



# DEVNAR

The Quarterly News Letter

**Jyothi**



February 2016



Sri Sri Ravishanker, Art of Living with Visually challenged children and Dr. A. Saibaba Goud, Founder Chairman and Mrs. Jyothi Goud, Correspondent.



Shri K. T. Rama Rao, Hon'ble Minister for Panchayat Raj & IT, Govt. of Telangana giving inaugural address on Science and Technology Exhibition conducted by Devnar Foundation for the Blind.

## LIMITLESS LOVE

LILY EGBERT, Principal



*"Could we with ink the ocean fill,  
And were the skies of parchment made  
To write the love of God above  
Would drain the ocean dry;  
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,  
Though stretched from sky to sky."*

I was reminded of this Jewish poem when I mused on the past 24 years of Devnar School's struggle, development and achievements. God has been a beacon of hope and our ever present, inexhaustible source of strength and confidence. The students are the main reason for the school's existence and so many of them have been educated in this noble institution. They join the school when they are around 5 or 6 years, they do not know what they are capable of and their parents also have no clue about their future. Devnar School helps to identify their inner strengths by showering them with love, sound education and other

skills. When they leave the school, they are ready to face life's challenges. They join the mainstream of life with confidence, contributing to society and to their families. This is possible because of God's constant guidance and protection, which encourages them to achieve their goals.

We remember with gratitude the vision God gave to Dr. A. Saibaba Goud to start the school. We remember with pride the total commitment and care Dr. Goud and Mrs Jyothi Goud have displayed in managing the school and running it so very efficiently, tiding over the difficulties with serenity. Without deriving strength from God, this would not be possible. A strong and dedicated work force stands behind them, giving them support in all their ventures.

We remember the teachers, past and present, who served the school with total involvement, dedication and love. They are the pillars of the school. They provide the stability and security to the school's academic programs and other activities. The teachers who have their own

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children in the school carry their burdens with a smile and give their rare insights. The Voluntary teachers have been giving their time and expertise to enhance the academic standard of the school. I feel that they are handpicked by God and sent to us. The wardens have been doing their jobs with care, concern and alacrity. They are never off duty but do their best for the students and others with diligence. God bless them. The administrative staff plays their role efficiently to make the policies of the school functional and productive. The supporting staff stay in the school and help the students

by cooking delicious meals, serving them and cleaning up the premises. We remember all the donors and well wishers who give munificently and share the joys of their special days with our students. May God bless all of you.

God's faithfulness in the past strengthens us, not only to face the future with hope but also to look forward jubilantly to the celebrations of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year. Let us rejoice over the past and anticipate a glorious future. God's love is constant and limitless.

## GOD'S GARDEN

– Col.R.S.Donge



*Do not grieve over your own troubles; you would not have them if you did not need them. Do not grieve over the trouble of "others" there are no others. Therefore, let us keep God in our hearts and peace in our minds, for though in flesh we may never stand upon*

*our edifice, we are building that which shall never be pulled down.* – By O.G.MANDINO

My wife and I have been associated with Devnar School for the Blind for nearly fifteen years as voluntary teachers. It has been an amazing experience by itself. This institution has given us an opportunity to peep within and know our inner self. It opens the door to a different world altogether. A world full of faith in God and self, hope, hard work, expectations and a life full of dreams fear of acceptance by society to what degree and in what form. Here we see the dream of parents for their visually challenged children who could not dream themselves. The children carry a heavy burden upon themselves.

I would call this school as God's Garden. God has chosen this wonderful couple, Dr. Saibaba Goud and Mrs. Jyothi Goud, as gardeners of this garden. God knew that this couple would be able to deliver as he wanted them to.

This couple passed the assigned difficult test with flying colours.

This school started with a couple of rooms and few students initially. They went around motivating the parents of visually challenged children to send them to school. At that time, no one could ever imagine the laurels that the school would accrue. God's garden has fully bloomed.

Gouds have been wonderful gardeners tending the garden with manures of dedication, hard work, and unflinching faith in God's wish and with a never-say-die spirit has made it unique. Their love and parental care for children has put the school on a very high pedestal. The school is one of the best in the country. They are true visionaries. This Garden of God has many flowers with amazing talent and capabilities. The fragrance of these flowers touches the soul and one feels blessed. The institution has succeeded in bringing out the best in these students. Over the years the students have gone across the country, with good jobs and spreading the good name of this institution. It has been a very divine feeling to see the students' blossom fully from those tiny buds.

The blooming of the garden has reached these heights due to untiring work, love and care of many more hands. The foremost is due to dedication by the elderly couple:



The Egberts, who are an inspiration to the teachers and volunteers. Normally, people at their age would opt for a fully retired life in the confines of their home with their own children and grandchildren. Words do not suffice to express our gratitude and thanks to this wonderful couple who are a role model. I salute them.

Many compliments to all those mothers with visually challenged children who also shoulder the responsibility of working as teachers in this school. After teaching at school they go back to attend to the house-hold chores. This goes on for years on end. They carry on without complaints. Life has not been easy for them.

