



ECHO - Center for Juvenile Justice

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-23



Convent Road, Kammanahalli St, Thomas Town P.O
Bangalore - 560084 Contact : 080 25423582, 25427583
✉ info.echoindia@gmail.com 🌐 www.echoindia.org

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1. INTRODUCTION

ECHO - Centre for Juvenile Justice is a registered voluntary organization established in the year 2000. It is committed to work with vulnerable children requiring care and protection, and children in conflict with the law. Founded by Adv. Dr. Antony Sebastian O. Praem, the organization adopts a non-institutional, rights-based approach to educate and rehabilitate children aiming to foster their self-reliance.

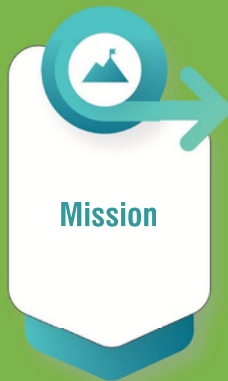
ECHO has spearheaded numerous innovative interventions in the domain of child protection and has established partnerships with diverse array of governmental and non-governmental entities to secure comprehensive support for children. The organization actively engages in research, advocacy and training initiatives aimed at mobilizing civil societies and influencing policies on a broad scale. ECHO has a rich experience of conducting state-level trainings, advocacy, championing policies, innovative programs to safeguard and uphold the rights of children.

Adhering to a participatory, non-institutional, and rights-based approach, ECHO has launched several impactful interventions for children. These efforts primarily follow a dual strategy, involving field-based interventions and advocacy training in collaboration with partners and stakeholders, including Juvenile Justice functionaries. The fundamental philosophy driving ECHO's programming is centered on children's rights. This core value guides the design, promotion, and implementation of programs, influencing every step of its planning and execution process.



Vision

Empowerment of children in difficult circumstances by ensuring their human rights and dignity.



Mission

Promotion and protection of the rights of children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection.

Advocacy, Reformation, Education and Reintegration.

Prevention of street and working children from getting into crime and their rehabilitation.

Networking with various stakeholders at National and International levels.

Research and Documentation of Juvenile Rights and its violations.

Lobbying and Advocacy for the protection of rights of juveniles.



Organizational Principles

- Emphasis upon children and their empowerment
- Commitment to work for the best interest of the child
- Respecting and promoting secular values and practices
- Promoting gender equality
- Ensuring participation of all stakeholders in the decision-making process



Strategies

- Identification of street children and child labour
- Rehabilitation of the children in difficult circumstances
- Legal aid to the children in conflict with law and in need of care and protection
- Lobbying and networking on issues relating to child rights and effective implementation of JJ Act
- Work with the children in Observation Home (Juvenile custody) and children's home for boys and girls (children who need care and protection)

3. DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference*

- Robert Frost

As mentioned in the Robert Frost poem, I took the path that is less traveled by people and that helped me to reach out to the children and made all the difference in their lives.

Over the past 22 years, ECHO has tirelessly championed the cause of social change, touching the lives of children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection. From education and healthcare to holistic development of the child, the organization has tackled a diverse range of challenges with best childcare practices.

At the heart of ECHO's success lies its deep-rooted belief in empowering children through innovative programs and strategic partnerships. The organization has enabled children to take charge of their own destinies. ECHO's efforts have not only uplifted lives but have also paved the way for self-sufficiency and dignity of the children who were marginalized once.

In an unpredictable world, ECHO has consistently risen to the occasion in times of crises, whether natural disasters or human created emergencies. It has showed the true spirit of humanity by providing essential relief and support to all those in need. This report chronicles the stories of hope and resilience that have emerged from the darkest moments, demonstrating ECHO's ability to bring light to the bleakest of situations.

As we celebrate our achievements over the past decade, we also cast our gaze towards the future. The challenges ahead may be formidable, but the lessons learnt and the successes achieved provide a strong foundation for continued progress. The annual report offers a glimpse into ECHO's strategic vision, underscoring its commitment to adapt, innovate and lead the way in addressing emerging global issues.

Adv. Dr. Antony Sebastian O. Praem

*Founder & Executive Director, ECHO Center for Juvenile Justice
Former Chairperson, KSCPCR, Government of Karnataka*

4. PREVENTION DRIVEN INTERVENTIONS

HAPPY KIDS

Peep into Reality:

In the year 2014, an innovative research study was undertaken with the primary objective of identifying the underlying causes of juvenile crimes. The focus of the study was to analyze the factors that propel children towards criminal activities, assess the effectiveness of the juvenile justice system-comprising law enforcement, legal professionals, NGO personnel, child welfare officers, and institutional staff such as those in observation homes - and evaluate the true extent of the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act.

