

FAITH FOUNDATION, SHILLONG
Annual Report 2014 - 2015

About this Report:

The annual report provides an overview of the work of *Faith Foundation*. This report covers the work on the organisation's second year since its inception in the 2013. The year 2014 marks the beginning of significant support extended in the form of fellowships from important sources in and around the North East.

There were a lot of breakthroughs in the year 2014. Faith Foundation was able to reach out to many schools and communities in and around Shillong. The growth of the Organization in the past two years has been immense and still growing. In 2014, the Organization received its first grant and was able to implement its first project. It was during this year that institutions and schools became aware of the Organization. It received support in the form of fellowships from important donors who were willing to help the Organization's efforts in reaching out to as many children and young women.

Messages from Board Members

Father Jerry Thomas, Director , Bosco Institute, Jorhat.

There are times when one is forced to pause and wonder at and admire the guts of individuals and groups who are willing to forego the comfortable, stray from the beaten path and plunge "recklessly" into things that they believe in, that they are passionate about. Getting to know the young, vibrant go getters who founded the Faith Foundation was one such occasion. Four young women, with their individual experience and expertise, converging and weaving together a common dream, is amazing. And they had nothing to base their dream on except faith - faith in themselves, in the goodness of those around them, in the power of pain to instil the desire for change, in the source of their inspiration.

Faith Foundation is gradually bringing into public consciousness issues and problems that are very uncomfortable and hence mostly wished away by families, educational institutions, communities and even by the administration - issues of child abuse, substance abuse especially among women and HIV/AIDS, which are in some ways closely connected. Preventive education and vigilance in educational institutions and communities has been its primary strategy. Working closely with teachers, parents, community members and children, the Faith Foundation team wants to create an environment where children and adolescents feel empowered, safe and can grow up healthy. And the team does it with so much enthusiasm, cheerfulness and love.

I wish Faith Foundation a long, adventurous and fulfilling journey towards the realisation of its dream. God Bless.

Mr. Wanphai Nongrum, Founder, Path to Creation.

"I met Shannon while I was still working in Mumbai. She visited my office and in this short visit I was able to introduced and share my work with her. In Shillong, I managed to reconnect with her and discovered the work that she along with her friends have been doing and are passionate about. In the first meeting with the team of Faith Foundation, I did an activity and managed to turn waste paper to stone like shapes as I was unable to find any stones. The activity was about writing their names and their meanings on the paper stones. I was thrilled with the outcome of the activity. Meeting the team of Faith Foundation was overwhelming as I found myself once again to do the work that I am immensely passionate about."

About Faith Foundation:

Faith Foundation is an organization founded by four young courageous women. These women came together to ponder on safeguarding the rights of women and children and protecting them from the shackles of society. Their passion became a purpose to educate issues relevant to children and young women in society. Thus, Faith Foundation was formed by Ms.Shannon Dona Massar, Ms.Darhmingliani Hloncheu, Ms.Maniung Niangti and Ms.Barida Laloo.

THE WORK IN PROGRESS:

Empowering Children to protect themselves

Faith Foundation uses rights based approach and prevention as one of the key strategies in combating the issues of child sexual abuse, trafficking for sexual exploitation, substance abuse and HIV/AIDS. The Organization addresses the increasing risk of these issues in children through Programs in schools and child care institutions. So far, Faith Foundation has reached out to 5 schools and 3 child care institutions with a total of 2560 children and 70 stakeholders i.e. parents, teachers and social work students. The Organization reaches out to children and young women between the age of 8-18 years old. School programs are participatory in nature and it has active learning participatory methods like group discussions and presentations, storytelling, workbooks and worksheets and visual aid by the use of documentaries or video clips. The interactive sessions with children are child friendly using child appropriate language and rights based approach.

Community Outreach and Networking:

The organisation works with SOS children's village under their family strengthening program to reach out to children and women in the communities.

On the 30th of September 2014, children who are from the Family Strengthening Program of SOS children's Village visited Faith Foundation as an orientation visit to meet and interact with the children of the life skills program in Faith Foundation. Through this program the children from the rural and urban were able to identify and understand each other problems.

The organisation reached out to two villages namely Umroi Umktieh and Mawlyndep and programs on child rights and child protection was conducted with the care givers or the children in these two villages in the month of October 2014 and January 2015. Faith Foundation was also invited to conduct a program on the 11th of October 2014 to celebrate the day which is marked as "Girl Child Day" by the United Nations. In this program the girls were taught about the importance of education. Girls were also taught on personal safety. Community mapping on the problems of Mawlyndep village was held on the 17th of January 2015 with SOS Children's village under their Family Strengthening program. It was conducted with the youth group of the village through participatory exercises. It assisted them in identifying problems, root causes of problems and possible solution to the problems that they face in their village.

