

ANNUAL  
REPORT



HAYDEN HALL  
INSTITUTE  
2025

# Introduction

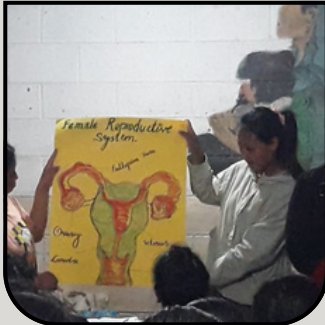
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## A Life of Humble Service: Fr Edgar P. Burns, SJ, (1925–2010)



Fr Edgar P. Burns, SJ, was far more than a Jesuit priest, he was a man of deep faith and compassion, whose life bore quiet but powerful witness to an unshakeable love for the poor, the forgotten, and the voiceless. Born in Montreal, Canada, in 1925, he arrived in Darjeeling in 1951 and soon discovered his true vocation amid its mist laden hills and resilient people. What began as a modest assignment to teach English at St Joseph's College, North Point, unfolded into a lifelong odyssey of selfless service. The tragedies of the 1969 landslides and fires in Darjeeling marked a turning point. Moved not merely by sorrow but by a profound sense of duty, Fr Burns responded with deed rather than speech. Together with his students, he constructed temporary shelters for the displaced a gesture of solidarity that would blossom into Hayden Hall, now among the region's most enduring beacons of community development. Through it, he offered dignity and opportunity to countless lives: women and children, the ailing and the elderly, students seeking a future beyond poverty. His compassion found further expression in Jesu Ashram, a hospice he helped establish for those afflicted with leprosy, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS, each life, no matter how fragile, worthy of care and grace. His vision expanded into initiatives for health, housing, developmental work in the villages, education including adult literacy, skills training, livelihood support, and nutrition, reaching into the furthest margins of society and transforming them from within. Clutching his rosary and cloaked in his familiar white cassock, he moved through the streets of Darjeeling with quiet humility, offering the same warmth to beggars as to dignitaries. His presence was a balm a symbol of hope for those who had none. Though age and illness eventually slowed his steps, his spirit remained luminous. Every life, to him, was sacred. Fr Burns passed away in Darjeeling on 17 May 2010, but he did not leave in silence. On the day of his funeral, the town came to a standstill shops shuttered, roads emptied, and crowds filled the streets in a collective farewell. The procession bore not just a body, but a legacy woven into the lives he had touched. He once said that to be consumed by a vision and granted the grace to pursue it daily is among God's greatest gifts. He lived that gift with quiet intensity uplifting communities, shaping generations, and revealing through his every act that the truest measure of greatness is kindness.

## The story of Hayden Hall's home and heart



In 1969, Hayden Hall found its home in a two-storied wooden and glass structure once known as Albert Lodge, purchased from the Patton family. Nestled on what was then McKenzie Road now Laden La Road the house bore the charm of colonial architecture and the promise of transformation.

Initially, the building served multiple purposes: it housed a library, a night college, staff quarters, and on the top floor, the central office of Hayden Hall. From here, a modest range of social service activities was coordinated services that would soon evolve into comprehensive programs for mother and child health, community nutrition, and much more.

The residence also provided lodging for Jesuits first, Fr. Edgar P. Burns, whose vision founded Hayden Hall, and later, Fr MacDonald.

The center was named in honor of Fr Edward Hayden, SJ, an Irish Jesuit priest, whose unwavering support for the mission helped shape its early years. His name stands at the heart of the institution as a lasting tribute and a call to carry forward Christ's mission to the poor.

In time, the original building became a vibrant hub. It housed program offices, a functional literacy center, a shop for handwoven goods, a carpet weaving room, a library, and storage facilities for Catholic Relief Services (CRS) food rations each space brimming with purpose and hope.

As the scope of Hayden Hall's programs widened, so too did its need for space. In 1972, providence smiled again. Holly Lodge, located nearby and purchased from Mr. Bajpaie of Calcutta (who had earlier acquired it from the Patton's), became available. By 1976, it opened as Hayden Hall Building II, offering expanded facilities: a kitchen to support feeding programs, additional weaving rooms, a medical unit, a daycare and pre-school Montessori section, and a spacious multipurpose hall.

The two buildings Albert Lodge and Holly Lodge were soon linked by a carefully negotiated bridge, both physical and symbolic, enabling seamless coordination of the ever-growing programme housed within.

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The expansion did not stop there. A third building was envisioned, but not without struggle. The property identified for Hayden Hall III had been requisitioned by the West Bengal government for a handicrafts display center. What followed were months of arduous, often frustrating negotiations with state authorities in both Darjeeling and Calcutta. Yet, through the perseverance of the Hayden Hall team and the support of empathetic officials, the land was eventually de-requisitioned and legally secured in 1991.

After resolving numerous legal hurdles, the property was finally acquired free of encumbrances, and Hayden Hall Building III opened its doors in 1994. This new center became a dedicated training facility equipped to host and support residential training for paramedics, adult literacy educators, and community leaders.

From a single home with a vision, Hayden Hall has grown into a constellation of centers each rooted in a deep commitment to serve, empower, and uplift. The buildings stand not merely as structures, but as living testimonies to faith in action, each brick laid with love, and each room echoing with the voices of lives transformed.



## **"56 YEARS OF SERVICE, 100 YEARS OF LEGACY: CELEBRATING FR EDGAR BURNS, SJ, AND HAYDEN HALL"**

- 1925 – BORN IN MONTREAL, CANADA
- 1943 – ENTERED THE SOCIETY OF JESUS (JESUITS); RECOGNIZED FOR HIS ABILITY TO WIN FRIENDS, INFLUENCE PEOPLE, AND PREACH EFFECTIVELY
- 1952 – ARRIVED IN INDIA
- 1952 – SUB-PREFECT OF UPPER DIVISION AT NORTH POINT SCHOOL; EDITED U.D. NEWSLETTER, LED STUDENT RETREATS, DIRECTED PLAYS, COACHED FOOTBALL AND BOXING
- 1952–1954 JOINED ST ALPHONSUS HIGH SCHOOL, KURSEONG, TO LEARN NEPALI
- 1954–1955 JOINED ST. ROBERT'S HIGH SCHOOL, DARJEELING; BECAME CLOSE TO BISHOP ERIC BENJAMIN
- 1958 ORDAINED AS A JESUIT PRIEST IN KURSEONG
- 1960–1985 TAUGHT ENGLISH AT ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, DARJEELING; ALSO SERVED AS HOSTEL SUPERINTENDENT, STUDENT ADVISOR, COORDINATOR OF CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
- 1968–1974 AND REGIONAL SUPERIOR OF DARJEELING JESUITS OF NORTH BENGAL; JESU ASHRAM BEGAN SERVING THE DESTITUTE IN SILIGURI
- 1969 FOUNDED HAYDEN HALL, HOUSING PROGRAM INITIATED
- 1971–1972 INITIATED RATIONS, SCHOOL FEEDING & ADULT LITERACY PROGRAMS UNDER MOTHER & CHILD CARE; BEGAN PRE & POSTNATAL CARE
- 1972 A NEW HAYDEN HALL BUILDING CONSTRUCTED AT THE SITE OF OLD ALBERT LODGE
- 1973 FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAM STARTED IN HARSING BUSTY; BUILT PRIMARY SCHOOL AND JEEPABLE ROAD
- 1976 HAYDEN HALL II OPENED BY CARDINAL PICACHY INCOME GENERATION PROGRAM LAUNCHED
- 1978 PARAMEDIC TRAINING PROGRAM STARTED
- 1979 DEATH OF FR EDWARD HAYDEN
- 1994 HAYDEN HALL III OPENED
- 1969–2006 FR. BURNS SERVED AS DIRECTOR OF HAYDEN HALL (37 YEARS)
- 2004 MRS MAYA CHETTRI RETIRED (TEACHER OF WEAVING OVER 30 YEARS OF SERVICE)
- 2006–2008 FR. PATRICK PRADHAN APPOINTED DIRECTOR
- 2008 - 2014 FR. JOHN S. KENNEDY APPOINTED DIRECTOR
- 2009 MRS JERMINA LEPCHA (NURSE – OVER 30 YEARS OF SERVICE) RETIRED
- MAY 2010 FR. EDGAR BURNS PASSED AWAY
- 2014 MRS ALICE PEONG (INCOME GENERATION 30 YEARS OF SERVICE)
- 2015 MR KHAGEN SUBBA (MCH IN-CHARGE – OVER 30 YEARS OF SERVICE), MR RAJU GHISSING (IG TEACHER 30 YEARS OF SERVICE),

