

An Amazing Recovery from Himalayan Tsunami



TOGETHER-TOWARDS A BETTER TOMORROW - SINCE 1982

KARUNA SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY
(CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BIJNOR)

Balasaur, Kotdwara, Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand - 246149



Bishop's Message

It's been over a year since the tragedy took place...when thousands of lives vanished from the face of the earth... in some places, people are yet to recoversome places already recovered or apparently cleared the bruises...but scary memoires still haunt the hilly state. Karuna was one of the first to jump into action and rehabilitation. Karuna still continues to provide them with sustainable activities like vocational trainings, livelihood supports and trainings. The works of Karuna have always been worthy of praise for the efficient planning of strategies, painstaking management of risky situations and proficient execution of rescue and rehabilitation activities. Karuna literally has proved what karuna - the genuine mercy and compassion Jesus preached and practiced - is all about!

A word of thanks to the benefactors, well-wishers and people of good will....

Wishing God's choicest blessings on all of you

Bp. John Vadakel CMI
Bishop of Bijnor & Garhwal



सुरेन्द्र सिंह नेगी

मंत्री

चिकित्सा, स्वास्थ्य, परिवार कल्याण, आयुष,
आयुष शिक्षा, विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी, अर्द्ध सैनिक कल्याण,
गन्ना विकास एवं चीनी उद्योग



उत्तराखण्ड सरकार

विधान भवन, देहरादून

कक्ष सं. : 102 (A)

फोन : 2666766 (का.)

फैक्स : 2665900

मोबा. : 9837922262

दिनांक : 16-9-2014



“ सन्देश ”

यह हर्ष का विषय है कि करुणा समाज सेवा संस्था, बालासौड़, कोटद्वार (गढ़वाल) द्वारा विगत 32 वर्षों से गढ़वाल के दूरस्थ ग्रामों में जो निस्वार्थ सेवायें दी जा रही हैं, वह अत्यन्त सराहनीय है। मैं विगत कई वर्षों से करुणा सामाज सेवा संस्था को व्यक्तिगत रूप से जानता हूँ तथा संस्था समाज के विभिन्न वर्गों में विशेषकर दुर्गम एवं पिछड़े क्षेत्रों में लोगों के बीच जाकर उनके सामाजिक विकास, शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य के लिये निस्वार्थ भाव से समर्पित होकर कार्य कर रही है। संस्था द्वारा विगत वर्ष में उत्तराखण्ड में आई भीषण आपदा में प्रभावित लोगों के पुनर्वास एवं राहत कार्यों में सराहनीय कार्य किया गया, जिसे उत्तराखण्ड की जनता हमेशा याद करती रहेगी।

मुझे पूर्ण विश्वास है कि जिस प्रकार से संस्था द्वारा विगत कई वर्षों से गढ़वाल क्षेत्र के दूरस्थ एवं पिछड़े क्षेत्रों में उनके सामाजिक, शिक्षा के विकास एवं स्वास्थ्य एवं आपदा के समय पुनर्वास एवं राहत कार्यों में अपना अहम भूमिका निभायी गई, उसी प्रकार से भविष्य में भी अपना सहयोग प्रदान कर, उत्तराखण्ड राज्य के विकास में अपना महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती रहेगी।

मेरी ओर से करुणा समाज सेवा संस्था के समस्त परिवार को संस्था के उज्ज्वल भविष्य के लिये हार्दिक शुभकामनायें।

पुनः शुभकामनाओं सहित,

फादर पायस,

निदेशक,

करुणा समाज सेवा संस्था,

कोटद्वार (गढ़वाल)।

आपका

(सुरेन्द्र सिंह नेगी)





Director Speaks

Dear Friends, Benefactors and Well-wishers,

The past year, as all of you know, has really been a period of abundant blessings and several challenges for KSSS as we were reaching out to the needy people of the flood-hit areas, with relief and rehabilitation materials. In our relief and rehabilitation works, many individuals and NGOs generously extended their helping hands. With the help of all of them and with the unparalleled support each of you extended, KSSS could, in a great way, carry out the relief and rehabilitation activities which benefitted nearly eight thousand families that were badly affected by the floods. Nevertheless, KSSS is still continuing such activities whether it is livelihood restoration, provision of health and hygiene, trainings on vocational trades, construction of house and shelter or trainings on disaster risk reduction.

