



Loreto House Rainbow Home (LOH) Newsletter

DECEMBER 2015 to MAY 2016

Greetings from Loreto House Home

1. General Status of the Children

Children Status

There are 100 girls on the record.

- One child has left the Rainbow Home on 12th January, 2016 as her home condition is not very good and she has now secured a job to support her family. She has completed a nursing course (bedside attendant).
- Six children have joined the Rainbow Home on 1.2.2016 and 3 children have joined on 21.2.2016.
- One child joined on 2.4.2016.



2. Activities

Nutrition Care

All our children are given a well balanced diet including fruits and milk every day. Those who are weak are given vitamins and calcium prescribed by a Volunteer, Dr. Dadina. Extra special care is taken when they are sick. The Rainbow Home Nurse is constantly taking care by regular check up with the doctor, follow up on their diet, underweight children are given an extra egg and Horlicks every day. She ensures that they take their medicines on time. Once every three months the menu is changed with the consent of the Food Committee.

Health

A total of 20 children visited the doctor regarding skin, eye, ear problems and some had fever. They were treated and are now doing well. One child has gone from underweight to healthy weight. All new children are having a good weight. All the children are maintaining a healthy weight and are in good health.

Education

Eleven girls had appeared for the class X Board Examination in February 2016 but only ten of our children have passed their Board Examinations (Madhyamic-Class X).

One girl has appeared for the Class XII board examination in February 2016. Baptist Girls School, BSS Academy all children have been promoted to the next class and have started school in January 2016. Twelve children from BSS Academy (private) have been admitted into Binodini Girls School, which a Government aided school and one child from Loreto House has been admitted to Binodini Girls School. All children studying in Loreto House School have been promoted to the next class. The new academic session will started on 5th April, 2016.

Sujata Naskar studying in Class IX, Baptist Girls School has been awarded a certificate for 1st position in Poster Making in the school.

Priyanka Ghosh studying in Class X has secured 3rd position in the drawing competition from Baptist Girls School.

Students from IGNOU are doing their intern in the Rainbow home and helping our children with their studies. They put in six hours a day and this is benefiting the children.





Life Skills

Dance – All children are being trained under a dance teacher, once a week.

Extra Curricular activities

Prothsahan: Children participated in various events which were held at Don Bosco. There were various events like elocution, essay writing, Ad Mad show. They stood first in essay writing and 2nd in the ad mad show. They were also awarded the Champions Trophy.

Kabbadi & Race: Friends of Calcutta invited our children to participate in Kabbadi & Race at the Loreto Entally premises. Our children stood 1st in the 100 metre race in one category and 2nd in the 100 mtr. race of another category.

Gymnastics, Judo, Athletics, Basketball & Volley ball



IAWA a Club in Kolkata have permitted our children to join the club and learn athletics free of cost. Many of our children are actively taking part in this sport.

Mr. Suhas Bhattacharya, Basketball coach of Loreto House School trains our children once in a week in the school premises. Ms. Shukla, a trained teacher comes to teach our children gymnastic and Yoga. Mr. Subhankar teaches the children volley ball. We are paying the teacher who teaches gymnastics. The clubs do not charge for the activities.



Children Participation and leadership

All committees are functioning smoothly. Children are actively involved in these committees. They have made beautiful and colourful charts and have displayed them in the Rainbow Home.



Our children participated in a program “One Billion Rising” at Mayur Manch. The Mary Ward Society, Kolkata organized a program against atrocities towards women in the recent past in the country. Various schools and NGOs attended this program.

Older Girls Future:

Some of the children who have completed the Board Examinations are attending Computer Course and Spoken English Course at the Assembly of God Training Centre.

Celebrations and Festivals

Party at Raj Bhavan: A get-together was organised at the Raj Bhavan by Friends of Calcutta where the children met the Governor. Each child received a gift as well as a food packet. Various games were organised by a team named ‘Jungle Crow’. Children enjoyed themselves and were very delighted with their gifts of a water bottle and tiffin box.



Christmas Party

A Christmas party was organized by Sr. Phyllis Morris, Principal, Loreto House School. Rainbow children from all other Loretos were invited. Various games were organized by the Principal and teachers of the school at the school premises. Children were treated to snacks, some cold cream and warm clothes as well.



Children's film Festival

A few children who remain in the Rainbow Home during the holidays were treated to a movie- Korean, named ICE BAR.

Republic Day and Birthday Celebrations –

Children celebrated Republic Day by hoisting the flag. On this day they also celebrated their birthdays. A big cake was ordered and children whose birthdays fall within this period celebrated jointly by cutting the cake and had jeera rice chicken. They also received gifts and snacks.

Saraswati Puja;

The children were treated to a special lunch.

Holi celebrations:

The children played with colours with each other, and with teachers and volunteers as well.