MR GOPAL SHARMA (MCH IN CHARGE), MRS CHANDRA CHETTRI (OVER 30 YEARS OF SERVICE), MRS FRANCISCA RAI (IN-CHARGE OF EDUCATION- 15 YEARS OF SERVICE) RETIRED

- 2016 MR ALPHONSE AITEY TAMANG (46 YEARS OF SERVICE) GOT RETIRED
- 2018 MS. RADHA, THE ADMINISTRATOR, RETIRED AFTER 42 YEARS OF DEDICATED AND ALSO MR MANI CHETTRI (DISPENSARY – 42 YEARS OF SERVICE)
- 2018 PARTNERSHIP WITH NATIONAL JUTE BOARD OF INDIA STARTED; INTRODUCED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKERS (CDW) TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ACCESS TO ENTITLEMENTS
- 2018 LAUNCHED 48 OUTREACH POST-SCHOOL EDUCATION CENTRES; BECAME TRAINING PARTNER WITH DON BOSCO TECH SOCIETY
- 2018 MR MANI CHETTRI RETIRED
- 2020 FORMALIZED PROGRAMMING
- 2022 GENDER & CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAM INTRODUCED IN INTEGRATED; STEPS TAKEN TO ESTABLISH A PHYSICAL OFFICE IN KALIMPONG
- 2023 RENOVATION AND INAUGURATION OF KALIMPONG OUTLET; DIGITAL LITERACY COMPUTER CENTRE STARTED IN COLLABORATION WITH GARUL & CHANDRAWATI FOUNDATION AT HAYDEN HALL
- 2024 RENOVATION OF HAYDEN HALL INSTITUTE AND HAYDEN HALL SHOP, DARJEELING
- 2025 HAYDEN HALL DARJEELING MAINTENANCE, REPAIRS & RENOVATION OF THE THREE BUILDINGS



## 2025 Milestones: A Year of Legacy, Service, and Renewal

This year stands as a deeply meaningful chapter in Hayden Hall's journey as we complete 56 years of service to the people of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, and beyond, while also commemorating the centenary year of our visionary founder, Fr Edgar P. Burns, SJ. This dual milestone became a moment of collective reflection and renewal—rekindling our mission, strengthening our resolve, and reaffirming our commitment to walk alongside the most vulnerable with compassion, dignity, and faith. In honor of Fr Burns' enduring legacy, we introduced the Annual Sports Day, celebrating unity, wellness, and joy, and adopted "Healthy Lifestyle" as our guiding theme—seamlessly integrating health, education, and livelihood initiatives throughout the year.

Anchored in this health-centered vision, Hayden Hall made significant strides. Multiple mega health camps reached underserved communities, earning recognition and appreciation from the District Hospital, while the long-awaited reopening of our Outpatient Department (OPD) marked a crucial step in restoring consistent and preventive healthcare for both urban and rural populations. Our outreach expanded further into six tea garden communities of Kelabari and Rajganj (Jalpaiguri district) after two years of groundwork an affirmation of trust from local leaders and communities seeking holistic rehabilitation and support.

Livelihood programme witnessed renewed energy and impact. Women in Kalimpong gained employable skills through sewing and tailoring training under the Utkarsh Bangla program, while jute handicraft trainings in Darjeeling supported by the National Jute Board of India promoted sustainable entrepreneurship. This year, our candle-making workshops emerged as a strong livelihood avenue, extending to new intervention areas such as Takdah Valley and Mazuwa (Darjeeling). The establishment of a production center in Kalimpong stands as a proud success, strengthening market linkages and income opportunities. With the addition of Damean Gurung, M.Sc. (Agriculture), agricultural initiatives gained new momentum, including the successful launch of bee-keeping programs in Kalimpong, offering diversified livelihoods to farming families.

Education and protection remained at the heart of our work. Nine post-school outreach centers in Siliguri, under the compassionate guidance of Fr Basil Toppo, SJ, continued to nurture hope and learning among children. In the area of Gender and Child Protection, a focused program in Kelabari engaged 25 youths, marking another year of meaningful impact. A clothes collection drive, followed by distribution at the Kelabari education center, reflected our commitment to care beyond programs responding to dignity and immediate needs.

We concluded the year by honoring and cherishing our torchbearers, acknowledging those who have shaped Hayden Hall's journey with dedication and service. In a historic first, Christmas was celebrated in Kalimpong, bringing together over 200 staff members in a powerful expression of unity, gratitude, and shared purpose. As we look ahead, it is not merely achievements that define this year, but the deepened relationships, collective strength, and renewed hope that continue to guide Hayden Hall forward rooted in legacy, driven by action, and sustained by compassion.

# Our Vision

A healthy, well-informed, self-reliant and self-transforming community



SINCE 1969

# Our Logo

Hayden Hall Institute's Logo symbolises our connection with the people at the grassroots. The flower blossomed from the soil represents our vision of a self-transforming community. The individual petals stand for our five verticals: Gender, Child Protection, Health & Nutrition, Education & Vocational Guidance and Livelihoods & Entrepreneurship that are held together by our integrated model of community development. The three dots call for honesty, Persistence and striving for excellence — our core values that fuel our motto—human development through love and service

# Our Mission

1

Responding to the needs of high risk and vulnerable sections of the society

2

Access to quality community and individual healthcare and nutrition

3

Opportunity for children to gain access to and complete school through supplementary educational services

4

Culture of entrepreneurship and sustainability of livelihood

# Our Core Values

## Service

We are dedicated to serving people, positively impacting the lives of those we encounter. Our commitment to service drives us to go above and beyond, ensuring that we meet the needs of our community with excellence.

## Compassion

At our core, we embrace compassion as an integral part of our organization. We approach our work with empathy and understanding, recognizing the importance of kindness and care in all that we do.

## Commitment

We are deeply committed to the success and well-being of our communities. Our unwavering dedication fuels our drive to deliver high-impact interventions, consistently striving for excellence and surpassing expectations

## Joy

We find joy in our work and the positive impact we make. We foster an environment that embraces positivity, celebrating achievements and promoting a sense of fulfillment and happiness among our team members, stakeholders, and communities

## Honesty

Transparency and integrity are fundamental principles we uphold. We value honesty in our interactions, maintaining open and trustworthy relationships with our stakeholders. We believe in conducting ourselves ethically and responsibly.