I am pleased to bring you a short report of the activities undertaken and carried out by KSSS during the past year, to keep you abreast of all our relief and rehabilitation programmes. I am sure, this would help you know more about the present status quo of KSSS.

Thanking you all wholeheartedly for all that you had been to KSSS throughout the year 2014 by way of your material, spiritual and moral assistance and wishing you a prosperous year ahead, I remain.

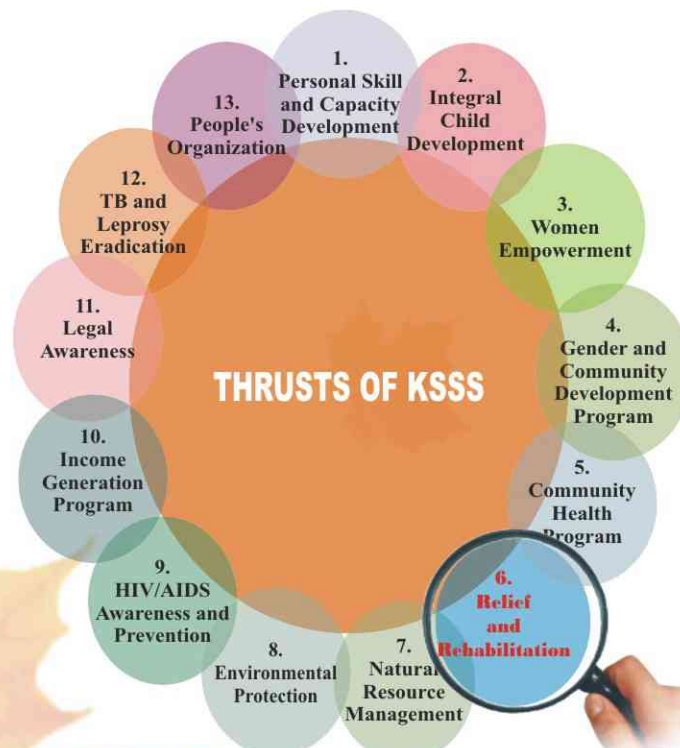
Fr. Pious Philip
Director,
KSSS



Karuna Through and Through



Karuna Social Service Society in Relief and Rehabilitation: The society established in 1982, through its 25 sub-centres covers 632 villages spread over in the seven districts namely Bijnor, Haridwar, Pauri, Tehri, Chamoli, Rudraprayag and Uttarkashi. It collaborates with the Government and innumerable NGOs in the area, sharing the concerns, providing and receiving expertises on training, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. These programs are towards a long term social transformation through community participation and decision making. The society from the very beginning, especially in Uttarkashi Earthquake-1991 and Chamoli Earthquake 1999 took bold steps in relief and rehabilitation. The works that Karuna did in Uttarkashi was a best model appreciated by the people and the government considering the participatory approach supported by sound technical earthquake resistant engineering skills in rehabilitation history than people's traditional approach. Karuna was also a medium of true service to people in Kalagarh and Mandawar Flash Flood 2010, Ukhimath and Uttarkashi Cloud Burst 2012 and in the latest Himalayan Tsunami-2013.



A Short Note on Himalayan Tsunami - 2013



The Wounded Beauty Queen: It was on 16th June 2013 the unexpected Himalayan Tsunami occurred. The beauty queen was badly struck by the flash floods triggered by very heavy 60 hours of non-stop rainfall and cloudburst in the 12 districts of Uttarakhand. The worst affected districts were Rudraprayag, Chamoli, Tehri, Uttarkashi and Pauri of Uttarakhand & Bijnor District, Uttar Pradesh. The torrential rain & landslides washed away roads, bridges, houses and other infrastructure. Thousands of deaths were reported and many are still missing.



Lives and property suffered tremendously due to continuous rain and cloudbursts. More than 150 bridges and 1300 connecting roads of Uttarakhand were damaged, some of them beyond the point of repair. Kedarnath and surrounding places were shattered into pieces claiming to be the worst hit area. Hundreds of houses in Rishikesh and Uttarakshi were submerged under the flooded River Ganges.



