

ANNUAL REPORT

2016-17



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ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Snehagram

VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR CLHIV

VISION AND MISSION

Snehagram envisions to ensure quality of life and future of the orphan and vulnerable children living with and affected by HIV and lead them to a healthy and productive adulthood by comprehensively addressing their needs on education, health, psycho-social and emotional well-being, vocational training, life skill education and value formation.

MOTTO

Educate for Life

OBJECTIVES

- To create a home away from home for children living with HIV to rebuild their lives
- To encourage children to attain optimum education for building their lives for future
- To ensure quality of life through comprehensive and holistic care integrated with adequate psychosocial and emotional wellbeing.
- To build self esteem and confidence through life skill training, guidance and support.
- To guide and support the young adolescents to transition into responsible, healthy and hope filled adults.
- To enable the children to develop their skills for securing a job through vocational training based on their aptitude
- To mentor and rehabilitate the young adolescents to settle in life.

PROGRAMME DELIVERY AT SNEHAGRAM



MESSAGES

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



CHALLENGING CROSSROADS

Adolescence is one of the most fascinating and complex transitions in the life span: a time of accelerated growth and change, a time of expanding horizons, self-discovery and emerging independence; a time, not only, of vulnerability, but is also an age of opportunity and a pivotal time for us to build on their development in the first decade of life, to help them navigate risks and vulnerabilities and to set them on the path to fulfilling their potential. The events of this crucial formative phase can shape an individual's life course and, by extension, an entire society.

I am happy to know that our children gain greater autonomy and are exposed to a greater variety of trade and profession. They therefore begin to have more opportunities to make choices about who they will become and how they will shape their future. They can think about possibilities for the future and about why they think what they do. These new abilities lead them to question and challenge more. They no longer take the current situation as a given but instead they can think about alternatives to how they are currently living. With these new cognitive abilities, they want to know why things are the way they are and why they have to be so.

I discovered during my visits with these children that their stories are the real expressions of extraordinary hope for the future and eagerness to participate in the shaping of their world. Listening to them is the only way we will understand what they expect from us. This is a critical time in a person's growth. They need guidance and close supervision. They need help with setting goals. Let us pay close attention to the particular needs and concerns of them. Let us create opportunities for them to participate in society. Let us allow them freedom and opportunity to mature into healthy adults and better educated. Their hopes and dreams are still very much alive. It is up to us to enable them to reach their full potential. Let us work together with them to make life a positive adventure.

Fr. Baby Ellickal MI, President, Sneha Charitable Trust

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Four Years seems like four months as we look back to the eventful yet energizing and fulfilling mission that is slowly evolving into some shape and form now. Moving with 25 young teens with a small team of care takers into a small village in June 2013 was quite adventurous. Yet looking back, we can see how God was with us in every step to build the dreams of these teenagers into possible realities. It is truly worth celebrating the grace-filled four years of our life at Snehagram. Our collaborators and partners in this mission, Daughters of Divine Providence, not only became our greatest support, but also reminded us of the providential care of God.

Snehagram today is a lovely campus with plenty of green cover and full of life and enthusiasm of the young boys and girls who have made it their home. Just as they were building this campus into a beautiful place, they were also building their fragile lives with hope and joy. Now as they move from one milestone to another, they are eagerly looking forward to stand on their feet confidently to face the world with courage and strength.

Snehagram is looking forward to forge into new avenues and partnerships to create a better world for the many young people facing a difficult future in every aspect of their lives. Together we are sure we will achieve our goals and dreams to bring more smiles onto their faces and strength into their lives to live confidently.

A big thanks to all who have joined us in this wonderful journey of life.
God Bless us all.

Fr. Mathew Perumpil, MI, Director, Snehagram

ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK



BEAUTY OF FAILURE

Success is the slogan of the day. All efforts are made to be successful in life. Sleepless nights, tuition classes, and extra classes are meant to be victors in life. Parents, teachers and elders teach us to be successful people. The whole Education is focused on success. Failed ones are out of school or they are out of lime light of the society. But a deep and subtle look into the reality will teach us that history is made up of the failed or lost. Slaves, koolies, dalits, rickshaw pullers, scavengers, poor, sick and women have big share in the making of history, but not adequately highlighted and acknowledged. Because they are considered as the failed ones. There is an unclaimed space in history for the failed ones. Education has to enable people to claim this space. Real education is happening outside the walls of schools or colleges. The genuine process of education is to rediscover the hidden beauty and sweetness of failures, because the world is also made up by the sweat and blood of so called failed ones.

