

## News from India and France

Bulletin of **A**ssociation **F**rançaise pour l'**E**nfance **A**bandonnée

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 Mise en page: Muriel BONET  
 Photos : Isabelle Lecoq, Claude Nevers, Ekta foundation  
 of ex children

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Jacintha, a mother in charge of a home with some children



Two social workers at Victoria Station



Some Sisters of the ngo Navajyothi

## Life in motion...

This bulletin is chockful of encouraging news as to the meaning of our action in India with its straightforward messages or those we have to read between the lines or that are concealed in the numerous photos.....Several among them may hold our attention.

First, the festival of the former boys and girls from Snehasadan: just think of the "family of a home" such as Navajyothi and Aruloli: a large family if any: about 20 children and their "house parents". Multiply by the number of homes, then by the numerous years spent there and you get the fantastic festival of "the Snehasadan family"! This is what we would call a gigantic "cousin fest", with several generations sharing the joy of belonging to a community of history and destiny!

Then the success story of a young woman, a former member of Navajyothi, exemplifying women's liberation thanks to her studies, her desire to make progress, supported by her husband.

And then the round of all sorts of festivals: they could be viewed as mere anecdotes, but they make sense culturally for the children who develop a wealth of talents and energy, thus showing their zest for life, their cheerfulness and their desire to look ahead toward the future, helped in that by the opportunities of opening to children from other horizons.

All this, with photos to back it up, is marvelous to see, isn't it? It is up to us all to sustain this fine piece of work.

With my deepest appreciation.

Jean-Michel Couteau

### SUMMARY

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## THE FEAST OF THE OLD CHILDREN OF SNEHASADAN

Sunday 26 January 2020

On Sunday 26 January 2020, the feast of the former children of Snehasadan took place. Many came with their families. Claude NEVERS, member of the AFEA board of directors, Isabelle LECOQ, delegate of the PACA region, both from were present. Father Placie FONSECA, former director of Snehasadan homes was also here great children.

Nataline PARSHU D'SILVA, former child of Snehasadan and grafic designer had prepared a lage sign to welcome the participants to this happy reunion party.

Everyone was dressed in their best clothes and participated in games.

### Some pictures of the feast



The welcome sign



The children of old children were present too.



Many old children were present





Isabelle with Nataline et Parshu



Father PINTO, the currant Director of Snehasadan



Father Placie, former Director of Snehasadan, with Claude Nevers and some former girls of Snehasadan



Thérésa, Secretary of Snehasadan



Father Placie FONSECA and Father Noël PINTO Giving prices and gifts



Girls volleyball party



## FESTIVALS IN INDIA SEEN BY THE CHILDREN OF SNEHASADAN

*(extract from English bulletin september/december 2019)*

India is a land of many religions and festivals. They are great times especially for children who take an active part in the rituals and the merrymaking that follows. They are happy to celebrate Diwali, Noël, Ganesh Chaturti etc... The children of Snehasadan like most other children take part of this moment with joy. They like the special sweets, food given these days. They proudly wear their new clothes, enjoy the dances, parties and wonderful fireworks on these occasions. – all of which add spice to their lives and bring them closer to their companions - -

Children of Snehasadan wrote some words to explain these Indian feasts. We will put some of them in our bulletins.



### **Diwali from Damodar and Shivaji (17 years old)**

My favourite festival is Diwali. This is a festival which chases away the darkness and brightens the whole world with light. Diwali is celebrated by people with great pomp and gaiety. Deepavali ou Diwali comes after the harvest, in the months of October and November. Deepavali celebrates the victory of Lord Ram over the ruler of Lanka Ravan and his return home with his wife Sita to his kingdom.

As the festival approaches, people begin cleaning their homes. Old vesssels are sold and new vessels are bought. For this feast, almost everyone prepares sweets in their homes, such as Karanji, chakli, kapni, chivda and various other sweets. These sweets are prepared for visitors as well as for the family.

People make lanterns with their own hands or buy them from shops in order to decorate their homes. In every gully or street, people display a variety of flowers and multi-coloured lanterns to celebrate the grand occasion. The first day after Deepavali is Bhaubeej. On this day Sisters visit their brothers and offer hem special gifts and greetings. They wish them well on their lifes' journey. The next day is the day of Laxmipuja, on which people offer prayers to the goddess of wealth. Crackers are lit on this day which is for us and for all a great blessing.



We like very well Diwali, but it can also be harmful because the excessive burning of fireworks badly affects our domestic animals and the health of human beings as well. Due to this, our beautiful earth also gets polluted with all sorts of poisonous gases. Therefore, while celebrating Diwali, we must pay attention to taking care of the surrounding environment. When we celebrate Diwali we must also try to celebrate it with some poor people, so that they too may get a chance to take part in the joy of the festival, and that the darkness in their homes gets dispelled by the light which the festival brings.



### ***House-parents' training workshop on Trauma***

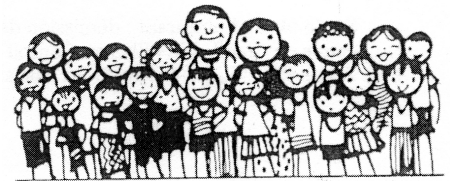
In Snehasadan, we have children from varied backgrounds with different life-experiences that had a deep impact on their life. To equip our house-parents with skills to understand, love and help children to grow in love and to become better human beings, a session on « trauma » was organised

The speaker was Mrs Namrata Joshi from NGO « ARPAN », who has expertise in the area of child sexual-abuse. It helped the house-parents to understand the symptoms and the behavioural pattern of a child undergoing trauma. The session was highly interactive, with house-parents discussing their experiences in dealing with children and some appreciation, the efforts made by the children.



### **Camp of our children at Panvel**

After our usual camp at Lonavla, arrangements were made for us to attend the camp organized by the NGO « our children ». I diffère un peu de notre camp. It is a platform for us to meet children from other organisations and also expose our talent and finding out what we are good at. We learned slackline, juggling, Rope Malakham toy-making... We enjoyed all the activities.



We made many new friends with whom we practised and performed, and made the best use of the given chance. On the last day we had to present the activities we had learned there. The presentation gave us a lot of confidence and inner joy. The staff performed a skit in Marathi. We are grateful to the staff and organizers of Our Children Institute for this beautiful experience.

### **Shearing the joyce of being a child**

Children's day was celebrated differently in our different homes. To celebrate this occasion, on 12 th November 2019 Sakshi Keswani « color in my blood », along with her friends decided to adorn our boundary walls of house N°s 4 and 6. They really did a beautiful piece of art-work on one of the walls, while children enjoyed painting the other side of the wall. They end the day by serving snacks to all the children.



### **Work in progress in home 12 .**

(50% are subsidized by AFEA)

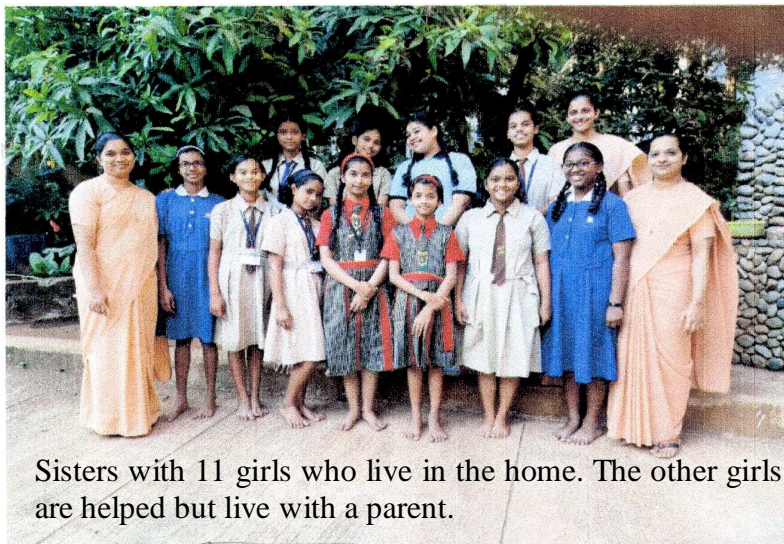


## Father Placie Fonseca's birthday

Father Placie Fonseca, former Director of Snehasadan homes has his birthday celebrated with « his big children. It was an opportunity to them to show their gratitude and to share a cake.



## NEWS FROM NAVAJYOTHI'S HOMES WITH PICTURES



Sisters with 11 girls who live in the home. The other girls are helped but live with a parent.

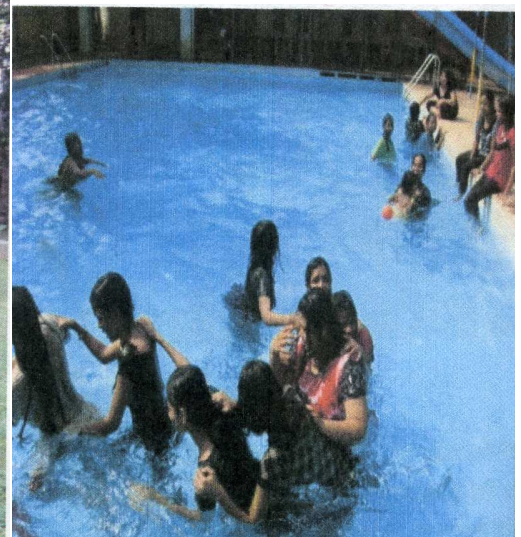
## *At Marol*



Tutoring courses are organized after the classes.



Summer holidays are an opportunity to girls to relax and Participate in games.



# At Davangere



In this home too we celebrated Deepavali and Christmas



# At Goa

All these parties allow girls to show their talent  
In dancing cooking etc...

# At Moothakara



Christmas celebration





# Success Story in Navajyothi !



## Anusha

**My story** : I am Anusha D the first inmates of Navajyothi Nilaya orphanage. I am an orphan girl and I could thanks to Navajyothi at Davangere and AFEA financial assistance study.

I have completed my B.A (Bachelor of arts) married and settled in Kerala -Trichur. My husband is an interior designer cum priest in a Hindu temple. I was born in a hut and now I am in middleclass family having own house with vegetable and coconut garden. My husband wants me to study further next year. I am happy and my heart is full of gratefulness to each of you. It is because of you if I have reached this stage. The education, nutritious food, clothing, moral support and personal guidance received, helped me to be a better person. My husband married me because I grew with Sisters in Navajyothi Nilaya.



Once again a big thanks to AFEA and my Uncle and aunt in France who helped me and supported me in my growth and education.

## NEWS FROM FRANCE



### News from TOULON

Our sincere thanks to Isabelle LECOQ and her husband Guy as well as to all the volunteers who took part in the campaign “Gift-wrap”at Maxitoys in La Ciotat. The money collected will contribute to financing refurbishing Snehasadan homes.

**A BIG THANK YOU !**





## News from PARIS

### The ESPPER forum

(cf. bulletin mars 2019).

On November 24<sup>th</sup> in Paris the AFEA attended the international forum organized by ESPPER (“**Together to help Programmes** in favor of **Streets children** »).- together to promote the projects and programmes for homeless children- They define their mission convincingly: from now on let “**despair**” be spelt “**des espérances**”. –Let “**hopelessness**” be spelt “**hopefulness**”. We are members of this network which includes charities all over the world working for the social and cultural rehabilitation of under-privileged children. Our chairman, Jean-Michel Couteau presented the AFEA , then Baptiste Garde explained with a slide show how -with his friends **Simon** and **Ankush**- a library for the boys and girls from the Snehasadan homes had been created. (cf. March 2019 Bulletin).



### Ekta foundation :

### 1st Birthday of foundation of ex children of Snehasadan



#### **Bulletin de parrainage** : formulaire à retourner à AFEA, 17 rue Voltaire – 44000 NANTES

Si vous souhaitez régler par prélèvement automatique, merci de le signaler au secrétariat de l'AFEA qui vous adressera un formulaire à remplir

- Pour parrainer un enfant : 23 euros par mois (8€ par mois après déduction fiscale)
- Pour parrainer un enfant et aider son foyer : 35 euros par mois (12€ par mois après déduction fiscale)**
- Pour aider un foyer ou une réalisation précise : somme à votre convenance.....
- Pour soutenir et recevoir notre bulletin : 30 euros par an

*En retour vous recevrez : le bulletin de l'association, par mail ou par voie postale, un reçu permettant une déduction fiscale de 66%, et pour ceux qui parrainent, un courrier de leur filleul*

NOM.....PRENOM.....AGE.....

SITUATION FAMILIALE.....PROFESSION.....

ADRESSE.....

.....TEL.....E-Mail.....

Informé par.....Date.....signature.....

**PS : nous sommes habilités à recevoir des legs. N'hésitez pas à nous contacter pour toute information.**