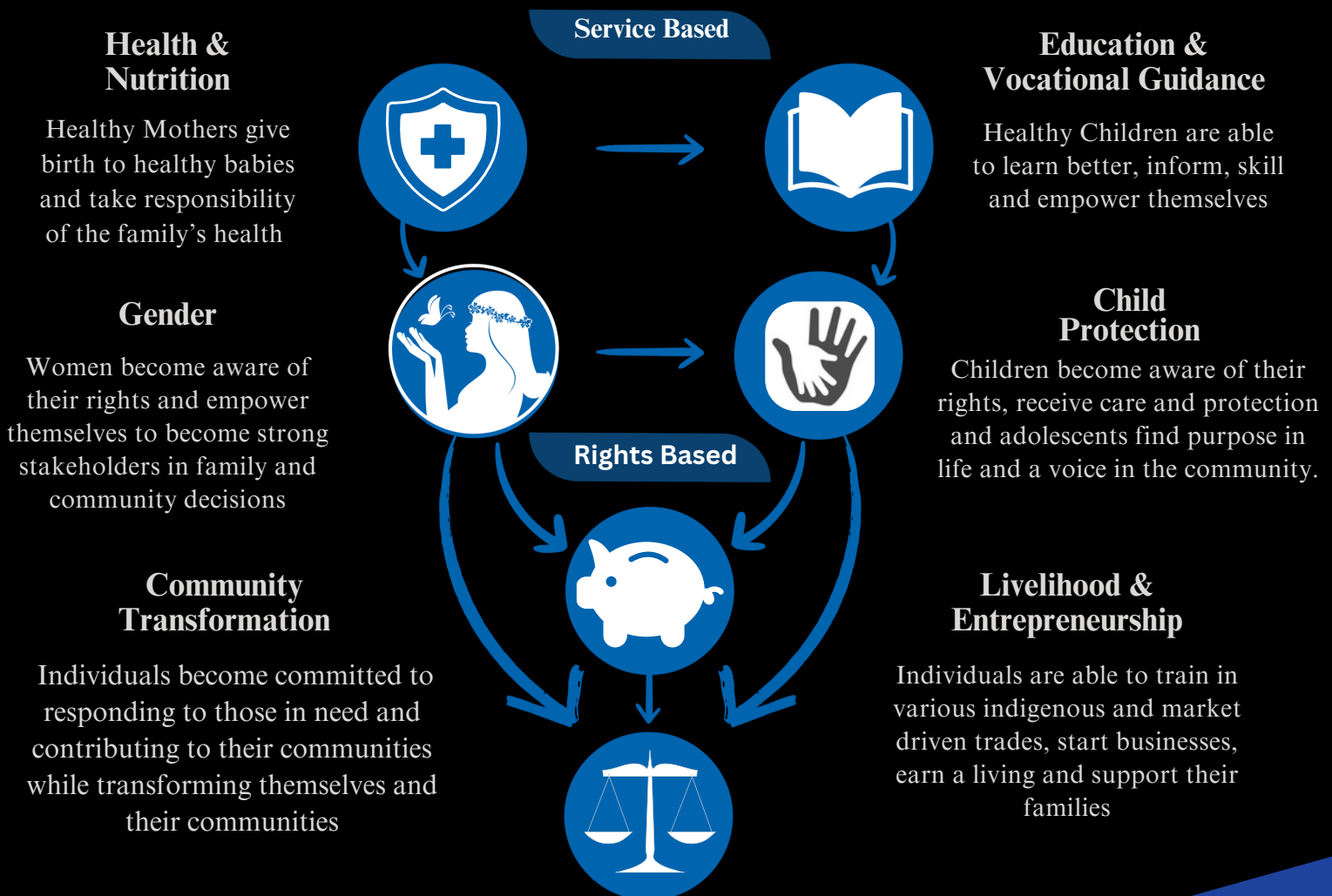


haydenhall

human development  
through love and service



## INTEGRATED CHANGE MODEL



## Human Development Through Love and Service

Hayden Hall Institute stands as a home of hope, compassion, and quiet resilience in the hills of Darjeeling. For decades, it has walked alongside the most vulnerable women, children, and families offering not just support, but dignity, care, and the belief that every life holds promise. Rooted in love and service, Hayden Hall is more than an institution; it is a family where healing begins, dreams are nurtured, and futures are shaped.

Guided by an integrated approach, Hayden Hall's core programs work together to address the interconnected realities of poverty and inequality. Through Mother and Child Health Care, we nurture health and well-being at life's most critical stages. Education opens pathways to knowledge, confidence, and opportunities. Livelihood initiatives empower individuals with skills for sustainable and dignified income. Gender and Child Protection ensures safety, rights, and justice for those most at risk. Together, these programmes reflect our commitment to holistic development building stronger individuals, resilient families, and hopeful communities, one life at a time.



## Highlights – 2025

The year 2025 at Hayden Hall Institute was marked by vibrant participation, collective learning, and a deepening of our commitment to holistic well-being. Through a series of thoughtfully curated events and observances, the Institute continued to nurture physical health, social awareness, cultural values, and intergenerational bonding within the community.

### *Annual Sports Day - May 17<sup>th</sup>*

The Annual Sports Day was celebrated as a key institutional event and to be followed as an annual event honouring our Fr. Edgar Burns on his Death anniversary. The day brought together children, youth, staff, and community members in the spirit of teamwork, discipline, and healthy competition. Beyond physical fitness, the Sports Day reinforced values of perseverance, inclusivity, and mutual respect.



### *Anti - Substance Abuse Day - June 26<sup>th</sup>*

In alignment with our commitment to social responsibility, we actively observed Anti-Substance Abuse Day in collaboration with the North Bengal Community Resource Network (NBCRN). Awareness sessions, interactions, and community engagement activities highlighted the dangers of substance abuse, especially among adolescents and youth, while promoting informed choices and healthy lifestyles. Where CDW Ms. Mala and Ms. Menuka were honoured as spokespersons giving real life experiences and adding value to the community formed for preventive measures as a responsible citizen



### *Feast Day of St Ignatius of Loyola - July 31<sup>st</sup>*

The Feast Day celebration is a moment of gratitude and togetherness, reflecting the spiritual and value-based foundations of the Institution. It provided an opportunity for staff, students, and beneficiaries to come together in celebration, fostering unity and a shared sense of purpose.



## *Sewing & Tailoring - April & Computer Literacy - August*

In 2025, Kalimpong Centre strengthened community livelihoods through focused skill development initiatives in Kalimpong. The Sewing and Tailoring Unit was established in collaboration with Utkarsh Bangla, under the Skill Development Programme of the

Government of India. The initiative began with 42 women receiving training in sewing and tailoring. Over time, the unit evolved into a permanent livelihood centre, with 10 women employed full-time at Hayden Hall, 20 women working remotely while continuing skill upgradation, and 10 women independently producing and selling their products.

Alongside this, the Computer and Digital Literacy Programme was launched for youth, beginning with 10 participants. The programme was supported by Srujna, which sponsored the laptops, and regular classes are being conducted to equip youth with essential digital skills.



## *Breastfeeding Week - August 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>*

Recognizing the critical importance of early nutrition and maternal health, the Institute observed World Breastfeeding Week, creating awareness among mothers and caregivers on the benefits of breastfeeding for both child and maternal well-being. These sessions strengthened preventive health practices and reaffirmed the Institute's long-standing focus on mother and child care. The week was celebrated throughout our intervention area marking as a major event.