Crime Mapping - Prevention in the Juvenile Crime Prone Areas:

ECHO conducted a comprehensive data collection across all police stations in Bengaluru in the year 2000, specifically focusing on recorded juvenile crimes within their respective jurisdictions. Subsequently, the Social Workers of ECHO meticulously mapped these crimes to pinpoint areas with a higher incidence of juvenile offenses. This data-driven approach served as a valuable tool in establishing a Crime Prevention Center in the identified juvenile crime-prone areas.



A map of Bengaluru City indicating the crime prone areas marked in red

Crime Prevention Center:

Based upon the above crime mapping exercise and learnings from the cited research, it was discerned that children from Janaki Ram Layout slum were exceptionally vulnerable to criminal activities. The findings also indicated that children residing in this area were particularly susceptible to engaging in criminal behaviors.

ECHO started the Crime Prevention Center at Happy Kids, Janaki Ram Layout slum, which is one of the





large slum in East Bengaluru. This center has been established with the goal of identifying school dropouts in the region by mainstreaming education and also provide them with daily tuition and hot meal. ECHO has developed a specialized curriculum for the bridge course, aiming to equip children with knowledge as well as essential skills. Additionally, it offers recreational activities and art and craft classes to enhance their self-confidence and divert their thoughts and ideas towards creativity and foster positive attitude.

ECHO consistently and regularly trains its staff to proficiently conduct school dropout surveys and effectively identify children in need. The organization meticulously prepares timetables tailored to the specific needs of children and offers bridge courses that facilitate their enrollment in nearby schools. Regular home visits are conducted to assess the socio-economic conditions of the children. Once admitted to school, ECHO conducts ongoing follow-up programs and evening tuition sessions to support their education. Additionally, through the center, ECHO coordinates various community-oriented initiatives such as documentation programs, awareness classes, medical camps, and job drives, all aimed at benefiting the public.



Community Based Rehabilitation:

The Community-Based Rehabilitation program, launched with the primary objective of empowering children, was strategically implemented following the process of DE-institutionalization.

ECHO inaugurated its Family-Based Alternative Care Program (CBR) in 2005, aiming to expand Community-Based Rehabilitation to encompass more deserving children and provide vital support to their families.



ECHO's community-based research has highlighted poverty as the primary cause of school dropouts and engagement in anti-social activities among students. In response, ECHO has implemented a monthly ration distribution program, complemented by educational and healthcare initiatives, targeting families struggling to meet their children's basic needs. Selection of beneficiaries involves comprehensive mapping, interactions and background checks. ECHO staff and volunteers enroll families and students, recording



observations periodically and closely monitoring the process. Over the years, numerous children have successfully enrolled in schools, completed their education, and set ambitious life goals.

Certain major components of CBR are as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| i. Educational Support | iv. Healthcare |
| ii. School Visit | v. Counselling and Ration Support |
| iii. Home Visit | vi. Awareness Programmes |

5. EVIDENCE BASED ACTION

ECHO's Intervention with Special Juvenile Police Unit

The success of the SJPU model implemented by ECHO and three other organizations in Bengaluru gained national recognition when UNICEF's East Regional Office documented these practices in 2006. SJPU Bengaluru emerged as a model unit, inspiring several other states to adopt a similar approach.

The unit comprises an ACP of the East Bengaluru Zone, a Senior Child Welfare Officer, a Station Sub-Inspector as a Welfare Officer, and two Social Workers from ECHO. This unit has been actively involved in handling cases related to children. The services include counseling, home visits, facilitating the production of children at JJB or CWC, and other interventions. Additionally, ECHO also conducts regular training programs for police officers on the JJ Act.

Engaging with children in conflict with the law through SJPU units allows for a child-friendly approach to handle their cases. This approach aids in formulating effective Individual Care Plans for each child. ECHO has appointed social workers who collaborate with SJPU, providing first-hand information when police encounter cases related to POCSO and children in conflict with law. ECHO's experienced social workers offer support to children in police stations, aiding in case recording through child-friendly mechanisms.

Social workers from ECHO, stationed at Observation Homes and Special Home, conduct regular home visits and document case studies. ECHO extends free legal assistance to children in conflict with the law and those in need of care and protection. The organization maintains an in-house legal service team comprising advocates and professional social workers who are trained to handle cases related to the POCSO Act and JJ Act.

ECHO's reach spans across 16 police stations in the east and 11 police stations in the northeast divisions. ECHO continues to provide crucial first-hand legal assistance in cases related to child care and protection.