Badly Affected Lives of People ...

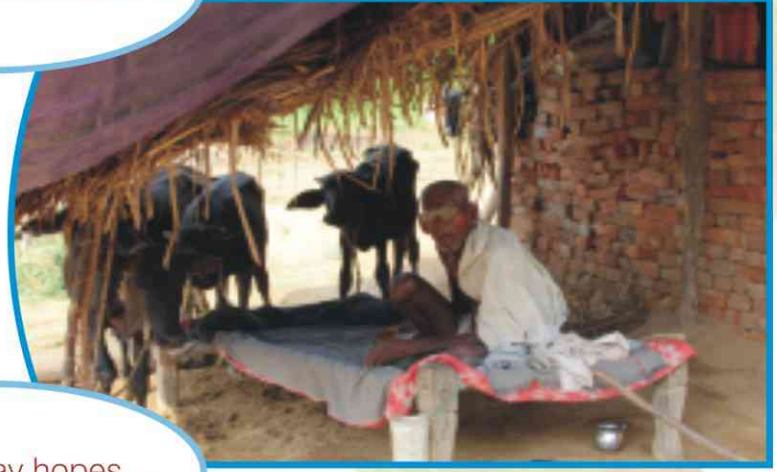


■ Worst Hit Area





Incomparable situations ...



Washed away hopes ...

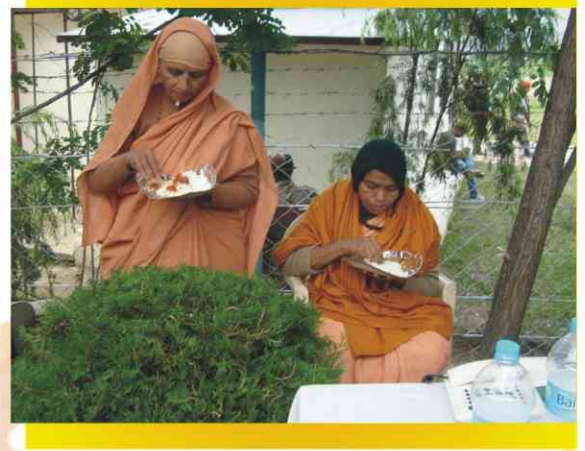
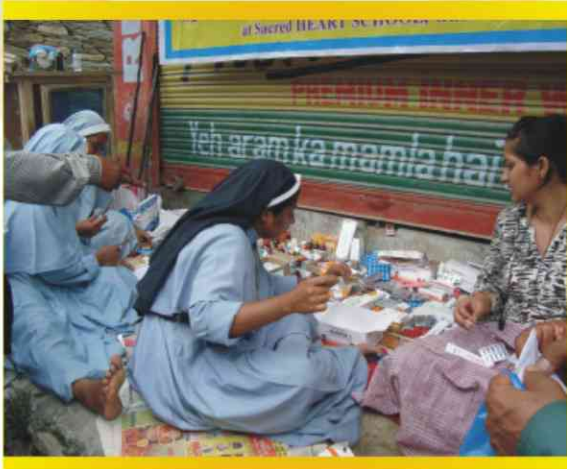


Struck by the fierce of
anger of the nature ...



Immediate Interventions by KSSS to Reach Relief in Risky Situations





**Reaching
the relief ...**



Karuna Social Service Society implemented fast relieving and alleviating relief and rehabilitation works in 6 Districts - Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, Pauri, Chamoli (Ghat), Tehri (Ghansali) of Uttarakhand and Bijnor(Mandawar) of Uttarpradesh soon after the disaster.

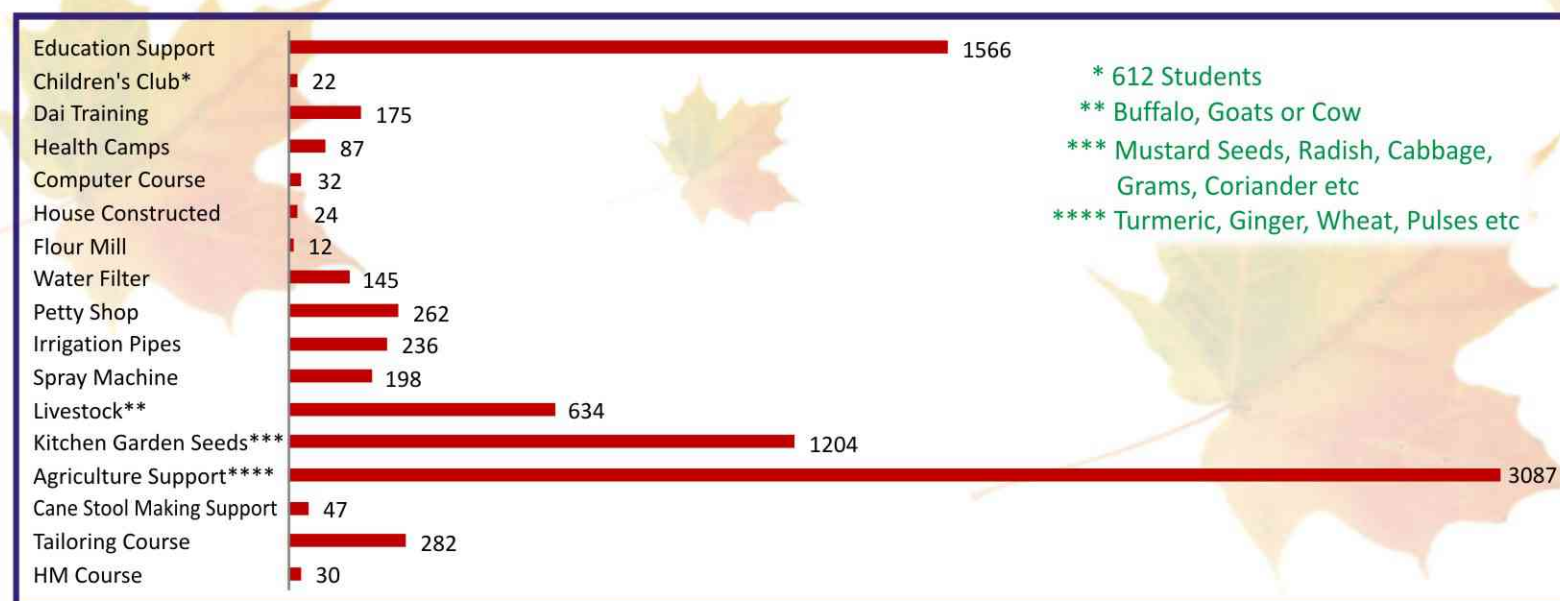


Activities with Strategic Plan and Commission

Activities in 6 Districts - Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, Pauri, Chamoli (Ghat), Tehri (Ghansali) and Bijnor(Mandawar)

The beneficiaries who completely depend on shops, agriculture and livestock rearing for their livelihood were supported based on the priorities through the refined process of detailed survey and assessment. Special focus was given to the most vulnerable subsets of the community.

- ☆ Families have lost earning members
- ☆ The poor families living below poverty line (BPL families)
- ☆ Families that have lost their belongings
- ☆ Families with vulnerable people (women, elderly, children, people with disability)
- ☆ Women headed families



Sweater Distribution



Livestock-Buffalo



HM Course Batch



House Construction



Children's Club



Tailoring Machine Distribution



Child Friendly Space



Dai Training



Computer Centre



Flour Mill



Livestock-Goats



Small Enterprise Support-Petty Shop



Health Camp



Agricultural Training



Agricultural Seed Distribution



Disaster Risk Reduction Training



Grass Chopper Distribution



Livestock-Cow



Cattle Feed Support



Evaluation of Children's Club



Study Material Distribution



Nutritious Food Distribution in Children's Club



Fr. Pious, the Director receiving a Note of Appreciation from the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand



उत्तराखण्ड शासन

मुख्यमंत्री उत्तराखण्ड

धन्यवाद ज्ञापन

उत्तराखण्ड में जून, 2013 में आई आपदा में प्रभावित व्यक्तियों को तत्काल राहत पहुँचाने में आपके अमूल्य योगदान के लिए आभार व्यक्त किया जाता है।

करुणा सोशल सर्विस सोसाइटी
Karuna Social Service Society

विजय बहुगुणा
विजय बहुगुणा

दिनांक: 13 दिसम्बर, 2013

Letter of Appreciation from Mr. Chandresh Kumar, D.M., Pauri

कार्यालय - 01368 222250
दस्तावेज नं. विलस - 222202
ऐलन - 222811, 222080



संस्थापक संस्थान

चन्द्रेश कुमार भा.प्र.से.



जिलाधिकारी, गढ़वाल
अ.शा.पत्र संख्या 199/अ.श.प्र.सं. 13
दिनांक पौड़ी जुलाई 15, 2013

प्रिय फादर फिलिप,

आपकी संस्था करुणा सोशल सर्विस सोसाइटी, बालासौंड, कोटद्वार, जनपद गढ़वाल द्वारा दिनांक 16 एवं 17.06.2013 को श्रीनगर गढ़वाल में दैवीय आपदा/अतिवृष्टि से बेघर हुए लोगों को तात्कालिक सहायता के रूप में खाने का सामान, कपड़े, शौचालय उपकरणों का वितरण किया गया एवं प्रभावित 71 परिवारों को रुपये 2700.00 (सत्ताईस सौ रुपये) प्रति परिवार की दर से की नगद सहायता स्थानीय प्रशासन के सहयोग से प्रदान की गयी।

2. साथ ही दिनांक 23 एवं 24 जून, 2013 को तहसील थलीरीण क्षेत्रान्तर्गत पैठाणी में बादल फटने से प्रभावित 122 परिवारों को रुपये 2700.00 (सत्ताईस सौ रुपये मात्र) की धनराशि एवं सोलर लैम्प प्रति परिवार की दर से वितरण स्थान प्रशासन के सहयोग से किया गया। आपके इस कार्य की भूरि-भूरि प्रशंसा की जाती है।

आशा है कि करुणा सोशल सर्विस सोसाइटी, बालासौंड, कोटद्वार, जनपद गढ़वाल भविष्य में भी जनपद एवं राज्य स्तर पर आपदा से प्रभावित एवं आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्ग की इसी तरह सहायता करता रहेगा। आपको एवं आपकी संस्था को ऐसे पुनीत कार्य को निष्ठापूर्वक चलाने के लिए मेरी ओर से हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं।

सद्भावना सहित,

भवनिष्ठ,

(चन्द्रेश कुमार)

फादर फादर फिलिप

निदेशक,

करुणा सोशल सर्विस सोसाइटी,

बालासौंड, कोटद्वार, जनपद पौड़ी गढ़वाल।



THOUGHTS COURAGE & BETTER TOMORROW - 2013 ON

Letter of Appreciation from Dr. Raghav Langer, D.M., Rudraprayag

To,

Fr. Pious Philip
Director
Karuna Social Service Society,
Balasaur, Kotdwar
Pauri Garhwal,
Uttarakhand

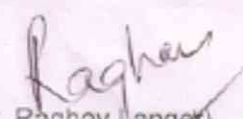


Sub: Appreciation Letter for the Selfless Service.

I am extremely delighted to place on record my appreciation to Karuna Social Service Society for the relief and rehabilitation activities carried out by the organization in Rudraprayag and other neighbouring districts of Uttarakhand after the flash flood occurred in the month of June, 2013. I know pretty well from different sources and have seen personally how the Catholic Diocese of Bijnor and Garhwal through Karuna Social Service Society is rendering commendable services in this region especially in the inaccessible areas of Rudraprayag district. I am convinced that the thousands of flood-affected victims of this region have benefitted from your selfless and dedicated services in the field of livelihood, health, education to the children and sanitation activities. I am sure that the farthest and neediest of the remote flood-affected villages have benefitted most from your relief activities.

Definitely, you have left behind a legacy of whole-hearted commitment, service without seeking reward and example of being fully human. I wish and pray that the citizens of our nation may be inspired and follow the rich ideals and example that your organizations have exhibited.

I wish that Karuna Social Service Society, Balasaur, Kotdwar will always remain a shelter for the less privileged and vulnerable people of our nation. I thank and wish you all the best for all your humanitarian activities.


