

# Belgaum Diocesan Social Service Society (BDSSS)

(Reg No DR/SOR/177/97-98)

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Dear Friends,

## **Sub: Assistance towards COVID-19 Recovery**

You are well aware of the COVID-19 pandemic and the suffering and pain people are going through everywhere, especially in families. BDSSS would like to be of help in certain areas where people may find solace in this time of distress.

BDSSS itself, on account of the new FCRA Amendment, has not been able to receive funds from foreign agencies for any projects, including COVID-19. Our FCRA Account has been opened but waiting for approval from FCRA Cell New Delhi for it to be operational.

But we have decided to be of some help by spending from BDSSS local account. Our reach will be to all parishes/missions, more so towards rural parishes where priests find it difficult to generate funds and hence are unable to help parishioners in the present COVID-19 situation.

I request our Parish Priests/Mission Moderators, to email or whatsapp us the detailed budget and the list of requirements of COVID-19 patients only, to help them recover. BDSSS will decide the quantum of help once we receive the detailed budget and requirements, and will respond promptly. Hence, do not incur expenses in the name of BDSSS before the budget is sanctioned. Original bills, all issued in the name of BDSSS Dharwad, along with the doctor's original prescription, will have to be submitted to us, as the accounts of the expenses will be maintained by BDSSS. Once the budget and requirements are submitted and verified by us, the re-imbusement will be done by Bank transfer or Cheque.

We have planned to reach out to the families who are home quarantined, and there are many patients who are COVID-19 positive and are treated at home, and those who cannot afford hospitals fees. We wish to provide or re-imburse the following requirements:

1. COVID-19 Medical kits [6 to 7 days treatment] with approval from medical practitioners
2. Other minor COVID-19 treatment medical bills which would be within the reach of BDSSS
3. Immunity Boosters like Vitamin tablets, etc
4. Face Masks and Sanitisers for COVID-19 affected families
5. Inhalers, for the use of COVID-19 patients and for the family of COVID-19 patient. In villages, they would, I guess, prefer to warm water in utensils for drinking purpose and also heat water in utensils for inhaling.
6. Some of the poorest families may be given dry ration kits

I also wish to re-iterate what Bishop Derek Fernandes wrote in his circular as footnote, and I believe our people in the parishes will surely be generous and come forward to help their parishioners in this time of pandemic by sacrificing some of the festivities:

**Suggestions to collect money if Parishes decide to start a Task Force:**

1. Inform the Parishioners that this year the Parish will not spend money on the celebration of the Feast of the Nativity and Parish Feast. Instead, the contribution that people give for these feasts could be anticipated to help towards the Parish COVID patients.
2. The Parish Task Force could use this financial contribution to meet the expenses. I am sure parishioners will appreciate the initiative.
3. Certainly, the spiritual part - novenas and feast Mass could be organised in the best manner without spending on flowers, decorations, novena preachers and community meal. The same budget could be spent towards Parish COVID recovery.
4. Once we give word, then even if people are willing to contribute during feast, money should not be spent on the celebration items, keeping the intention in mind will be very effective and fruitful for the parish community
5. The most important part of this COVID-19 Relief collection will be maintaining accounts and displaying the Statement of Income and Expenditure to the Parishioners

Please remember, BDSSS has come forward not because it has plenty in stock but out of necessity in order to help the genuine beneficiaries in your parishes, who cannot afford and are struggling to treat their loved ones. **We don't need photographs of beneficiaries**, so please abstain from clicking photographs of people whom you reach out.

Contributions in kind or cash is welcome to BDSSS Local Account so that we could reach to more people in need. Account details would be sent to those who wish to contribute.

If you have any suggestions or queries, please get back to us on cell or whatsapp.

**Childline India Foundation [CIF] – Rescue and Shelter of Children**

BDSSS is managing two projects of CIF – Childline Collab at Dharwad and Child Help Desk at Huballi Railway Station. These are Government of India funded projects.

During COVID-19 pandemic, many children have lost their parents – either single or both, and are orphaned or abandoned and are prey to anti-social elements, who wait to trade the children to work in Hotels, Restaurants, Construction sites, etc. Even some are maimed and kept as beggars in public places to accrue money; some are traded for prostitution in cities and others are abused.

We all have the responsibility to save these orphaned and abandoned children, whose parents died due to COVID-19 pandemic. **Call 1098** from your cell or landline, the Childline India Foundation with its partners in different places will pick your calls and the Childline team will visit the spot and after verifying the facts will assist in the rescue, protection and shelter of these children. The privacy of the caller is maintained and they will not be called for identification.

In addition to the rescue of children who lost their parents due to COVID-19, the Childline team also rescues the children from child labour, children employed as domestic workers, child abuse, child marriage, runaway child, school dropouts, etc. **Just dial 1098** whenever you find a child in distress and is in need of help – adults as well as children may call. There are NGOs who are managing the child rescue operations in different parts of the districts, state and country; your call will be answered and you will be rewarded with the satisfaction of giving a happy future for our little ones. Remember, a child is a gift from God and what we make of them is our gift to God.

Thanks

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