



ANUPRERONA

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Voici la version anglaise de notre Newsletter. Si vous avez besoin de la version française, veuillez nous envoyer un e-mail à volunteer1@howrahsouthpoint.org.

A special 4-month newsletter this time to simplify the handover between the volunteers, the next one will be 2 months long and then we'll go back to the usual 3-month rhythm.

“ The poor won't come to us, it's up to us to go to them.”

DONATE

Dear friends,

As always, the last four months in HSP have been full of events, gatherings, joy and sharing. In this newsletter, we highlight in particular the reopening of Kalipathar, the annual excursion in September, sporting events and the many festivities of the quarter. I'd like to sum it all up in three words. Perseverance. Poverty. Joy.

Perseverance for our many didis, members of the Governing Body, who, after much effort, many disappointments, many bad and good surprises, have made it possible to reopen the Asansol centre in Kalipathar. A place so loved by Father Laborde. Perseverance is also the perseverance of our Father Laborde, who showed us that true love is always at work and never gets tired of being at the service of joy.

Poverty is the poverty of all our interactions, the encounters between our children during excursions, between our staff at Ashaneer meetings or in the slums during family visits, with our visitors from Kolkata or abroad. Poverty is the poverty we carry within us, the poverty we discover in others. Encounters often hurt us. We may risk falling into mistrust. But the children in our homes and those with disabilities teach us by their example, by their joy, that when we accept and welcome poverty with love, it is turned into a treasure. Welcoming our poverty means accepting our dependence on others. As in love.

Joy is the joy that springs from our celebrations. Diwali: the victory of light over darkness, the time for forgiveness and reconciliation. Rakhi Bandhan: brotherhood between brothers and sisters. The joy is in celebrating each other as a gift, the joy of recognising each other as a blessing when we stop being afraid of our poverty.

Thank you for your faithful support,
Lots of love,

Fr. Laurent



News



The reopening of the Kalipathar centre

After more than **four years of interruption**, the Kalipathar centre, located not far from Asansol, **has finally reopened its doors**. After three years of forced inactivity, we were able to relaunch the school last year to welcome the very poor children from this small village. **At the end of September we reopened the girls' hostel**, and the boys' hostel will soon follow.

The Kalipathar centre, **the last to be opened** by Father Laborde, was dear to his heart. Appointed to the local Catholic community, Father Laborde looked after Mother Teresa's sisters who work with lepers in the nearby Shantinagar centre. He bought land to provide a graveyard for the Catholics and had a church built for the community. The hostel, meanwhile, **was inaugurated in 2012** to provide a place of welcome and education for the children of lepers. To mark this moment of joy and prepare our local team for the reopening of the home, it hosted the Howrah children's annual excursion.





On the left is a photo of **Usha didi's retirement after many years of service**, and on the right, one of the arrival of Veronica di to replace her.
Thank you to them for their past and future help!



The HSP Olympics: a sporting day at Ashaneer

Even though this Olympics were not as popular as they are in France, sport was also in the spotlight this summer.

Indeed, a **sports morning** was organised at Ashaneer for **all the children and staff** of Howrah. Teams were formed in advance to mix the different centres and departments.



On the boys' side, we enjoyed **some exciting game of football, with both young and old competing against each other** with passion and determination. In fact, as well as the children's games, we were able to enjoy an almost standard match between staff, volunteers and the father... **a great time!**

