



PLUS

September 2008

World AIDS Day

The 1st December is World AIDS Day. We should cash in on the interest this will arouse. There is likely to be national and international media coverage. If you are able to do any activities, such as street theatre, or setting up a kiosk in a market place to dispense leaflets and information, your local paper may be eager to cover it. Let them know your plans well in advance so they put in their event diaries. Follow this up with a phone call to the newspaper a week before the event to check they are aware of your plans.

The Pune District Network, NMP+, and the Pune Positive Living Centre are working on events as part of the award winning **Wake Up Pune** campaign. There are events from now to the 1st December. These include advice workshops for couples, for parents, and for individuals. The Sevadham Trust is providing the speakers and hospitality while we will provide the attendees.

www.wakeuppune.org

Nandurbar Women's Forum

A new district women's forum started at Nandurbar on the 23rd August. The meeting took place at the JPN Hospital.

The inauguration and welcome was performed by Sangeeta Shinde, Vijayatai Gayakwad and Vidyatai Patil. The president of the programme was the Honourable Mrs Vijayatai Gayakwad (President of Jijau Mahila Unnati Samaj Mandal). She spoke of her appreciation of NNP+ for arranging a women's forum programme, adding that it was a model that other NGOs should follow. In attendance were 48 workers from the female sex worker community, network clients, and peer educators.

The new board is led by President Roshna Suravanshi. NMP+ wishes them good luck in their future work.

Red Ribbon

Pictured on the right, the staff of the Network of Kolhapur People at the Red Ribbon event when the train rolled into town.

There are more photos of Red Ribbon activity in Maharashtra on the next page.



Red Ribbon in Maharashtra



Above, Satish Ahire, the district social worker, sent in this photo of the Red Ribbon Bus at Ahmednagar.

Left, the Solapur network had the local Member of Parliament, Subhash Deshmukh, to cut their own red ribbon and open their stall. They had lots of visitors, and distributed 2000 leaflets, many free condoms, and gave counselling and information about the network.

NMP+ staff



Ganesh Kuldharne

Ganesh is seen here high-fiving the Prime Minister at the Red Ribbon Express in Pune.

Ganesh has been social worker leading the Paediatric AIDS Initiative project for 5 months. He recently passed his Masters degree in Social Work. He lives in Rajgurunagar in Pune. He originally comes from Ranjangaon, Gunpati.

In his spare time he likes driving his pickup truck and working on his family farm, where they grow bajari, groundnuts, jawar (sugar cane), and soyabeans.

Pune Taal to move

The Pune Taal Pharmacy will move to new premises just up Laxmi Road from the current location at the NMP+ offices. The new offices will be more easily accessible. Instead of 4 flights of stairs, there will be just 6 steps down to the pharmacy which is in a basement shop just below floor level. There is a Taal Pharmacy sign above the shop doorway. The new address is:

Taal Community Pharmacy
Shriram Complex
Shop 3, Basement
(Opposite Panjab National Bank)
Laxmi Road
Pune.

There will be a new phone number. Look for this in next month's newsletter when we will bring more information about the opening, which is scheduled for the beginning of October.

Health Insurance for positive people?

On the 7th October, district network presidents will hear at first hand about a scheme about to be launched in Maharashtra which will give the opportunity for HIV+ people to take out health insurance.

Ravi Subbiah, a Team Leader from Population Services International (PSI), visited NMP+ recently to talk to Manoj Pardesi and Kishor Sanas about the possibilities.

PSI, which is a non-governmental organisation based in Chennai, negotiated with insurance company Star Health and Allied Insurance to work out a scheme for positive people. It has been trialled in Karnataka, and now the scheme is to be offered in Maharashtra.

Look for more news in the next edition of the newsletter.

Advocacy success

Recently a job of GIPA Coordinator was advertised by the Maharashtra State AIDS Control Society (MSACS). The advert stated that no member of an HIV network could apply.

Letters went from NMP+ to MSACS, then the National AIDS Control Society, protesting at this.

MSACS has now relented and the job will be re-advertised without the offending restriction.

Star of the month

This month's star is the **Nagpur District Network** for outstanding work on their Computerised Management Information System (CMIS). Nagpur, which is a busy network, had a huge backlog of work because of staff shortages. Recently, a new Social Worker, Anita Mahajan was appointed. Anita and the rest of the team worked hard to tackle the backlog and completed two year's CMIS returns in under one month.

State Programme Associate and ACT leader Balaji Ubarhande praised the hard work and said there is now a very good team spirit in the Nagpur DLN.

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

Deadline: 25th day of each month