

New RCS Centre at St. John's Leprosy Hospital, Pirappencode

A group of Chaniter volunteers from Belgium visited St. John's Leprosy Hospital; a project supported by DFIT and totally renovated the ruined hospital building at their own cost. Additionally, a new RCS centre was set up for treating the persons affected by leprosy with deformities. The hospital was inaugurated on 09-01-2014 by DFIT Secretary Dr. Shivakumar in the presence of Marthandom Bishop Vincent Mar Paulos and Dr. B. Sreelatha, State Leprosy Officer. So far 15 RCS surgeries have been done in the newly constructed centre. This is the only center in Kerala state to offer Re-Constructive Surgeries (RCS) at free of cost.



Avery Dennison employees volunteer with Damien Foundation

Avery Dennison is a global leader in labelling and packaging materials and solutions. The company's applications and technologies are an integral part of products used in every major market and industry. The company encourages their employees to volunteer their time to improve the quality of life of people living in poverty. Damien Foundation India Trust (DFIT) offered them to undertake some renovation work in Polambakkam where we run a destitute home for persons affected by leprosy. The company accepted the proposal submitted by DFIT and allotted budget for the same. A group of 10 volunteers from Avery Dennison visited Polambakkam in March 2014 and actively participated in the renovation work.



Avery Dennison Volunteers assisting the renovation work



After Renovation of Female Ward

World Leprosy Day – 26th January 2014



A POD (Prevention of Disabilities) camp was organised for the leprosy affected persons on 1st February, 2014 in connection with World Leprosy Day at Nilgiris Wynaad Tribal Welfare Society, Ambalamoola, a DFIT supported project. The objective of this camp was to involve family members of the leprosy affected persons in self-care and teach them how to identify and prevent leprosy related complications of their family members.



As a part of World Leprosy Day Commemoration, DFIT conducted a Quiz Competition for High School Students in Madhuranthagam, Kancheepuram District of Tamil Nadu.



World Leprosy Day was observed for two weeks in Salem from 30.01.2014 to 13.02.2014 in collaboration with District Leprosy Control office. St.Mary's Leprosy & TB Centre, a project supported by DFIT, mobilized volunteers (nursing students) to conduct a door to door survey in a slum. Three new leprosy cases were detected during the survey.



St.Johns Hospital, Trivandrum, a project supported by DFIT organized a rally as part of World Leprosy Day commemoration.



As a part of World Leprosy Day commemoration, Arogya Agam, a project supported by DFIT conducted a leprosy awareness programme at Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Aundipatty.

World TB Day – March 24th 2014

World TB Day provides the opportunity to raise awareness about TB-related problems & solutions. It is our dream and our mission to fully curb the menace of TB in India



Damien Foundation Nellore project staff actively took part on World TB Day organised by DTC (District TB Control) on 24th March 2014.



Swami Japananda and his staff from Swami Vivekananda Integrated Rural Health Centre, Pavagada attended the World TB Day Programme at District TB Centre, Tumkur. He emphasized the role of community to work for Tuberculosis Control.



DFIT Sponsored project, St.Mary's Leprosy Centre, Salem conducted an awareness campaign for DOTs (Directly Observed Treatment). Also, cash of Rs.250/- was given to patients who referred positive cases for treatment.



A Moment of Glory - Our DFIT Staff has bagged the 'Leprosy & TB Quiz Contest' in New Delhi. Mr.Braham Prakash and Ms.Ragini receiving the appreciation award as part of World TB day commemoration.



Nilgiris - Waynaad Tribal Welfare Society, Ambalamoola, a project supported by DFIT commemorates the World TB Day with the collaboration of District TB Centre, Ooty.

Acknowledging our supporters



Mrs. Sneha Hindocha, Donates Rs.20,000 towards Re-Constructive Surgery (RCS) for the persons affected by leprosy



A resident (extreme right) from Nellore donates Rs.30,000/- towards MCR footwear for the disabled persons affected by leprosy

Other donations received during this period

- Vijaya Medical Association donates Boyle's Apparatus of Rs.79,000
- Orient Surgical Association donates Oxygen Cylinders worth Rs.7500
- Helping Hands Organisation donates Rs.10,000 for RCS Support
- Mr.Jagadish , a civil contractor, donates Gluco Meter of Rs.5000
- Sri Satya Sai Seva Organisation donates Rs.50, 000 towards 300 pairs of MCR slippers for person affected by Leprosy

Donation is not just limited to money. One can donate food, clothing, footwear or can even volunteer with us in their field of expertise.



Volunteer Meeting

DFIT has started engaging volunteers who are based in and around Chennai. So far we have involved around 10 volunteers who are from colleges and corporate sector. We are looking forward for more volunteers who are willing to help us in fund raising, networking and Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives. If you are interested to volunteer with us, please write to info@damienfoundation.in



Volunteers from Belgium interact with persons affected by Leprosy

Trainings & Meetings



Infection Control Training programme

Infection Control Training was conducted from 17th to 21st February, 2014 at DFIT Nellore for Project Staff by Mr. Alex Jaucot, an Infection Control Consultant from Belgium, along with Dr. Liu Zhentian, Chief Medical Advisor, from China. There were 19 participants representing DFIT projects along with one Govt. staff.

Training programme for ASHAs

DFIT Delhi recently organised a training programme to ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) to sensitize them about Leprosy and Tuberculosis. 58 participants and 12 staff members attended the programme. The team informed the participants the facts about Leprosy & TB, discussed the concerns of the people who are affected by TB and talked about payments for each case refereed. The programme ended with a positive note and ASHA workers promised they would refer cases timely.