(Dr. Raghav Langer)
I.A.S.
District Magistrate,
Rudraprayag.
बिना अधिकारी
रुद्रप्रयाग



Letter of Appreciation from Mr. S.A. Murugesan, D.M., Chamoli

एस.ए.मुरुगेशन
आई०ए०एस०
कलेक्टर / जिलाधिकारी, चमोली

अर्द्धशा०सं / 631/PA-2014
दिनांक 15/9/14 गोपेश्वर:



उत्तराखण्ड शासन

Appreciation Letter

The Flash Flood that occurred in June 2013 in the Chamoli district has created havoc in this region. The government machinery along with number of NGOs has worked tirelessly to provide relief and assistance to the affected people. Among these NGOs Karuna Social Service Society, (KSSS) KOTDWAR has played a commendable role. This prompt assistance to the affected people was made possible only because KARUNA's volunteers and animators have been working in these areas for quite some time. I am told, its volunteers by their selfless and dedicated services in the field of livelihood, health, education and sanitation helped thousands of flood-affected victims of this region.

I am happy to place on record my appreciation and gratitude to Karuna Social Service Society (KSSS) KOTDWAR for the relief and rehabilitation activities carried out by the organization. I am sure, the poor and needy of these remote villages of Garhwal did benefit from your relief and rehabilitation works. I hope KSSS - KOTDWAR may remain a committed and dedicated charitable organization that shelters the underprivileged and vulnerable people of our region. I wish all success to your humanitarian undertakings.

To,

Fr. Pious Philip,
Director,
Karuna Social Service Society,
Balasaur, KOTDWAR
Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand.


(S.A. Murugesan)
District Magistrate,
Chamoli
(UTTRAKHAND)



1. Case Study

My name is Ram Singh s/o Jaspal Singh from village Jakhari of district Chamoli, Uttarakhand. I had opened a small shop by toiling hard and saving a small amount. I was earning approximately 250 rupees per day from the shop and was supporting my family. But on 23 March 2014, robbers broke into the shop and took away all that I had. I gave myself up to fate and began again a tea shop and general stationery stall. But I never knew that fate was haunting me still. On 16 July 2014, I was fully broken when the monster waves of flash flood took away all that I had to live on.



My house and shop were vandalized by the destructive waves of flash flood. My family was really suffering and starving with no one around to help us.

It was then that Karuna Social Service Society, Kotdwar, through Maria Ashram Ghat, conducted a survey of the flood-hit families in remote villages. They managed to reach our village and collected information about our plight and gave us relief materials. Later, they promised to help us in restoring life back again.

I was indeed happy to see my name in the beneficiary list. On 7 of January 2014, I received various goods worth Rs. 20,000 to start a general shop. At present, I am earning more than Rs. 200 per day and I look after my family well. I am and I will be ever grateful to Karuna Social Service Society for this great help for having brought joy and hope back to my family.

2. Case Study

I am Dinesh Panwar from village Joshiyada, district Uttarkashi of Uttarakhand. I am a BPL card holder. I have 3 children and I live with my parents. I am the sole bread winner of the family. I was running a petty shop near the banks of Joshiyara Ganga. I was earning almost Rs. 200 per day to manage the expenditure of the household.



It was on 17 June, 2013 that the unexpected occurred in my life. My shop and house were fully washed away by the huge flood water. Thanks to God, no causality took place. When I had no more hope to live, Karuna came to our rescue. Karuna team enquired about my situation and promised to restore my shattered life. They supported me with Rs. 25,000. Now I am able to earn around Rs. 245 per day by selling 7 liters of milk. I am also going to open up a new vegetable shop for my wife so that we both will be able to support the family. My family is always indebted to Karuna Social Service Society for this great help.