LIFE SKILLS PROJECT (CARITAS INDIA)

Since 2013, Faith Foundation started a two week Life Skills workshop with vulnerable girls living in slum areas and it has continued conducting the workshop every now and then. These girls were exposed to different kinds of skills and were even a part of a musical concert conducted by Martin Luther Christian University, Shillong. The Organization wanted to reach out to more girls living in high risk communities. Therefore, Faith Foundation received a small grant from Caritas India with Social Service Centre of Archdiocese, Shillong, as the legal holder of the grant to implement a 3 months micro Life Skills project from November 2014 to February 2015. The main title of the project is "Awareness and control of young women and child trafficking from North East by empowering young girls through Life Skills Program". The main goal of this project is to prevent trafficking of women and children from North East India by empowering young girls with life skills education to reduce their risks and vulnerability. The project became a safe space for 30 girls and young women indentified from high risk areas. The Life Skills education was conducted with the girls via an experiential methodology and active learning participatory methodology. It's a rights based approach which includes focus group discussions, group learning, storytelling, visual aids like documentaries and video clips, exposure and field trips to vocational training centers.

Success Case Stories

Ruby* is a 15 year old girl who stayed away from home and sometimes does not return home and would go missing once in a while. The case was referred to Faith Foundation by a Youth Group from a community in Shillong who at first suspected she was involved in prostitution. Faith Foundation intervened in this case and found out that the reason the girl kept running away from home was the constant abused by her mother. The girl endured physical and verbal abuse every day. The case was taken to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and the girl was placed at the safe custody of her elder sister. Family members of the girl were called to the CWC and they all gave statements of the girl's mother being abusive to her children and the elder sister had also endured the same kind of abuse. Ruby's elder sister also ran away from home when she was young and was at a Government' run Children's home till she was 18 years of age.

After the intervention, Ruby attended the Life Skills Program at the Organization's centre and received counseling as well. Ruby's elder sister has a family of her own and it was difficult for her to take care of Ruby. Faith Foundation in consultation with the CWC decided that it was best to admit Ruby in a boarding school. In lieu of the said situation of Ruby, a support came in from a Pastor of a local church who was running a school sponsorship program and he included Ruby in the program. Ruby now stays at a boarding school in Shillong and on holidays, she would go home to her sister or her aunts.

*name changed to protect identity.

Priyanka and Priscilla:

Priscilla and Priyanka have been beneficiaries of the Organisation since 2013. They were part of the life skills program and have now been inducted into livelihood training. They are both school drop outs.

Staff Development:

- Ms. Maniung Niangti on account of her fellowship program with Changelooms Pravah, attended the workshop "Ocean in a drop" at Delhi from the 1st – 5th April, 2014. It was a self-awareness and leadership development program.
- Ms. Shannon Dona Massar was invited to attend and participate at the World Indigenous Legal Conference 2014 held at Brisbane Australia from the 21st- 27th June 2014. She spoke at the Women's Talking Circle about the work of Faith Foundation and also about the issues on indigenous women and children of Meghalaya.
- Staff Training on Social work Professional Ethics on the 22nd August, 2014 conducted by Ms. Shannon Dona Massar.
- Staff Training on "Get Real", a deep self-awareness workshop on the 29th August, 2014 conducted by Ms. Katia Chakre.
- On the 18th – 20th October, 2014, two members from Faith Foundation attended a Media workshop training at Don Bosco Institute, Guwahati with DKA partners. This training was on the different kinds of media tools such as comics, wall newspapers, blog and website creation that can be used at the grass root level in communities and in organisations. On returning these two members trained the other members of the organisation. The social work students from Martin Luther Christian University also actively participated in the workshop held in the organisation.
- On the 3rd of October, 2014, training on community tools and techniques was conducted at the office of the organisation. A youth based organisation name *Laweiphrynai* from Ri Bhoi District were the trained resource.
- The Review Meeting of Youth Involve was held on the 8th- 9th December, 2014 at Dimapur, Nagaland. Three members from Faith Foundation and two other organisations participated in this meeting. Trainings on organisational and program management were conducted in this review meeting.
- Weave your Dreams workshop was conducted on the 31st January, 2015 by Mr Wanphai Nongrum under his initiative "Path to Creation". This workshop was attended by two members from Faith Foundation. The workshop was about developing the skills of self-awareness, understanding and realising individual aspirations with relevance to life.
- Two members of Faith Foundation attended a demo workshop on communication tools which can be used with the adolescents for the Organization's community outreach programs. It was organised by Thoughtshop Foundation in Kolkatta.
- A training on Community Mobilisation organised by DKA – KFB for the North East Partners at Bosco Reach Out Guwahati from the 15th March to the 20th March 2015. A full time volunteer of the Organisation attended this program.

