Faith Foundation

A glimpse of the work of the Organization of the year 2016-17

Faith Foundation reached out to three communities in the year 2016-2017. The three communities were Mawprem, Umsawriang and Sylei-u-lar. The organization stressed on these three communities with a responsibility to build and uplift the members of these communities offering them with various community development programs. These programs are meant to create a safety net for adolescent girls and women.

Honour, Love, Respect Women!

Faith Foundation celebrated International Women’s Day, 2017. The program was conducted in Mawprem on the 11th, March, 2017. The organization collaborated with a women’s group to help celebrate women’s respect and achievements. The event was held with the community, school teachers, NGOs and student of social work department. The students of Fine Arts Department of Martin Luther Christian University enthralled the crowd with traditional music. On the same day, the organization conducted an NGO mela with organizations working with women and children. Some of these NGOs were the Grassroots, Voluntary Health Association of Meghalaya, North East Network, You and I Arts Cafe and Childline. The organization also conducted this auspicious day at Sylei-u-lar and Umsawriang on the 13th and 22nd of March, 2017. The programs with these two communities were on women’s rights and linking it with gender equality. The Resource person was Mrs. B. Lyngdoh from the North East Network and Ms. M. Rytathang from the Grassroots Organization. They stress mainly on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality.
The life skills session was held in Mawprem, Syllei-u-lar and Umsawriang. The sessions were conducted every Saturday. The social work students of Martin Luther Christian University were placed in Umsawriang and Syllei-u-lar for one month and stayed in these communities. The students mobilized adolescent girls through home visits for the life skills program. Mawprem was still a challenge for the organization. The organization conducted only a one week workshop in the month of December, 2016. The organization decided on a different strategy as most of the girls do not come for the life skills programs. The new strategy was to collaborate with one children ministry and to have workshops with the adolescent girls during the winter vacation. The organization through the Life Skills Programs targeted 90 adolescent girls in all the three communities. However, as the sessions progressed, a few of the adolescent girls dropped out and were no longer interested in the sessions.
Let the Music Speak!

As a part of the life skills program, the organization conducted a music workshop in collaboration with the Fine Arts Music Department of Martin Luther Christian University. Mr. MebanLyndoh and his colleague were the facilitators for the workshop. The two facilitators displayed two instruments to the adolescent girls. These two instruments were the wind chime bamboo and the Dymphong which was a local instrument. The facilitators explained to the adolescent girls on how these two instruments were made and crafted.
Stories in Comics

Faith foundation conducted a comics workshop in the three communities. Syllei-u-lar and Umsawriang were clubbed together for the workshop. The comics workshop was conducted mainly to help children express and capture facts and reality which they see within their community, to create issues into a story and stories into comics and to help them carry the message to a larger audience. It is a strong communication tool for the children to convey their message to a large community. The issues that the children came up with were poverty, child rights, relationship, eve teasing, alcoholism and social responsibilities.

A Cafe with a Purpose

Faith Foundation was the legal holder of the project “You and I- Arts Cafe” by Path to Creation which was started by Mr. Wanphai Nongrum. Faith Foundation managed the finances of the project which was being funded by the ANT - Caring Friends, and Drishti.

“You and I-Arts Cafe” is a cafe where ideas, exchange of information and social interaction gives way to a positive growth and development, to understand and discover more about oneself. The cafe also holds talks where resource persons and facilitators give presentations or activities to inspire with an important focus on the youths. The cafe displays many arts and crafts work which are for sale made by different artists and craftsmen from across Shillong.

Teaching Children the Skills to Protect Themselves

Faith Foundation organized the Prevention Safety Education Program (PSEP) in 3 schools. They are Pearly Dew School, Synod Higher Secondary School and St. Margaret Higher Secondary School. The organization was able to reached out to 1277 adolescent girls.
Collaboration with North East Network

The PSEP programs were conducted with various schools. The programs were in collaboration with the North East Network (NEN). The North East Network (NEN) organized school programs in 5 schools in Lawsohtun, Shillong from the 29th to the 31st, August, 2016. NEN invited Faith Foundation as a resource organization to conduct sessions in the 5 schools. Faith Foundation conducted the PSEP programs with the 5 schools from Class-3 to Class-10. Pine View Academy School, Lawsohtun Lower Primary Presbyterian School, Lawsohtun Upper Primary Presbyterian School, Seng Khasi Raid Laban Secondary School and Child Friendly School were the 5 schools that received the PSEP sessions conducted by the Faith Foundation organization. The organization reached out to 373 students during the PSEP sessions.

