

News from Asha Niketan Asansol

ASHAR DEEP

June 2020



A Note From the Community Leader



Dear friends,

I wish you are all well. We are living in very difficult times. As has happened with the life and the daily life of almost everyone, the COVID-19 crisis has changed our activities and, in general terms, our daily life. Despite the confinement and loneliness of isolation for the past three months, we are still able to advocate and pursue positive changes among community members and those with whom we maintain close contact.

We had spent a lot of time investing our energy in planning a new project, the Outreach Programme, which should have been implemented in April but unfortunately, we postponed it until the situation improves and we can operate safely.

In spite of everything, I must point out that each and every one of the assistants has been fully involved in all the tasks of the community even taking on duties that do not correspond to them, especially preparing all the meals and working hard in the garden, in addition to taking care of and paying special attention to the goat calves. And those are not simple tasks. Without a doubt, I want to thank the tremendous work that our assistants have been doing throughout this period.

We have a very uncertain future ahead but we remain fully committed L'Arche's mission. Thanks to all of you for making it possible! Thank you very much.

Noelia Grifell
Community Leader



Joy



Faith



Friendship



COVID-19 relief support

In these hard times of confinement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we all must face new challenges added to the previous ones and we all need support from others to move forward. As the situation calls for it, we lead our attention towards those who are the most vulnerable Day Workers Core Members and their families as they lost their daily wages, so we could not leave them behind.



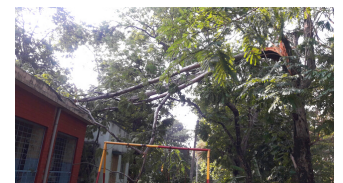
There have been dry rations given to these families that were struggling to manage their daily life; basically we provide them a relief package with food items like rice, atta, dal as well as some vegetables. And it is that despite the isolation, we must stay together more than ever and support those we can.

Severe storm

As a consequence of the last month's storm (on 10th May) our garden was seriously affected.



Large trees were broken throughout the garden due to the storm and the severe wind and left a desolate landscape on the community.



The cleaning work done by our assistants and Core Members will take time not only because there is a lot of work but also because they are making firewood for our kitchen. Luckily, no one was injured and the buildings were not affected.

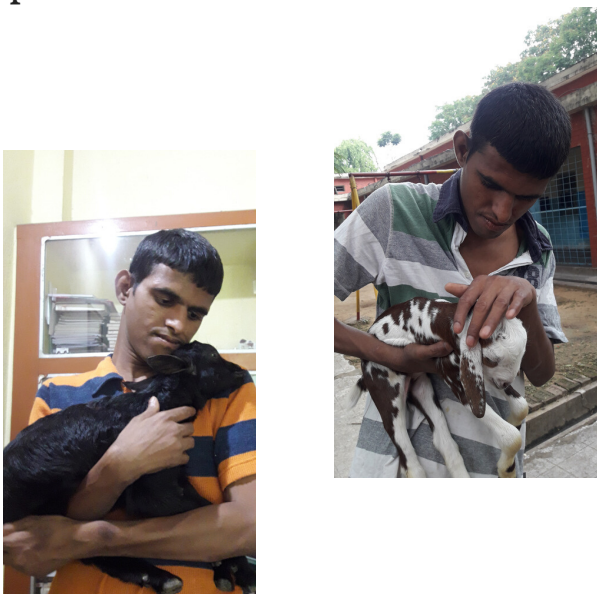


Animal husbandry

Although the animal husbandry project started with little energy, now it is going well and we are all excited about the four babies that we have had!



Since we are still confined and the workshop is closed, Som spends whole day taking care of them and taking them from one place to another.



And we have discovered another gift of Som that pleasantly surprises us. Surely nobody can take better care of them! And this is a fantastic and beautiful achievement for us!!

Events and Celebrations

Over the past few months, the community has had multiple occasions to celebrate! Below are a few pictures and memories from different special occasions. Enjoy!!



Washing of the feet,
9th April



Bengali New Year,
14th April



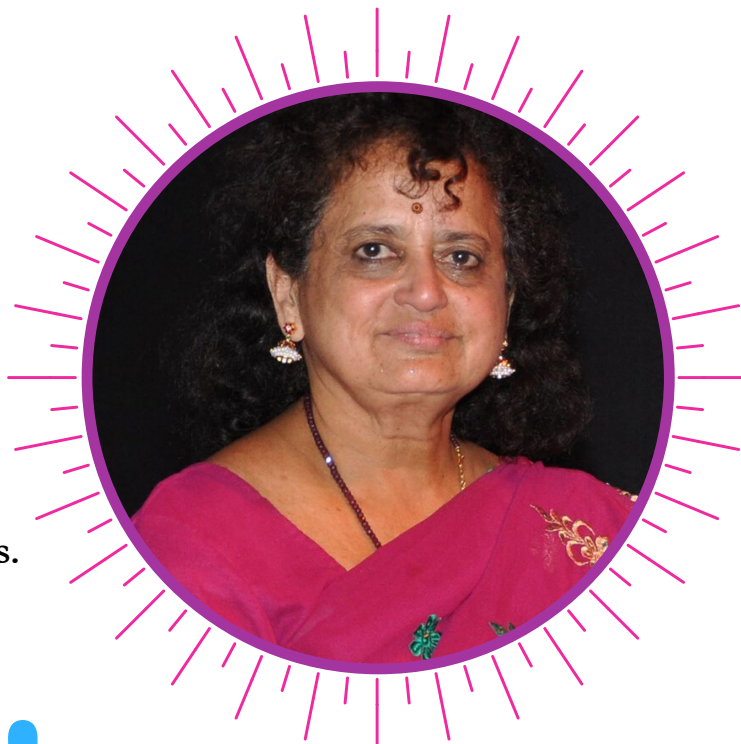
1st Death Anniversary of Jean Vanier,
7th May





In loving memory of Mrs. Usha Venkataraghavan

We are deeply saddened by the passing of our beloved Usha-di on June 10. Her genuine dedication and support to our community and her honest work have only been a sample of the great person she was. Usha-di has definitely left an indelible impact in Asha Niketan Asansol. Our most sincere condolences to her family and friends. We hold you all close in our thoughts and prayers. May her soul rest in Eternal peace.



With gratitude

We just want to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who has supported and participated in the work we have done during the last three months in the fight against COVID-19. Thank you for helping us to continue to create community and give this support to the mentally challenged people we serve. Your support has really made a big difference.

Thank you!

Get in Touch!

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or kindly visit us:



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We express our deep gratitude to our Local Governing Council and life members, to L'Arche International, and Friends of Asha Niketan US, and all those who supported us in different ways during this last period : Mrs. Usha Venkataraghavan, Mrs. Susmita Dey, Mrs. T. M. Roye Shetty, Mrs. Namita Kedia, Teachers and Students from St Vincent, St Patrick and Loreto Convent Schools, Arunoday Ashram Barasat, Dhyan Ashram Kolkata, Ms. Narmada Devi, Mr. S. R. Burman, Mrs Mamta Bagaria, Mr. Harsh Sharma, Lions Club Asansol, Ms. Bianca Berger, Mr. Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Mr. R.R. Khaitan, Mr. Amarnath Gorai, Mr. Harmindher Singh Kapoor, Ms. Ruchera Maitra, Mrs. Sangita Roy, ICYM St. John's Youth Chelidanga Asansol, Nitesh Sir, Mrs. Nila Ghosh, Jalsa Ghar Club, Mr. Avinash Mudgal, and all our visitors and donors.