Organisation Retreat

The founder of *Path to Creation*, Mr. Wanphai Nongrum, led a two day organizational retreat for the members and current volunteers of Faith Foundation. The retreat was held at Shillong and the team were able to spend 8 hours a day. During the retreat diverse range of tools and methods were incorporated.

The retreat focussed on the journey of the members as well as volunteers of Faith Foundation. This retreat was an understanding on the success and challenges that comes while working for the Organization.

After the retreat, the team members and volunteers were able to acknowledge the power and meaning that the stories of others hold for oneself and intertwined with the work they are responsible.

Messages from Volunteers

Here are some of the messages from the volunteers working for Faith Foundation:

Ms. Idarilin Kharmujai- "It has been an overwhelming experience to be a part of the team "Faith Foundation". I joined Faith Foundation as a volunteer and as there is a saying "expect the unexpected", I was so carried away with so many attitude to myself, with the enthusiastic to learn new things, develop an experience to work directly with children, explore more than what students frequently do and to come out of the nut shell. A platform was open for me when I became a part of the "Community Mobilization" workshop. It has given me confidence and moulded my personality as a social worker. To quote "unity is strength" and the co-founders of Faith Foundation have inspired and helped me throughout my journey."

Ms. Riker Ryntathieng- "The trust and the acceptance of all the four founders of the Organization has made me realized that passion and hard work can open doors to people like me who doesn't come from any social work background. Everything starts with a small step and the Organization's members have taught me the basic of social work and an exposure to its training and programs. Earlier, I was just an observer and it was during this time that I learn about the work. The journey with the Organization has made me more confidence and being open to change and welcome new ideas that will help me grow with the work I do."

FINANCIAL STATEMENT –

Youth Involve Community Programs For The Months Of September 2014 To July 2015

BUDGET HEAD	AMOUNT BUDGETTED	AMOUNT SPENT	VARIANCE (B-C)
PERSONNEL COSTS: STAFF SUPPORT			
Director	30000	30000	0
Program Manager	30000	30000	0
Counsellor	30000	30000	0
Accountant	30000	30000	0
PROGRAM COSTS:			
Community awareness program	30000	7700	22300
Rapid assessment	10000		10000
Other programs	16500	3625	12875
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS:			
Office maintenance	6000	5799	201
Audit fees	5000	3500	1500
FIXED ASSETS:			
Furniture & fixture	12500	12236	264
WORKSHOP FOR STAFF		23024	
TRAVEL FOR STAFF (Income tax hearing)		8520	
TRAVEL FOR STAFF (IYONS, Chennai)		11955	
TOTAL	200000	196359	3641

YOUTH INVOLVE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

BUDGET HEAD	AMOUNT BUDGETTED	AMOUNT FOR THE PERIOD	AMOUNT SPENT	VARIANCE (C-D)
PROGRAM COSTS				
School/ Institution programs	52000	51336	36952	14384
Information materials	5000	5000	5000	0
PERSONNEL - 4 animators				
Honorarium	48000	48000	48000	0
Honorarium for 2 volunteers	13000	24000	24000	0
ADMINISTRATION				
Communication	10000	10000	10000	0
TOTAL	128000		123952	4048

(Attached Audit Statement)

Our Supporters

The members of Faith Foundation would like to thank all the donors and fellowships that have helped them to make their work and achievements a success. We thank the YI fellowships and initiative of Bosco Institute, Jorhat, Caring Friends fellowship and ANT (North East Chapter). We also extend our hearty gratitude to all the interns of Martin Luther Christian University, Shillong, Mizoram University, Mizoram, Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS), Mumbai, and the Bosco Institute, Jorhat and the tireless volunteers who have been and are still a part of the Organization. Their generosity and relentless help will be forever grateful.

Names Of Individual Donors:

Ms. Belinda Sohkhlet	Ms. Amika Kharmawphlang	Mr. Demann Jyrwa
Ms. Sweety Pala	Ms. Virginia Malngiang	Mr. Prabhat Sawian
Mr. Michael Syngkon	Ms. Megdalene Pyngrope	Mr. Vivek Syiem
Ms. Radha Krishnan	Ms. Shilula Imchen	Ms. Joyfully Pathaw
Ms. Noreen Sangma	Mr. Samuel Rani	Ms. Phidalin Lyngdoh
Ms. Ibadahunshisha Lyngdoh Mawphlang		

How you can Help us?

Faith Foundation is a work in progress. In a span of two years, the Organization has developed skills and has learned tremendously. Communities and educational institutions are becoming aware of an organization named Faith Foundation. The Organization has many more miles to go and humbly seeks more help from different sources to help the programs and activities run by the Organization. The Organization seek financial support to sustain its working members, to maintain its office, consultancy from different organizations and more volunteer support necessary for programs and other activities.

