



## SOCIETY FOR EMPOWERMENT, SERVICE, TRAINING AND AWARENESS, AUSTRALIA

### ANNUAL REVIEW, 2011-2012

#### A BIG THANK YOU!

With the completion of the year 2011-2012, SESTAA has completed almost three years of its existence. 2011-12 was a very wonderful and fruitful year during which we had the overwhelming support of our volunteers, members, donors and sponsors. We had a very successful fundraising dinner and participated in the Whitehorse Spring Festival. The annual dinner dance got the support from more than 200 guests and numerous sponsors and donors. In three years, we have made some steady progress in working towards our mission. With *Prerona* (Jorhat) we continued our support for the salaries of the psychologist and the speech therapist. We have provided further additional support to Prerona for establishment of a training cum conference centre with teleconferencing facilities, and expenses for 24 nos of students, staff and parents to participate at a cultural programme in Guwahati. *Rural Volunteers Centre* (Dhemaji) made progress in the survey work and in forming self-help groups. On behalf of the Executive Committee, I would like to offer my thanks to all our supporters, sponsors, members, donors and volunteers who very generously donated time, skills, expertise, monetary and non-monetary items to make all this possible. I look forward to your continued support to SESTAA's mission in the current year.

With best wishes for the New Year,

Dr Deepali Dhillon, President



Students at Work



*What an opportunity to showcase their talents!*

The students of Prerona had the wonderful opportunity to participate in a Cultural Night, organised at Rabindra Bhawan, Guwahati on the 29th of April, 2012. A group of 24 students, staff and parents travelled to Guwahati for their first exposure visit. They performed a short colourful dance drama based on the epic Ramayana and delighted the audience. For the children, it was a novel experience to be able to travel, stay and eat together as a group.

#### A Ray of Hope through SHGs

The community mobilisers in *Dhemaji* brought together disabled members and their families to form 6 SHGs in two panchayats of the District. Monthly meetings have been held and bank accounts opened by the groups. Participation in group activities will empower the members socially and economically.

Our esteemed honorary member, Lt. Kamal Dutta, had an exemplary life. He had a successful career as a scientist, played leading role in many community organisations, and was a Justice of Peace. His absence will be always felt in SESTAA's EC meetings and fundraising activities



KAMAL CHANDRA DUTTA

1st March 1935—25 June 2012

## SESTAA'S SUPPORTERS (2011-12):

Sincere appreciation to the following individuals and businesses for supporting SESTAA during 2011-12 through selfless service, donation and sponsorship. Special thanks to Parag Kaole and Shantanu Joglekar for their musical performance. Thanks also to,

Aswani, Ashok and Karishma

Bajaj, Joe and Amolok

Bains, Manjit and Harcharan

Chhabra, Vandana and Pradeep

Changkakoty, Dr. Zita and Amarendra

Collum, Colin and Alex

Dhillon, Sundeep and Laveen

Halo, Achyut and Mridusmita

Miri, Lon and Bijita

Narula, Meera and Satish

Natarajan, Bala and Meera

Ratan, Babli and Jagjit

Phillipson, Simon and Yoland

Sharma, Mitu and Diya

Saini, Rita

Saxena, Ashwina

Saxena, D. D.

Uppal, Bob

### A Long Road Ahead!

107 people with disability identified through the survey by RVC, Dhemaji, and several children and adults severely disabled with almost no mobility. Only 12 persons have the government issued ID card and very few have access to proper medical facilities. The task of rehabilitation is yet to start for the disabled people in the region.

## Executive Committee, 2011-2012

Dr Deepali Dhillon, President

Mrs Rita Sarma, Vice-President

Ms Smita Sabhlok, Secretary

Ms Monjita Dutta-Doloi, Treasurer

Mr (Lt) Kamal Dutta, Executive Member

Mr Sundar Sarma, Executive Member

## SUPPORTERS (2011-12):

### Businesses:

Aldo Raymond Hairdressing, Kew

Bharat Traders International, Footscray

Grand Hyatt, Melbourne

Little Sam's Service Station, Collingwood

Royal Nut Company, Brunswick

Tandoori Junction, Glen Waverley



Meeting with SHG Members, Dhemaji

## Financial Information:

### INCOME

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Donation            | \$3,888.00         |
| Membership Fees     | \$1,200.00         |
| Dance Dinner        | \$20,137.00        |
| Spring Festival     | \$799.50           |
| Bank Interest       | \$619.91           |
| <b>Total Income</b> | <b>\$26,644.41</b> |

### EXPENSE

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Office Expenses      | \$1,048.48         |
| Project Cost         | \$8,494.82         |
| Bank Charges         | \$111.25           |
| Fundraising          | \$6,585.32         |
| Committed Expense    | \$5,439.71         |
| <b>Total Expense</b> | <b>\$16,239.87</b> |
| <b>Net Surplus</b>   | <b>\$4,964.83</b>  |
| Retained Surplus     | \$8,973.33         |

## SESTAA'S MISSION:

Develop a fair world where the disabled and disadvantaged in the community have the ability to exercise their basic rights of equality and opportunity.



"Hope is like a road in the country; there was never a road, but when many people walk on it, the road comes into existence"

(Lin Yutan, 1986-1975).

### Contact details:

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### *Come and help us in*

1. Food Stalls,
2. Research and Admin Work
3. Project Support



**Empowerment for the Parents:** The engagement of professionals, such as, psychologist and speech therapist, has proved beneficial not only for the children of *Prerona*, but also for the parents. For the first time in their lives, parents and carers are being listened to and their concerns are getting some attention and the children are getting reviewed regularly.