



**A Message from the  
IASE President  
Zandile P. Nkabinde**

Welcome IASE members to the May 2020 issue of your newsletter, the IASE Annuntiatius.

This issue provides updates about the 17<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference which was scheduled to take place in July 11-14, 2021 at Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the conference has been postponed until 2022. Members will be kept informed about any new developments with regards to the conference. Thus, the focus during this time must be on increasing IASE Membership. The vision and goal for the International Association of Special Education are to improve the lives of children with disabilities around the globe. The organization has accomplished its vision through a number of activities/projects including the establishment of Volunteer Service Projects throughout the developing countries, conducting professional conferences in order to “promote professional exchange between professionals in special education, families, and national/international related service providers.” The International Association of Special Education continues to make a major impact in the lives of marginalized and often neglected individuals around the world. Thanks to the dedicated past, present and future leadership of this organization who have ensured its success for almost thirty-five years of its existence.

The COVID-19 outbreak has forced all of us to adjust not only, from working virtually, but it has also posed a huge number of other challenges for colleges, communities, and professional organizations to navigate. In these challenging times it is important for our organization to focus on our shared vision of making a difference in the lives of persons with disabilities worldwide. In February 2020 I was fortunate to attend The National Association of African American Studies Conference in Dallas, Texas USA. During that conference I was able to share our newsletter and our IASE brochure as a way to invite other professionals and students to consider joining IASE. My co-presenter, a Special Education Professor, promised to join and I have been reminding him in case

he forgets. I challenge all of you to use any platform and opportunity you get to promote the organization’s mission and vision.

In 2020 our focus will be on the following activities/projects:

- Plan for the Biennial Conference in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam July 2022.
- Make sure we work with the conference planning committee in Vietnam to make this conference a success.
- Elect members for the open positions, e.g. Archive Report/Historian and Website.
- Conduct Zoom Meetings once or twice a year with all IASE committee chairs.
- Continue with the Membership drive through social media and other professional platforms.

In closing, I wish each one of you a renewed sense of purpose in serving others. I am looking forward to seeing an end to this devastating pandemic that has put every aspect of our lives on hold. We will resume our conference planning as soon as this pandemic is over. In the meantime, stay safe and healthy. Thank you for all your continued dedication and commitment to the growth and development of this great organization.

Dr. Zandile Nkabinde  
New Jersey City University, USA  
IASE President (2020-2021)

**Update about the Don Bosco Volunteer Service  
Project Site in Cochin, India  
By Mary Gale Budzisz**

Since my visit with two girlfriends to India in 2005, I have had the pleasure of being most welcome at the Don Bosco Snehabhavan Project. Throughout the years it has been my pleasure to return to learn about this multifaceted project. I was very impressed with all services offered to the community. The vision of Don Bosco is to reach out to the children of the street and to the young at risk, to inspire and support them towards a new life and to help them get integrated back into the mainstream society. Father P.D. Thomas shared the activities provided by this project. He took us to visit

the campus for the younger boys and also to visit the girls who were housed in a small three-bedroom house located a few miles away. There were about 20 girls and one house mother at that location. A need for a much larger house was quickly noted.

In 2006 Don Bosco applied to become an IASE Volunteer Service Project. Many building projects have evolved since that time. One new home for the girls was built for the younger girls, and now those girls have moved into a lovely brand new home....so there are now two homes serving the needs of the girls. It is wonderful to continue to visit and see the girls gain new skills, attend school, make long range goals, and become contributing members of their community.

In 2012 Father Thomas moved south to Trivandrum to become the Director of the Don Bosco Veedu Society, an NGO primarily working for the care and protection of street children, slum children, young at risk and the empowerment of women. Father Joe Fernandez then became the Director and he was our IASE contact for the next six years. His local research deemed the necessity of creating a counseling center for the boys because of a huge influx of drugs into the community. With his plans and fund-raising ability, the new Psychosocial Support Centre building now stands on the main campus. Father Varghese Pynadath became the Director in 2018 when Father Joe was assigned to another program in the Kerala area. He continued to be able to educate and form many underprivileged children into honest citizens. Our Volunteer Service Project GIVING funds have provided a variety of items including upgrading the shower facilities for the older boys, recreational items, school supplies, a generator to supply electricity when needed, and the tables which were built for the study/food service room.

In May 2020 Father P.D. Thomas will return to Cochin and the Don Bosco Snehabhavan Project as the new Executive Director. We wish him the best of luck in all endeavors to provide the skills to the 300+ children with behavioral and emotional problems, who may have been physically and/or sexually abused, sold by parents for beggary, forced into child labor, or have had various conflicts with the law.



*These "Little Stars" representing the Don Bosco Valsalya Bhavan Annexe have stitched masks which are given to the local police officers and others who are enforcing the problems created in the aftermath of COVID-19 in the Cochin, India community.*

### **IASE VSP- UPDATE BY SANKALP SOCIETY DURING COVID-19 CRISIS**

*Anupria Chadha, Founder- Sankalp Society*

Greetings from Sankalp Society!!!!!!





