

From PPE kits to free meals, schools & colleges do their bit

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Bengaluru: As the city fights an unprecedented pandemic, educational institutions are contributing in every possible way to help ease the situation.

Canadian International School, Bangalore (CIS), in association with the Entrepreneurs' Organisation (EO) Bangalore chapter, is converting the school's boarding block into a 120-bed oxygen centre. The funds would be utilised for purchase of oxygen concentrators and associated accessories. CIS and EO are working with various organisations to source five-litre oxygen concentrators for each bed.

Shweta Sastri, managing director, CIS said: "We are living in an emergency situation and people desperately



BIG SERVICE: Efforts by BNM Educational Institutions and PES University to serve meals to those in need are touching many lives

need oxygen. The entire country is reeling under the pandemic and we thought we should do something for the community. Together with EO, we felt lack of oxygen was the most critical issue now and that's how the idea of the centre came about."

PES University took up the task of providing hot meals to the families of patients admitted at various government hospitals in the city, including Jayadeva, Victoria, Vanivilas, Sanjay Gandhi, Nimhans and Rajarajeswari hospital. Around 300 people

BEACONS OF HOPE

In the midst of crushing despair and grief, there are also stories of selflessness, kindness and courage that restore one's faith in humanity and inspire us to dream of a better tomorrow. If you know of any such individuals or organisations who are serving as Beacons of Hope, please share their story with us on www.TOIBeaconsOfHope.com. Let's light a spark and help dispel the dark.

are being served breakfast and dinner every day.

Under BNM Educational Institutions' Covid relief programme, free home-coo-

ked meals are being provided to those in home isolation and in need. Under the initiative, food is prepared at BNM kitchen, packed by the volunteers from Swami Vivekananda Shreshtha Bhara Pratishtana and distributed by the members of Yuva Brigade. As many as 3,500 individuals and over 80 families have been covered under the programme so far.

Alumni networks of several colleges, including St Joseph's, are coming together to set up a centre for Covid patients on St Joseph's college campus (Lalbagh). "We're looking at a Covid care centre. It will be a 100-bed facility, where patients will be treated free of cost. The alumni network is also helping in getting ambulance and oxygen cylinders for the

needy," said Rudra Roy, one of the coordinators.

The students, faculty and alumni of IIM-Bangalore have initiated a fund-raiser to support hospital staff at St. Philomena's by providing them with life-saving PPE kits. "Our health professionals have been working non-stop through the two waves and are physically exhausted and mentally stressed. More than anything else they are unappreciated and demotivated. We are also planning to make short video clips of celebrities wishing them," said Manswini Bhalla, faculty at IIM-B.

The Bangalore Student Community is helping local, vulnerable communities with packages of rice, pulses, oil and vegetables. Around 100 students are handling plasma and oxygen cases and 90 are distributing food kits.