

## Memorable Visits

### <u>Nesakkaram Visit</u>

Nesakkaram-SEEDS (Street Elfins Education and Development Society) is a child-care organization in Chennai for the street children. It provides them food and shelter, opportunities to learn and grow, opportunities to dream and the means to achieve them.

Little over two decades ago, Friar Jesu Irudayam, while on one of his train journeys, witnessed a child sweeping and begging on the train. Something happened to him that day. He also found many children on streets, railway platforms, spending nights and their lives on the pavement, estranged from the safe havens of a home and having lost their childhood and exposed to high risk. Many children at a young age, both from rural and sub-urban stray and land up in Chennai. They leave their homes and come to the city due to various reasons. He wanted to do something for them. Therefore, in the year 1989 he began living with them and sharing in their lives at the bank of Kuvam river (Pudupet area). With the permission and collaboration of our Province and with Mr. Nathan and other committed staff to assist him, he met the many disoriented children and youth on the streets and railway platforms and rag-pickers and motivated and counselled them towards a better and brighter future. Realizing the enormity of their problems and their number Friar Jesu felt the need for an Organization and a home for such children. Thus, Street Elfins Education and Development Society (SEEDS) was registered as society in 1990.

The vision and mission of Nesakkaram-SEEDS is to empower the Street-Children to uphold and assert their human rights, dignity and freedom and to facilitate and assure them their childhood, healthy growth and development in a natural way. Nesakkaram and its ceaseless efforts to ease the aching lives of these little ones are recognized by both the State and Central governments and much appreciated. On 17 September, 2017 around 11.30 in the morning we, radius club members, arranged a visit to their place to spend time with those children and share joy and happiness with them. Around 30 students of F16 & F17 batch of students from LIBA were with the radius club. This time around 10 of the alumni from F15 & F14 batch



also joined us. After reaching there, the director shared the story and vision of this orphanage. There were around 21 children in this orphanage. We distributed some biscuits to all the children.

They sang and danced for us. We also joined them. F14 alumni of 'Thynkfood' business start up sponsored the lunch for that day. The children prayed for their success.

We all enjoyed the time we spent with the children. We learnt about lives in the orphanage. Even they enjoyed our visit and thanked us for our little contribution for them. Before returning we invited them to participate in the drawing competition during LIBAZZAR on 24 September, 2017 in LIBA. We were very happy that they appreciated our invitation and participated in the competition.

We would like to thank Professor Victor Louis Anthuvan for being with us and thank alumni for sponsoring the food. We are looking forward to our continued association with them.

#### **JEEVITHAM HOME VISIT**

The next visit of Radius Club was on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2017 to Jeevitham Trust, situated at Choolaimedu; which is managed by Ms. Vinnarasi. She is a teacher by profession but she has dedicated her life for the welfare and well-being of girl children. She also has provided educational opportunities to these children because she considers that education is the pinnacle for development and growth of any child. We interacted with some of the girls in the home and we got to understand their needs and their educational status which made us realize what a good deed the trust was doing for the girls. We also got to interact with them and learnt about their view of life and got to know something about their past as well. We also asked them about their future plans, passion, and their dreams which opened up our minds to how much these children are willing to look into the future and their passion to all their dreams was evident in the way they spoke to us. We as a team gave them some guidance, suggestions and ideas that would help them with their life in the future and as a team of Radius Club representing LIBA provided them with provision and some supplies worth Rs.3000 which would be useful to them as children in their day to day activities.

#### **Radius Activity at LIBAZZAR**

# *"If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion"*

Around 30 children from "Nesakkaram" boys' home and "Jeevitham Trust" visited LIBA campus on the day of LIBAZAAR'17. During the inauguration, the chief guest addressed the children and asked the students to be a role model to them.

The children were provided with stationary courtesy "Mark-it" club, LIBA. They also participated in the drawing competition conducted. Four Children (three from Nesakkaram and one from Jeevitham trust) won in the competition and got special prizes.

The children interacted with many LIBA students and shared their life stories. The students got to know their lives, their talents and their aspirations. They provided guidance and motivation.

The above quote came true in our lives the day when the children visited our campus. We experienced true happiness when we saw the children happy and enjoying themselves. The presence of the children to share our joy and happiness added more meaning to the event and to our lives.

The students of LIBA had a meaningful day taking the children around the stalls and playing the games with them.