

## **ACTIVITIES OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE**

### **2016-2021**

The Alumni Association of Saint Mary's College (AASMC) has been contributing towards the welfare of the less privileged children living in the College convent and other orphanages in and around Shillong. The Alumni members along with the Principal and other faculty members annually collect funds which are spent towards purchase of books, stationery items, clothes and toys for the children. Apart from this, the Association also annually hosts the pre-Christmas party celebration for these children, entertaining them with games, music and dance. The children are also provided with lunch and presented with Christmas gifts. The association organizers along with the children from the different orphanages also participate in Christmas caroling around the city.

The funds for the different activities are raised by regularly hosting a carnival of food and games in the college campus. Small donations and contributions from the principal, private individuals as well as other organizations like the State Bank of India (Shillong) are utilized in the various activities organized for the less privileged children.

The members of the association, in the meeting held on 29th of June 2019, had decided to contribute towards the college fees of less privileged students of the college. But unfortunately due to the pandemic, such students could not be identified as yet. With the reopening of college in March 2022, the association plans to move forward with this goal in mind.

Due to several constraints, the AASMC was finally registered under the Meghalaya Societies Registration Act XII of 1983 only on the 15th of January 2021. As a result, the association was unable to collect membership fees from its members as it had originally intended. This has caused a setback to many of the plans of the Association in making a difference to the college and society at large. Now that the association has been registered, the members intend to collect membership fees and once again hold fund raising activities so as to be able to make valuable contributions to the college and society at large.

**REPORT**  
**ON**  
**THE ALUMNI MEET**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> July 2016**

The Alumni Association, St. Mary's College Shillong organized an Alumni Meet on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2016 at 11am in the College auditorium. The meet was enthusiastically attended by both young and old past pupils of the college.

Ms Monideepa Sen, Department of Sociology was the Master of Ceromony. The Programme began with Bible Reading and prayer lead by Ms. Theresia Marbaniang, Department of Khasi.

Phibawan Syiemlieh of 3<sup>rd</sup> Year H. Sc. Presented a Welcome Song.

In lieu of the Principal, Ms M. War, Coodinator of the Steering Committee, delivered the Welcome Address.

This was followed by a short report of the activities of the Alumni Association from 2011-2015, by Ms Adella R. Sawian, General Secretary of the AASMC.

Ms. Nooroon Warjri, President of the AASMC, in her speech, expressed that "Coming back to the college is always a homecoming for every ex-student of St. Mary's College". She also expressed her happiness at the development and growth of the College.

The purpose of the meet was to request the past pupils to volunteer for the interaction of Alumni members with the NAAC peer team on 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2016

In preparation for the NAAC, Ms. M Sen handed over the proceeding to Ms K. Deka, coordinator IQAC, and Ms M War, coordinator Steering Committee, to interact with the members present.

Ms Deka invited views and suggestions from the members present and also invited volunteers who would interact with the peer team members of the NAAC on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2016.

Ms Deka requested the members to speak out their views and opinions honestly but in a positive manner and tone.

Ms War stressed on the need for the Alumni to help out in the interaction to ensure a better grade for the College. She also announced that the required number of members to be present and to interact with the peer team is 25 out of which 6 would be from Assam.

Some of the points that were highlighted by the Steering Committee were the new development in the College such as the Community College which offers 3 vocational Courses, the availability of a first aid room and an on call doctor for the medical requirements of the staff and the students of the College. It was also informed that the College has signed an MOU with IGNOU for M.Sc. course, 2 diploma and 2 certificate Courses. Apart from that, it was informed that the College has received funds from DBT since 2012 and of the availability of DST Schemes for students. The college now has a Biotech Hub with one Junior Research Fellow(JRF). A gym facility is available in the college which also includes Aerobics and Yoga sessions. The formation of the Youth Red Cross, St Mary's College unit in 2012 and its activities since, was highlighted. The presence of the Gender sensitization cell and its functions was informed.

Some of the Alumni members who attended the meet informed that the NAAC peer team were more interested with National and International programs and activities which are documented. They also enquired about the library facilities available to students and teachers. A question was raised as to what the College had done to uplift the talent and skills of the youth to which Ms M War informed of the personality development course available to students and the availability of a Counsellor for them. The members also asked about the prospects of different entrepreneurship amongst students to which the gathering was informed of the different courses conducted by the department of Home

Science. With the new Choice Based System being introduced, an alumni asked if the college was able to deal with it and if it had an Environmental Science department. A positive response was given on this matter. One of the Alumni expressed the need for all pass pupils to contribute more in academic activities such as coaching classes. This suggestion was well taken note of in keeping with the plans of the Career and Placement Cell.

The meeting concluded with the announcement that 13 members had volunteered to meet on 6<sup>th</sup> Aug 2016 and also to interact with the NAAC peer team on 10<sup>th</sup> Aug 2016.

It was followed by high tea.