ECHO Conducted Stakeholders Meeting and training for Child Welfare Police Officers (CWPO) East and North East division.

ECHO hosted a Stakeholders Meeting for the Special Juvenile Police Unit at its main campus, focusing on policy discussions and the detailed elucidation of procedures for upcoming visits to police stations. The gathering brought together social workers from various NGOs, fostering collaboration and information exchange. The active participation of social workers from diverse NGOs added valuable perspectives and insights to the discussion. This collaborative initiative underscores ECHO's commitment to promoting effective communication and cooperation among stakeholders, ultimately contributing to the refinement of practices within the Special Juvenile Police Unit.

The training covered issues on Root Causes of Juvenile Crimes; On Overview of Special Juvenile Police under Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 and the Model Rules, 2016; Overview of Applicable Laws to the Children and CALPARA and Child Marriage followed by a question and answer session.

The training was facilitated by Sri. B.S. Abdul Khadar ACP Pulikeshinagar, East Sub-division, Bangalore; Sri Manoj Kumar ACP Yellahanka, North Sub Division; Smt. Geetha Laskhmi, Superintendent OH and Incharge DCPO (East Zone); Adv. Dr. Antony Sebastian O. Praem Founder & Director of ECHO Center for Juvenile Justice; Mr. Vasudeva Sharma' Executive Director, Child Rights Trust & Sr. Annamma Sebastian, Director Incharge, ECHO Center for Juvenile Justice.



ECHO Sparsha

ECHO Sparsha was initially a transition home for children in difficult circumstances. At present, there are five persons placed in this centre. Three of them are the newly enrolled advocates who have been in the Centre from their childhood and two of them are pursuing higher education.

ECHO Boys Graduating from Kristu Jayanti College for BA, LLB:

Three residents of ECHO's Transitional Home achieved a significant milestone by successfully completing their Five-year Integrated B.A L.L.B Course at Kristu Jayanti.



In a monumental Graduation Ceremony hosted by the college, all three young lawyers were awarded their degrees, marking the culmination of their educational journey. This accomplishment not only showcases the resilience and dedication of these individuals but also underscores ECHO's success in fulfilling its commitment to providing support and fostering growth opportunities for those in need.

ECHO Spandana:

ECHO introduced a one-year Diploma Course in Hotel Management with affiliation from ROC-MONDRIAN, The Netherlands. This is a program to enhance skill-based rehabilitation to empower vulnerable children



and reintegrate them back into society with dignity. These are the children released from Special Home as well as children who are in need of care and protection. Currently twelve students are enrolled in the Diploma Course, out of which four children are from tribal background. A structured daily activity schedule is followed, facilitating transition and providing practical exposure aligned with the theory classes in F&B Service, F&B Production, House Keeping and Front Office.



The center prioritizes the holistic and transformative development of children through daily activities. A continuous monitoring is done to safeguard the physical and mental well-being of the students.

(b) Traffic Police Assistance Programme (TPAP):

ECHO's rehabilitation program targets children in conflict with law and those in need of care and protection. Through the Traffic Police Assistance Program (TPAP), ECHO collaborates with Bengaluru Traffic Police to train children in conflict with law. ECHO ensures remuneration for TPAP employees, contributing to their financial stability for a better future.



The TPAP program is designed to integrate children in conflict with the law into mainstream society with dignity, focusing on their socio-economic empowerment. It also strives to enhance the employability of children released from juvenile justice institutions and prevent recidivism. The program includes intensive training and orientation on traffic rules, regulations,

and first aid provided by the traffic police. Placed at various busy junctions in Bengaluru as Traffic Police Assistants upon completing their training, these children undergo a transformative process, shifting from law breakers to law enforcers. The TPAP program has gained recognition from many corporates, institutions, and agencies for its impactful activities and services.



7. PRACTICE OF EFFECTIVE DIVERSION & REHABILITATION

(a) ECHO Special Home:

ECHO has pioneered a Reformation and Rehabilitation Center for children in conflict with law, where final orders have been issued by the Juvenile Justice Board. This child-friendly model, established in accordance with Section 9 of the Juvenile Justice Care and Protection Act 2000, sets ECHO apart as the sole NGO managing a special home for the Karnataka State Government in India.

The unique and child-friendly reformation and rehabilitation model of ECHO has resulted in effective and dignified reintegration of children into society. The comprehensive approach involves regular counseling for children and families, a well-planned timetable integrating variegated activities, encouragement for continuing formal education, academic sessions, and practical exposure to diverse skills such as farming, horticulture, cattle rearing, mushroom cultivation, tailoring, arts, and outstation exposure visits. Therapies like music and dance, along with the teaching of administration skills through Bal panchayaths, are integral components of this holistic approach.

