

ANNUAL REPORT OF HANDS 2011 - 2012

In the financial year April 2011 to March 2012, H.A.N.D.S had continued the ongoing programs and services in the Day Care Centre and in the Rehabilitation Centre. The Day Care Centre provided an ongoing help to all the patients and those who came for Follow-Up patients (discharged from the Rehabilitation Centre) on a daily basis giving counseling, group discussion and out-reach work. We kept up the pace of giving awareness on Drug/ Alcohol Abuse and HIV/AIDS mainly in schools, Media and in community centres.

The awareness programs were done in various schools. On 20th May 2011, a team of HANDS which included Mr Nereus Mukhia (Main Speaker), Bidhan Pradhan (Resource), Soyab Ahamad (Testimony), Diwas Gurung (Testimony), gave mass awareness program to the Students of SUMI School, at the Town Hall in two sessions. Mr Bidhan Pradhan gave a short introduction and briefing about HANDS and its activities to the students after which Nereus spoke as the main speaker and Soyab and Diwas gave their Self testimony. On 9th June 2011, the Same H.A.N.D.S. team gave an Awareness Program on Drug Abuse to the students of Kumudini Homes. The Program was well attended by the students from class 9 to class 12.

On 17th June, As always, even this year an awareness program on Drug/Alcohol abuse, was conducted by the same team of people with an additional resource person Mr Palden Tamang. He gave a talk on HIV/AIDS. The interactive session also known as "Ask it, Bask it" went off very well with the students coming up with very interesting questions.

To commemorate the International Day Against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking on 25th June H.A.N.D.S make a combined effort and show solidarity against the social problem "Drug Abuse", HANDS organized a Signature Campaign, which was inaugurated by the S.D.O. Mr L.N.Sherpa. People from all walks of life, which included dignitaries like the I.C. and O.C, Kalimpong Police Station and other prominent local leaders also joined in.

On 26th June 2011, H.A.N.D.S. in association with Kalimpong Tv “Ktv” organized live panel discussion. The participants were Mr L.N.Sherpa (S.D.O), Mr Suva Pradhan (Gen Sec GJMM), Mr Pravakar Dewan (Legal Expert), Dr Sharon Fonning (Medical Expert), Mr Nereus Mukhia (H.A.N.D.S Representative). Public joined the discussion through Telephone with various questions and queries which in turn was being telecast live on local channel through Sky Scan and Madan Cable. Program was very successful and effective as public participation was very positive towards eradication of this menace. The program concluded with the entire panel visiting the Rehabilitation Centre at Chibo Busty.

On 26th January 2012, H.A.N.D.S. played a major role in the Republic Day Celebration, organized by the local Administration, Sub Divisional Officer himself. The celebration this year was a very unique and first of its kind, as the entire event was held at the heart of Kalimpong Town, “The Main Road”. Various Govt departments like the Police department with its Gun salute parade, the Fire Department with its fire engine, various schools, institutions, communities and N.G.O’s had participated in the Carnival like Republic Day Celebration. H.A.N.D.S was a part of this celebration and was very successful in its motive of making the public aware on the horrors as well as the solutions of Drug Dependency and spreading the message of hope for people living with HIV/AIDS, by performing a street play by its Staff and patients themselves.

In recognition of the good services being rendered by our organization in fighting the deadly menace of drug and alcohol abuse, State Bank of India, as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility has joined hands with H.A.N.D.S by donating Rs.79,800 to pay for multimedia hardware equipment to help us carry on with outreach programme in creating awareness more effectively. The donated equipment consisted of LCD projector, Laptop, screen and stand.

On 18th March 2012, SBI Kalimpong had organized a programme to hand over the cheque of Rs.79,800. Chief General Manager, State Bank of India, Bengal Circle, Sri. Surender Kumar had personally attended the function. A CGM of State Bank of India, West Bengal circle apparently, looks after the whole Bengal, Sikkim and Andaman & Nicobar. While he was there we had the opportunity to show him

around the rehabilitation centre which is at present in an ordinary rented building. After he inspected the building he was convinced that a modern, well equipped treatment centre is needed to facilitate in taking the work forward intensively. The work that is going on at HANDS despite the many hurdles, touched his heart. **When he was informed about the one acre of land donated to the society , he immediately promised to donate a sum of Rs. 20 lacks to help us start make our own building .** This will go a long way in helping us start the project with confidence. In fact, a plan for a 50 bedded centre ,costing Rs.96 lacs has already been drawn with hope and faith in God.

The programme was well attended by officials of State Bank of India, dignitaries of Kalimpong , Government officials, i.e SDMO Kalimpong ,IC Kalimpong, SDICO ,Kalimpong, Social workers , Representatives of local village community ,Members of senior citizen forum, media, reformed ex- patients of HANDS.

To summaries the entire year (April 2011 to March 2012) HANDS had a very satisfying and target completing year participating in all the awareness programs conducted. The Rehabilitation Centre had a success story during this year. HANDS Rehabilitation Centre had treated 52 new patients, 19 old patients and 41 discharged and 38 patients came for follow up programs.

HANDS Rehabilitation Centre as well as Day Care Centre has been rendering free treatment and help to patients. Our Outreach workers have been making home visits as well as reaching out to the street users motivating them and counseling them to go for treatment. Family counseling has been provided to effected families

