



PLUS

July, 2008

Advocacy

State Advocacy Officer Kishor Sanas' work last month included a visit with Indian Red Cross staff to the Pune Municipal Corporation. He talked to 25 corporators who work in the Jejuri Taluka, declaring his status and appealing for their help in combatting problems suffered by people with HIV in the Taluka.

He also went to assist the Karmayogi Vidyavikas Va Samajik Bahu-udd-eshiya Sanstha community group with a campaign in Solapur. Again Kishor declared his status before media representatives and gained newspaper coverage for demands:

- 75% concession on bus fares
- 50% concession on trains for second line treatment (not just for first line as already announced)
- need for the government and the State Aids Control Society to take action against quacks
- removal of stigma and discrimination in government.

You can help Kishor with his campaigns. In particular he is still gathering information about quacks. If you have any information that might help, please let Kishor know.

PLC move

The Pune Positive Living Centre (PLC) has moved from central Pune, its home since it was founded in 2006, to Pimpri Chinchwad. It is in temporary accommodation, waiting to move to a permanent site. There is a need to bring more help to people in this industrial hub of over a million people.

There are a lot of NGOs working in the HIV field in Pune, but few in Pimpri.

The PLC will link with a new ART Centre, and provide health check-up and monitoring, counselling, nutrition, a drop-in, self-help and support groups, and awareness raising, legal support, and condom distribution.

We hope to bring news of the new permanent site in next month's edition.

Big ACT to follow

For the first time ever, all 152 ACT project workers from 33 districts came together in the Elysium Hotel, Hadapsar, from 7-9 July.

The workshop aimed to update all staff on Treatment Education, but also to tell them about the efforts we all need to make to try and achieve further funding for ACT.

Each district has targets to meet. Depending on how well we do, we could get funding for up to 6 more years from 2010.

We still have a long way to go but ACT project leader Balaji Ubarhande felt the 3 days showed a positive spirit and a clarity of purpose among the delegates. The get-together was paid for by ACT funders the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Picture; NMP+ President Shabana Patel addresses the conference



Sorry

Some of you received a slightly distorted version of the newsletter last month. We have produced the new edition in the pdf format, so you should have no problem. If you do, please let Vincent know.

District board members

The annual review in April produced a request from district board members to be trained as link workers. This is a major component of NACP III. A 3 day training session at the Elysium Hotel was organised by Capacity Building Officer Anjali Myadav. 34 attended from 14 districts. The course was funded by the Maharashtra State AIDS Control Society and GFATM Round II.

Board members learnt about making links between beneficiaries, and available services in their Taluka or district.

Population Day

Friday 11th July was World Population Day. Chaha staff joined with Integrated Childhood Development Services staff to present a programme to 32 women from the community in Pune. Their was information about the impact of the population explosion and the importance of family planning. The second section gave information about HIV, how to prevent its spread, and the importance of understanding it and reducing the stigma of those who have it.

PAI project

On the 8th July, Project Social worker Ganesh Kuldharme submitted a report on the first successful year to the coordinating NGOs, the Sevadharm Trust and Late Shriram Ahirrao Memorial Trust, who operate on behalf of the funders, the Clinton Foundation. The Pediatric AIDS Initiative (PAI) operates through NMP+ in 14 districts of Maharashtra. Other parts of Maharashtra are covered by different NGOs. PAI provides one outreach worker for every 25-30 children. They ensure good nutrition, counselling, support groups, travel subsidies, and follow up at the child's ART centre. Ganesh is currently waiting on news of any changes to the project's second year.

New ART centre

The new ART centre at Pimpri Chinchwad (see also front page) is a co-operative venture. The premises are supplied by the YMC Hospital. The government, through NACO, supplies the drugs. Bajaj Auto is generously supplying the staff salaries.

Please send pictures, contributions or suggestions for the newsletter to Vincent McDonald, Communications Adviser, at vjmcd@hotmail.co.uk, or to NMP+, 401-403 Ganga Prestige Arcade, Nana Peth, Laxmi Road, Pune 411002, e mail: nmpplus@gmail.com

NMP+ staff

Vinod Jambhale

Vinod started as Administration and Finance Officer at the beginning of June, having been Social Worker at the Kolhapur district network for 3 years. His wife and 3 and a half year old daughter still live in Kohlapur, so he misses them very much. He is hoping to relocate them and his parents to Pune eventually. Meanwhile, he visits them every second weekend.

He enjoys working with the networks, and likes it in NMP+ because of the freedom he enjoys. He likes cricket and sometimes finds time to watch on television.



Other staff news:

We have a new member of staff responsible for the Computer Management Information System with the ACT project. Ashwini Gujar came for a month block placement training for a Master of Social Work degree at the Karve Institute in Pune, and stayed on to fill the vacancy.

Deadline: 25th day of each month