Bengali New Year:

The children were treated to a special lunch on this occasion.

Easter:

Children who were in the Home attended mass,(Christians and non-Christians). On this occasion too they had snacks and a good lunch.

Movie at Inox:

The children went to see a movie at Inox which was sponsored by Poonamji. It was organized by Loreto Rainbow, Dharamtala. Inox is one among the posh plexes in the city. They were also given a packet each with cake, popcorn, frooti, and a soft toy each. Bottles of drinking water were provided to the children as well. The movie was good and it gave the message to the girls to be courageous and reach their goals, the children enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

Engagement with families

On the last Saturday of every month, there is a parent-teacher meeting. During this visit Rainbow team interact with parents and discuss various issues concerning the children. They encourage parents to help their children by counselling them on the importance of their education and other perspectives, which will go a long way in grooming their children to be a good and responsible human being for the society. The Social Mobiliser, Mrs. Nammi Dey has been visiting the families and interacting with the parents.

Building Social perspective

A movie on adolescence was shown to the children titled “Badalte Din”. It helped them to understand better the adolescence period

3. Rainbow team

Staff Status

At present we have 6 staff and 4 part time staff.

Team Trainings

On 10th January, 2016 there was a training for the CPO at Loreto Provincialate. Ms. Rajashree, Ms. Priya and Sr. Barbara conducted the training course. During the training we were advised to make a box and keep in the Home where children could drop a chit mentioning the problems they are facing. In this way we can collect the chits and try to solve their problems. Three times in a year the Child Protection Committee members visit our home and interact with the children directly. Our Home’s Child Protection Committee member is Mrs. Minna Kabir. In case any team member is found to ill-treat any child, the CPO will intervene.

From February 28- March 1st, 2016 there was a training on Mental Health Care in Nitika, Don Bosco. Ms. Satya and Ms. Priti conducted the training, which was very resourceful. Team members from three different states totalling to 23 attended this training. This training was basically to help the team members to cope with adolescent children, which was truly a big help.

Team member’s experience sharing

Mrs. Nammi Roy Deb, Social Mobiliser shared her experience. She is very happy to work with our children and interacting with their parents. She is well versed in handling her job and is ready to go all out to visit our children’s homes, no matter how great the distance may be. She has also counselled many parents as to how they can improve their financial condition. She has enrolled many children into different clubs in the city, where they are learning judo, karate, gymnastics, volleyball., athletics etc. This has definitely improved the mental health of our children as they actively take part in the various activities. She is always ready to help the children in whatever way she is able to. She is also very happy with the team members who are very cooperative and understanding.



4. Visits

Visitors

We have had many visitors in the past and still continue to do so. Visitors come in to interact with the children and they are delighted with them.

18.11.15 – Mr. Soumya Chatterjee from Centry Ply visited our Home and was pleased to meet everyone.

- 23.11.15 – Ms. Lili Gombranis from Loreto Australia was delighted to meet everyone.
23.11.15 – Sam Martin was happy to meet everyone.
23.11.15- Danica Brice was very happy to meet everyone.
2.12.15 – Mercedes Ida Tepda from Loreto Spain was very impressed with the children and remarked that he would never forget the Rainbow.
06.2.15 – Eimer Mcfarhand from Loreto College, Dublin, Ireland remarked on the amazing work done here and welcomed with open arms.
07.2.16 – Birgit Slenn from Loreto College Dublin, Ireland said it was a nice visit for here.
07.2.16 – Casucann O'Brien said it was nice to talk to everyone.
07.2.16 – Sarah Duffy said it was amazing to visit this Home.
26.2.16 – Divya, RFI, Delhi commented it is a Lovely Home, Lovely Girls.
12.3.16 – Snigdha from MSW group said the children were amazing and their hospitality unimaginable.

Mass Media

As is the practice every day the newspaper is read out, the important issues, to the children. The Newspaper Committee is responsible for this.

Local contribution

We are truly privileged to have kind hearted people, who donate generously to our Rainbow children, as follows:

- Sr. Phyllis Morris
- Students of IGNOU
- Gokaldas Intimate Wear Pvt. Ltd.
- Vimochana Charitable Trust
- Megha
- Manjari Gupta
- Poonamji
- Leena
- Dwhina Kothari

5. Challenges

Challenges about children

We are coping with children coming from different backgrounds. At times it is very difficult to cope as they sometimes become stubborn. On certain days when the TV is not switched on they become very restless and do not want to do anything. Sometimes they do not want to do their duties on time and this is a big challenge as there is a time allotted for this. Team members are constantly monitoring the children. Volunteers from IGNOU help the children with their studies, as some of the children did not study well in Loreto House School and had to be admitted into other schools.

We thank RFI India for all their help and support.
