



Opening ceremony of our new home for Children

Dear Readers,

It was a long awaited dream of SOFOSH to provide our little ones at Shreevatsa a 'Home' that is well-illuminated, airy and this wish came into reality on the 5th February'2012, when this 'New Home' was inaugurated by Mr.Tim Sassoon. The function was witnessed by the senior founder members of SOFOSH – Ms. Harsheela Mansukhani, Ms. Sumantai Kirloskar, Ms. Mandakini Dravid, Shri Charudatta Sarpotdar, Shri Yeshwant Mehendale, Shri Sabade together with Dr. Nitin Kareer, Dr. Kavita Kareer and the staff and well-wishers of SOFOSH. We were also honored to host Dr. Chandanwale, the Dean of Sassoon Hospital and the superintendent Dr.Kulkarni at this juncture. The little ones staged a few dance performances for the guests which were followed by a lunch for the invitees.

Once again we take this opportunity to thank all our donors and well-wishers who have lend us a helping hand to accomplish this dream of SOFOSH. They have helped us achieve this endeavour of ours. ❖



Vastupoojan ceremony of Shreevatsa



Inauguration of Shreevatsa by Mr. Tim Sassoon

As every new-year at SOFOSH begins with the celebration of the annual get-together, 2012 was not an exception. SOFOSH cannot survive without the support of its donors, sponsors, volunteers and well-wishers and this function is entirely hosted by SOFOSH to express our gratitude towards this much valued support. The function was organized on the 4th Febryary'2012 at Tilak Smarak Mandir, Pune. This year we were privileged to have Mr. Tim Sassoon and noted Bharatnatyam artiste Guru Saudamini Rao as our chief guests. The highlight of this function was the Bharatnatyam performance based on 'Dyaneshwari' staged by the disciples of Guru Saudamini Rao. Many of the donors, volunteers and well-wishers present expressed their experiences and feelings towards SOFOSH. ❖

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2 HAPPY ENDING

2 PATIENT WELFARE CASE

3 VISIT BY LISA STHALEKAR

3 STORY OF ASIF AND IMRAN

4 POEM BY AN ADOPTIVE PARENT

5 PICTURE GALLERY

Happy ending

17 year Mangal, was in a dilemma when she came to know about her pregnancy. The putative father, who also happened to be her cousin, advised her to terminate her pregnancy but unfortunately she was in the stage where medical termination of pregnancy was not possible. Sadly, her family background was grave with no financial support. She had lost her father in an accident. She lived with her mother and grandmother who worked as household servants and three sisters.

With the fear of being turned down by the family and fear of social humiliation she managed to keep this a secret till the 7th month of her pregnancy. She was eventually guided to SOFOSH by her doctor for further care and counseling. After the birth of her son she handed over the child to SOFOSH.

Though SOFOSH is a child care centre, our primary aim in such cases is to counsel the mother, encourage and support her and convince her to keep her child. Continuous efforts of our social workers not only encouraged the putative father but we could also persuade the family to accept their relation. Finally, Mangal and Vijay got married. On 17.02.2012, with the consent of the Child Welfare Committee, the child was handed over to the family by SOFOSH. ❖

Patient Welfare case

Since all these years, right from its inception, SOFOSH has always played a role of a 'much needed friend' for the poor patients. Archana Patware, age 30, belongs to underprivileged family, is one amongst the countless beneficiaries of SOFOSH. She lives with her husband, who works in a private company and two daughters. Recurrent quarrels with her neighbour, compelled her to attempt suicide. She suffered 40 % burns when she was admitted to the burns ward at SASSOON Hospital. Her husband was extremely supportive and caring but still she needed additional emotional support and compassionate counseling coupled with appropriate dietary management which was offered by the medical social workers at SOFOSH. Her recovery was slow but steady and hence she needed to be there in the hospital for about 4 months. During this period she was also offered financial assistance. Due to lack of domestic help, her daughters were sheltered at Shreevatsa under temporary child care until their mother would be discharged from the hospital. Eventually, she was discharged from the hospital once she was medically fit.

Now she is completely normal and leads happy life. We once again express our gratitude to all our donors and well wishers because of whom we have been able to broaden our horizons and bring hope in the lives of many. ❖

Visitors Remark: *I visited Shreevatsa with my wife. It was a heartwarming experience for us and all our officers. We could have a firsthand knowledge of how this institution is being run. We are overawed by the sense of belonging, love and care that the children are being bestowed. We sincerely express our wishes and appreciation to the entire staff. May God bless each and everyone here. We would love to come back and remain associated with the organization. ❖*

Dr. Suresh Kumar Mekala, IPS- Addl. Commissioner of Police, North Region- Pune

Your help is always welcome and valuable to us.