This apart, a large number of ladies accompany the

visually challenged child to stay the whole day at school to take them back at the end of school hours. I wonder what must be going on in their mind. An untiring sacrifice, only a mother can do.

Due credit needs to be given to the support staff in the school, who go about their job tirelessly.

On a concluding note, I pray with folded hands to the Almighty God to give strength, love and care to all who are involved in the efficient functioning of the school, so that the garden will remain in bloom forever and spread the fragrance far and wide to distant lands as well.

For: "Fragrance clings to those hands that give the roses".

### Mrs. C. Jayalakshmi



My association with Devnar School started one evening in January 2008. I was eagerly scouting NGO's where I could do voluntary work, since after my retirement from St. Francis College for Women, there was a big void in my life!. I missed my students — the young undergrads who had filled my life with laughter and joy and had kept me on my toes !.

That evening after having lost my way in the by-lanes of Mayuri Marg, I finally reached Devnar School and was shown into the Principal's Office. I met Mrs. Lily Egbert and enquired whether a Chemistry teacher was required in the school. Mrs. Egbert with her kind, gentle face and smile assured me that my services for the visually challenged children would be welcome !. I at once felt a sense of belonging to the school and was eager to start, despite my apprehensions. I hesitatingly told Mrs. Egbert that I had no experience whatsoever, dealing with the visually challenged children. She then assured me of her support and guidance and I knew that I would be able to do it.

It was later that I came to know that the founder was none other than Dr. Saibaba Goud, the well known Ophthalmologist of our city, who was also my doctor. A

very simple person who had great achievements to his credit. I gave me great happiness and a sense of purpose to be working for his school. The Correspondent Mrs. Jyothi Goud whom I met almost every day, was committed to the school and cared for the welfare of teachers and students. She was keenly interested in promoting extracurricular activities in school, in particular dance, music and sports.

My first day in Class IX is still very vivid in my memory. I was warmly received by the children and as I sat looking at their young innocent faces I was filled with anguish and sympathy. As I started with the introduction to the chapter in Chemistry, I found the them to be very responsive , enthusiastic and chirpy !. They were joking and laughing and I felt convinced that they just needed an opportunity to grow and become normal human beings. That opportunity was provided by Devnar School for these lucky children. For indeed they are lucky to be in a school, with good faculty infrastructure like computer labs and excellent Biology models apart from sports facilities.

The Devnar Foundation is providing the foothold needed so that these children can stand up, look up, go ahead and give wings to their dreams . To have the courage to shape their dreams into reality, as the saying goes "Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage "



## Calendar of Events

**July 10 :** Founder's day was celebrated in the school. Medical camps were organized and many doctors checked the students and gave their medical advice. Sri Umopathy I.A.S and Dr Ashokan, Philanthropist, were amongst the guests.

**August 1<sup>st</sup>:** Ms Naina Jaiswal, international table tennis player, gave a motivational talk to the students.

**August 23<sup>rd</sup>:** The students were taken to Hanuman Temple BHEL and they received the blessings from His Holiness Sri Sri GanapathiSachehidananda Swamiji.

**September 19<sup>th</sup>:** Toastmasters conducted a very useful session under the guidance of Mr Manish and others.

Our school students took part in the science exhibition organized by G.S.Probadhana and won the 1<sup>st</sup> prize for poster making. A memento was given to the school and certificates to the students.

**October 4<sup>th</sup>:** Blind fold walk was arranged by Devnar School to create awareness about prevention of blindness. Mr Ram Charan, the popular movie star, was the chief guest and Dr. Grishma Goud organized this event.

**October 7<sup>th</sup>:** Officers from the police academy visited the school as part of their training program.

**November 5<sup>th</sup>:** Science and Technology educational exhibition was inaugurated in the school by Sri K.Taraka Rama Rao. Hon. Minister for information and technology. Students prepared many teaching aids and explained the working models and science projects to the visitors.

Food courts, stalls and fun games were arranged. Diwali diyas and candles made by the visually challenged in the school were on sale.

**November 8<sup>th</sup>:** In the international essay competition organized by the Lions Club, Shiva Reddy of class 9 was the winner and Naga Geyani of class 9 was the runner up. They were given certificates at the district level.

**November 13<sup>th</sup>:** The 23<sup>rd</sup> National Children's Science Congress 2015, catalyzed and supported by Telangana State Council of Science and Technology (TGCOST) Hyderabad on 13<sup>th</sup> November at Parsi H. School Secunderabad. Four students and two guide teachers prepared a project on Vehicle Emission control and won the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize at district level.

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Our students gave presentations on impact of vehicle emission on the environment, as well as human health due to fossil fuel. Emission Control Day on the occasion of celebration of National Pollution Prevention Day.

**December 21<sup>st</sup>:** The school had a grand Christmas program. The nativity play was put up by the primary school children. Sri S Nirarayan Reddy, vice chairman of Telangana Planning Permission was present. A team from Wilson D Paul society were the special guests. The program was sponsored by the united Methodist church, ohio, U.S.A

**December 23<sup>rd</sup>:** 160 students and teachers were invited for a picnic in Aalankrita Resort and they enjoyed the beauty of the place. They were entertained and given Christmas gifts.