Currently, the Special Home houses 30 children. House fathers oversee discipline, and monitor implementation of Individual Care Plans tailored to each child's health and psychological needs. As part of the rehabilitation efforts, ECHO has initiated a short-term Certificate Course in Hotel Management, making successful candidates eligible for enrolment in Diploma in Hotel Management Course after their detention period. The Special Home's commitment to holistic development and its distinctive reformation program aims to rehabilitate and reintegrate juveniles back into society with dignity. With the overarching goal of achieving zero recidivism, the Special Home has become a model institution for the entire country.

Activities at Special Home:

- Life Skill Orientation
- Career guidance
- Personality Development Programmes
- Yoga and meditation
- Counselling and guidance
- Art based therapies such as dance, music, theatre etc.
- Vocational training
- Computer skills
- Farming
- Celebrations of all religious festivals
- Life skills - Bal Panchayat



Children's Parliament (Bal Panchayath):

ECHO takes pride in showcasing BAL PANCHAYATH as an exemplary child care practice, offering each child an avenue for creative expression rooted in their human rights. Our focus lies in the reformation of children through social integration, utilizing the concept of Children's Parliament which is held weekly.

These parliament sessions are conducted across all ECHO Child Care Centers, including the Special Home. During these gatherings, children actively discuss and share their views on various activities, fostering a sense of responsibility. The platform enhances the creative expression of emotions and feelings, allowing them to speak for, by, and of themselves. BAL PANCHAYATH serves as a catalyst for developing leadership skills, confidence, team spirit, analytical abilities and maturity among the children. It is designed to make them aware of the powers and responsibilities inherent in a parliamentary democracy.

ECHO's commitment to empowering children in conflict with the law is evident through various social integration activities that contribute to their psychological and social well-being. In the Special Home, BAL PANCHAYATH becomes an integral part of personality development and recreation for these children. The program and its activities facilitate a positive exchange of behavior



among inmates. Post-activity discussions gauge the effectiveness, while individual counseling sessions help unearth the aspirations and dreams of each child, with ECHO standing by to support their fulfillment. Duties and responsibilities are allocated based on their suggestions, and monthly reports submitted by the children provide an open platform for enhancing communication skills, boosting self-confidence, and nurturing self-esteem.

Aims & Objectives of the BAL PANCHAYATH Programme:

1. To develop leadership quality among children
2. To ensure that children gain dignity and self-respect
3. To create awareness about child rights
4. To enhance behavioral changes through positive reinforcement program

Agenda of the Programme:

1. Prayer Song
2. Welcome Speech
3. Individual Sharing Session
4. Open Discussion/ Reviewing of Previous Week Activities
5. Concluding Remarks

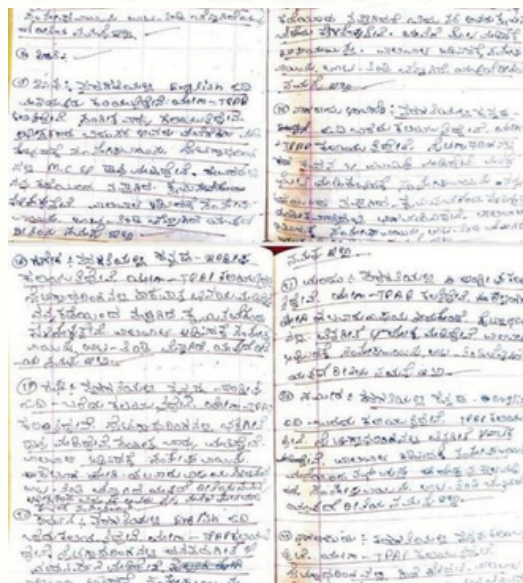
Every Sunday, the program kicks off at 9.00 a.m. with a soulful prayer song, setting a positive tone for the day. The president of BAL PANCHAYATH then extends a warm welcome, ushering in a one-hour session dedicated to sharing of individual views and thoughts. During this time, each child is encouraged to express his thoughts on the week's activities, contributing suggestions for refining the daily timetable, and offering insights into planning recreational programs. The platform also welcomes feedback from the staff.

Moving into a group discussion, the Secretary, President, and Vice President of BAL PANCHAYATH collaboratively conduct a final review and analysis of the previous week's activities. This inclusive process

extends to the Special Home, where, notably, minor conflicts among children are addressed within the BAL PANCHAYATH meeting. Here, the children hold the authority to resolve issues amicably, fostering a sense of empowerment and responsibility.