You can offer your helping hand in the following ways:

Sponsor one meal for 50 children RS 1000/-

Sponsor a day's meal for 50 children RS 2500/-

Educational help per child RS 500/-

Sponsor one child per month RS 7500/-

Sponsor one child per day RS 250/-

Sponsor for medicines

Sponsor the groceries or other food items

*Sponsor a caregiver RS 7000/- Sponsor
one day expense of*

SOFOSH RS 30,000/-

Donations to SOFOSH are exempted under Section 80G of Income Tax Act 1961 – (50 % tax benefit)

Donations to SOFOSH Dhadphale Centre are exempted under Section 35 AC of Income Tax Act 1961 – (100% tax benefit)

Please contact SOFOSH for further information

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Visit by Lisa Sthalekar

Lisa Sthalekar, captain of the Australian Women's cricket team visited SOFOSH-Shreevatsa on the 3rd March 2012. Lisa was adopted by an Australian family 32 years ago from Shreevatsa. She was supposed to be in India for a cricket tournament but prior to that she longingly wished to visit her first home-'Shreevatsa'. She had just heard about this home, which initially belonged to her and had cared for her. This was the moment of excitement for her and she was anxious about the same. Lisa and her coach Shaun were warmly greeted by the staff of Shreevatsa. Her heart was stirred to see the small babies, either abandoned or handed over to the organization in circumstances that prevented their birth givers to care for them, resting peacefully under the loving care of these social workers. Enthralled at the work done by the care-givers, social workers and the volunteers, she left Shreevatsa with memories she would cherish lifelong. ❖



Lisa with her coach Shaun

ADOPTION STATISTICS – JANUARY 2012 TO MARCH 2012

Total no of adoptions from January 2012 to March 2012 – 19

Indian adoptions – 13

Adoptions by NRI families – 5

Foreign adoptions –1

Story of Asif and Imran

Asif and Imran, physically and mentally challenged, aged 8 and 4 respectively, were admitted to the Talegaon Dabhade Hospital for treatment on 12th January 2011 by their father. After a week, suddenly one day their father disappeared, leaving behind these boys at the hospital. The hospital authorities informed the nearest police station. The only clue the hospital authorities could provide through the entry register was an incomplete address – 'Nijamabad, Andhra Pradesh'. Practically impossible to trace their family whereabouts on the basis of meager information, the police were left with no choice than to transfer the siblings to 'SOFOSH –Shreevatsa' with the consent of the Child Welfare committee. Since both the boys were physically and mentally challenged, Shreevatsa had to take a step further to relocate them to TARA SOFOSH Dhadphale Centre which is well equipped to care for such disabilities. Both of boys were malnourished and entirely bedridden. Within few months, medical treatment coupled with proper nutrition and physiotherapy proved to be beneficial.

The efforts taken by the care givers and social workers at TARA are also worth mentioning. Meanwhile SOFOSH was striving hard to trace their parents by publishing their photographs in newspapers, on doordarshan channels but to no avail.

Unexpectedly one day, we had at Shreevatsa, a visitor claiming to be the father of these two boys. After verification, we discovered that this person fathered four children from his first marriage. Caring for Asif and Imran was by itself a challenge for him, which compelled him to travel down with the boys to Pune to admit them to some organization that will take care of them. But unfortunately by the time they reached Pune both of them fell sick and hence for medication were admitted in the General Hospital at Talegaon. To add to this, this person came to know that his wife had fallen seriously ill after he had left home and under these circumstances he was forced to go back to his native place leaving the boys in the hospital. It took him a few months to get over these circumstances and then after about a year he was guided to Shreevatsa by the concerned police authorities.

After scrupulous verification by the police and the child welfare committee, Asif and Imraan were finally handed over to their father. Though Asif and Imraan were unable to verbalize their feelings, their eyes conveyed their emotions and this moment of happiness. ❖

Poem by an adoptive parent

भैरवी

इवलीशी लेक माझी, चिमुकली परी
आनंदाची ठेव घेउनी, आली माझ्या घरी ।
कोण जाणे केंव्हा, कसे भावबंध जुळले,
श्रीवत्सच्या वेलीवरती फूल मला गवसले ।
उचलूनिया जेव्हा तुजला, जवळी मी घेतले
नाते आपले युगायुगांचे, तेंव्हा मला उमजले ।
सुवार्ता हि चहूकडे पसरली, सारे आनंदले
आज आपुले घरकुल अवघे, तुझ्या स्वागता सजले ।
स्वप्नातला बाबा तशी चित्रातली आई
छोटुकला दादा तुझा भारी लळा लावी ।
भाग्यवान मी, मला लाभली कन्या अशी गोजिरी
तुझ्या रूपाने आली जणू लक्ष्मी माझ्या घरी ।

स्वप्नील जयंत मराठे

४ जानेवारी २०१२

Celebrations at a Glance



Children enjoying strawberries



Our little ones drenched with colours



Eye-check up organized at Shreevatsa



The outstanding performance staged on the occasion of Annual get-together

Celebrations are an integral part of our life and we try to celebrate each and every festival for our little ones at Shreevatsa in a traditional way. Also, picnics and outings are arranged for the children every week to nearby locations.

You can also be a part of the celebrations and the outings. If you wish to sponsor any such event for Shreevatsa, we request you to contact the organization for the further details.

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SOFOSH runs entirely on donations. Along with this, we also value volunteer support. If you wish to help us as a volunteer, please contact SOFOSH.

SOFOSH- Where human tragedies are treated with love.....

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