Fr. Joy Inchody, Administrator - Snehagram

INTRODUCTION

Snehagram, the adolescent phase of the comprehensive care programme by Sneha Charitable Trust (SCT) for the Children Living with HIV (CLHIV), was established in 2013. This programme is a result of SCT's ardent pursuit for an advanced care programme exclusively for CLHIV. This programme which spans across three phases envisages providing comprehensive care by addressing all the issues and needs of children pertaining to each developmental stage and to help them to have an independent living as they reach adulthood.

PHASE 1 - SNEHA CARE HOME

In 2008, Sneha Care Home (SCH), the first phase, was opened at the Snehadaan Campus in Bengaluru for the CLHIV in the age group of 6 to 13. Most of the children got enrolled at SCH were from the families having poor economic background and they were having either one of their parents surviving or having lost both the parents to AIDS. Orphanhood and economic hardships got them in to a dark tunnel of uncertainties as most of the children had to discontinue their education, malnutrition affected their physical growth and impeded cognitive development. To top it all off, their protection was in question and they had been landed in severe psychological distress.

Hence, the major focus of this phase was to help children regain their lost childhood in a familial environment of care and protection. They are provided with a platform for continuing education; nutrition-rich diet to tackle malnutrition and psychosocial support to overcome the trauma they had undergone.

In the consecutive years SCH rose into prominence as a pioneering and unique model of care for CLHIV. It was recognized as learning site for the care centres across the state of Karnataka.

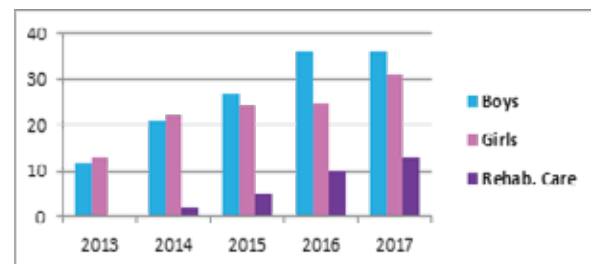
PHASE 2 - SNEHAGRAM (THE ADOLESCENT PHASE)

Snehagram the second phase was established in 2013 to cater to the needs of children who have been under care at SCH once they reach past the age of 13. Major focus in this phase is to impart vocational skills and to prepare them for independent living. In this phase the children are also provided with opportunity to complete their academic education at least till the higher secondary level along with life skill education and other health and life enrichment activities.

PHASE 3 - SNEHASPARCH (TRANSITIONAL PHASE)

Snehagram is into the fifth year of its existence and an increasing number of children are setting their feet to adulthood. We realize it is time for transitioning them from the protective environment of Snehagram to a sustainable, independent life. Since our children are not yet fully equipped and empowered for independent life, they have to be under protective care for some more years and have to be skilled for employability or entrepreneurship.

Snehasparch aims to instill confidence in the children for independent living through intensive vocational training and on the job apprenticeship training. This transition phase would ideally be covering young adolescents in the age group 18 - 24.



	Boys	Girls	Rehab. Care
2013	12	13	0
2014	21	22	2
2015	27	24	5
2016	36	25	10
2017	36	31	13

PROGRAMMES & IMPACTS

Learning for life



ACADEMICS

Snehagram follows a student centered academic programme. Most of the children lack formal education as they were dropped out of schools for a considerable time. Hence , children are facilitated to follow the curriculum of National Institute of Open schooling (NIOS) and take the examination conducted by NIOS at the secondary and higher secondary levels. Participatory and activity based pedagogy is being followed. Each class has three or four study groups and their discussions and progress are monitored by the respective teachers. Teacher mentored sessions are followed by group discussions and individual learning.

The students of Snehagram are grouped into four; PU, NIOS, Pre-NIOS and Skill groups. Students' progress is monitored and assessed through comprehensive evaluation conducted in every semester.



IMPACT

- Pooja, a student of Snehagram, Secured second rank at the national level in the secondary examination in 2016
- FIFTEEN out of 18 students who appeared for the Secondary examinations have passed securing more than 60 percent marks.

SPANDAN

COLLABORATION WITH CHRIST UNIVERSITY

Christ University Bangalore collaborates with Snehagram in helping the students to 'build important skills for life' with a vision of 'Commitment for Development, Growth for Good and Resilience for life'. The areas of association are Capacity building, Conducting job oriented courses, Videography skills, Career guidance, building employability skills, Sports, