



Stepping Stones

MESSAGE FROM THE VISRAM FOUNDATION

The Visram Foundation wishes to thank each and every one of our donors who have assisted us historically and continue to assist us in our attempt to elevate the Visram Foundation. All of us at the Visram Foundation and the Life Institute for Girls thank you for taking time to read our Newsletter. Our best wishes for this holiday season.

Amin S. Visram
The MSFV Foundation
www.visramfoundation.com

Message from the Girls at the Life Institute

As the warm winter sun rises to caress the wet grass blades of beautiful Pune, a movement slowly but surely is taking place in the form of the 'Life institute for Girls. Life stands for Long Independent Future Ensured. It was established in the year 2000 by a few like minded business men. Since 2004, the financial and the moral support provided by the Visram Foundation has been significant in helping the institution scale great heights since its inception. The chief objective of the organization is to make absolute certain the all round growth and personality development of all the children. With the kind support of donors and well wishers, more girls are being taken in our fold and quality education and great living facilities are being provided to them.

We would like to thank our trustees, especially Jalal Dowoodani, Rashid Parekh, Rafiq Merchant and Asish Hari in addition to all of our Assistants, Administrators, Staff at the Visram Foundation and the Life Institute in Pune. Truly, the product of the Visram Foundation belongs to all of them.

THANK YOU!

A poetess in the making

The trek at duke's nose
Made us forget our woes,
Our Journey which started
at five
Ended late at night.

We sang songs all the way
For sure we were quite
happy that day

Our journey we began
Forgetting all our tensions
With the clear intention
Yes, of having fun.

It was a rainy day
Also 'twas friendships day
With our hands full of
bands
We felt as if we were in
Disney Land.

The weather was cold
Yet we were bold
Laughing all the way
Climbing heights
Even though the clouds
had turned grey
To the challenge we never
said nay
'Cause the never die spirit
we at life epitome.

By: Soniva Jiwani
Class10'-St. Francis De Sales



This year the Life Institute for Girls has welcomed a number of new girls, increasing our enrolment to 119 students. In addition, we have welcomed two new staff members, Mrs. Malti Naidu and Dr.Chandra Katarkar. They have joined the Life Institute for Girls as Administrator and Assistant Administrator, respectively. In this issue we are providing you with an update on the progress of our children and much of the content has been compiled by the girls themselves! We have not edited the girls content as we wanted you to see their abilities. Please enjoy.

Activities

The Youth Board has been very active in organizing various activities for our children such as Trekking expeditions in the month of August & September and a Holiday Club in the month of July & December. There has also been a Theatre workshop in the month of December. New sports gear and equipment were purchased for our children in the month of August. As part of oxygen day celebrations our girls put on a beautiful dance performance in the month of September. Additionally, the students of City International School were awarded certificates for a recitation competition in the month of November.

Academic Achievements

All of our 12th grade girls (Batch 2009-2010) have done very well in their exams and all secured 80% and above marks. Three of the girls have secured admission in the areas of Biotechnology and Physiotherapy. Eight students in the 11th grade are being trained in Maharashtra State Certificate in Information Technology (MSCIT), which is a mandatory qualification for any government job. This training program commenced in the month of September and will last for three months. In October, the Education Board honored 20 of our top ranking students with certificates for excellence in their studies.



The Youth Board had organized a trekking expedition to Duke's Nose on 7th August 2010. This spot is situated in the ranges of Khandala and Lonavala. It is a very beautiful place and perhaps the best place to visit during the rainy season. There were 35 girls who took part in this trek along with two guides and eight volunteers from the Youth Board. We boarded a train from Pune Railway Station at about 6 a.m. in the morning .Wow! the weather was brilliant, it was a very wet morning indeed! The guide briefed us about the basics of trekking post which we commenced our journey upwards. On our way towards our destination that is the Dukes Nose we saw a dam, water falls, many varieties of flora and fauna. To sum it all we all felt as if we were waking in the midst of clouds. Though our heart skipped a beat many times on account of the very narrow pathways which we had to tread we did that with full confidence. We reached the peak by 12.30 p.m. A temple was located at the top where we had our lunch. After

lunch we started our journey down wards. On our way back we saw lush green farms doing Shalala Shalala as we watched them in amazement. Guess all good things come to an end; we had our tea reached Lonavala station and got back to LIFE at 8p.m.! We are thankful to the Trustees and Management at the Life Institute for giving us an opportunity to not only visit a new place but also to challenge ourselves. **Contributed by: Shafa Bhayan- Class 12 Science-Don Bosco Junior College**

Life at Life

My daily routine at life is?

Sonal: "Life is my second home, where I have been brought up very well. I wake up at five, pray for fifteen minutes, do sudarshan kriya, attend tuitions, get dressed, have breakfast and leave for college at eight in the morning, return in the afternoon, study, pray have my dinner and then again go back to studies".

Dilshad: "I wake up at five in the morning, and then I have tuitions between six AM and seven AM. After breakfast I leave for college and return at four in the afternoon. We have snacks at four PM, and till 6.30 PM I study. Prayers are held between 6.30 PM and 7PM and we have our dinner between 8 PM and 9 PM. After dinner we watch the TLC channel till 10 PM and then I study till 11 PM in the night."

Karishma: "I wake up at 5 in the morning, go for prayers, attend tuitions, get ready for college, have breakfast, attend college, come back by 4 o'clock, have snacks, take a 20 minutes nap, study, attend prayers, have dinner, watch news, study and go off to sleep by 10 PM."

Things that I like about Life?

Sonal: "Life has so many positive aspects. Best education, best sports, best quality food, best teachers, best care takers. The best part about my hostel life is that it works towards promoting excellence of the girl child."

Dilshad: "Life has given me a lot of financial and moral support and constantly inspires me to do better and better in life".

Karishma: "LIFE Gives me an opportunity to stay with my friends all day long".

Things I don't like about Life?

Sonal: "Nothing"

Dilshad: "Nothing"

Karishma: "I love my institute absolutely and completely"

Changes that Life has brought in my Life?

Sonal: "Life has added to my confidence and courage levels and has inspired me towards achieving my goals".

Dilshad: "I am more confident now".

Karishma: "Life has added to my confidence and has brought about improvement in my communication skills".



Sonal
Roy



Dilshad
Hasnani



Karishma
Ratani

Girl of the Month ALIZA KHOJA

The girl of the month has been selected through popular vote and



she is Aliza Khoja a student of 6th grade at Vidyankur School. She is here with us at the Life Institute due to family issues. However when quizzed whether she would prefer to continue being at the Institute or go back to her home, she gave a clear mandate to the Life Institute. When asked why, she stated, "I am getting all the facilities here, I am happy and I have my friends here." The reason she has been chosen to be the girl of the month is her excellent academic performance, her being very helpful, friendly disposition and attitude to all the problems that come her way. Her dream is to become a Social Worker and free India from the multitude of problems it is facing.



WISHING YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

*Your generous gift will keep our children's faith alive.
Dreams will become realities!*

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