## **Pre Christmas Party Programme organized by the AASMC on the 12th of December 2019 at Kharang**

The Alumni Association of Saint Mary's College as part of its pre Christmas celebration, conducted an outreach programme at the The Anne Margaret Barr Children's Village (AMBCV) in Kharang, East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya. The village was established in February 2009 as a home for up to 24 orphaned children. It is operated by the Unitarian Union of North East India, under the leadership of Reverend Nangroi Suting and with day-to-day care and oversight of the children by three "Mothers." Children at the orphanage have ranged in age from 3 to 15 years old..

The members of the Alumni Association Saint Mary's College with the aim of spreading hope and joy to the orphaned children. set out to Kharang village on the 12th of December 2019. Mr S Sawkmie and C Lanong also accompanied the other members of the Alumni Committee. The orphanage has two sections, one was for the boys and the other section was for the girls. The members visited the centre that housed the girls but the boys from the other centre joined in for the programme. The members reached the centre at 12.30 in the afternoon and were humbled by the warm welcome offered by the coordinator of the Orphanage Mrs. Suting as well as by the wardens and teachers who live at the premises. Most memorable was the welcome song and heartfelt words of gratitude from the children who were excited to see us coming from the town to visit them. The program saw enthusiastic participation from the children who displayed their outstanding talents in singing and beat boxing. The Association had organized a lovely picnic lunch packed from Shillong for everyone at the orphanage as well as a short Christmas programme where prayers were said, carols were sung and games were played. A donation of Rs 5000/- was also made towards the orphanage. The Children were also given Christmas presents, books, stationery items and indoor games for their recreational activities in the centre. A tour was conducted of the premises of the orphanage, as well as the gardens growing organic vegetables, the piggery and poultry farm that was run by the teenagers in their free time.

The experience at Kharang was a memorable one and as a committee it is hoped that similar such extension programmes will be carried out in the future.





## **Pre Christmas Party Programme organized by the AASMC on the 14th of December 2021**

As part of the Pre- Christmas Party celebrations, the AASMC organized a small get together for the children of Saint Mary's convent, Shillong on the 14th of December 2021. Every year the programme would involve the gathering of the children (invited from different institutions) around a Christmas tree; followed by a prayer meet, singing of carols , distribution of gifts, and participation in games of all kinds hosted by the final year students of the college. But since the onset of the pandemic in 2020 the pre - Christmas party celebration of the AASMC has taken a back seat. Normal programs cannot be organized due to social distancing measures. As such no Christmas celebration was possible in December 2020.

It was only in December 2021, with the slowing down of Covid cases that the Alumni Committee decided to organize a small get together as part of the pre Christmas celebration. However, the invitations could not extend beyond the children of Saint Mary's Convent, Shillong. The get together organized by the AASMC, began with a short prayer and the gifting of Christmas cakes as well as a special lunch for the children and the sisters of the convent. Although nothing much was done, yet the children managed to lighten everyone's spirit with special Christmas songs and a choreographed song and dance.





### **Extension Activities of the Alumni Association, St. Mary's College, Shillong**

Through the years, the Alumni Association of St Mary's College Shillong has extended its services to the less privileged members of the society. Every year, the association, in collaboration with the College Principal and some faculty members of the college, organise Christmas parties for the less privileged children living in different homes and orphanages in and around Shillong. The children from the orphanage in the college campus were always included in these programmes. The members collected money and contributions from various individuals and organisations. The money collected was used to purchase books, stationery, clothes and provide a Pre-Christmas lunch for the children, along with gifts. The day was always made special to each child as they were included in fun and games. The teachers of the college, along with some students organised Christmas carolling with these children around town.

These Pre-Christmas parties were always organised in the college Campus. But in 2019, the AASMC made an exception. They provided gifts and lunch to the children in the college orphanage and all the members visited the orphanage at Kharang village. A program was held for the children in which they too participated and they were presented with gifts and cash of Rs 5000/- . The members also provided lunch for the children and staff of the home.







## **FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF ST.MARY'S COLLEGE SHILLONG - CARNIVAL 2019**

The word Carnival itself brings forth the tremendous excitement in the hearts of everyone. The word spells enjoyment and an occasion of fun with friends. As part of its fundraising activities, the Alumni Association of St. Mary's College organised a carnival of food, games and music on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019. The programme began with a welcome address delivered by Dr. Sister Mary Harriet, Principal St. Mary's College. A lot of preparations and hard work went into making this carnival a successful event. The Alumni Association decided to have a variety of games and food stalls for the purpose to raised funds. All the departments from different streams was given the responsibility to be in charge of different game stalls. The students were divided into groups and deployed at each stall in such an organised manner that they got an opportunity to shoulder the responsibility of the stall. A large variety of food items were served at the various food stalls. The best part of these food stalls was that the prices were kept quite reasonable. There was a perpetual rush at the Naga food stall, the college campus pulsated with scintillating music and a lively crowd. The carnival had something in store for everybody be it children, college students or adults.

The Carnival came to an end in the evening with prizes for "Lucky Draw" being announced. The Carnival was a grand success, many students from different school and colleges attended the event. The success of the event can be seen in the confidence shown by our students and their active participation, our dedicated teacher's and the support and guidance of our Principal. The zest and zeal exhibited by an enthusiastic crowd of visitors and participants made the carnival a memorable one.



