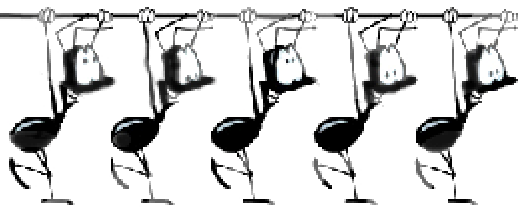


# News from the ant

February 2015 - April 2015



## Highlights of this Quarter

- *Magic & Mime Workshop by Tom & Chris of Magicians Without Borders*
- *Mahila Divas celebrated of women, for women and BY women*
- *Started a Sports for Development Programme with Magic Bus Foundation, Mumbai*
- *Support got from Nucleus Software Foundation for Science on Wheels Project*
- *Return of Internally Displaced Persons from Relief Camps to their homes in Deosri and resumption of work there.*

## Magic for Healing

The wonderful magicians *Tom Verner* and *Chris Yerlig* were here with us! Straight from the U.S, they flew into Assam and did a 5-days Magic and Mime workshop on the ant's campus from 24-28<sup>th</sup> April 2015. Jenny was really taken up when she met Tom, Chris and Janet in Matheran during the Caring friend's Annual Meet and learnt that they use Magic for Healing in war torn areas. She was thrilled when they accepted to come to Assam and train a team of 16 of us to use magic in our work with communities.

the magic behind to use

While Tom unraveled for us the magic, Chris taught us mime to enhance our performance. All the trainees put up a one-hour long much-appreciated

performance on our campus at the end of the training. The wonder, laughter and joy in the eyes of our audience matched the thrill in the hearts of the new performers. Thank you

Tom. Thank you Chris. Thank you Caring Friends.... For bringing magic into our lives!



*Tom Verner performs in Amguri High School as over 500 students and teachers watched totally enthralled!*



## Women's Day – Of women, For women, by Women

Bit by bit, over the years women of our Jagruti groups and federations have been taking charge of organizing the annual Mahila Divas celebrations. Except for one federation who were celebrating for the first time, the rest of the 8 celebrations were completely taken charge of by the women themselves. From planning to fund raising to execution, they managed it largely by themselves and did not need much of support from us. For us, it was a good step towards sustainability. In our Deosri Cluster, Mahila Divas was not just about women but it was the first time



## S4D – Sports for Development

In partnership with Magic Bus Foundation of Mumbai, we have just started a 3 year long *Sports For Development (S4D)* programme. Using a structured curriculum of games and sports, we hope to address issues of health, education, gender, peace etc. with over 3000 children from our villages. As we write this, we have just completed the first phase of the master trainer's training. Along with the community, they are now selecting youth volunteers who will volunteer 2 hours a week to carry out the sports sessions with the children in their own villages. We are really excited about the possibility of pushing sports and games to address social issues of children.



## Science on Wheels – Nucleus Foundation Support

In a recent special Teachers Entrance Exam (TET) for Higher Secondary Schools in Assam, only 2000 of 31,000 candidates who appeared for the exam even attempted the science section of the paper and of these only 128 cleared the paper and an even lesser number would have joined! Nucleus Software Foundation approved a one year grant for running our Science on Wheels Programme. This project will reach out to 5000 people, including to 1500 children on a weekly basis in 13 partner government schools. We are grateful to Nucleus Foundation for coming forward and supporting such a venture. We would like to grow this programme into a full-fledged *Science Resource Centre* which can make a large scale difference by training science facilitators for government schools as well as for our communities.



## Vocational Training – 2 batches of Trainees from the Unnati Skills Centre Graduates

The II batch of trainees have just graduated from the *Unnati Skills Centre* run by Caring friends partner organization Unnati, Bangalore on our campus in Rowmari. 26 Youth have been trained in the trades of Admin Assistant and Bed Side Attendant. There are still operational issues that we are figuring out but the hope of seeing a lot of unemployed youth getting gainful and dignified employment pushes the dream on.

