In Karnataka we have 12 hostels that shelter 499 students and each one of them have skills and talents that are bringing them into the limelight. Vijayalaxmi Vakkund from AIM for Seva Free Student Hostel for Girls in Belgaum, Karnataka studies in 12th standard. She has won the 3rd prize at the state level competition in Kannada Prathibha Pariksha, a Kannada Scholarship Programme based on General Knowledge.

V. Gouramma studying in the 10th standard lives in Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Free Student for Girls in Yelahanka, Karnataka. She won the 1st prize in a school level essay writing competition held recently. The topic given was 'Contagious Diseases in Kannada' and Gouramma aced it! Her prize included a cash award of Rs. 750/-. 

G. Akkamahadevi studying in the 9th standard also participated in the competition and won the 2nd prize that included a cash prize of Rs. 500/-. 

Such news makes us proud. In our endeavour to touch lives of the people of rural India, witnessing their achievements, growth and prosperity makes us happy. And it is all because of donors and supporters like you!
Getting inspired!

Shri. Srimi Raman, COO, AIM for Seva Inc. USA spent a month in India and visited our projects across the country. His travels and interaction with our students and the local communities, have further inspired him to give the world his best. Here are three highlights from his visit:

**Wellness Centre Inauguration**: Though functional from last year, the Smt. Godavari Khilanani Wellness Centre at Manjakkudi Village, Tiruvarur District, Tamil Nadu witnessed a formal inauguration. The focus of this centre is to promote quality of life, healthy development and healthy behaviours among the students of Swami Dayananda Matric Higher Secondary School, Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science and the 1500 villagers living there.

**Zero Waste Hostel**: The Mayur Patel AIM for Seva Free Student Hostel for Boys in Kankapur, Gujarat has implemented good waste management practices. Installing the gobar gas plant, this hostel converts organic household waste or manure into cooking fuel.

**Welcome Home Baby Kit**: At AIM for Seva Shamlaji Hospital in Gujarat an ambulance is sent to the villages to pick up expectant mothers; after the delivery, each mother is given a ‘Welcome Home Baby’ kit which includes a multi-utility bag, changing sheets, post-pregnancy information sheet, a box of sweets and savouries and Rs. 250/- in cash. The pick up, drop and treatment is offered at no cost to all people irrespective of their economical status.

**Meet Gulab**: Growing up in Arsha Vidya Tirtha AIM for Seva Free Student Hostel for Boys in Jaipur, Rajasthan Gulab Damor is a 22 year old boy who is currently pursuing his PhD in music. Today, he supports the administrative work at the hostel.

Being friends with flamingoes

Our children at AIM for Seva Free Student Hostel in Chilamathur, Andhra Pradesh were taken for a day trip to Flamingo Festival 2018 in Sullurpet, Andhra Pradesh. The Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary is considered one of the biggest habitat for hundreds of pelicans and many other birds; flamingos, pelicans, siberian storks, open billed storks, night herons, egrets, little cormorant, golden backed wood pecker, spotted and ring doves, king fishers, painted storks, white necked storks, spoon bills and other species of birds presented a vibrant treat to the boy tourists at the sanctuary.


Coming up

All for girls!

A new free student hostel for girls will soon stand tall in the Kusumbhi village in Uttar Pradesh. Kusumbhi is a village in Nawabganj Block in Unnao District of Uttar Pradesh State, India. It is situated 132 km from the state capital, Lucknow. The bhoomi pooja has been completed successfully and the building ground is setting up its foundation to nurture the young minds who would soon be living with us.

Our future projects

New Free Student Hostel for Boys in Dighawat, Uttar Pradesh

From electricity shortage to lack of water supply, rationing of food grains to pinching unemployment, people of Dighawat village in the Bhadohi district of Uttar Pradesh have been struggling to make their ends meet. This crisis is preventing many children to go to school and also resulting in increase in percentage of dropouts. To help the children, AIM for Seva is building a new free student hostel in Dighawat to educate and lead the children towards a path of fulfillment. The Bhoomi Pooja is over and we are expecting a new hostel is in the making.

New school in Madhya Pradesh

The bhoomi pooja for a new co-education school has been completed and the foundation to transform lives of the rural children around the region is in progress. The foundation stone was laid for the school in Khargone, Madhya Pradesh. Smt. Bimla Kishor and Shri. Jugal Kishor flew in from California expressly to partake in the ceremony. It was well-attended by over 200 local people and the Deputy Secretary and District Collector were Guests of Honour. This five-acre plot is designed to be a residential school for rural children. In the village of Padali in Khargone District of Madhya Pradesh, 50 km from Indore and 24 km from Omkareshwar, set on a land of 5 acres, we also plan to set up free hostels for boys and girls, provide a rural ambulance service and create a health sanitation programme for the local community.

Improved sanitation facilities in Sembangudi, Tamil Nadu

With the support of donors and crowdfunding via Milaap, we’ve been able to raise sufficient funds for the construction of two new toilet blocks at Sembangudi Higher Secondary School in Sembangudi, Tamil Nadu. At present there are only 10 toilets for the entire school of 1300 children. This lack of adequate toilet facilities has been a primary reason for dropouts especially among adolescent girls; many students often forgo their entire lunch break to stand in queues to use the toilets. A few donors from the USA also stepped forward to help construct a new office room block for the school. The bhoomi pooja was recently performed and the construction of the two projects will begin this month.

Success lies in hardwork

Sathyabama S is studying commerce 1st year in Government Arts College in Udumalpet, Tamil Nadu. She is the first person in her family to go to school and college. Over the last four years she has been at Atmalyam Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Free Student Hostel for Girls. Sathyabama grew up at AIM for Seva’s Free Student Hostel in Dharmapuri and scored 77% in her class 10 public examinations. She continued to stay at AIM for Seva’s Free Student Hostel in Udumalpet since 2015 and scored 84% in her class 12 examinations. “My mother sells idlis for a living, while my father works at odd jobs. The family income is not steady. My parents decided to keep my two siblings at home and send me to the hostel, so that I can focus on my education. I will work hard and excel,” explains this charming and ambitious girl.
**Backyard tales**

Boys at our AIM for Seva Free Student Hostel in Basira, Odisha have grown sweet potatoes in the hostel backyard. The boys are excited, the warden is thinking up some great recipes for them and for us and we are happy to promote and spread the value of gardening amongst the children. Such engaging activities give the children a complete learning experience during their stay with us.

**Events and Fests**

**Where students and parents enjoyed together**

Remember the annual day preparation photographs of our children living in AIM for Seva Free Student Hostel for Boys in Bobbili, Andhra Pradesh posted a few days back? It was held at the Kalinga Vaishya Bhavan, Bobbili. The students sang songs, danced to music and put up a play. What was most delightful was watching both the students and the parents enjoy the programme together. In the audience were present, Shri. Sai Ramesh – Secretary, local community body, Shri. V. Satyanarayana Moorthy – Retd. Head Master and Shri. Krishna Reddy - Co-ordinator and other club members.

**Art for development**

AIM for Seva in association with Titan exhibited the artworks created by the children through the ‘Art for Development: A Window to Creative Expression 2017 in Bengaluru at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath.


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