## *Nutrition Week - September 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> & Aggan Mela September 9<sup>th</sup>*

Health and nutrition continued to remain central to our work. Nutrition Week was observed through awareness sessions emphasizing balanced diets, local food practices, and affordable nutrition, particularly for women, children, and the elderly. Alongside conducting awareness sessions with community members and participating in fairs which lead to organizing Aggan Mela in Kankebong the very first time where the community observed the fair for promoting nutritious home grown food. It gave the community and our CDW a feeling and a sense of working for a healthy lifestyle. Complementing this, a Herbal Training Program was organized to promote traditional knowledge, sustainable practices, and the use of locally available medicinal plants, strengthening community resilience and self-reliance.



## *Elderly Day - October 1<sup>st</sup>*

In recognition of the wisdom and contributions of senior citizens, Elderly Day was celebrated with warmth and dignity. Specially focusing our Burns Club Members organising events and celebrating their day through dance performance distributing foods and clothes and at time getting sponsored for events from Inner wheel Club of Rotary Darjeeling The event provided a platform for interaction, cultural expression, and emotional connection, reaffirming Hayden Hall's commitment to care across the life cycle.



## *Annual Function - December 22<sup>nd</sup>*

The year for the very first time in years the Annual Christmas Celebration was conducted in Hayden Hall Institute Kalimpong bringing together 180 Staffs, members, volunteers. The event concluded on a joyful and reflective note with the celebration that marked by Felicitating our guest of honour, cultural programs, fellowship, and sharing. The celebration reinforced values of compassion, hope, and solidarity, especially with children, the elderly, and vulnerable families.



*Together, these milestones reflect a year of meaningful engagement where health, awareness, culture, and community came together in action. Through each initiative, Hayden Hall Institute continued to walk alongside the community, nurturing dignity, resilience, and hope.*



## A Healthy Lifestyle – Health Program

The Health Program at Hayden Hall Institute remains a cornerstone of our integrated development approach, serving as a beacon of care, compassion, and community empowerment. Anchored in our guiding theme, “A Healthy Lifestyle”, the program works toward building a healthy, dignified, and self-reliant society by responding to the evolving health needs of the most vulnerable—women, children, adolescents, persons with disabilities, and the elderly.

Throughout the year, we implemented a comprehensive and integrated health strategy encompassing preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative care. Our interventions were thoughtfully designed to address both immediate health concerns and long-term well-being, ensuring sustainability at the community level.

With the dedicated efforts of 73 Community Development Workers (CDWs) operating across Darjeeling, Kalimpong, and Jalpaiguri districts, the Health Program reached over 15,000 individuals, providing direct support to 9224 beneficiaries through various health interventions. A key focus this year was expanding our outreach to remote and underserved areas, where access to basic health services remains limited.

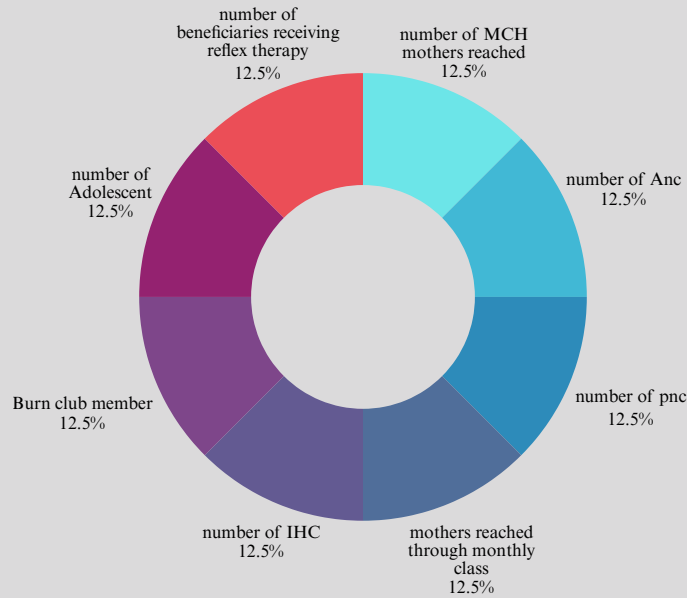
Significant progress was made through the organization of Mega Health Camps and Eye Camps, the revival of OPD clinics, and the strengthening of community-based outreach services. Parallely, we invested in capacity building, enhancing the skills of our CDWs and fostering community volunteer groups, laying strong foundations for long-term sustainability and local ownership.



Under the compassionate and capable leadership of Sr. Rachael Chettri, SJC, Head of the Department, an experienced GNM nurse, the program gained renewed medical strength and empathetic direction. Her leadership, combined with regular field visits, ongoing training, and continuous up-skilling, enabled the identification and nurturing of emerging leaders within the team, strengthening the program from within.

In alignment with our vision of holistic health, the program also began addressing environmental well-being, taking meaningful steps toward creating a green campus and promoting environmental consciousness among staff, volunteers, and community members.

As we reflect on the year, the Health Program stands as a powerful reminder that health is not merely the absence of illness, but the presence of dignity, awareness, resilience, and hope. Through collective effort and community partnership, Hayden Hall continues its commitment to ensuring that every home we reach is empowered to live a healthier and more dignified life.





Skill Development and Entrepreneurship



## Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

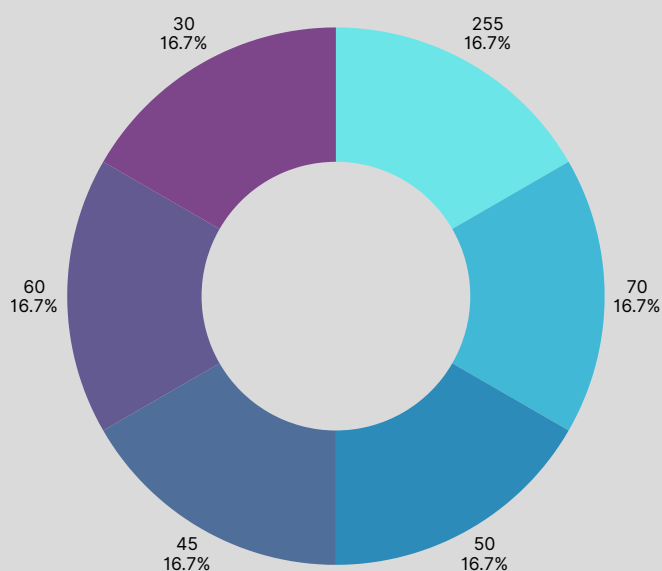
At Hayden Hall, skill development is a pathway to dignity, self-reliance, and sustainable livelihoods. Guided by our holistic development approach, the Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Program continues to empower women and youth to become confident earners and active contributors to their families and communities.

During the year, 30 regular weavers (20 from Darjeeling and 10 from Kalimpong) sustained livelihoods through traditional back strap and carpet weaving, preserving the cultural heritage of the hills while accessing wider markets. In partnership with the District BDO Office under Utkarsh Bangla and the National Jute Board of India, we conducted three jute handicraft trainings, reaching 75 women, of whom 17 secured contractual employment.

Our collaboration with Utkarsh Bangla expanded further through Event Management and Data Operator training programs for youth, opening new employment pathways. Engagements with TRIFED and national platforms such as Srujna's Mumbai Exhibition enabled our artisans to showcase their products across India, strengthening market linkages and confidence.

This year also marked growth in sustainable product development, including the reuse of waste materials, supported by master trainers. We extended our outreach to new and unreached areas, including rehabilitation institutes. A candle-making workshop trained 20 young women, receiving wide appreciation and resulting in active income-generating work.