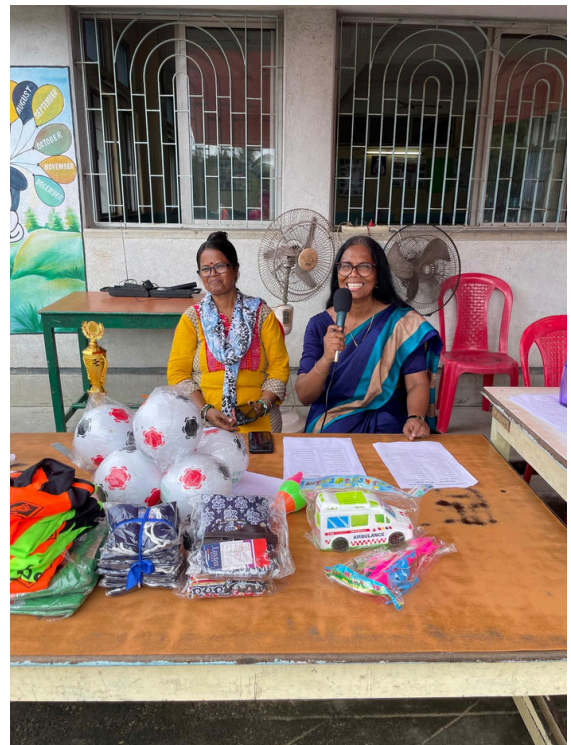


For the girls, it was **Kabaddi** that was in the spotlight. This game is very popular in Asia, and the national game of neighbouring Bangladesh. It consists of entering the opposing camp **to touch someone without being tackled** by your opponents. A game in which the girls were highly motivated and pushed by our didis!



Everyone took part with fun in the games, with team spirit and fair play at its best. Even the didis let themselves be tempted at the end by a **memorable tug-of-war** in which **most of them ended up... on the floor!**

It was a convivial and memorable morning, rounded off by a good shared lunch and a prize ceremony where everyone was spoiled (there were no losers that day).



Annual excursion: the children of Jalpaiguri visit Howrah

Every September has its own excursion, and this time it was to Asansol and Howrah that the children went. Let's start with **the children from Jalpaiguri**, who packed their bags **for Howrah**.

A busy programme of new discoveries and encounters awaited them. After a 12-hour train trip from Jalpaiguri to Howrah, the children were happy and excited to arrive. They began their excursion by exploring the surrounding area: **a visit to the beautiful botanical garden of Howrah**, then off to Calcutta to visit **the Victoria Memorial, St Paul's Cathedral and Mother Teresa's house**. The children and the didis/dadas loved this cultural discovery of the city, which was exhausting but fascinating. They were able to discover things that were very different from their usual environment in Jalpaiguri and most of them the first time in Calcutta.



The rest of the schedule included visits to the various Howrah centres, which **most of the children were discovering for the first time**. They were delighted and excited to see the children from the other homes and to discover new centres.

After a 4-5 day experience, it was time to say goodbye to Howrah and return to Jalpaiguri, taking with them some great memories and wonderful moments shared.



Annual excursion: the children of Howrah visit Asansol

As for the children of Howrah, it was to the small village of Asansol that they went.

The children were very excited to discover a new place, a new centre and to travel by train. **Howrah received a wonderful welcome** from the children and the didis/dadas of Asansol: dancing, singing, exchanging drawings, etc.

On the 1st day, the children were able to visit **Santinagar, one of the largest centres for the reception and care of lepers**, run by the **Missionaries of Charity**, situated next to the centre.



On the 2nd day, the agenda was a little more intense: **a visit to the Kalyaneshwari temple**, on the edge of a small waterfall, followed by a trip **to the Maithon dam**. The children were amazed by the landscapes, wildlife and plants that they are not used to seeing in Howrah. After a well-deserved rest, some of the children went back to their homes, while others played outside or prepared songs for the next day's mass. On Sunday, after mass, the programme was fairly free: a walk along the paths leading to the lake, a game of football, a chat, a swim or a tidy-up.

The children, the didis and the dadas **were delighted with this excursion**, and still talk about it amongst themselves and have wonderful memories of it!





Renovation works begins at Baksara

Good news from Baksara! Works at Baksara began on 1 August. The work involves **renovating the boys' hostel**, which has been unhealthy and damaged for the past years. The boys are looking forward to discovering their new renovated home. However, they will have to wait until the end of December, so please be patient. In the meantime, the children are staying on the top floor of the school, which has been converted for them. **Animesh da and Sandjip da are doing a great job** of looking after them and supporting them in this change. Be assured, the children are doing well and have not lost their enthusiasm - quite the opposite!



Here's some update on the works: the **dismantling** of the interior and exterior wall cladding has been completed, **the old roof has been removed** in favour of a brand new one, and the **bamboo roof has been removed** until it is replaced. Renovation work on the front of the building has also begun, with openings installed and some windows closed.



The next steps, over the coming months, are to lay the tiles for the chimneys and carry out the groundworks outside, as the courtyard has really deteriorated. This will be followed by the **installation of the roof**, and finally the interior and exterior **painting**.

In any case, we're all looking forward to the work being completed, and **we'd like to thank once again our generous donors**, without whom this work would not have been possible.