Minutes of the Meeting:

The effective functioning of BAL PANCHAYATH involves the positive reinforcement strategy of allocating responsibilities to children on a rotational basis. Tasks such as washing clothes, cleaning and tending to the garden serve as avenues for fostering responsibility and cooperation among the children. Notably, final decisions rest with the general body members of BAL PANCHAYATH and these roles undergo monthly rotations.



The selection process for General Body Members follows a monthly election, wherein every member participates in voting for the President, Vice-President and Secretary. The Secretary maintains minutes of the meeting, documenting the proceedings meticulously, which are then submitted to the Director of ECHO on a weekly basis. The ultimate decisions pertaining to the functioning of the Special Home and daily activities lie within the purview of the Director of ECHO, ensuring a structured and accountable governance framework.

Aspiration Mapping

ECHO, dedicated to empowering children and safeguarding their rights, presents Aspiration Mapping as a leading child care practice, particularly beneficial for children in conflict with the law. This concept involves analyzing a child's aspirations before and after getting involved into crime, assessing their mental health, emotional well-being, and understanding the role of self-esteem in shaping life goals. The analysis is conducted in three distinct stages, providing valuable insights for effective intervention and support.

1. Early Aspiration Stage:
2. Present Stage of Aspiration:
3. Future Aspiration:

Developing Aspiration among the Children:

Children from Special Home most often grapple with issues of low self-esteem, societal insecurities, role confusion and identity crisis. Our mission is to cultivate life aspirations that can serve as a powerful source of inspiration for their future. Through targeted interventions and support, we aim to empower these children to overcome their challenges, build resilience and envision a positive and fulfilling life ahead, with support such as,

1. Educational Support:
2. Counselling Services:
3. Individual Aspiration Assessment:
4. Group Therapeutic Interventions:

We believe, we can change these children and make them into a better citizen of the country.

Skill Development Short Term Course

A short term course in Hotel Management is provided to inmates of Special Home, this course has a vast scope for job placement and this empowers them and does not encourage them not to go back to crime.

Activities in Special Home



Judiciary team

Judiciary team of Smt. Justice K. S. Mudgal, High Court Judge and Chairperson of Juvenile Justice Committee Government of Karnataka, Sri. Jaishankar, Senior District Judge and member Secretary, KALSA, Sri Vignesh Senior Civil Judge and Deputy Secretary KSLSA and Sri. Naganna Gowda, Chairperson KSCPCR visited Special Home to understand the model and to check the well being of the inmates.





International Delegates Visit

Delegates from Norway visited special home, to understand the rehabilitation model ECHO Special Home



JJB Members visit Special Home.



Gender sensitization training for staff and inmates of Special Home

A team from NIMHANS facilitated a Gender sensitization program over eight sessions spread across eight different days focusing on issues like Gender & sex, Gender & Power, Good health, Need & Pleasure, Attraction & Love, Relationships, roles, expectations & decision, etc.



CELEBRATIONS



SKILL DEVELOPMENT COURSE IN HOTEL MANAGEMENT

In the year 2014, ECHO initiated a Skill Development Program with the mission of empowering children from challenging backgrounds, aiming to uplift their living standards and break the cycle of poverty, denial, and juvenile conflicts. This program aligns with the Skill India initiative by the Government of India, focusing on imparting skills that enhance employability and productivity, particularly targeting the most underprivileged segment of society.

ECHO's skill development initiatives include a One-year Diploma in Hotel Management (DHM) and a Bachelors in Hotel Management, a 3 year Degree program (BHM). These courses are affiliated with ROC Mondriaan, the Netherlands, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences School of Vocational Education, Mumbai, respectively.



Over the years, children from various child care institutions, both government and non-government, have enrolled in these courses for empowerment and aftercare. The students include victims of sexual



exploitation, child labor, child marriage, and victims of other child rights violations, as well as those who have committed crimes and are seeking rehabilitation.

The program has attracted children from Government Child Care Institutions in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and from organizations like SOS Villages across India (Bengaluru,



Puducherry, Tirupati, Hyderabad, Bhopal, Vishakhapatnam, Nagapattinam, Pune, Trissur). Additionally, children from NGOs such as Namma Mane, Crystal House, Divya Shanthi among others, have been enrolled, showcasing the widespread impact of ECHO's commitment to skill development and rehabilitation.