Helping people, Changing lives

Faith Foundation conducted an awareness program on Child Sexual Abuse and POSCO Act in Mawprem. The members of the organization addressed the issue of child sexual abuse. They talked about child abuse and the different types of abuse. Mrs. Angela Rangad from an organization called Thma U Rangli (TUR) gave awareness to the community on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POSCO) Act, 2012. She mentioned that the POSCO Act came into force on the 14th, November, 2012. She enlightened the community on the Act by saying that if someone hides the information of the commission of the offence that person was liable to be punished with imprisonment for a term which might extend to one year along with a fine.

AWARENESS PROGRAM ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND POSCO ACT 2012 AT MAWPREM
Building Leaders

Faith Foundation collaborated with the Grassroots organization and came up with a program on ‘Building Leaders’ from August to December, 2016. The program was held for the students of Sankardev College in Shillong. The program was aimed to initiate discussion with youths of colleges on social issues, careers and personality development. The program was to see young minds share, open their challenges and successes and hopefully witnessed a transformation in their thinking pattern that will eventually make them contributing citizens and leaders. The organization was able to express and discussed social issues with 830 students of the college.

WORKSHOP AT SANKARDEV COLLEGE

All about Natural Farming

The organization felt the need for organic farming and food security as an approach in their community outreach programs. Therefore, Faith Foundation organised sessions with the community of Syllei-u-lar and Umsawriang on Organic Farming. The main objective of organising sessions on organic farming was to promote health and organic ways of farming, revitalization of Mother Earth and future food security. Out of these sessions, the organization was able to witness the result of organic produce from one of the communities they worked with. The farmers were able to use organic home-made formulas to strengthen the soil and at the same time prevent plant related diseases.
Hugs not Drugs! Rethink before Drink!

A street play was conducted in Mawprem on the effects of alcohol and abuse. This was a new strategy implemented in Mawprem by the organization. The students of Martin Luther Christian University under the supervision of Faith Foundation conducted the street play. The main aim of the street play was to spread information on the ill effects of drugs and alcohol. The play was about a broken family and the pangs of a brutal society and the changes the family took in their hands and came out better servers of society.

STREET PLAY ON THE EFFECTS OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL AT MAWPREM

Communicating with Effective Tools

The organization designed and produced new and effective communication tools on gender sensitization for their learning programs. The communication tools were adapted from Thoughtshop Foundation tools and were reworked based on the relevance of the khasi matrilineal society. The organization designed Personal Safety Education Programs (PSEP) tools like charts and worksheets and they are being used during the PSEP sessions and for future use as well. The communication tools developed will be used as educative and learning tools for conducting life skills training, leadership building, workshops and programs in communities.
A Board Colloquium

A board colloquium was conducted on the 12th November, 2016 and Miss Jennifer Liang and Ms. BalawansukLynrah from the Action North-East Trust (ANT) were the facilitators of the program. The staff members along with the facilitators discussed on the theory of Change of the Organization. During the session, Miss Jennifer Liang talked about the life cycle of an organization being born and being in the form of an embryo. She gave a dramatic comparison of an organization to a human body with the board being the brain of the organization. She gave example of the face being the Executive Director, Body as team leaders and coordinators. The legs represent the field staff and both the arms represent the Finance and the Administration. The heart which is also an important part of the organization represents Passion which includes the vision, mission and the reasons for the existence of the organization. Miss Jennifer Liang also talked about the functions of the board and the four kinds of pillars of Governance i.e. the Accountability, Fairness, Transparency and Responsibility.

The newly appointed members of the Board Colloquium are Miss IbasaralynThabah as the President of the board, Miss Shannon Dona Massar, Mr. Michael Syngkon, Miss Ibaphidahun Shisha Lyngdoh, Miss MarlykyntiHynniewta, Miss Belinda Sohkhet, Miss Karen Lalrindiki Donoghue, MissEdaneollaKunta, Miss CrosslinMarbaniang, MissAvanaSwer and Miss AmikaKharma pawphlang.