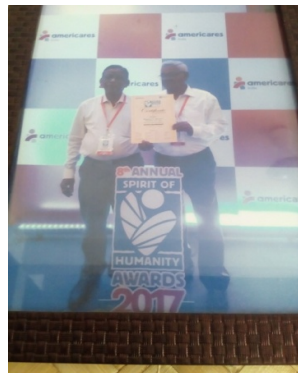


## ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

1. While the previous year was termed by me as the year of tears and mourning for the Trust, I would like to revise it for the year 2017-18 as the year of fulfilment, hope and cheers for the jobs well done, and things falling into proper places for a sustained growth. This is because of the following broad reasons. Tories.

- a. We could get a lot of help and encouragements from the general public and a plenty of accolades for our humanitarian services to the deprived and the neglected.
- b. Our humanitarian efforts enabled us to bag the top award as the best NGO of the entire East of India comprising Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Bengal, Sikkim and the seven North Eastern States in the “Annual Spirit of Humanity Award” instituted by Americare Foundation for exemplary humanitarian services rendered for the cause of women. This we consider a great achievement since we had to compete with giants who are on the fields for more than twenty years. Their annual outlays were in an average 25 times more than ours. We were the youngest and the leanest.



Receiving Award at Marriot , Mumbai

- c. The Assamese Diaspora living in America under the banner of AFNA were overwhelmed by our efforts and they decided to contribute handsomely to our cause. In fact the first instalment has already reached us.
- d. There had been marked improvements in the quality of life being offered to the inmates. Their general health which was of great concern for us has improved tremendously. In fact in last six months we hardly had any reason for worry.
- e. Sun Valley Hospital of Guwahati voluntarily decided to look after completely the health of the inmates in need of hospitalisation

for a year. As per the Managing Director of the hospital, Sri Abhoy Hazarika, this decision was taken after they were overwhelmed by our humanitarian services.

- f. The local MLA decided to help us to increase the capacity. He sanctioned an amount of Rs 3 lakh from MLALD for this purpose. With this money we have increased the capacity by five more beds.



Local MLA with office barer

- g. With very efficient financial management, our financial health has improved tremendously.
- h. We are gradually in the process of handing over the management to the Youngsters. They are doing a marvellous job.
- i. Although not on expected pace, the North Lakhimpur chapter is taking its roots firmly.
- j. And the icing on the cake recently the young and dedicated support staff has dramatically saved the life of an abandoned and mortally sick woman. She is also an inmate of Seneh now. I will dwell on her past and present state a little later.
- k. Give India has been relentlessly supporting our cause with largess.

2. We had multifarious activities in the year, some of which were added to bolster our image for the first time. I intend to deal with each of our activities under the following headings

- a. Induction of new Inmates and their brief backgrounds
- b. Induction/ Exclusion of Trustees in the Board of Trustees.
- c. Welfare measures taken under shelter, food and medical support.
- d. Induction of new employees and rationalizing their remunerations.
- e. Visits and celebrations.
- f. Other welfare measures taken, away from our core aim of running the destitute home originally not mandated in our

Trust Deed but subsequently added by resolutions in Board Meetings.

- g. Finances
- h. Expansions of facilities/ new construction works undertaken.
- i. Report on Lakhimpur Chapter.
- j. Challenges
- k. Future Plans.
- l. Conclusions

### **Induction of new Inmates and their brief backgrounds.**

#### **Niru**

The 50 years old Niru, a divorcee, was brought to us by her abandoned son who is living with his father whom Niru had divorced ten years back, ostensibly, by her own admission, to get married to a man she fell in love with, when their child was only seven. As per the divorce agreement, she voluntarily gave the father absolute right over the son. She walked out for the man who initially gave her a place on hire to live and paid for her needs. They would stay together at least two to three days in a week, but one fine morning after five years, she discovered with horror that the man was already married and his love for her was mere pretension to exploit her. She abandoned him, started living alone and for her livelihood started working as a labourer in a tyre factory. She also took to drinking. She would drink country liquor for days without food and then slump. Her health deteriorated. Her separated son stealthily would come to her, force her to eat some food, give her little money he had and disappear because of the scare that his father would know about. For her sake, a brilliant boy otherwise, he gave up his studies and started a small business so that he can support her. When he found he was unable to earn enough, and apprehended she might die of excessive drinking, he came to us for help. I am happy to inform Niru is now a very happy woman, energetic and hardworking. She gave up drinking completely.

#### **Kunjabala**

The timid and retarded Kunjabala was brought to Seneh by our staff from a village 100 km away from Guwahati after we heard about her life's sad saga from one of her neighbours. Because of her challenged mental conditions, she never got married and lived with her parents till both of them died. She had only one sibling an elder sister. The elder sister brought her home. Her brother in law gruded this. She was mistreated and sometimes tortured. She was mortally scared of him. Some of the villagers informed us about her and we brought her in.