Special Features:

- Personalized Individual Care to all students
- Counselling services in collaboration with professional counselors
- Calibrated training in collaboration with ROC Mondriaan provided for luxury segment of hospitality industry
- Language Proficiency Courses like British Council certified Spoken English Courses
- Soft skill trainings certified by BOSCH

- Grooming sessions by industry experts
- Industrial visits for real experiences
- Supervised Skill Enhancement
- Practical Learning
- Capacity Development through Placements

Spoken English Course in collaboration with Edumetrix Foundation. Hundred hours of spoken English class are provided by trainers certified by Cambridge. Through this program students are taught the basics of English and they are trained to speak English.



8th Batch Convocation Program:

The celebration of the journey of transformation and success was vividly portrayed in the Convocation Program organized by Eurindian Academy of Hotel Management for 47 Students of the Eighth Batch who came from challenging backgrounds.



Distinguished dignitaries were invited to witness the remarkable journey of these students, symbolizing their development and achievements. The event commenced with a procession of graduating children, accompanied by dignitaries marching onto the stage.





Notably, the 14 girls from Bihar, sent to ECHO for rehabilitation, exemplified resilience and determination, proving that life must move forward despite past challenges. Bihar officials, witnessing the transformation, acknowledged the significant progress of these fourteen girls.

Given the affiliation with ROC Mondrian Netherlands, representatives from ROC Mondrian joined the event via Google Meet, addressing the graduating students and emphasizing the global recognition of their achievements. The Convocation Program was a testimony to the impactful journey of these empowered graduates.

Inauguration of BOSCH Learning Center: Class Room and Computer Lab

To enhance the learning experience for children at the new learning center, the Bosch CSR Foundation has generously extended support to ECHO's mission. Their contribution includes furnishing the center with new furniture and setting up a digital learning experience through a computer lab. The CSR team from Bosch visited the learning center to inaugurate these facilities. This support from the Bosch Foundation is expected to significantly benefit the students, providing them with an improved environment for learning. The refurbished space and the addition of a computer lab will undoubtedly contribute to enhancing the students' knowledge and skills, creating a conducive atmosphere for their educational development.





11. REMODELLING SPECIAL HOME

With the generous support of the BOSCH-CSR project, ECHO is elevating its Special Home into a Model Special Home, setting new standards in the country. This transformation includes the introduction of advanced infrastructure facilities and an expanded focus on skill development and personality enhancement.



The project aims to create innovative avenues for behavioral modification, fostering a holistic approach to social integration.

As part of this initiative, new vocational training programs have been introduced, enriching the residents' capabilities and paving the way for a more inclusive and empowered future. This collaborative effort is a testimony to ECHO's commitment to providing exemplary care and support to the individuals under its guidance.

BOSCH Volunteers Visit to Special Home:

Volunteers from BOSCH, led by Mr. Jacob Varkey (CSR of BOSCH), paid a visit to the Special Home with the aim of uplifting the spirits of the inmates. The volunteers engaged in various activities designed to boost the morale of the individuals residing there. There was an interactive session between the volunteers and the children, featuring games and shared meals. This experience not only provided a recreational break but also offered valuable opportunities for the children to learn and connect in a positive and supportive environment.



12. AN OVERVIEW OF 2022-23

Orientation

Welcome Aboard: Visit of the students of University of Washington, Seattle, US:

The students of University of Washington, Seattle visited ECHO to understand more about its programmes and initiatives.



FUNDING AGENCY VISIT

Misereor Country Desk Officer for India Mr. Lino Cañete from visit ECHO



Mr. Lino Canete, visited ECHO on 29th November 2023, this is first time Mr. Lino visiting ECHO. The misereor project staff along with the Dr. Antony Sebastian conducted a meeting and presented the project report and also discussed the upcoming project details and planing. Mr. Lino was very happy to meet the project staff.





Stichting Solidair met India Director Mrs. Anja Bekkers, visited ECHO to analyze the project support by them.

Mrs. Anja Bekker, Director of Stichting Solidair Met India along with Fr. Raymond O.Praem Project Coordinator, Norbertian community Jabalpur visited ECHO to analyze the project support by them and also to discuss the possibilities to support new initiative project. ECHO Project staff along with the Director Dr. Antony Sebastian O.Praem organized a meeting to present the project report and also discussed various possibilities to support the needy.



Zijn Foundation Director Mr. Joris Jan, visit



Mr. Joris Jan, Director of Zijn Foundation visited ECHO Skill Development Center, the foundation being the prime funders in building the Center. Mr. Joris Jan was very happy to the live structure as he had only seen it in photos. Report was presented by the team.

Onam Celebration at ECHO:

As a secular organization, ECHO embraces and celebrates a diverse array of festivals. The Festival of Harvesting, Onam, was commemorated with great enthusiasm. The premises were adorned with Pookalam, a vibrant flower carpet extravaganza, setting the stage for a joyous celebration. Cultural programs specially curated for children and staff members added an extra layer of festivity.