To ensure quality and impact, we invested in capacity building of master trainers through workshops and trainings. Overall, the program reaffirmed our belief that skill, when nurtured with vision and care, becomes a powerful tool for lasting transformation.



**In 2025, Hayden Hall's Skill Development Program reached 510 beneficiaries, with weaving initiatives forming the largest share, complemented by handicrafts, tailoring, knitting, and candle-making trainings to strengthen sustainable livelihoods.**

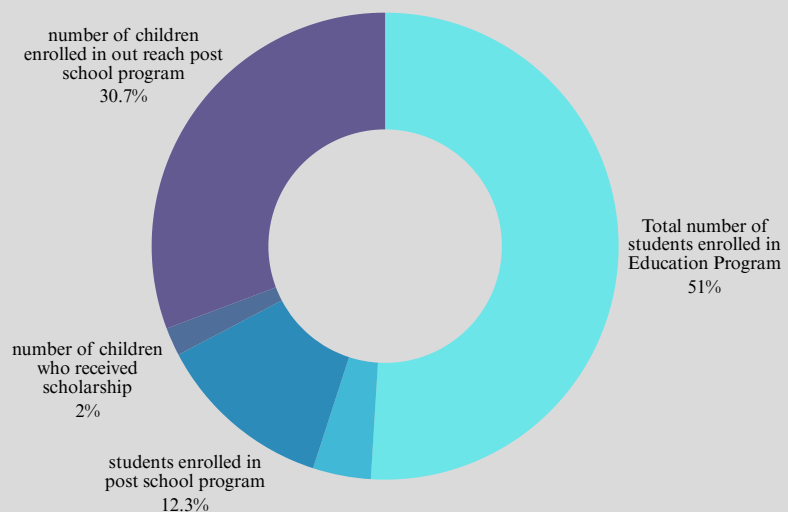


Education



## A Year in Review: Education

In 2025, Hayden Hall Institute's Education Program stood as a lifeline for 1015 children, offering not only academic support but also care, stability, and hope to families facing vulnerability. From 80 children in the Day Care Centre to 612 learners reached through Outreach Post School Programs, learning extended beyond classrooms into communities where opportunities remain limited. Guided by the values of our founder, Fr Burns, the Institute introduced an Annual Sports Day on 17th April in his memory, promoting health, teamwork, and joyful learning, alongside quiz competitions, annual functions, and regular health check-ups that nurtured confidence, creativity, and well-being. For children aged 5 to 18 years, Hayden Hall provided a safe and supportive post-school learning environment, addressing learning gaps caused by financial hardship, limited parental guidance, and digital inequality through remedial education, homework support, and personalized attention from dedicated teachers. Students from the Scholarship and Study Group programs learned together in inclusive classrooms, fostering peer learning, discipline, and academic growth, while annual awards for academic performance, attendance, behavior, effort, and hygiene encouraged holistic development. Through consistent academic reinforcement and life-skills building, the Post School Program played a crucial role in reducing dropout rates among underprivileged children. Complementing this, the Girl Child Scholarship Program stood as a powerful intervention against gender-based educational barriers, prioritizing girls through positive discrimination by providing school fees, uniforms, learning materials, and access to nutrition, healthcare, and a safe study space in the library. With the establishment of a new education centre at Kelabari and scholarships supporting 39 deserving students, every initiative in 2025 reflected Hayden Hall's promise to its donors and partners—to walk alongside each child and ensure education becomes a pathway to dignity, resilience, and a brighter future.



**Educational initiatives in 2025 reached 1015 children through structured learning support, post-school programs, scholarships, and outreach study centres.**



  
**Child Protection  
And Gender Justice  
& Equality**  




# Child Protection And Gender Justice & Equality

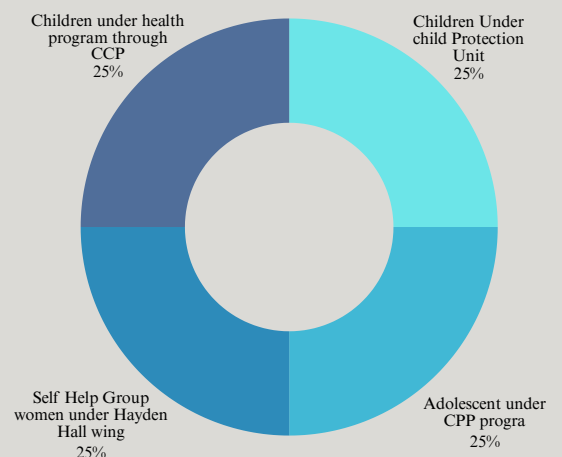
Our unwavering commitment to building a society where every woman and child feels safe, respected, and heard continues to shape our work. As a women- and child-centered organization, we firmly believe that meaningful development begins with dignity, protection, and equal opportunities. Our Child Protection and Gender Justice & Equity Program is not merely a policy framework—it is a lived practice embedded in our daily actions and community engagements.

Over the past year, we have strengthened preventive, responsive, and remedial mechanisms to address abuse, discrimination, and harassment at both institutional and community levels. Through focused trainings, awareness programs, and grassroots interventions, we have empowered field staff, community workers, women, and adolescents to respond to issues with empathy, confidence, and clarity. These efforts have created safer spaces for children and encouraged women and girls to step forward as leaders, advocates, and change agents within their communities.

A significant highlight of the year has been the recognition of Mrs Binita, Gender and Child Protection Program Head, whose dedication and leadership led to her appointment by the Kalimpong District Administration as a member of the District Child Protection Unit, Workplace Harassment Protection Unit, and the District Education Workplace Harassment Committee. Her appointments reflect both her personal commitment and Hayden Hall’s institutional stance against violence and violations of human rights.

Hayden Hall remains a strong partner member of NBCTRN and KANGON, network of NGOs working collectively for child rights protection. During the year, the Institute actively supported and pursued cases related to domestic violence against women, ensuring access to justice and legal remedies. Our program also addressed child abuse cases under the POCSO Act, alongside interventions in anti-drug abuse awareness and counseling, delivered with professional expertise and sensitivity.

With all these measures, Hayden Hall continues to prioritize prevention as empowerment, striving to build informed, inclusive, and resilient communities. Our journey toward justice, equality, and human dignity remains steadfast—transforming not just individual lives, but the social fabric of the communities we serve.





## Reflections: Hayden Hall Kalimpong

The first half of 2025 has been a period of deep listening, collective learning, and purposeful walking alongside communities in the hills particularly women, children, and the elderly who continue to navigate life's challenges with remarkable resilience and quiet strength. At Hayden Hall Kalimpong, every intervention across livelihoods, mental wellness, health, child protection, and environmental stewardship has been guided by one core intention: to stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable and to nurture pathways of dignity, resilience, and hope.

This year also marked a significant leap forward in our education and skill-building initiatives. Alongside our ongoing programs, we proudly initiated a Diploma in Financial Accountancy, enrolling 10 students in its inaugural batch. This milestone reflects our commitment to equipping youth and adults with market-relevant skills, opening doors to sustainable employment and long-term economic independence.

One of the most heartening achievements during this period was the tailoring training, conducted in collaboration with the State Skill Development Program - Utkarsh Bangla, which brought together 41 women. These women arrived not only to learn a technical skill, but to reclaim confidence, purpose, and economic agency. Their hands stitched more than fabric, they wove stories of courage, independence, and self-worth. The completion of their certification was not merely a formal milestone, but a powerful step toward reclaiming their rightful place as skilled and self-reliant members of society.

