# **PHILANTHROPIC ACTIVITIES**

# VARIOUS PROGRAMMES & EVENTS HELD DURING THE YEAR 2020-21

#### ALUMNI ACTIVITES AND PROGRAMMES:

- The alumni association organized a health camp at the Raghabpur Campus on 12th December 2020. 550 patients registered for the camp. Eye Glasses were provided to 150 patients while 74 cataract surgeries were performed.
- Other philanthropic activities included disbursing monetary aid and everyday necessities to families and villages affected by the Amphan cyclone.



# Covid Vaccination Drives, Philanthropic & Other Activities of the College and its Alumni Association During 2021.

### Covid Vaccination Drives:

A series of free-of-cost Covid Vaccination Camps were organized at the Park Street and Raghabpur Campus of the College with the help of Department of Health & Family Affairs, Government of West Bengal, KMCauthorities, private hospitals and health centres, St. Xavier's College and its alumni association celebrated 10,000 in-campus, free-of-cost Covid vaccination landmark. Father President conveyed his heartfelt thanks to the Jesuit Fathers, all the service providers and benefactors comprising, college staff and medical workers for making this possible.





## **Philanthropic Activities**

Through the Covid 1st and 2nd waves, the alumni association of the College has been continuing its philanthropic activities and has even provided financial support to some of our members.

In April 2021, the Alumni Association supported by its almamater introduced "SXCCAA Help" – a dedicated team of volunteers working a 24x7 helpline for Covidpatients and their family members. More than 500 Covid patients were benefited.

In May 2021, the Lions Club of Burdwan Children Hospital were provided with PPE kits, face shields, hand sanitizers, disposable hand gloves for distribution to frontline health workers.

• On 13th May 2021, the Alumni Association along with the College provided a range of food items and essential commodities to an NGO named, 'Save the Orphans and Old Age' situated in Rania, in South 24 Parganas.



Around 100 support staff members of the College were personally provided with

dry ration packets by Fr. Principal and other Jesuit Fathers.

• On 26th May 2021, after the Yaas cyclone, the College and the Alumni Association came forward with a comprehensive relief and rehabilitation drive.

Many other initiatives followed. From 1st June 2021 onwards, two food vans were deployed to serve cookedhot meals to 1500 people per day in the affected areas. Food materials, essential commodities and dress materials were also sent to 4 worst affected blocks of Purba Medinipur. A second consignment of relief and rehabilitation materials were sent to other cyclone affected villages in other blocks of Purba Medinipur District.

From 4th June 2021, continuous Medical Camps in association with the block and district administration in Purba Medinipur District as well as various private medical service providers were facilitated. Medicines, pulse oximeters, face masks and sanitizers were sent to these medical camps.

On 9th June, 2021, a large consignment of relief materials was also sent to the nearby villages of Paikhala in South 24 Parganas. More than 7000 homeless villagers benefited from this initiative.

 On 24th July 2021, the annual Philanthropy Day 2021 was celebrated by the Alumni Association, on the occasion of the birthday of the President of the Association, Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio. Gifts and useful necessities were handed over to the inmates of various NGOs.

The College and Alumni Association were gifted 2 Covent Ventilators from Banglaworldwide.com, an online forum to unite culturally conscious Bengali population scattered across the globe. Those Covent Ventilators were given to College Infirmary for any emergency situation.

• In an effort to bring smiles to the underprivileged and needy people on the occasion of Durga Puja, St. Xavier's College along with its Alumni Association organised a programme titled, "Festival of Giving" on 5th October 2021.



 On 2nd November 2021, the members of the Governing Council of the Alumni Association, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, distributed food, essential items and gifts, as part of the continuing philanthropic activities. The relief materials were distributed to more than 250 beneficiaries as the initiative, namely "Spread the Light", was a befitting way to mark the Diwali celebrations!