Vibrant weeks: Independence Day, Rakhi Bhandan, Teacher's Day, Diwali

The last few weeks have been colourful and full of festivities.

On 15 August, we celebrated **Independence Day**, a very important and long awaited day here. In the centres, young and old were busy commemorating this day with impressive performances: dances, songs, flag-raising, parades and so on. Whether in schools or homes, it was a wonderful day **when everyone proudly wore** their country's **colours**.



On the 19, the Hindu festival of Raki took place, during which traditionally the girls give bracelets to the boys (in memory of the story of a Hindu goddess and her brother). Each centre organised a small ceremony to celebrate this. On this occasion, the Jordighi centre was invited to Ashaniketan.



5 September was **Teacher Day**. Basically, it's an opportunity for **children to thank the adults** who look after them. So, whether in schools or in centres, all the children (young or old, disabled or not) got together to put on shows... but very good shows. **Their performances**, combining dance, sketches and song, **were very impressive**.



During the end of September and mainly all October, Calcutta and Bengal are celebrating lots of Puja. For our centres, the children were happy to see fireworks, lights and pandals during Durga Puja, to celebrate Kalipuja...

31 October was the famous **Diwali festival of lights**. All the centres celebrated it, with luminaries being sent up into the sky... The young women and men **from Maria Basti and Jeevan Path who were in Howrah** were able to celebrate joyfully in Ashaneer after visiting the centres. One centre was even invited to the Howrah police for a festive moment.





Visit from the Archbishop of Calcutta

On 31 August and 1 September, **the Archbishop of Calcutta**, Mgr Thomas D'Souza, **honoured us with a visit** to the EPN and Baksara centres in Howrah, accompanied by the parish priest of Nirmala Mata Maria, Father Daniel Fernandes. In particular, he visited the settlements in these two centres, built by Father Laborde and occupied by **Adivasi families** who, at the time, had nowhere worthy to settle.



For the occasion, the girls dressed in their most beautiful saris and ceremonies were organised: processions, artistic performances by the children and some welcome gifts.

The Archbishop spoke at the event, saying how pleased he was to be with us and to see the fruits of Father Laborde's work. It was also an opportunity to remember the importance of the Adivasis communities in our centres, both for the children who benefit and for our staff. Their traditions and culture make a unique contribution to the community and family spirit of HSP.



A group of scout girls visited us

In July, we received a **visit** from a group of French senior guides. It was an unusual visit, as it was **a group of 7 French senior girls scout**. These young scouts from Mother Theresa's Paris group decided to follow in the footsteps of Mother Theresa and spend their summer camp in West Bengal.

For 2 weeks, they were at the service of HSP, first in Howrah for the 1st week, then in Jalpaiguri for the 2nd.



They didn't come empty-handed and offered a **whole range of activities to the children in the centres**: group games, **scoubidou**s, bracelets made of thread and beads, **painting**, etc.

Thanks to them, the children have very pleasant memories of their visit to our centres and had a lot of fun with them.

They even offered Ashaneer's children a **special evening**, as is customary during scout camps, with a role play accompanied by **songs and games**. We would also like to thank them for their invaluable help in our centres during their stay: **decorating the floors** with murals decorations at Ashaneer and EPN, **painting the walls** at Mogradanghi and Lalkuti, helping in the kitchen or cleaning, etc.





Events of the quarter

- A new regular internal meeting has been launched: **the staff meeting**, to which all Howrah staff are invited once a month. It's an opportunity for everyone to feel listened to, to get advice, but also to better understand the job of others within the association. **Keeping the family spirit alive** in this large association is a daily challenge, and setting up these times for sharing makes a major contribution.

- **The 'Home visits' project** launched a few months ago is continuing. Some of the round 1 visits were successful, enabling us to find new beneficiaries or to realise that some areas are not as poor as we think.

Nevertheless, **we just launched the second round** at the beginning of November and, thanks to the conclusions of the 1st round, we are targeting with more precision 3 areas (compared to 1 in the previous round) where the households are the poorest in Howrah and concentrating our visits there.

All the staff are committed to this project, which helps us to remember why and for whom we are working: **the most disadvantaged**.