### **Mohini**

A graduate was married to an electrician working for ASEB. Within years they fell apart ostensibly because he was a habitual gambler and a philanderer. Whenever she protested his illicit relationship, he would mercilessly beat her up. One day he forcibly threw her out of the house. She took shelter in the house of her sister who was a widow with hardly any income. She approached us for shelter. We discretely enquired her tale and found out each word she spoke was true. We discovered she is highly diabetic. Also she had cataract. She is under treatment for diabetes. Cataractomy of one eye is also done.

### **ANAMIKA**

The absolutely hearing and speech impaired Anamika was forcibly dropped from a unidentified car in front of the police station in Goalpara. Unable to trace her background because there were no ways to communicate with her ( She is also illiterate) the police brought her to us. Since there were no ways to communicate even to know her name, we named her Anamika. She had a fracture in one of her legs. That has been attended to.

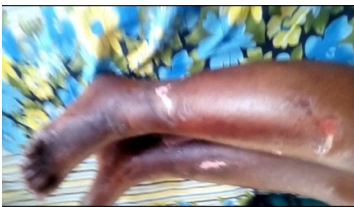
### **Basanti Devi**

The around 80 years old Basanti was brought to us by a young man. She used to beg near the Ganesh Mandir and live in a shack. The compassionate young man normally looked after her lonely life. We found she had cataract in both of her eyes. It has been operated. She

is like a flying bird who constantly complains as if she is in a cage with our restrictions.

Ms. Purnima Rabha

Purnima an approx 50 plus years old was lying on the pavement of a busy intersection partially conscious in great pain. Both her legs were swollen at least four times the normal with liquid oozing out. In one of the worst affected fingers some parasites could be seen crawling . Some passerby threw petrol on this wound probably to kill the parasites. In the process it burned the area. A foul smell was emanating from these wounds. Hundreds passed by, but not a single man helped . Our volunteers spotted her, lifted her and brought her in. She was admitted to the ICU of a private hospital and was put on live support . After 10 days she recovered partially. Now she is able to walk around, the swelling reduced and the wounds partially healed . She is under care of two nurses at our premises. Unfortunately the doctors found two of her heart valves leaking. We will take a call about her heart after she recovers completely from her other afflictions.



**Initially**



**Hospitalized**



**Now**

## **INDUCTION AND EXCLUSION OF TRUSTEES**

The following were inducted as Trustees

1. Ms Sangita Dutta
2. Ms Urmees Sultana
3. Mr Abhoy Hazarika

The following were co opted as Trustees

1 Mr Dilip Das, Repräsentative of local residents

Dr Mihir Baruah had opted out because of his pressing professional commitments. He is now one of our esteemed advisors.

## **WELFARE MEASURES UNDER SHELTER, FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPORT**

**Food:** We have been able to improve on the quality of food in the year gone by. This has been possible because of help received by a host of donors who give us regular food materials. Some of them who donate regularly deserves our heartfelt gratitude. In addition, very frequently, a host of kind hearted persons come to “Seneh” to celebrate different occasions of their families, like death anniversary, birth days etc and bear the cost of a sumptuous meal. Some others come just to visit the inmates with short eats and fruits. We thank them all for their gesture.

### **a. Welfare Measures Taken**

**Food:** We have been able to improve on the quality of food in the year gone by. This has been possible because of help received by a host of donors who give us regular food materials. Some of them who donate regularly deserves our heartfelt gratitude. I will be mentioning a few names shortly. In addition, very frequently a host of kind hearted persons come to “Seneh” to celebrate different occasions of their families like death anniversary, birth days etc and bear the cost of a sumptuous meal. We thank them all for their gesture.

**Shelter:** Under shelter, we club clothing, house hold items including white goods, sanitary items, expenses for water and electricity, municipality charges, conservation charges, office expenses and furniture etc. I am overwhelmed to inform the house that here also, the enthusiasm of the public in general has literally put us in a spot. There are so much of donated items like blankets, mekhela chadar, saris, bed sheets and pillow covers etc, we are

facing paucity of storage space since these items are much more than what we need. But requests pour in for more such donations which we politely refuse. We now normally request the donors to donate daily use items like soap, detergents, cleaning materials, hair oils, powder etc in lieu of clothing items. Overall the quality of life of the inmates have improved tremendously. Now the not so well and infirm inmates have a washing machine to clean their clothes, railings have been put in every bathrooms for ease of using them, there is a music and PA system handy to broadcast soothing music and a permanent steel structure which can be covered within hours on the lawn. The geyser give them hot water to bath in winter.

