



ANUPRERONA

N° 75 – November to December 2024

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.

Following the 4-month newsletter, this one is only two months away from closing the year 2024. The quarterly format will of course be resumed in the next issue.

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

DONATE



The annual report is available. You can download it here:

DOWNLOAD THE ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

Dear Friends,

As the year comes to an end, many events have taken place: the two-day rejuvenation workshop, where the entire HSP staff gathered to reflect on the year's achievements and their commitment to the poorest; the vocations forum, which allowed our young people to engage with professionals for a day, broadening their horizons and helping them find their path in adult life. And of course, the Christmas celebration at Ashaneer, bringing together all the centers before the children left for the holidays with their families. We were treated to beautiful dances and remarkable yoga performances.

However, beyond all these activities that showcase the dynamism of HSP, I would like to highlight three quieter moments from this year. First, the Christmas play performed by the children of Ashaneer with disabilities. It was not the most dazzling nor the one that drew the most attention. Far from the pursuit of performance—though undoubtedly commendable—in the fragility of these children and their radiant smiles, the true spirit of Christmas was present that day. They are certainly not disabled at heart.

Next, I want to acknowledge the discreet and constant dedication of our didis and dadas in Jalpaiguri, as well as the courage of eight children: Rajesh, Kiran, Mandira, Koushik, Vivan, Rounak, Krishna, and Sayan. Over the past three months, they were sent to Kolkata for surgical procedures. For them and their families, we are restoring hope. After the trials of surgery and recovery, a new future is opening up—one where they will be able to walk better or even walk again. This is the spirit of HSP.

Finally, during family visits in the slums over the holidays, we brought cakes, oranges, and chocolates. Some families, despite hardships, seem to be managing, while others struggle more. But all of them welcomed these gifts—and, above all, our visit—with a quiet yet profound joy. A spirit of gratitude.

This is what I wish for all of you—to keep the spirit of Christmas, the spirit of gratitude, to make the world a little more human every day. Thank you for your faithful support.

Lots of love,

— . . .



INDE

DES SOURIRES D'ESPÉRANCE :
HOWRAH SOUTH POINT
UNE MISSION HUMANAIRE ET SPIRITUELLE À CALCUTTA.

Expo vente de photographies
au profit de l'association HOWRAH
SOUTH POINT, soutenue
par le P. Laurent Bissara, MEP

du 7 février au 12 avril 2025
de 10h à 18h du mardi au samedi (entrée libre)

Missions Étrangères de Paris
128 rue du Bac
75007 Paris



HOWRAH SOUTH POINT

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DE PARIS

Mission 128
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Les Missions Étrangères de Paris
et l'association Howrah South Point
ont la joie de vous inviter à l'inauguration de l'exposition

DES SOURIRES D'ESPÉRANCE :
HOWRAH SOUTH POINT
UNE MISSION HUMANAIRE ET SPIRITUELLE À CALCUTTA.

le jeudi 6 février 2025
à partir de 18h

avec une interview de 18h15 à 18h45
de Jérôme Gence, photo-reporter,
autour de son reportage sur Howrah South Point
à paraître dans *Le Figaro Magazine*

Missions Étrangères de Paris
128 rue du Bac - 75007 Paris

EVENTS



HSP Christmas: The centers are celebrating!

All the children from **the Howrah centres** were able to come together at Ashaneer to celebrate Christmas! The day began with a mass celebrated by Father Laurent, followed by many shows prepared by the children. We had the pleasure of attending a beautiful **play featuring Mother Teresa**, performed by the girls from Ashaneer, as well as a reproduction of the Nativity by the children with disabilities from Ashaneer.

The rest of the programme consisted of dances to traditional Indian music and remixes, including an Indian version of an Ed Sheeran song. The day ended with a big outdoor lunch, a warm **moment to end the year 2024 together !**





With the donations of **Christine Bihler** and **her daughter Britta**, an outing was organized for all the children of the hostels as well as the staff of the **Jalpaiguri** branch, who were taken to **Dreamland Fun Park** on 20th December 2024. All the children and their staff arrived at the park in three buses in the morning, carrying a special lunch, snacks, sweets and fruits.

The children were delighted to enjoy the attractions like the cup and saucer, paddle boat, ropeway, water slide and caterpillar rides.

It was a fun-filled day with lots of fun and interaction! After lunch, ice creams were served to everyone. The preview Christmas celebration ended with Christmas carols and cake sharing.



2th Edition of the Vocational Forum

The second edition of the **vocational forum** took place on Saturday, November 9th during the whole day at the Ashaneer center, in the **Pushba Home building**.

This forum was organized to allow students from classes 9 to 12 (equivalent to high school) to meet schools to help them choose an **academic or more professional orientation**. This forum is a unique opportunity to introduce them to schools, training courses, and thus encourage our students to develop a dynamic of reflection on their professional future.

A little over **100 students**, including around thirty from Don Bosco and LP4Y (NGOs present in Howrah), and nearly **20 speakers** participated in our vocational forum!



Each speaker was able to make a 15-minute oral presentation on their profession or training. Once the presentations were over, stands were set up, offering each student the opportunity to talk more with the speakers. Thus, for nearly an hour, the students were able to collect information thanks to the various flyers distributed and the exchange of telephone numbers.

In addition to encouraging vocations, this forum **strengthens the links** between HSP and the various stakeholders in order to facilitate the integration of children into life after HSP.