Training programme for ASHAs at Delhi Project



Damien Foundation Belgium organized Project Forum meeting in Brussels from June 18th to 21st, 2014. Dr. Shivakumar, Dr. Santhosh Kumar, Mr. Camillus Rajkumar, Mr. Premkumar participated in the project forum on behalf of DFIT. Best practices like involvement of civil society organizations in leprosy control program, support to MDR TB program in India, promotion of early case detection in leprosy among underserved population, human resource management and financial management and vehicle data were presented by participants from India.

Honing Photography Skills

Nikhil P Asrani, a DFIT Staff Member attended a Photography Training workshop organized by GYAN Institute. The training gave a good knowledge on using a camera at a professional level. The session was informative and useful. No wonder photography is not about just taking picture, it is an art.



For Art's Sake...

Resilience in the face of adversity is the greatest gift one can have. It often needs the necessary nudge and salutary support to manifest. The case of Nandkishore is a good example.



Mr. Nandkishore is 59 years. His dexterity in drawing fetched him a career. He drew for an industry that got him regular income. He was content and happy that he could feed his family of wife and two children. Everything was well until disaster struck. His disease which he thought had gone when he was treated for some months 23 years back, came back. His right hand became weak; he could not indulge in his passion and work. He went to the doctor who said it was leprosy again and treatment with MDT was started. After one year of treatment he was told that his disease was cured but he was left with the crooked right hand. His world

came upside down. His family left him, his friends deserted him and the society did not look at him kindly. He went to a referral centre managed by an NGO. He was advised corrective surgery. He readily agreed. Some months following surgery at Goyaladairy centre in New Delhi he regained the ability to draw again. Slowly he regained his confidence and skill. He became a man with passion. He never thought he would be able to relive the happy days. His eyes glisten when he expresses his gratitude to Damien Foundation for helping him get back the life that he thought he had lost.

Re-constructive Surgery (RCS): Persons affected by leprosy with disability often face stigma and discrimination in their families, work place and community. Reconstructive surgery plays a major role in improving the appearance and function of the hands, eyes and feet. DFIT has done 162 Deformity correction surgeries in first half of this year i.e. Jan to June 2014.

Nutritional Support: Nutrition plays a crucial role in healing a person affected by Tuberculosis. The needy TB patients are provided food grain supplement during the course of treatment. Usually MDR TB patients are provided two years of nutritional support and others are supported for 6-9 months. During Jan–June 2014, DFIT has provided nutritional support to 574 patients.



Livelihood Support: DFIT provides holistic rehabilitation services for the persons affected by leprosy and TB. It provides socio economic assistance beyond medical support to enhance livelihood conditions and provide a scope for a dignified living. The support is rendered for construction and renovation of houses, educational support to the children of the affected persons, self employment in the form of livestock, small business shops etc. During Jan–June 2014, 57 people have benefited through our Livelihood Enhancement Program (LEP).



Activities	Jan-June 2014
New leprosy cases diagnosed and referred	221
TB cases diagnosed and registered	2151
Drug resistant TB cases registered	112
Leprosy inpatients	914
TB inpatients	223

No More Tears...

Extreme drug resistant cases are rare in India; DFIT project in Delhi had one such opportunity to treat a young girl who is responding well to the treatment.

Meena (name changed) is like any 17 year old girl in Mumbai- lively, ambitious, and dreaming of things which she always thought she would see them in reality. Wait. Meena was not like any other girl- she had determination writ large on her and gumption to carry her through. She knew she would live her dreams. But as ill-luck or whatever you wish to call, have it, her dreams came crashing down when she was diagnosed with TB. She left her parents and came to her sister's place in New Delhi to get treated from DFIT Delhi project. She suffered two week severe cough and visited a private doctor in Mumbai, when there was no sign of relief, she came to New Delhi.



At the health centre run by Damien Foundation the staff interacted with her. Her phlegm sample revealed TB germs. She was explained about the disease and the treatment. She promised that she would strictly adhere to the advice. When she completed the required 6 months of treatment she thought her problem was over. It was far from that. Her phlegm still had germs. She was retreated with another drug cocktail for 8 months. There was no relief. Laboratory test revealed that she had extreme drug resistant (XDR) TB, a form of TB rare but serious only a small chance of cure. She asked for more information. She was shocked. The staff told her that she would be surely cured. She started to take the treatment. She was willing to face the challenge. Her sister and brother in law were constant source of inspiration. She had to take a fistful of pills and injection every day. Slowly, her symptoms started waning. When her phlegm did not show any TB germs, it was celebration time for all. The wait is over and she had won the battle. Meena aims to become a social sciences teacher and we wish her all the very best for her future.

Donate

About Us: Damien Foundation India Trust (DFIT) is a charitable Non-Governmental Organisation for Leprosy and TB Control Activities in India, supported by Damien Foundation Belgium. It offers Leprosy and TB related services either directly through its own projects or through local NGO projects.



Rs.500 - 1 month nutritional support for a person affected by Tuberculosis -



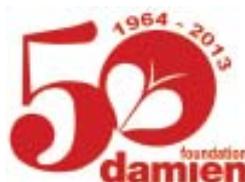
Rs.3000 - 1 year education fee for a child of person affected by Leprosy



Rs.7000 - Hand/Foot deformity correction of a person affected by leprosy

Support Us

Together we can make a difference!
Donations through Online/cheques drawn in favour of "Damien Foundation India Trust"



Damien Foundation India Trust

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