During this lockdown we continue to give food to our children strictly adhering to the social distancing norm. Sankalp works in and with real communities. We have so far given dry essential items (wheat flour, rice, pulses, salt, spices, masks, sanitizers, and cooking oil) to families of 200 children who we cover under our NGO. The food items will last 15 days for a family of 4-5 people. Parents of most of these children are daily wagers and do not have any jobs currently. All are migrants. We do not know how long the lockdown would last; hence, we want to reach out to their families. Our skill development unit (mainly funded by IASE) comprising girls and young women is making masks for local communities and we have also trained our children on hygiene practices.

Love,

Anu



## A tribute to frontline warriors



## Fighting against Covid19

SPJ Sadhana staff member Tejal Kothari, located in Mumbai, India, would like to share a You Tube video prepared by their students:

<https://youtu.be/VrWZQ9edozU>



## The Toa Nafasi Project Needs Volunteers

The Toa Nafasi Project—meaning *provide a chance* in Swahili—is a grassroots education NGO registered in 2012 and located in Moshi Municipal District, Kilimanjaro region, Tanzania. Working within the public-school system, Toa helps Standard One students with learning difficulties to overcome challenges and succeed in the classroom. Through its Early Childhood Education Platform, The Project approaches students holistically to create a safe space where differences are respected, inclusion embraced, and every student in the classroom has an equal opportunity to succeed regardless of his or her learning style.

In 2019, Toa more than doubled the number of schools



in which we provide services, and in 2020, we expanded to two more schools, bringing the total number to 11 school sites across 10 wards. In order to handle these expansions, Toa currently employs 30 previously under-employed women as tutors and provides them with regular in-service training on leadership and special education pedagogies. Our specially trained tutors are responsible for providing an individualized pull-out program within schools for students found to require additional support. Approximately 90% of our Standard One students return to mainstream classrooms and proceed to Standard Two.

Volunteer!

COVID-19 is impacting education around the world, and the same goes for public schools in Tanzania. As of March 17<sup>th</sup>, schools in Tanzania were closed for 30 days. While no one can currently predict the direction of this global health crisis, we at Toa Nafasi are preparing for the time when Tanzanian schools re-open and we can continue with our programming. We are currently looking for volunteers who could potentially join us in Moshi in August this year and help this amazing organization continue to support these amazing students. Volunteering is of course subject to global health recommendations, travel restrictions and international safety recommendations.



Individuals in the IASE network have critical skills that are needed to support Toa Nafasi's work, including providing training on pedagogical tools and games to our tutors, supporting lesson-planning and sharing techniques to support students with learning differences. If you are interested in learning more about this volunteer opportunity, please email Susan Goodwillie at [susan@toanafasi.org](mailto:susan@toanafasi.org).

## IASE Highlights a Student Member

Elia Dyitege, a member of IASE, has a passion to support children and youth with disabilities living in the villages of Tanzania. Elia has presented seminars to members of several villages on the rights of children with disabilities and inclusive education. He continues to research best practices for children with cognitive disabilities and autism. In his seminars and home visits to villages, Elia encourages parents to accept their children as unique and precious individuals who should be embraced by the entire village community.



*Elia in the village with family members*

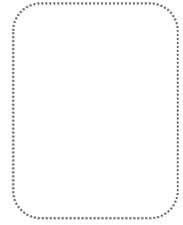


*Elia (on the left in white shirt) with youth with autism*

### Treasurer's Report As of May 16, 2020 Iris Drower

Account	Amount
Checking	\$3,629.88
VSP	\$12,550.70
Marg Scholarship	\$6,001.59
Operational Budget	\$128,110.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$150,293.11</b>

**Renew and Join IASE Today!**



To join IASE, contact Rachael Gonzales, email: [rgonzales@csus.edu](mailto:rgonzales@csus.edu)

**Please print information clearly:**

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State / Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues: Regular \$US 50 \_\_\_\_\_ Regular/Sponsor \$US 70 \_\_\_\_\_

Student Membership \$US 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Developing Country \$US 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Institution \$US 70 \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person sponsored: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail of person sponsored: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of person sponsored: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to Marg Csapo Scholarship \$US \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Enclosed \$US** \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Information:** \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_ Master Card \_\_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized.net *(Please follow link on the website @www.iase.org*

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Cardholder (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque (Payable to IASE, US funds)

Please send your membership form to:

**Mail:** IASE Treasurer, PO Box 2159, Mesa, AZ 85214, USA **E-mail :** [irisdoug@cox.net](mailto:irisdoug@cox.net)

**IASE operates on a rolling membership year; you will be invited to renew your membership one year after joining. All other membership inquiries contact: [iasemembership@gmail.com](mailto:iasemembership@gmail.com)**