



PLUS

November 2008

World AIDS Day

On World AIDS Day on 1st December, NMP+ and all the districts are campaigning for two causes.

- free bus travel for patients and a carer for their trips to visit their ART Centre
- free 2nd line treatment available in more locations

A model letter in Marathi has gone out to all districts. Please use it to lobby your district bus company. There are also case studies available to help you in your campaigning. These can be used to quote examples or to give to a newspaper reporter. Districts have been asked to write to the state transport company, and to MSACS, in support of the campaigns.



Please send in your reports and photos after your events. We will have an expanded World AIDS Day edition of the newsletter next month.

* NMP+ and Taal Pharmacy will have a stand at the Wake Up Pune Expo in the grounds of BJ Medical College. School and college groups have been invited.

* With the help of Mamta, Anjali Myadav obtained a grant to run a Public Speaker Training and Youth Parliament for young positive people in Maharashtra.

* The themes of this year's campaign are **Leadership, and Young People**

Health Insurance

NMP+ has negotiated health insurance for positive people in Maharashtra. The insurance has been negotiated with Population Services International (PSI), an NGO, and insurance company Star Health and Allied Insurance. Maharashtra will be only the second state after Karnataka to offer this insurance. PSI are subsidising the insurance by 25%.

Key features of the package are:

- Only available to HIV infected people with a CD count over 300
- No age limit
- Insurance is for one year
- Total premium is 1511 rs for one year. PSI pay 25% of this, so each person has to pay 1133 rs
- Sum assured is 30,000 rs (higher sums available for an additional premium if required)
- 15,000 rs. is for hospitalisation, 15,000 on reaching AIDS stage

Former President of the Nagpur District Network, Sunil Maiskar, has been appointed as the agent. Sunil, who is an experienced agent, will be contacting districts to give more information and enroll people in the insurance scheme.

Below: Ravi Subbiah from PSI signs the agreement with General Secretary of NMP+, Manoj Pardesi.



New TCC, PLC open

The network of service delivery points in Maharashtra has been extended by two new openings.

A new **TCC** (Treatment Counselling Centre) has opened in **Sion Hospital**, Mumbai. It will serve as the regional Pediatric ART Centre, with NMP+ counsellors helping the medical staff. The Counsellor in charge is Bhagwat Shirsat, Phone: 022 24015997. A new addition to the growing number of Positive Living Centres. The latest is: **Wardha PLC** which opens on the 24th of November.

Contact: PLC Manager is Sachin Borade, 07152244377



Above: children from Thane in the studio with Vaishali Samant.

The Thane district network

wanted to bring some fun to the lives of local children infected and affected by HIV, so they organised a trip to see a television programme being made. NTP+'s children were in the audience for the SARE GAMA programme shown on the ZEE Marathi Channel.

The children enjoyed the studio visit, and met with Ms. Vaishali Samant, the judge and star of the programme.

The show was broadcast on the 10th and 11th November.

News

- In an attempt to reduce the distances people travel to get their ART treatment, 5 'Link' centres are being set up in Baramati, Manchar, Wadgao Maval, Indapur and Bhore. Others will follow. However, the Links will only be available to people who have been on ART more than 6 months, and whose condition has stabilised.
- Bill Gates in Maharashtra. The man who is a huge donor to the fight against HIV was in India with his wife Melinda for the GFATM meeting in Delhi. They stopped off at Pune amid great secrecy to visit programmes operating in the red light district.
- GFATM media personnel also visited the NMP+ and Pune district offices, the Pune PLC and Sassoon Hospital TCC. See 'Star of the month'

Nasik district network sent in the photo **below** showing, *left to right*, Mahindra Mule, Depak Wagh, Jyoti Pawar, and Pratibha Lad at the opening of their new offices. We wish them the best of luck.



Beed HB testing

The Beed network offered Haemoglobin (HB) testing at its recent Support Group Meeting. Jitendra Suryawanshi the social worker sent in the photo **below** and reported there was a good response from people with HIV.



NMP+ staff

There have been a number of new appointments to NMP+ staff this month. **Pravin Salunke**, from the Pune PLC, is moving over to NMP+ to take the new post of Social Worker, Samath.

Vinod Jambhale will become Programme Manager, with overall control of the projects based in NMP+.

Shabana Patel will be the new State Advocacy Officer. Shabana is the General Secretary of Thane district and former President of NMP+.

Shrikan Mantri will take over Admin and Finance, and **Anita Wankhede** is the new State Women's Coordinator.

Stars of the month ☆

November's Stars of the Month are the **Pune Positive Living Centre (PLC) team**. They recently received a visit from the media team of the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM Round 4) who were in Pune (see also 'News' on page 2).

The PLC team worked really hard, including over the Diwali holiday, to have the centre looking a picture for the visit. They organised children to sing to the visitors, and a question and answer session with parents.

Among the visitors were top reporters from the Times of India and the Financial Times of London. The media team hopes to generate more world-wide interest in the fund to bring in more donations. **NMP+ send their thanks to the PLC team for this great effort.**



Above, members of the GFATM Media Team are presented with flowers by children at the Pune PLC.

Board members from each district have received training in finance. There have been 8 workshops this month, led by experts from INP+ and NMP+.

Please send pictures, contributions or suggestions for the newsletter to Vincent McDonald, Communications Adviser, at yjmcd@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