Team ECHO actively participated in engaging activities and games, fostering a sense of togetherness. The culmination of the celebration was marked by a scrumptious Onam Sadhya, featuring a delightful spread of 16 varieties of food. This shared experience not only satisfied the taste buds but also played a significant



role in uniting our staff, who hail from diverse cultural backgrounds. Such celebrations are instrumental in promoting unity and understanding among our team members.

Training and exposure visit of the Juvenile Justice Functionaries of the Government of Maharashtra

In partnership with the Miracle Foundation, ECHO facilitated a Three-Day Training and Exposure Visit for the Functionaries of Juvenile Justice System of the Government of Maharashtra. The inauguration ceremony was graced by the presence of Sri.Vignesh, Senior Civil Court Judge and Deputy Secretary, KSLSA along



with esteemed dignitaries from the Governments of Maharashtra and Karnataka. During the program, focused training sessions were also conducted to enhance the knowledge and skills of the participants aligned with the Juvenile Justice system.

As part of the comprehensive exposure initiative, visit and interaction to Special Home, Observation Home, SJPU Child Friendly Unit at Bharthi Nagar Police Station,



DCPU office were organized. These field visits aimed to provide practical insights and hands-on experience, ensuring a well-rounded understanding of the Juvenile Justice system in Karnataka. The collaborative program played a pivotal role in equipping the participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively engage with the Juvenile Justice system. It emphasized a child-friendly approach, enhancing their capabilities to handle and support children in a compassionate and understanding manner.

Summer Camp:

ECHO Center for Juvenile Justice, organized the KULA 2023 Summer Camp, providing an open platform for children in need of care and protection to unleash their creativity. The participants included children from



Happy Kids and CBR. The camp commenced with an inauguration jointly done by Mrs. Balamma, Head Mistress of Maria Niketan School and Mr. Ramachandra ASI Banaswadi Police Station, who lit the lamp symbolizing the commencement of the event. The inaugural address brought into light the significance of the word “KULA,” highlighting that, regardless of religious, cultural, or economic backgrounds, everyone is meant to come together. The theme “Growing Together as One Community, One Goal” was underscored, emphasizing unity and shared objectives.

Hilton Visit to ECHO:

On the concluding day of the Summer Camp, representatives from Hotel HILTON, Bengaluru, including their HR Manager and interns, visited ECHO. The ECHO team warmly welcomed them with flowers, initiating an interactive session with the summer camp children. The representatives from Hotel HILTON actively engaged in conducting various activities for the children, spreading joy and cheer. Adding to the delight, the



team from Hotel HILTON presented beautiful gifts to the children and generously sponsored lunch for the day. Their involvement and support undoubtedly added a special touch to the summer camp experience, creating lasting memories for both the children and the representatives from Hotel HILTON.

Independence Day Celebration:

In commemoration of the nation's 76th Independence Day, a special celebration was organized at ECHO. The flag-hoisting ceremony was presided over by Mr. Vikram, an esteemed ex-Army personnel, who also



delivered a stirring Independence Day speech. The event saw enthusiastic participation from children across all ECHO centers, who showcased their talents through various cultural activities. The celebration was a collective expression of patriotism and unity, echoing the spirit of India's independence.

Eid Celebrations at ECHO:

In the spirit of fostering religious harmony among students, ECHO celebrated Eid ul Fitr, commemorating the conclusion of the holy month of Ramadan. The Eid celebration played a crucial role in cultivating a mindset among the children, emphasizing the understanding that every religion encompasses its unique values. It served as a reminder for individuals to respect and appreciate the diverse religious beliefs and values and contributed towards promoting cultural awareness and understanding. By actively engaging in such celebrations, ECHO strives to create an inclusive environment that encourages mutual respect and appreciation for the diverse religious tapestry with the community.

Universal Children's Day Celebration and Founder's Day:

ECHO hosted a special event at the center to commemorate Universal Children's Day, coinciding with the birthday celebration of Director Dr. Antony Sebastian. Children from all ECHO centers enthusiastically



participated in a variety of cultural activities. The program was meticulously organized in alignment with the Universal Children's Day theme for the year 2022. The event not only marked the significance of Universal Children's Day but also provided a platform for children to showcase their talents and creativity. Through cultural activities, ECHO continues to emphasize the importance of celebrating childhood and fostering an environment where children can thrive, learn, and express themselves.