3. Case Study

My name is Narmada Devi, w/o late Sri. Rajendra Prasad Bahuguna. I have three children. My aunt and uncle who are physically disabled from birth also live with me. My husband was the sole earning member of the family. He had a shop in Kedar Nath and a small piece of land adjacent to it. It was on the night of 17 June 2013, that the tragedy took place and my husband was washed away along with the shop. We were badly struck and had nothing to rely on. I lost all my hope and was thinking of ending my life. But a hope of ray came when the coordinators of Karuna Social Service Society came to my village and conducted



a survey of the worst hit families. They gave us food materials and cloths. They promised to support our family. On August 17, they gave us 3 goats and later, built a cattle shed. They also provided us with vegetable plants and a grass-chopping machine. My family is happy that we are gradually coming back to normal life. We are producing vegetables from our own garden and are able to meet our needs. We hope to earn more income in the future from goat-rearing as well. We are always grateful to Karuna Social Service Society for bringing back smiles into our family.

4. Case Study

I am Sanjay Singh, S/o of late Mr. Balweer Singh, who was washed away in the flash flood on 17 June 2013. I live in village Simla, district Bijnor of Uttar Pradesh. I have 2 sons and 3 daughters who are studying in a government school. I was the only bread winner of the family. I had a petty shop and 2 acres of cultivating land. We lived happily with what we had, never expecting any sort of disaster in our life. But on 17 June, we were struck by flash flood that washed away all that we had. My father was found missing from then and until today, we have not traced his body! All other members of the family were saved as they were away, attending a family function. Our life was totally devastated.



It was then that Karuna Social Service Society came for our rescue. They provided us with tarpaulin and other relief materials. They promised to help us and all those who lost their houses in my village. I felt a hope of ray in my life that was already darkened by despair and disillusionment. It is almost a month now since we shifted to the new house built by Karuna with the help of Camillian Task Force. We are steadily returning to normal life and we feel happy about it. Karuna also helped us in leveling the land mounted with mud and slush, and thanks to God, we have good crops this year. Our entire neighborhood also is enjoying the same benefits from Karuna and the village is back to normal life again.

We are Very Grateful to ...



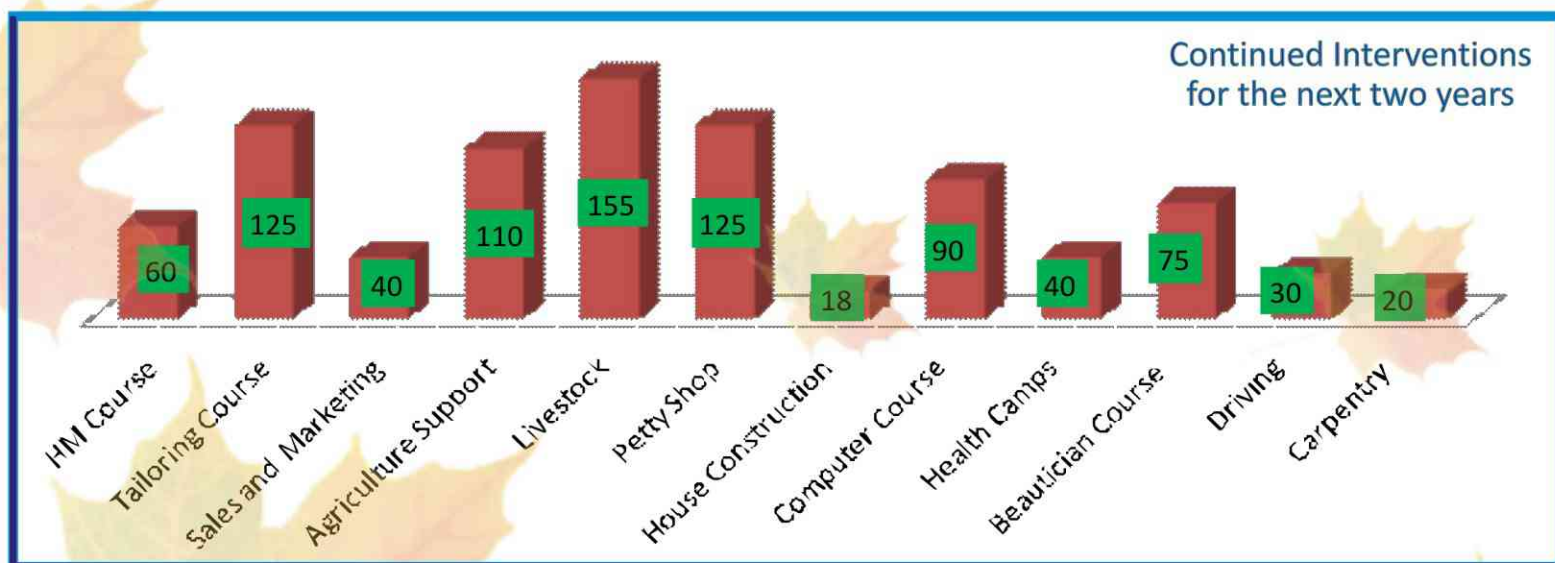
Thrissur Diocese
Gorakpur Diocese
Irinjalakuda Diocese
Faridabad Diocese
Varanasi Diocese
Lucknow Diocese
Jagadapur Diocese
Syro Malabar Catholic Church, Goa
Meerut Diocese
Sagar Diocese
St. Mary's School, Najibabad
St. Peter School, Nainital
Asha Niketan Hr. Sec. School, Nainital
St. Joseph's Co-Ed School, Bhopal