Annual Staff Meeting

At the end of December, a staff meeting was held, bringing together nearly **80 staff members**. This internal meeting took place over two days in the Ashaneer center. The first day began with a mass celebrated by Father Laurent and two Indian priests from the Saint Vincent de Paul community. The entire day was devoted to reflections on **the motivation and meaning brought by each person's work**.



On the second day, the Principal of Oxford College (located near Ashaneer) spoke to all the staff members. As a life coach, he led a session aimed at strengthening the **motivation** of the teams. In the afternoon, **12 staff members** received an award, a way of recognizing their **dedicated work** for HSP!





Transition of MEP volunteers

All good things must come to an end ! **Rémy, Jean-Baptiste and Rose** have completed their mission and **returned to France**. Rémy, who arrived in February 2024 for an animation mission in Baksarah, left in mid-November. Jean-Baptiste and Rose, who arrived in January, stayed until mid-December.

We warmly thank them for their investment in HSP during this year 2024 !





At the same time, a new volunteer named **Enguerrand** settled in Ashaneer at the end of November for a period of one year! Enguerrand is a young, dynamic engineer, destined to succeed Jean-Baptiste for the work in the office.

For two and a half weeks, Jean-Baptiste and Rose helped Enguerrand to integrate among the staff and with the children, as well as to immerse himself in the long and rich history of HSP.

Unfortunately, a second volunteer, named **Alice**, who was supposed to come for a 6-month mission, has been waiting for her visa for more than two months. The problem comes from the fact that she is a physiotherapist, and India complicates access for foreign healthcare workers. We hope that with a little patience, the administrative situation will be resolved !



News of the trimester

- The work continues in Baksarah! As a reminder, this is the **renovation of the boys' home**, which had been unsanitary and dilapidated for several years. The work having started on August 1st, it has unfortunately been **delayed** ! At the end of December, there is still some painting and ceiling work to be done for a very soon opening, we hope.
- During the month of November, **two photographers from Le Figaro** came to spend three weeks at HSP for a major report that will appear in the weekly **Figaro Magazine** at the beginning of February! These two photographers took the time to visit the Howrah and Jalpaiguri centres, which gave rise to lengthy discussions between the staff and the journalists.
- **Round 2 of the Home Visits** in Howrah ended at the end of December. This second round was more effective and allowed us to better target the poorest thanks to the initial lessons learned from the first round. More than a hundred HSP staff members participated in this project, which **helps us understand where HSP beneficiaries** (children, pregnant women, elderly people) **come from** by visiting the homes of the poorest. In addition, this campaign helps us find new beneficiaries for our programs.
- On December 4, a protest was held in Howrah for **World Disability Day** ! All the children of Ashaneer carried placards to assert their existence on Andul Road, the main thoroughfare of Howrah.
- **Rugby coaches** working for the Don Bosco association (also present in Howrah) came to Ashaneer for an introduction to rugby for boys and girls. A great discovery for some, and possibly lasting, because every Saturday morning, this same association offers training sessions open to all young people.
- For the Christmas holidays (3 weeks), many children were able to go home. In total, more than **90% of the children** accommodated in the centers returned to their families for Christmas. Only **the non-Christian children** from the Jalpaiguri centers stayed during the holidays. This is due to the season which does not offer work in the tea fields

due to the season, which does not offer work in the tea fields. Therefore, hosting a child for 3 weeks is too much of a financial burden for these families. The remaining children **decorated the centers** with many paintings on the floors, thus adding a lot of charm!

- **A potential replacement for the administrator** position has been found ! After a rigorous selection process and numerous interviews, he has agreed to come and live in the Ashaneer center. However, he remains on probation until next September, when Sabita Di is expected to retire. During this period, Sabita Di is supporting him so that he can take over this very important position for HSP.
- This year marked the **4th anniversary of Father Laborde's memorial**, an opportunity for all children and staff remaining in the centers to say a prayer in honor of the founder of HSP.
- **Giuliano Minisini**, who comes regularly, visited HSP for 4 weeks! He is notably one of the donors of the After 10 project. He had the opportunity to exchange with all our students !
- During the Christmas holidays, **8 children** (5 from Modraghandi, 2 from Jordhigi and one from Bakuabari) were operated on in Calcutta. Among them, 2 still need two operations each to be able to walk fully.



Action et Partage avec Calcutta

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













Vidéo

HSP in November and December



Aidez-nous à promouvoir HSP

Une nouvelle plaquette de présentation d'HSP et de ses activités a été réalisée. Si vous souhaitez la distribuer dans une paroisse, une conférence, un évènement, etc., n'hésitez pas, vous pouvez la télécharger [ici](#).

Télécharger la plaquette



Portrait

Lipi

Jeune adolescente résidant à Lalkuthi

Lipi is 15 years old and is currently in Class IX. She has been living in Lalkuthi's hostel for almost eight years. According to Salina Di, the didi in charge of Lalkuthi, Lipi is an **exemplary** girl in the hostel. She has a positive influence on all the other girls by being very attentive to her classmates, especially the younger ones. In addition, she is a dedicated student who aspires to continue her studies through **HSP's After 10 program with the goal of becoming a teacher.**

Lipi comes from Asansol and has an older sister. Unfortunately, her financial situation is **very challenging**. After the death of her father in 2019, her family moved into her uncle's house in Asansol, where her cousin and grandparents also live.

She thoroughly enjoys life at Lalkuthi, where she has the opportunity to thrive by playing Kabaddi with her classmates—a very popular Indian sport that combines agility and physical contact. Her favorite subject at school is English, and she often acts as a **translator** for her classmates during interactions with volunteers.

We wish **her great success** in her studies so that she can achieve her dream of becoming a teacher.