### **Activities by National Chapters**

- In anticipation of a probable 3rd wave which could affect women and children, the North Bengal Chapter of our Alumni Association on 21st June 2021 made a significant contribution in the fight against the Covid pandemic by becoming facilitators and benefactors at the inauguration of Jesu Ashram Covid Safe Home for women and children with the help of the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal.
- On behalf of the Alumni Association, the South Zone Chapter led the
  philanthropic initiative at Karnataka by providing selfless support during this
  humanitarian crisis. A considerable contribution was raised to set up free-ofcost 100 bed Covid Care Center in Bangalore for the underprivileged Covid
  victims which also included ambulance services.
- On 26th July 2021, the North Bengal Chapter of the Association organized a free-of-cost Covid Vaccination Centre with the Darjeeling Jesuits of North Bengal at St. Vincent School, Hatighisha.
  - Other National Chapters of SXCCAA and Xaverians associated there also actively worked as Covid warriors in their own capacities.

## **Activities of International Chapters:**

The members of our International Chapters have been very supportive in providing financial support for relief and rehabilitation activities to the victims of Covid and Yaas cyclone. Members of various international chapters have also been involved welfare activities in their respective local communities to combat Covid pandemic.

## **Special Mention:**

On 5th July 2021, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, received a patient transport ambulance, donated by Smt. Shakuntala Lakhotia in memory of Late Shyam Sunder Lakhotia. The ambulance was physically handed over by Smt. Shakuntala Lakhotia to Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, Principal of the College. The ambulance will serve the students of both St. Xavier's College and Collegiate School, alumni, staff as well as Jesuit Community of St. Xavier's and other similar communities under Calcutta Province.

Our heartfelt thanks to the entire Lakhotia family for this noble gesture.

On 18th May 2021, St. Xavier's College (Kolkata) Alumni Association received a donation of Rs. 2 Lacs for boosting the philanthropic initiatives to the Covid victims.

On 7th December 2021, the Silver Jubilee of the Priestly Ordination of Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio SJ, was celebrated by SXCCAA in a simple yet memorable way. The main event was organized at Fr. Depelchin Auditorium of the College following Covid protocols and restrictions. In his thanksgiving address, Father reminisced

about his early days of Priesthood and his growing up as a human being with values and ethos.

The highlight of the celebration was the unveiling of the coffee table book especially designed and printed for this auspicious occasion.

Rev. Fr. Francis Jimmy Keepuram SJ and Rev. Fr. Arul SJ were also felicitated on completing 25 years of priesthood.

#### **FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES**

Knowledge and Ideas Xchange series (KIXs) has been the flagship event of SXCCAA. Around four interactive virtual sessions with renowned speakers and doctors were organized, two of which were on the myths and facts of Covid.

#### ACTIVITIES IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE COLLEGE

- Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, other Jesuit Fathers and alumni members paid their humble tribute to the immortal souls of martyrs who fought for the autonomy of their mother language, on the auspicious day of Bhasha Dibas at the College quadrangle on 21st February 2021.
- On 28th July 2021, on the occasion of National Justice Day 2021, St. Xavier's College and St. Xavier's Collegiate School jointly organized a special prayer service and candle light tribute to Late Fr. Stan Swamy, SJ.
- On 12th November 2021, the pre-Christmas celebration commenced with a mega philanthropic engagement program namely, 'Let's Care & Share' at Paikhala Prathamik Vidyalay - a school for children of the poor and marginalized sections adopted by our College.



Later on the same day, gift bags and food packets were distributed to around 300 children from other villages adopted by the College. Additionally, the College and its Alumni Association have taken care of education and hostel facilities of numerous students residing at Raghabpur and its neighbouring villages for the last few years.

 Principal thanked and congratulated the Governing Council and the members of SXCCAA for turning it into such a grand evening. • The 35th Annual General Meeting of the Alumni Association was organized on 25th September, 2021.

From 8th to 15th August 2021, a week-long Tree Plantation and Sapling Distribution Initiative was taken by our College and the Alumni Association at the Raghabpur Campus of the College. Some 100 saplings were planted in the grounds of the Raghabpur Campus and 500 more saplings were distributed.

At the inauguration, Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, mentioned that the initiative of plantation drive was organized as part of our obligation to Mother Nature, to give back something in return to the abundance that we enjoy.