Simultaneously, newly inducted Community Development Workers (CDWs) were carefully guided and mentored by Mrs Binita Mothay and Sr Rachael Chettri, preparing them to serve as trusted companions and change-makers within their own communities. Capacity building and mentorship remained central to strengthening our grassroots presence.

Much of our work in 2025 has focused on building bridges with institutions, families, and often-forgotten corners of the hills. Strategic engagements with the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), and the District Magistrate of Kalimpong went beyond administrative coordination. These dialogues represented shared aspirations for safer childhoods, greener livelihoods, and resilient rural futures.

Mental health, a subject too often shrouded in silence, was brought into open and compassionate conversation through awareness sessions and community dialogues conducted in collaboration with the Clinical Psychology Department of the District Hospital. The presence of Azor Lepcha, a young intern from Christ College, added fresh perspective and energy to our work, and his contribution to mental health research significantly deepened our understanding of community needs.

June became a month of planting seeds both literal and symbolic. A visit to the SBI office ignited hope for the establishment of a Women's Computer Centre, envisioned as a safe and empowering space where digital literacy becomes a tool for transformation. On the same day, community interactions in Santook, Mirik, and Algarah explored possibilities around beekeeping and eco-livelihoods, opening new pathways for income generation rooted in harmony with nature.

On World Environment Day, Hayden Hall Kalimpong stood united with communities across all intervention areas and study centres to raise awareness against plastic pollution and to promote conservation, reuse, and recycling reaffirming our commitment to environmental stewardship.

Our dedication to child protection remained unwavering throughout the year. From participating in district-level dialogues addressing child marriage and substance abuse, to conducting home visits with survivors of trauma, every action was anchored in empathy and the firm belief that every child deserves safety, care, and a hopeful future. A sensitization programme in Sangsay became a powerful community gathering, bringing together parents, teachers, youth, and self-help groups to collectively reflect on and stand for children's rights. Staff members, including Mr Damean Gurung, further strengthened institutional capacity by participating in specialized trainings and sharing learnings with the wider team.

The month concluded with moments of profound solidarity and reflection. A meeting with TRIFED finalized the much-anticipated broom-making training for Nimbong, while a reflective review session brought together 11 women from the Livelihood Department not merely to report progress, but to share experiences, challenges, and collective strength as women walking a shared path. In another quiet yet deeply meaningful intervention, Hayden Hall supported the relocation of two elderly women to a government-run old age home, ensuring they were embraced with care, safety, and dignity rather than left behind.

The journey from January to June 2025 has not been defined solely by activities or outputs, but by people by showing up, holding space, and walking alongside communities through hardship and healing. Through meaningful partnerships, committed grassroots engagement, and a steadfast commitment to equity and inclusion, Hayden Hall Kalimpong continues to be a place where hope is nurtured, voices are amplified, and no one is left behind.



# Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

## SDG 1: No Poverty

Hayden Hall works to reduce poverty by strengthening livelihoods and promoting economic self-reliance among marginalized families, especially women and youth. Through skill development programs, income generation initiatives, vocational training, and employment-linked activities, the Institute empowers individuals to earn dignified livelihoods. Special focus is given to communities affected by closed tea gardens, migration, and unemployment, helping them rebuild stable and sustainable lives.



## SDG 2: Zero Hunger

Through its long-standing Mother and Child Health and Nutrition Program, Hayden Hall addresses hunger and malnutrition among children, pregnant and lactating mothers, senior citizens, and individuals identified as needy. Nutritional food support, ration distribution, and nutrition education are provided across urban and rural intervention areas. The program ensures that vulnerable groups receive adequate nourishment to lead healthy and productive lives.



## SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

Health remains a core priority of Hayden Hall. The Institute focuses on preventive and promotive healthcare through medical camps, maternal and child health services, elderly care, adolescent health education, and community health awareness programs. Special attention is given to underserved areas where access to healthcare facilities is limited, ensuring early intervention, improved health-seeking behaviour, and overall community well-being.



## SDG 4: Quality Education

Hayden Hall supports quality education through formal schooling, non-formal education, digital literacy programs, and skill-based learning. From early childhood care to secondary education, the Institute provides academic support, nutritional assistance, and holistic development opportunities. Special initiatives focus on children from economically weaker families and youth who need skill enhancement for better employability.



## SDG 5: Gender Equality

Empowering women and girls is central to Hayden Hall's mission. The Institute promotes gender equality through women's leadership development, livelihood training, health and hygiene education, self-esteem and self-defense workshops, and employment opportunities. By enabling women to become economically independent and socially confident, Hayden Hall contributes to stronger families and resilient communities.



# Stories From Field

## A New Beginning in a New Land

**Amri Maya Thami** “When we came from Nepal, we knew no one. Everything was unfamiliar and uncertain. One day, a friend introduced me to Purnima Ma’am from Hayden Hall. She visited my home, listened to my story, and understood our struggles. I was pregnant and could no longer work, and our only income was from my husband, who delivers water to hotels starting at 3:00 in the morning. We barely managed. But Hayden Hall stepped in with care. My children were enrolled in the Education Program, and I was included in the Mother and Child Health Program as an antenatal care mother. The awareness sessions gave me strength, and the support made us feel safe. We are deeply grateful to the institute. In a place where we had nothing, Hayden Hall gave us dignity, knowledge, and hope.”



## A Hand to Hold – Life in Butcher Busty Resident of Zakir Hussain Road, Butcher Busty Sakhina Beguma

“I live alone in Butcher Busty. After losing my husband, there was no one to turn to. Life was heavy with silence and struggle—until Purnima Ma’am from Hayden Hall came to my door. Through her house visit, I was connected to Hayden Hall’s support programs. Since then, they have taken care of me like a godmother would. Every month, I receive enough ration—rice, dal, and chana—which helps me sustain without worry. They also check on my health, give me warm blankets in winter, and hold awareness sessions that make me feel seen, informed, and cared for. I may live alone, but with Hayden Hall, I no longer feel lonely.”



## Stitching a Life of Dignity

**Deepika Thami** “When we came from Nepal, we knew no one. Everything was new and uncertain. Slowly, we came in contact with the CDW from Hayden Hall, and that changed our lives. My elder daughter was enrolled in the day care center, which allowed us to work freely. Later, when I was pregnant with my second child, I was enrolled as an ANC mother. I received monthly health checkups, nutritional support, and regular visits from teachers and the CDW, who guided us with care and encouragement. Now, both my children are in the Education Programme, and I have learned sewing and tailoring at Hayden Hall. After finishing my household work, I now earn through stitching—something I never imagined I could do. Hayden Hall gave my family not just support, but dignity and a future.”



## Elizabeth Lohar



She's originally from Manipur and now settled in Darjeeling, came to Hayden Hall Institute at a vulnerable moment in her life. A survivor of domestic violence and a young mother to a three-year-old child, she was seeking not charity, but an opportunity to earn, live with dignity, and become independent. When she walked into the institute to learn about its work, she found a space that offered both skill-building and care—enrolling in a four-month sewing and tailoring course while her son was supported at the STRIVE Day Care Centre. Beyond learning tailoring, Elizabeth found friendship, healing, and renewed purpose through workshops ranging from jute handicrafts to candle making. Today, she stands empowered as a contractual sewing and tailoring trainer, sells her own products through the institute, and lives her dream of self-reliance. For Elizabeth, Hayden Hall became more than an institute—it became a ray of hope that helped her rediscover herself.