**Medical Needs:** Our biggest challenge is looking after the medical needs of the inmates. Rarely a day passes when a visit to the hospital is not needed. The most gratifying aspect of medical needs is the support given to us by Sun Valley hospital , which had provided yeomen services to the inmates round the year. We no longer need to queue up in GMCH for hours for even a minor ailment. Without this support, we would have been on the sea. Demands on our finances for provision of medicines and other related expenditure is no longer a headache for us. Assam Foundation of North America , under their “ Adopt a grand ma” scheme started providing us financial support from this year onward. “Ashadeep” has been providing free consultancy for the mental health problems of the inmates. Unfortunately, half of the inmates suffer from different mental conditions that require regular psychiatric consultations and medication. In an average, we spend more than Rs 8000/ per month on psychiatric drugs alone.

No words can describe our gratitude to Sun Valley and AFNA for their help.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not mention the dedication, hard work and unflinching compassion shown by the employees for the cause.

**b. Induction of new employees and rationalization of their remunerations:**

We have replaced Vijaya Pal with Miss Jutika Devi, a post graduate at a consolidated pay of Rs 8000/- per month. She has shown tremendous potential. What endeared her to all is her pleasant

demeanour and compassion and love to all. Unlike Vijaya, she does not stay in house. In addition we have inducted Lalita a somewhat retarded but otherwise dependable woman as an in house help. I will be failing in my duties if I do not mention here the dedication and hardwork put up by the employees. Their compassion and selfless service for the cause of humanity is simply exemplary.

#### **e. Visits and celebrations.**

1. Mothers day was celebrated on 13-05-2017. Pratyasha, a NGO working for conservation of Environment was the sponsor.

2. An workshop on mental strength was conducted by Mr Washim a renowned psychologist of North East on 4<sup>th</sup> June 17. The workshop included pinkathon and laughter therapy to boost mental health.

3. Raksha Bandhan was celebrated on 06-08-2017. Co-sponsored by Lions club of Guwahati and Prajapati Brahmakumari Samaz.

4. Independence Day was celebrated on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August. A host of dignitaries attended the celebration. Sunvalley hospital sponsored the celebrations. The highlight of the celebration was a cultural function performed by the members of PM Kushal Vikash Yojana team. Sri Nilamoni Barua unfurled the flag.



5. Senior Citizen Day was celebrated with gusto sponsored by the Uttar Dispur Senior Citizen Association on the 01 Oct 2017



6. District Governor of Lions Club, Guwahati attended Seneh along with the members on 18/10/2017. She was highly satisfied to see the



ambience of the home and the activities of the Trust and inmates. She presented some valuable dietary articles for the inmates.



7. The Office of the Dist. Commandant, Home Guard organized a Medical Health Camp on 17/11/2017 at our premises.



8. Annual day was celebrated with enough fun fare on the 25<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017. A host of dignitaries that included two former Governors, acclaimed academicians, social reformists, octogenarian doyens of Assamese music and culture, political leaders graced the occasion. A glittering cultural function, all performed by the inmates including a fashion show enthralled the more than four hundred gathering.



9. Govt Pensioner(Assam) Association, Guwahati, visited the premise on 22/12/2017, interacted with the inmates.



10. Officer and staff of Surya Cement ,Guwahati visited Seneh campus on 3/01/2018 They celebrated New Year with our residents. A sound system was donated by them for use in public functions ,



11. Raksha Bandhan celebrated on 06-08-2017. Co-sponsored by Lions club of Guwahati and Prajapati Brahmakumari Samaz.

12. Republic Day was celebrated on 26-01-2018 with funfair.



13. The inmates were taken for a picnic to Deepor Beel, the famous natural water reservoir on 02/02/2018 . Accordingly persons were the trustee members and many other people with philanthropic mind. It was a day full of joy and cheers.



14. Officer & staff of Dalmia Cement visited the Seneh premises on 11/02/2018, interacted with inmates and enjoyed their cultural programme like group song, recitation, songs and dance etc.



15. Tai Ahom Yuv Parishad organized a “Antaranga Aalap Arru Aadar Sambardhana Anusthan” at our premise on 25/02/2018.



16. Women’s Day was celebrated by Ladies group of Maitri Mandal, Indian Oil ladies club ,Guwahati on 08/03/2018. The group performed cultural programme and recitations etc. in addition to similar presentation by the inmates.



17. The inmates were taken to Kamakhya Temple for holy visit. Transportation arrangement was by Shri Arup Talukdar, an young person with philanthropic mind. The Temple authority accorded an warm welcome to them.



18. A cultural function was organised on 29-01-2017 by “ARADHANA”, a premiere cultural organisation. Shree Pulak Banarjee , one of the doyens of vocal music of Assam also performed on the occasion.





