

GREETINGS to all our esteemed members! This newsletter has been published with the intention of highlighting some of the activities of Blessed Bonding, an NGO for children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. We are grateful to all our 150+ members who have contributed in making the events successful. The journey is not very easy but together we can achieve the unthinkable.

OFFICIAL LAUNCH PROGRAM

Blessed Bonding was formally launched on 26.10.2024 as an NGO at Tourist Lodge, Dimapur. Smt. Diethono Nakhro, Nagaland State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities graced the occasion as Specil Guest and Shri Alun Hangsing, Chairman, Nagaland State Commission for Protection of Child Rights graced the occassion as the Guest of Honour.

The official launch program was followed by an awareness session. Mrs. Yangerinla C Sangtam, Proprietor of Milestones Centre for Child Development talked about building an inclusive communities. Rev. Temsu Jamir, Pastor, Ao Baptist Church Aoyimti talked about the Role of churches in addressing the issue of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was celebrated by the District Level Committee for Persons with Disability Dimapur & Exodus Disable People's organization, Dimapur in collaboration with ALIMCO, NCSCDA Dimapur, Angel Home Dimapur, Social Welfare Department, Blessed Bonding, Prodigals' Home, Nagaland State Rural Livelihoods Mission, DDRC Dimapur & DDLA on 03.12.2024 at IMC hall, Dimapur. Dr. Villo Naleo, a member of Blessed Bonding also delivered a talk during the occasion where he highlighted that children with disabilities are not given to parents by accident or as a form of punishment but are entrusted to those strong enough to care for and nurture them. He expressed gratitude for his child with a disability, describing his child as "different but not difficult." He shared a brief account of the struggles his family endured during the early stages of their child's survival and how their child has taught them to find contentment in simple things, becoming the heartbeat of their family.



VISIT TO ANGEL HOME

The Executive members of Blessed Bonding visited Angel Home, Signal Angami, Dimapur on 15.02.2025 as a part of their outreach activities and interacted with the students having Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. There were a total of 13 children and the Blessed Bonding members distributed stationery items to the students. Sister Anne highlighted the different services that are being provided by Angel Home. Some of the services include Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Counselling Therapy, Paediatrics and medicine, Awareness Programs, Medical Treatments, Vocation Training, Residential, Early Intervention etc.



WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

Blessed Bonding celebrated World Down Syndrome Day on 21.03.2025 in collaboration with Angel Home, signal Angami. Angel Home is a home for person with Disabilities run by the Franciscan Sisters of Saint Mary of the Angels (FSMA). Members from Prodigal's Home, Fellowship Colony, Dimapur also attended the program. The theme for the program was "Improve our Support System" with an aim to create awareness in our society. We should focus on developing the infrastructure and institutions to become more inclusive to cater to the need of all kinds of people. The members interacted with the children living at Angel Home. Many of the children were affected by Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. The program was sponsored by Alashi Foundation, Dimapur.

AADHAR ENROLLMENT CAMP

Blessed Bonding organized Aadhar Enrollment Camp for its members at the Office of the Blessed Bonding, Duncan Bosti on 15th March 2025. This camp was specially granted by the District Administration after the Blessed Bonding office bearers highlighted the plight of the parents who faced difficulties with their children during the enrollment in public spaces and other crowd factors. The office of Blessed Bonding provided the perfect environment for the children and the right ambience for the grand success of the camp. Altogether, 13 children were enrolled during the camp.



WORLD AUTISM DAY

Blessed Bonding observed World Autism Awareness Day on April 2, 2025 at AIDA Hall, Don Bosco, Dimapur with the theme “Advancing Neurodiversity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”. Mrs. Moamenla Yaden, Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee, Dimapur, Nagaland graced the occasion as the Special Guest. Ms. Mhiephronguno Khate, Clinical Psychologist, Dimapur District Hospital delivered a talk titled “Understanding Autism”. Ms. Lanusongla Lemtur, Co-founder of Keystone Education Society discussed about “Inclusive Quality Education” and Adv. Moatila Ao, Panel Lawyer, DDLA also delivered a speech on the “Rights of Children with Disabilities”. Ms. Abigail Zhimo, member of Blessed Bonding shared “A Parent’s Testimony” during the program. Members from various Organizations/ Institutes like Lotha Baptist Church Dimapur, Christian Higher Secondary School (Dimapur), Angel Home Rehabilitation Center (Signal Angami) participated in the program. The program was organized with an aim of creating awareness and providing valuable information through the resources persons.



Blessed Bonding also participated in observing World Autism Awareness Day at Jo Foundation, Kohima on April 2, 2025. Mrs. Lamneithem Khongsai, a member of Blessed Bonding delivered a speech on behalf of the organization where she mentioned that Blessed Bonding is an NGO formed by the parents of Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to create awareness in the society and also acts a support group for each other. She stated that these children need help from professionals as well as society.

She appreciated the school for their patience, support, hard work, commitment and creating a conducive environment for the children. She also reminded all the children to be kind, helpful and supportive towards those children who are affected by Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.



As a part of Autism Awareness Month, Blessed Bonding in collaboration with Precious Gems, CIHSR, Dimapur organized a Family Retreat program on 26.04.2025. The program was hosted at the Auditorium Hall of CIHSR where the parents attended a formal program and the Children along with their siblings took part in several activities.



Testimonials

A WARRIOR'S HEART

Alashi Jeslin Hekato is our strong heart warrior. She made our world a better place ever since she arrived in our life and showed us that anything is possible. She was diagnosed with down syndrome and survived an open heart surgery at 3 months with no complications. We thank God for His Mercies everyday.

She is an incredible teacher, teaching the world how precious life is and nothing should be ever taken for granted. This journey may not be the easiest but things worth fighting for. My girl has taught us the resilience and how strong she is growing and recovering in her skills one step at a time in this 22 months! We are grateful and lucky to have her in our lives. The world is a better place when we celebrate everyone's uniqueness.

-- Amentoli Hekato

SILENT LOVE

One day I came across a beautiful line "Sometimes, angels are disguised as kids with special needs to teach us how to be better people". And this stuck with me for good, to advocate and to be a voice for those who are yet to find their voice. My Happy, wonderful boy is Six years old and is presently non speaking. But I can see the oceans of words in his eyes, in his gestures and gleeful smiles. He has taught me that love does not need elaborate words or big gestures. He loves truly, without judgements, without conditions. He is happy and contented just to have us around him, for simply being his parents.

I look at him and there are days I would give anything to know what he is feeling – pain, joy, hurt or maybe just a joke he may want to share. So, as I wait patiently to hear my boy say 'mama'/'ayo', I constantly remind myself and others to see him for who he is and not for what he can't do. To celebrate big for every small wins, to listen, to look for the unsaid words. My prayer is to witness God's plan and purpose for Livan, his family and those lives he will touch irrevocably. For those fortunate enough to cross path with Livan in this lifetime, I believe he has a lot to teach, a lot to give. It is truly a privilege, a calling, being a part of Livan's beautiful Existence. He loves us all, silently!

-- Dr. Thungbeni Ngullie



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