and following the screening there was a lively discussion on the subject which was moderated by one member.



### **CHEER UP**

The Navratri celebrations of the Cheer Up program was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October'16 with the inmates of the Govt. Institute for Visually impaired & Physically challenged, Pensionpura from 7 pm to 10 pm. 80 beneficiaries and 30 FS volunteers along with Trustees, Veterans & Staff joined the celebrations.

The celebrations started with Dinner followed by 'Aarti' (Prayer) to Goddess Durga. After this, the Children, Volunteers, Sunday School and Sewing Class beneficiaries of FS and others performed Garba with great enthusiasm. Everyone enjoyed the celebrations. At the end of the event, the volunteers cleaned up the ground before dispersing.



### **YOUTH CLUB**

Apart from the usual academic and recreational activities, a session on “Know Your Birds” was held on 26<sup>th</sup> November’16 by ShubhamAkolkar, a M.S.University student as well as a professional photographer. This was arranged by Dr.VanishaNambiar, Trustee. About 15 beneficiaries and 10 volunteers attended the session. Everyone enjoyed the session and got to learn about the different types of birds. Volunteers present were Vijendra, Anushree, Aman, Anusha, Kaushik, Gyan, Shamsudin, Ruchi, Burhan &Umang, along with Dr.VanishaNambiar.







On 20<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> October, a handwriting competition and a 'diya' painting competition were held for the beneficiaries of the Youth Club by the volunteers and the winners were given prizes.



### **SUMMER CAMP**

Children's Summer camp was held at FS for children in the age group of 7 to 14 years – from 1<sup>st</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May'17. Various activities like art & craft, dance, yoga, personality development, story telling, skit, and a one day picnic were conducted during the camp. The poster and registration form were designed by the volunteers for the camp.

### **BALWADI**

The Balwadi Parents' Meet was held on 14<sup>th</sup> April. This was followed by a Medical Check up for the children and mothers, conducted by doctors from the next door Government Dispensary.



### **SEWING & EMBROIDERY CLASS**

On 21<sup>st</sup> April, the final exam for the students of the current batch of sewing & embroidery class was held. Totally 27 students appeared for the exam. The exam was followed by a small celebration for the staff and students. The new batch for sewing & embroidery starts on 5<sup>th</sup> June.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**Diwali Celebrations:** After the Diwali holidays, the Sunday School beneficiaries with the help of volunteers celebrated Diwali by making colourful 'rangolis', bursting crackers and singing songs.



Apart from this, regular sessions were also held on other Sundays.



### **UDAAN – WINGS OF WHEELS**

The event was held on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 at the VMC ground near School for Physically Handicapped near EME Circle. The race started at 7.30 a.m. and covered about 5 kms. The route was via Narhari Circle, Fatehgunj Circle,

Kala Goda and back to EME Circle and was completed in about 35 minutes. 36 Differently abled



persons participated in the race. 20 Microns Company provided ambulance service to the event free of cost and the Vadodara Police gave their assistance by providing security and traffic management.

The winners were Sureshbhai Rana in the male category and Bharatiben Shah in the female category. Chief Guest Nileshbhai Patel distributed trophies and prizes to the winners and runners up and congratulated FS and the volunteers and mentors for their efforts. Other guests included members from the Baroda Ladies Circle 76, Ms. Purnimaben Desai, Dorai Foundation & Shri Purushottam Panchal of SevaTirth.



T-shirts, travel bags and caps were given to all the participants. Around 15 persons with disabilities who have done exemplary work in different fields were also honoured at the function.



### **SAHIYARI MELA**

13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> September – “SahiyariMela” from 4 to 8 pm. Inauguration on 13<sup>th</sup> evening by Chief Guest, Ms. Urmi Pathak, Proprietor of a well-known boutique in Vadodara, who has been supporting the tailoring & embroidery unit of FS by supplying pieces of material from her boutique on a regular basis. She went around all the stalls, purchased some items and also gave some valuable advice and suggestions to the staff of the tailoring/embroidery unit.

The “SahiyariMela” had stalls by the Income Generation Unit selling – i) aprons, kitchen gloves, cushion covers, sari bags, etc., ii) cloth baskets, iii) various types and sizes of cloth bags and iv) a stand with chaniya cholis and hand embroidery cloth bags. There were also stalls by the Sunday School with various types of paper bags and envelopes and decorated candles, stalls by Balwadi, Library, jewelry stalls by teachers of the Vocational Unit/Sunday School, and a Food stall run by the Youth Club students. The stalls were manned entirely by FS volunteers. There was good response from well-wishers of Friends Society and people from the locality.



### **Voluntary Blood Donation Camps:**

In association with the SSG Hospital Blood Bank, the volunteers organize and co-ordinate Blood Donation Camps (primarily in the University Campus). They also spread awareness and motivates youth towards voluntary blood donation. Camps area also conducted at offices, banks, industries, etc.

During the year, 14 Blood Donation camps were conducted, in which 431 units were collected.

### **SHAURYA – All Vadodara Special Children Sports Meet**

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2017

Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Venue: Convent of Jesus & Mary's Girls' High School, Fatehgunj.

- From 8:00 am onwards the participants from different schools started coming in and the registrations started and continued till 9:10 am.
- Of the 607 children from 28 schools/organisations who had registered for the event, 452 beneficiaries from 24 schools/organizations participated on the day.
- At 9:20 a.m., the Anchors (Ankita Rawat and Shamsuddin Khoja) welcomed the gathering and briefed all about Shaurya and Friends Society.
- Prayer by visually impaired beneficiaries of Friends Society was followed by the Welcome Speech by the event In-charge, Vijender Singh Rathore and handing over of saplings to the Chief Guest and Guests of Honour by three Sunday School beneficiaries.
- Zaiba Dabhoiwala, Jt. Secretary gave Vote of Thanks in English language to all the guests Guest, Dr. Nagesh Kamat and Guests of Honour, Mr. Ashvin Macwana and Mr. Illiyas Vhora spoke and motivated all the participants.
- Following this, four blind beneficiaries of Cheer-up program sang with musical instruments.
- Around at 9:50 am the balloons were released by Dr. Nagesh Kamat and then around at 10:00 am, he declared commencement of the games after handing over the Mashal to the beneficiaries.
- Some motivational and encouraging songs were sung with music by the Band members.

- Morning snacks were distributed to the beneficiaries prior to the starting of the games.
- The games started at around 10:30 am. 13 different types of games were organized for the beneficiaries depending on their abilities and different groups of volunteers were in charge of the different grounds set aside for them.
- The Vote of Thanks was again given by event Asst. I/C Prabhjot Kaur Rajput in Hindi language and then by Manoj Valand in Gujarati language after an interval.
- As and when rounds of different games got completed, announcement of results and prize distribution were done simultaneously.
- Around 12 noon, food packets were again distributed to the beneficiaries and then the team members/volunteers.
- The games and prize distribution continued till around 3:00 pm.
- Team members then wound up and while some members took the materials and other items back to FS some others stayed back and cleaned the ground.