The women's livelihood journey at the Kalimpong Centre is a story of patience, space creation, and collective growth. Beginning in 2020, women with skills and motivation lacked a dedicated place to work and earn with continuity. Through Hayden Hall Institute's long-term, people-centred approach, trust was built, skills were nurtured, and an enabling environment slowly took shape. This effort culminated in 2023 with the establishment of a dedicated tailoring and crochet shop, transforming informal work into dignified, organised livelihoods. Today, 16 women earn regular income, contribute to their families, and grow in confidence and leadership. The Kalimpong Centre stands as a reminder that sustainable livelihoods flourish when women are given not just training, but space, time, and belief in their potential.



**Binamit Lepcha** is a skilled crochet and knitting artisan whose journey reflects the power of inclusive opportunity. Being speech- and hearing-impaired, she possessed the ability and determination to work, but lacked access to a supportive livelihood space. At the Hayden Hall Institute – Kalimpong Extension Centre, she found a dignified environment where her skills could grow. Today, she is one of the centre's most skilled artisans and a Master Trainer, guiding new women with patience and confidence. Her story reminds us that disability is never a limitation—the absence of opportunity is.

# Thank You for Walking With Us To those Who Strengthen Our Mission

## Mrs Kamlesh Pradhan Rai

Mrs. Kamlesh Pradhan Rai is one of the most respected educators in the Darjeeling hills and a dedicated environmental activist. As a leading force behind Zero Waste Himalaya, she has been a tireless advocate for sustainable living and responsible waste management. A true lover of nature, Mrs. Kamlesh believes in protecting the Earth as a living mother and inspires others to do the same through her actions.

For Hayden Hall, she has been a true blessing—motivating youth, guiding communities, and contributing as a Master Trainer. From accompanying teams to the field to understand livelihoods, to conducting hands-on trainings for weavers on recycling and up-cycling waste materials, her presence has brought knowledge, hope, and purpose. As we move into 2026, we look forward to continuing our journey of learning and action with her, working together towards better waste management practices, creative up-cycling, and a cleaner, more sustainable place to live.



## Mr Giacomo Colomba

Giacomo Colomba is not only a Master Martial Arts trainer but a true source of inspiration for the Hayden Hall family. For the past five years, Self-Esteem and Self-Defense has been an integral part of our work, and through Giacomo's guidance, many young lives have been shaped with confidence, self-belief, and self-love. His sessions go beyond physical training—they help participants understand themselves, build inner strength, and enhance their self-esteem.

This year, under his leadership, the expansion of the program to Kelabari was a significant success, especially in a community facing high vulnerability due to frequent wild animal intrusion. The program has been embraced with pride by the community, particularly by girls, who now aspire to train professionally and deepen their engagement in self-defense. Through this initiative, Giacomo continues to open pathways of safety, dignity, and empowerment, ensuring that every individual has the opportunity to stand strong and confident.



## “The Great Ones Among Us”

### Ms Noreen Dunne

Ms. Noreen Dunne is a pioneer of transformative social change and a co-founder of Hayden Hall. Since 1969, her work has been guided by the belief that empowerment is justice, not charity. Through her unwavering commitment to women and children, she has strengthened communities by promoting education, health, and self-reliance. Her philosophy “Women working for women, empowering women by women” continues to shape generations of social action. This is to present her as a mentor, visionary, and enduring force for dignity and equality.

### Ms Radha Karki

Ms. Radha Karki is one of the pioneering members of Hayden Hall. Growing alongside the institution, she emerged as a strong and inspiring leader, playing a key role in strengthening Hayden Hall and its service to communities. With deep humility, she attributes Hayden Hall’s journey to the dedication of a committed team, remembering with gratitude those who are no longer with us, whose legacy lives on through the work we continue today. For her, the true achievement and deepest satisfaction lie in the simple moments when people across Darjeeling and Kalimpong greet her with a smile and say “tikāi hunu huncha.” She remains deeply grateful to be among the chosen ones called to serve at Hayden Hall. This is to present in deep appreciation of her selfless service, enduring commitment, and inspiring legacy.

### Sister Joanna

Sister Joanna, is honoured for her lifelong commitment to faith and service and for her invaluable contribution to community health and social development in the hills of Darjeeling and Kalimpong. She served with dedication through Hayden Hall’s CRS Programme in mother and child care, initiated services for infants and young children. Through her humble and compassionate service across Kalimpong, Darjeeling, and Siliguri, she has touched countless lives. This is to present in deep appreciation of her selfless service, enduring commitment, and inspiring legacy.

### Mrs Anjana Rumba

Ms. Anjana Rumba joined Hayden Hall in June 2006 as a volunteer teacher, and this year marks 18 years of her dedicated service. Inspired by the selfless work of the Priests and Sisters in Darjeeling, she chose to contribute as a local community member, believing that service begins at home. Over the years, she has educated and nurtured countless children, understanding them individually and supporting them with love, encouragement, and motivation. For her, volunteering brings deep happiness and purpose. To parents and children alike, she stands as a symbol of hope committed to holistic development and to shaping brighter futures, one child at a time. This is to present in deep appreciation of her selfless service, enduring commitment, and inspiring legacy.

## Torchbearers of “Hope and Service”



# Our Team

Behind every initiative, every outreach, and every life touched this year stands the quiet strength and unwavering dedication of the Hayden Hall Core Team. Their commitment goes beyond duty—it is rooted in compassion, responsibility, and a deep belief in service. Through challenges and changing circumstances, the team has worked with resilience, integrity, and unity, ensuring that Hayden Hall’s mission continues to reach the most vulnerable with dignity and care.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to the Core Team for their tireless efforts, thoughtful leadership, and collective spirit. The progress achieved this year is not merely a reflection of programmes completed, but of the human values upheld by each team member. Hayden Hall’s work and impact would not be possible without their devotion, perseverance, and shared vision of social justice and empowerment.



**Fr. Paul D'Souza, SJ**

Director



**Cassian Dukpa**

Administrator



**Dipika Adhikari**

Finance Head



**Akansha Tamang**

Program Coordinator



**Sr Rachael Chettri, SJC**

Health Program Head



**Binita Mothey**

Gender And Child  
Protection Program  
Head



**Mary Jamuna Gurung**

Skill Development &  
Entrepreneurship  
Program Head



**Nishant Ghatani**

Data & System  
Administrator



**Bijoy Damean Gurung**

Social Work  
Professional

# COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS UNDERGOING 2024- 2025

*Expanding Horizons: New Collaborations and Deepening Impact (2024 –2025)*  
*This year marked a season of new beginnings and strengthened partnerships for Hayden Hall, as we broadened the scope of our work across skill development, sustainability, community health, child protection, and rehabilitation.*

## **Support from Canadian Jesuit International (CJI)**

In the years 2024 and 2025, Hayden Hall Institute received generous financial support from Canadian Jesuit International (CJI), which significantly strengthened our institutional capacity and program implementation. This support enabled us to continue and expand our healthcare services, undertake essential renovation work, purchase critical office equipment, and facilitate the transfer and restructuring of key buildings. The collaboration with CJI has been instrumental in enhancing the quality and reach of our services to the community.

## **Don Bosco Tech Partnership: Opening Doors to Hospitality Careers**

Since 2018, Hayden Hall has been in continuous collaboration with Don Bosco Tech Society, focusing on skill development in the domains of General Duty Assistance and Food & Beverage Services. Together, we have worked to empower youth and women through vocational training, life skills education, and livelihood support, creating pathways to employment and self-reliance for marginalized communities.