Father with the Ambassador of Costa Rica

## 6th May 2021

The St. Xavier's College Alumni Association, in collaboration with the college, has opened a **Covid help desk on the campus** to help families who have tested positive, especially those from economically weaker sections.

Through this initiative arrangement were made for hospital beds, safe homes, oxygen, ambulances, Covid tests, delivery of medicines, blood and plasma donations.

The volunteers managing the help desk arranged oxygen concentrators, oxygen cylinders, pulse oximeters, PPE kits, hand sanitisers and other essential commodities and provide the items to those unable to procure them.

Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio SJ, the principal of the college and the president of the Alumni Association, said: "We cannot remain quiet in this difficult situation and will have to engage ourselves in extending these services, as the main principle of our (Jesuit) education system is to act as men and women for others and this is the time to prove it."

The help desk "SXCCAA Help" initiative included helping people get hospital beds, safe homes, ambulances, Covid tests, oxygen, delivery of medicines, blood and plasma donations.

Sanjib Koner, the honourary secretary of the alumni association, said they received a great numbers of calls from people seeking help.

"We had internally circulated the number among our members and others who have engaged in humanitarian drives previously. So many calls in a day shows how serious the situation is," Koner said.

He said the family members of the patients are going to the Park Street campus to receive the aid. "If the situation demands delivery at their doorsteps, our volunteers will do that," he said. For now, deliveries will be restricted to the vicinity of the college.

An appeal from Father Savio was sent to all our alumni in India and abroad. A coordinated and comprehensive initiative called SXCCAA Help Lifetime Lifeline project was planned.

"We need a lot of resources so that we can help as many as possible. Since economic activities have been restricted as a precaution against Covid, the financial distress is increasing among families. The poor are not in a position to bear the medical expenses," Father Savio said.

He said they were also working on a plan to turn the college's Raghabpur campus into an isolation centre for the college students and their families who test positive for Covid. "We have plans to open the isolation centre to outsiders as well, later," Father Savio said.

A member of the alumni association said that other help would also be extended to people from marginalised communities. "Orphanages and old age homes, to a large extent, depend on donations from benevolent individuals. But the financial distress amid the pandemic is preventing many from contributing. We want to help them at the critical juncture," he said.

## May 2021

St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, organized Covid-19 Vaccination Camp in Collaboration with the State Government on its Park Street Campus.

The jabs started with the College Staff, teaching and non-teaching and Alumni and then included others when the capacity increased.









#### 1 June 2021

St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, Rolls Out Food Vans, Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, S.J. Principal, of St. Xavier's College on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2021 flagged off two food vans to the coastal areas of purba Midnapore under Contai-1 and Ramnagar- 11 blocks, which are the worst effected in cyclone YAAS. These food vans serve warm food and snacks. Each of the two vans have the capacity to deliver meals to more than 750 people in a day which means1500 people can be fed daily. This cooked food distribution service has been undertaken in collaboration and support of Shri Narayani Namo Namo (NGO based in Kolkata), which will continue for next few days.

St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata and St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association (SXCCAA) is also sending 30 quintals of potatoes to each of the 4 blocks of Purba Midnapore District namely Contai-I,Ramnagar-II, Khejuri-II and Deshapran. Last year to the College with the support of the Alumni Association was able to feed more than 1000 families in the Kakdwip -Namkhanastretch of Sundarbans after <a href="Super Cyclone Amphan">Super Cyclone Amphan</a>. In next few days, SXCCAA along with the college will also be sending food grains, pulses, milk powder, saree, dhoti, lungi, vests apart from dress materials for children to the cyclone affected villages of both Purba Midnapore, under the guidance of the president of the association, Rev. Fr. Dr. Dominic Savio SJ



# 14 June 2021 Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) starts FREE-OF-COST \* COVISHIELD\*

COVID VACCINATION CENTRE

At St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata

Fr. Depelchin Auditorium

on Monday 14th June 2021 from 10am

Register your time-slot through KMC VACCINATION CHAT BOT

Starts Covishield Vaccination for 45 yrs. plus age group now, other age groups will commence as per Government guidelines and notifications. Supported by: St.

Xavier's College (Autonomous) Kolkata and

St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association

30 Park Street, Kolkata – 700016.