- **HSP children have talent!** The Lalkuthi girls took part in the '**Santhali Abritti**' competition, which is a recital competition in Santhali, an Austroasiatic language spoken by the Santal people, who live mainly in India, Bangladesh and Nepal. And it was **Roshni and Lipi who took first place** in the Howrah district! ! As for Jalpaiguri, it was during a drawing competition that **the boys from Jalpaiguri stood out by winning first prize. Well done to them!**

- For the past few weeks, the children at the Baxara home have been lucky enough to **receive English lessons**. A school comes to Baksara once a week to teach the children to speak English. **The children are very happy and interested.**

- Some work in recent weeks in Jalpaiguri: setting up the **SSL project** (Solar Street Light) thanks to our donor **SASPI - Indian project**, whom we thank, and rebuilding the fence at Jordigui.

- The boys from the **Jordighi** centre went to **Shikarpur** school for a picnic. Although their centre is not very far from our non formal school, most of them had never been there before. **It was a great time, with a shared meal and games of football** that even the rain didn't manage to spoil.
- By October, most children have returned home for the festivities. The best known are **Diwali, Kalipuja** and especially **Durga Puja** , which is very popular in Bengal. In fact, all the region around Calcutta is on fire for a whole week, or even two, and the rest of West Bengal celebrates too - it's totally magnificent and out of all proportion. The children enjoyed the **Howrah Pandals** (temporary temples), the **lights and the fireworks**.
- Our SMCS didis and external speakers provided a training on **mental health** for both staff and parents..
- We are currently launching a **donation link via Credofunding** with APC for emergencies at the Ashaneer centre, **such as the roof of the boys' hostel** and the leaks and drainage problems behind the girls' hostel. The roof needs to be renovated as urgently as possible, because every summer **for 4 months** the boys live in temperatures that don't fall **below 35° even at night** because of the roof, and which **can even rise to 50°** after their midday meal. This has such an impact on their daily lives that they often move to another building to cool down and rest.
You can click on the link below to take part. Thank you in advance for your precious help.



Action et Partage avec Calcutta

Aidez-nous à prendre soin des pauvres parmi les plus pauvres et des enfants en situation de handicap











Video

HSP in july, august, september and october



- Physiotherapy in Bakuabari - *Piu learns to walk again*

Every year, our physiotherapy unit in Bakuabari gives back mobility to dozens of children.

Come and meet Piu, who has recently started walking again and is now smiling.

[Read](#)



Émission Inspiration · RCF Lyon

During the last tour, Father Laurent was a guest on RCF Lyon for a touching and inspiring interview.

[Listen](#)



Help us promote HSP

A new leaflet presenting HSP and its activities has been published. If you would like to share it in a church, at a conference, an event, etc., don't hesitate to download it here.

[Download the Leaflet](#)



Portrait

Bimal Paul

Young adult studying with After 10 and living in Jordighi.

Bimal is 17 years old. He passed his Madhyamik (class 10 exam) last year and is continuing his studies in class 11. **Thanks to the extension of our 'After 10' project**, the children who need shelter to continue their studies safely **can continue to be accommodated in some of our centres**. This is his case at the Jordighi home in Jalpaiguri.

Bimal lived in a small village near the border with Bangladesh. He was taken in at a very young age at HSP: it was at 6 months old that his mother presented him to us and asked for help for a known orthopaedic deformity: **club feet**. From that time on, he was cared for in physiotherapy, and at the age of 3 was admitted to the Bakuabari home, then to the Mogradanghi home and finally to the Jordighi home, where he remains today.

In 2011, at the age of 6, he was operated by Australian doctor Matéo, who used to come to HSP regularly. Before the operation, walking, for example, was a very difficult exercise for him, for which he needed support. Now, many years later, he has **regained full mobility** and no longer requires physiotherapy. He continues to exercise, cycling regularly, football and **even taking part in taekwondo classes** for the Jordighi boys. He really enjoys the sport and is **on his way to obtaining his black belt!** What progress!

He thrives in the centre where he grew up and in which he now has **a position of big brother**. He is serious and hard-working, staying at the centre during the holidays, for example, to study for his exams and make sure he doesn't miss his private lessons. He doesn't yet know what he wants to do after class 12, but he still has time to make up his mind. The Didis say that **he is smiling**, always in a good mood and a perfectionist. They added: because **he's a perfectionist, he's usually slow**, he often doesn't have time to finish his exams and we have to ask him to hurry up when he's doing the housework, for example.

He's **a very pleasant young man** to live with, and we wish him all the best for the rest of his studies.



Donate

