



**BDSSS & Caritas India donates 25 Oxygen Concentrators to
Belgaum Institute of Medical Sciences, powered by Siemens Caring Hands**

The worldwide Coronavirus epidemic has tested the collective resilience of the world. No one can turn a blind eye to the transformation of the world order, which has damaged the world economy and the lives of people from all walks of life. Working as individuals, away from the hard-hit realities of the pandemic cannot help combat this scenario; the fight against the pandemic needs the joining of many hands including NGOs, Civil Society Organizations and Corporate organizations with social consciousness and mandate.

One of the pivotal roles of BDSSS, ever since its official inception in 1997 is Disaster Risk Reduction. It has been the organization’s endeavor to not only provide instant and long-term aid services but also to bridge the gap between institutional guidelines and local realities by empowering Community Based Organizations through Community-based education. In the floods of 2019, BDSSS spent



more than 5 Crores for the Flood Relief work with the help of Local/Indian/Foreign donors partnering with big corporate names such as United Way Bengaluru through Caritas India.



When COVID-19 began spreading around the world, BDSSS started its bit in its work areas. The first wave was more of instant support by providing food-kits, cooked food, sanitizers and other preventive aid; however, the second wave demanded more effort. There came a time when India emerged as a new epicenter of the global pandemic with Karnataka becoming one of the most badly hit states. The second wave overwhelmed the healthcare system,

leaving hospitals struggling to cope and oxygen in short supply resulting in casualties.

BDSSS knocked the doors of its natural partner Caritas India for support. The latter, with assistance from Caritas Germany and Siemens Caring Hands, extended help by providing 25 Oxygen Concentrators with accessories. BDSSS identified Belgaum Institute of Medical Sciences as its donee hospital.



On 29th June 2021, at a ceremony at BIMS

Belgaum, BDSSS donated 25 concentrators to BIMS in the presence of the Smt. Mangala Suresh Angadi, Member of Parliament, Belagavi; Shri Anil Benake, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Belagavi North; Hon. Regional Commissioner, Shri Amlan Aditya Biswas; the Director, the Administrator, the other Doctors of BIMS and Most Rev. Dr. Derek Fernandes, Bishop of Belgaum Diocese and the President of BDSSS.

As on 17th July 2021, BDSSS expended Rs.67,31,000/- as part of its relief work in the second wave of the pandemic. The team conveys its heartfelt gratitude to Caritas India, Caritas Germany, Siemens Caring Hands and all the officials present on the event day for their love and appreciation. May God bless us and bring healing to the people of our nation.

Fr. Eusebio Fernandes
Director, BDSSS

Fr. Peter Ashirwad
Assistant Director, BDSSS