## **National Jute Board of India: A New Chapter in Sustainable Livelihoods**

With the support of the National Jute Board of India, 2024–25 saw the launch of full-scale jute handicraft production at Hayden Hall—marking a shift from a purely training-based model to active product manufacturing. Through three certified training programs, 60 women received advanced jute crafting skills, and 16 artisans are now engaged in producing eco-friendly jute goods. This initiative fosters economic self-reliance among women as well as promotes environmental sustainability and market-oriented craftsmanship in the hills of Darjeeling.

## **Utkarsh Bangla Program: Empowering Women in Kalimpong**

In partnership with Utkarsh Bangla, Hayden Hall launched a Sewing and Tailoring training program in Kalimpong, training 45 rural women in certified, vocational skills. The program was inaugurated with a public event with Kalimpong District administration in presence, signaling a powerful step forward in empowering women through skill development and sustainable livelihood generation.

## **Bengal Store Collaboration: Sustaining Artisan Livelihoods**

Now entering its second year, our collaboration with the Bengal Store continues to thrive. Increased demand for knitted products and a steady rise in sales have offered our women artisans greater visibility, financial stability, and a deeper connection to ethical markets.

## **Regional Exchange and Collaboration**

In a significant step toward regional cooperation and shared learning, Hayden Hall initiated an exchange programme with Reliant Women Development Organization, Sylhet, Bangladesh, under the guidance, supervision, and funding of NOREC (Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation). In February–March 2025 Hayden Hall team visited RWDO to conduct a feasibility study and explore avenues for collaborative action.

The visit provided valuable insights into the strengths, challenges, and opportunities for mutual learning between the two organizations, especially in the areas of women's empowerment, livelihoods, and community development. Building on the outcomes of this visit, Hayden Hall has formally applied for a long-term grant from NOREC to support the implementation of a sustained exchange programme. This initiative marks a promising move toward cross-border solidarity and capacity-building, deepening our commitment to inclusive, participatory, and globally engaged development work.

### **Internship Program: Nurturing Young Changemakers**

This year, six interns—four in Darjeeling and two in Kalimpong—joined us from Mumbai and Kolkata, immersing themselves in the realities of grassroots development. Through field exposure and guided mentorship, these young individuals engaged meaningfully with our initiatives, gaining insight, empathy, and practical tools for a future in social service. .

### **Healthcare Partnerships: Strengthening Community Well-being**

Our enduring partnership with Darjeeling Hospital and its Blood Bank continued to play a vital role in the success of our community health camps. From medical outreach to blood donation awareness, their consistent support remains integral to our preventive healthcare mission.

### **Animal Shelter Collaboration: Promoting Coexistence and Safety**

A new Memorandum of Understanding with the Government Animal Shelter, Kurseong, marked the start of a campaign to address concerns around monkey and dog attacks and raise awareness about rabies prevention and safe animal interactions. Initial sessions with Hayden Hall staff and local community members have already begun fostering a more informed and proactive public dialogue on animal-human coexistence.

### **Rehabilitation and Recovery: Restoring Lives through Skill and Support**

At the heart of our rehabilitation work is the belief that recovery is rooted in purpose. In partnership with local rehabilitation centers, Hayden Hall continued to offer skill development opportunities for individuals overcoming addiction, helping them reclaim self-worth and stability. This year, Darjeeling Kripa conducted a series of awareness sessions on substance abuse, mental health, and family healing—creating a safe, supportive space for dialogue and education. In addition, Hayden Hall hosts daily Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings and Family Anonymous (FA) gatherings every Saturday, providing peer-led emotional support and accountability for those affected by addiction.

### **NBCRN: Advancing Child Rights and Protection**

As a committed member of the North Bengal Child Rights Network (NBCRN)—a coalition of 10 organizations from Darjeeling, Kalimpong, and Jalpaiguri—Hayden Hall played an active role in child rights advocacy throughout the year. A highlight was the workshop held on 26 June 2025, which brought together community leaders to deepen understanding of substance abuse and its impact on children and families, strengthening the capacity of local stakeholders to respond with empathy and effectiveness.

### **District Child Protection Unit (DCPU): A Lifeline for Vulnerable Families**

Our ongoing collaboration with the District Child Protection Unit has been instrumental in ensuring timely intervention and support for vulnerable children and families. Through regular coordination and case follow-up, we have continued to bridge community needs with institutional care and protection mechanisms, furthering our commitment to child welfare and justice.

## U & I: Fostering Confidence, Creativity, and Connection

In the financial year 2024–25, the U&I Centre continued to blossom as a safe and vibrant space for 21 students, offering weekly sessions dedicated to academic growth, confidence-building, and creative exploration. Guided by 8 committed volunteers, the centre nurtured meaningful student-mentor relationships, creating a strong sense of community, care, and mutual encouragement. The year culminated in a joyful celebration on May 13, marking not only academic progress but the emotional bonds and shared success that lie at the heart of the U&I experience.

## Looking Ahead

*Each of these initiatives—whether newly launched or steadily growing—represents a collective step forward in our mission to empower, protect, and uplift. As we move through 2025, Hayden Hall remains grounded in its core values while adapting to new realities, strengthened by the trust of our communities and the spirit of collaboration. Together, we continue to weave threads of compassion, skill, and dignity—building not only programs, but resilient, thriving lives.*



# With Gratitude to Our Pillars of Support

Our journey of empowerment, inclusion, and service would not be possible without the collective efforts, trust, and collaboration of our extended family of stakeholders, collaborators, partner organizations and community leaders. As we reflect on the months gone by, we are filled with deep gratitude for every individual, institution, and group who has stood beside us with commitment and belief in our mission. To our donors, collaborators, government and non-governmental partners, academic institutions, civil society organizations, and the many individuals who continue to extend their hand in support—thank you for walking with us, for your generosity, and for believing in the power of people-centered change. To the community leaders in every village, tea garden, and neighborhood where we work—your wisdom, dedication, and trust have guided our programs and made them more meaningful. Your leadership has helped us reach the most vulnerable and ensure our work remains rooted in the real needs of the people. The success of Hayden Hall is a reflection of our shared vision and united effort. We remain committed to building stronger, healthier, and more resilient communities across the hills, and we look forward to walking this path together hand in hand. With gratitude, The Hayden Hall Team.



National Jute Board | Ministry of Textiles | Govt. of India



# Work with Us

## Internship Program – 2025

In 2025, Hayden Hall Institute continued to nurture young minds through its Internship Program, providing meaningful exposure to social work, community engagement, and grassroots development. A total of 80 interns joined us during the year, including 60 students from South Field College, Darjeeling, and 20 students from reputed institutions such as St. Xavier's College, Kolkata; Jadavpur University; Salesian College, Siliguri; Christ University, Bengaluru; Kristu Jayanti College, Bengaluru; and Visva-Bharati University.

The internship program offered students hands-on learning through field exposure, program planning, community interaction, documentation, and research, helping them bridge theory with practice while developing professional and life skills. In return, the interns contributed with enthusiasm, fresh perspectives, and commitment, actively supporting our programs and becoming ambassadors of Hayden Hall's vision and work. Through their engagement, they helped spread awareness about the Institute's mission and values across academic spaces and communities, strengthening our outreach and impact.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all the interns and academic institutions for their trust, collaboration, and enthusiastic participation. Their engagement and advocacy have strengthened our work and amplified Hayden Hall Institute's mission beyond the community.



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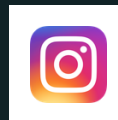
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