19. In addition Doctors from GMC, GNRC Hospital and Pratiksha Hospital and Guwahati Dental College conducted Health Camps in the year.



**f. Other welfare measures taken away from our core aim as mandated by the original trust deed that had been added subsequently by the Board Of Trustees.**

i. Scholarship to Meritorious and economically extremely poor students. We have taken the responsibility of looking after the educational needs of a very intelligent student of extreme poor background studying in the local Government school, for the year. Her performance so far has proved the point that with a little support she will be able to stand tall. In addition in collaboration with Assam Foundation of North America we have adopted a girls school in Pathsala. We pay Rs 40,000 per year to the school to honour their best performing students.



ii. I am very happy to inform you that we could rehabilitate the children of Arti, the erstwhile schizophrenic, her one son is now a resident of Snehalaya, an orphanage and pursuing his studies very diligently. The elder one is working as a mechanic now and earning his livelihood nicely.

**g. Finances:**

We had a very satisfying year as regards financial management. The details will be presented by the Member i/c Finance in his presentation that will follow. The audited balance sheets are displayed and available at [www.seneh.in](http://www.seneh.in).

#### **h. Expansion of Facilities and work undertaken:**

The following construction works as were undertaken have since been completed. The Finance member will present the financials for this.

i) Extension of the building to increase capacity from present 19 to 25.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to the local MLA Mr Sidharth Bhattacharjya for the Rs 3Lakh he had kindly sanctioned from MLALAD for this purpose.



ii) Remodelling the existing toilet in office room for use by the visitors.

iii) Works to make a comfortable office for the managing trustee is nearing completion.

iv) A permanent steel structure on the lawns has been installed. For any function to be held, what is required now is to hang a tarpaulin on it to ward off rain water or the sun rays.

#### **i. Report about North Lakhimpur Chapter.**

The activities in North Lakhimpur is running smoothly albeit at a leisurely pace. We had to vacate the rented building where we started our home for destitute women because of demand from the owner. Now we have shifted to a new location once again on a lease basis for five years. There are a total of four inmates at North Lakhimpur. We have been regularly funding most of the expenditure there. Any short fall is made good by Dr Udhav Bharali who is responsible for running the home. The expenditure incurred is amalgamated with our expenditure at Guwahati in the Audited balance sheet.

#### **j. Challenges**

i. The biggest challenge of future is the deteriorating age related health conditions of the inmates. We need to firm up a strategy to meet this challenge. Our strategies formulated as per your advice of last year have given positive results. As I have mentioned earlier for the coming year (2018-19), the health related issues have been taken care of by The Sun Valley Hospital and AFNA.

ii.) The next challenge is; in case of death, how do we organize a decent burial. Our experience of last year was not very encouraging since very few of us could spare time to show our last respect. As a remedial measure we have roped in the local residents who have promised help in need. In fact we had a meeting with the residents who have deputed one of their representatives as a co-opted trustee. This, however in no way will supplement your cooperation. I appeal to all of you to spare some of your valuable times as and when need arises. The departed deserves all of our respect.

iii) The third challenge is to find out young blood who will carry the mantle forward since quite a few of us are getting older day by day. I am very happy to see the enthusiasm and commitment of some young men and women who had been encouraging us with their participation in different events. We can only hope some day one of them will come forward to carry the banner of Seneh forward.

vi. Another problem area is provision of water mainly in lean season that is in the months of November to April when the only source of water, the well, dries up. We had been spending a handsome money every year to purchase water from the. This year a good Samaritan Sri K N Hazarika has agreed to reimburse the expenditure. As per News Paper report the Guwahati water supply scheme will be operational in this area by the end of the year. I pray to God it is true

#### **k. FUTURE PLANS**

- Extend the financial help to other needy and deserving students.
- Start a geriatric first aid care unit in the premises and also extend this to remote areas with an outreach programme. (This was planned last year but shelved because of paucity of volunteers.)
- Help deserving and meritorious students from rural areas to crack JEE for Engineering and Medical..
- Tap CSR resources more vigorously for funding.

- Approach State Government for help.
- Apply to Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for grants from Integrated Programme for older persons
- Approach foreign sources for Financial help.

#### **k. Conclusion**

**What we have been doing is a tip of the iceberg. There are thousands who require succour and dignity to live. We are committed to embrace more and more destitute who really requires a comforting place to live a life of comfort and dignity in the sunset years of their lives. We have two constrains viz. Adequate Resources and Humane selfless workers. Honestly, the former can be managed if we put our heads together, but the later is a insurmountable hindrance. We have not given up hope. Together we will try.**

#### **Attachments**

- 1. Audited Financials for 2016-17**
- 2. Budget for 2018-19**
- 3. Status of Corpus Fund**