Jeevan Jyoti Convent School, Sitapur
St. Mary's Convent School, Faridpur
All Saints School, B.Puram
Jyoti Vidyalaya, Joshimath
Holy Family Convent Sr. Sec. School, Bhopal
Christ Jayanti School, Baria
Holy Family Convent School, Khurai
Holy Family Convent School, Gohanna
Assissi Convent School, Noida
Assissi Convent School, Etah
St. Joseph's School, Bombay
Nirmala Convent School, Bulandshahr
St. Thomas School, Pauri
Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida



Holy Cross Sr. Sec. School, Laxur
Chetanalaya, Delhi
Karunya Charitable Trust, Thrissur
Manav Vikas Sewa Sang, Sagar
Orange, New Delhi
Suchetana Social Service Centre, Kathgodam
Chawara Seva Samaj
Navjeevan Trust, Diocese of Rajkot, Gujarat
Fatima Convent School, Gaziabad
Adoration School, Orissa
Pushparam Province of CMC Sisters, Delhi
Gokhla Franciscan Society, Bhagalpur
Agnel Charities
Nirmal Matha Provincialate
Papal Seminary, Pune
Mr. Francis Pynadath
Masih Vidyapeeth, Agra
Mr. George Justine Rotary Club, Vazakulam
Fr. John Thottathimiyalil, Vazakulam
Fr. Sebastian Thottappilly, Ayathupady
Mother General, SABS Generalate, Aluva
Arulnilam Church, Gudalur
Mr. Pradeep S. Serrao
SHG Group, Bhikkawala
Mr. Norbert Peter

The Dharmodayam Company
Mrs. Sharon Lobo
Mr. Vimal Kenny and Family
Fr. Lijo Nirapel, Guwahti
St. Joseph Hospital, Roorkee
St. Mary's Knanaya Catholic Church, Kottayam
Missionary Society of St. Pius, Kottayam
Mrs. Murzella, Bombay
Mr. Gordon Jacinto
Mr. Arindar Yadav
Mr. Chhotebhai, Ajmer
Jyoti Prabha Society, Nainital
Mr. Thomas Pawathil
St. Sebastian Church, Thazekad
Nirmala Nikesten, Mumbai
Fr. Abraham, Belthangady Diocese
Women Commission, St. Francis Church, Dehradun
CMI Service
Mr. Joseph K.P., Trivandrun
Agra Arch Diocese
Social Service Society, Ajmer
Thalassery Diocese
Mount Carmel School, Hoshiyarpur
Therese and Henri, California, USA
Mr. Joseph Mathew, Saudi



SHATTERED BUT HOPEFUL...

He who created me made me exuberant.
I was full of green and ebullient with life



I was decked with green garments,
The mountains, valleys, the rivers,
It made me beautiful, amazing and holy.



The unexpected washed away my life
Broken, scattered and disfigured;
A grief struck heart groaning in pain.



My calmness and stillness has affected
Flows in me the bodies of my loving one's,
Calamity and fear, washing away peace.

Deeply wounded but not hopeless
my rescue is in God, my hope
Angels are born for the lost
To restore my beauty and happiness.



**God remembers those who suffer;
he does not forget their cry. (Ps 9:12)**