Medical Camp at ECHO Centre:

An annual medical camp, conducted in collaboration with Aster Hospital, was organized for children at ECHO. A dedicated medical team visited the ECHO Center to assess the health conditions of the children, covering aspects such as height, weight, eyesight, and overall well-being. Children with identified medical



conditions received personalized advice to monitor their health regularly. Following the assessment at the ECHO center, the Aster Hospital team extended their health services to conduct a health facility camp specifically for the children at Happy Kids. This initiative reflects ECHO's commitment to ensuring the well-



being of the children under its care by providing regular health check-ups and access to medical advice and services.

Christmas Celebration at ECHO:

ECHO orchestrated a Christmas celebration at the Center, aiming to embrace and share the love of Christ. Invitations were extended to children from various centers, and the festive occasion received additional support from volunteers representing Amazon Pvt Ltd. Their generous sponsorship included educational aids, indoor game materials, and a delightful lunch for all the children in attendance. Mrs. Anita Almeida, the Principal of Eurindian Academy, delivered a





heartwarming Christmas message during the event. To add to the festive spirit, a range of games and activities were thoughtfully organized for the enjoyment of the children.

Inauguration of Spoken English Course:

In collaboration with EEKYAA Foundation and Beneath Mango Tree, Eurindian Academy inaugurated a Spoken English Program for students enrolled in the one-year Diploma in Hotel Management. The initiative was designed to enhance the communication skills of the students, a crucial requirement in today's job



market. The inauguration ceremony was graced by the presence of Ms. Rajini Menon, the founder of EKKAYA Foundation, Mrs. Anita Almeida, Principal of Yuva Seva Educational Trust, and representatives from Beneath Mango Tree. This program reflected a commitment to empowering students with the essential skills needed for success in their professional journeys.

Handholding & Establishing JJ System for the Functionaries of CCIs in Assam:

In partnership with SCPS Assam, ECHO organized a comprehensive training and handholding support program for functionaries of Juvenile Justice System of Assam. The three-day training, conducted by the resource team from ECHO, aimed to equip the functionaries with enhanced knowledge and skills aligned with the Juvenile Justice Act. The resource team travelled to Assam to facilitate the training program, covering various aspects of the JJ Act. The participants received valuable insights into effective management of child care institutions





and developing the skills necessary for handling children in a child-friendly and supportive manner. This collaborative effort underscores the commitment to promoting best practices in juvenile justice and empowerment of children.

Community Vigilance Programme:

The ECHO Community Vigilance Team, operating at the grassroots level, is dedicated to identifying and addressing crime-prone situations within the Janaki Ram Layout community.

This team operates as a voluntary association, actively working towards instigating social change. To fulfill their mission, numerous vigilance programs are conducted, serving as a proactive measure to enhance community safety. The team engages in monthly Community Vigilance Executives' meetings to meticulously analyze the prevailing situations. These gatherings serve as a platform for discussion and the formulation of strategic plans aimed at fostering the holistic development of the people within the community. Through their dedication and collaborative efforts, the ECHO Community Vigilance Team endeavors to create a safer and more secure environment for the residents of Janaki Ram Layout.



13. PICTURE GALLERY OF THE YEAR

Awareness on Drug Abuse:



Orientation for College Students:



Glimpses of Hotel Management Course:



Exposure Visit to Mysuru:



Classroom Service Training Session:



St. Norbert Feast:



Felicitation of Fr. Shijo:



Women's Day Celebration:



Street Play in Janaki Ram Layout:



BOSCH Visit:



Skill Based Rehabilitation Programmes in Special Home:





Birthday Celebration of the Staff:



We Thank You

We would like to express our gratitude and extend a thanking note to our supporters who helped us to reach out to the marginalized children.



STICHTING



Crest Foundation

EKYAA Foundation

Bengaluru Food Bank

Department of Women & Child Development - Karnataka

District Child Protection Unit, Government of Karnataka

THE TEAM

TRUST BODY MEMBERS

Dr. Antony Sebastian O. Praem

Fr. Abijith T.J.

Mr. John E.V.

ECHO STAFF



St. NORBERT COLLEGE

COURSES OFFERED

DIPLOMA IN HOTEL MANAGEMENT(DHM)

(Affiliated to ROC Mondriaan, The Netherlands)

BACHELOR OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT(BHM)

(AFFILIATED TO TISS SVE, MUMBAI)



Eligibility:

- One year Diploma in Hotel Management(DHM)- 10th standard minimum
- Bachelor of Hotel Management(BHM) - 12th Standard Pass

Convent Road, Kammanahalli St. Thomas Town P.O
Bangalore - 560084 Contact : 080 25423582, 25427583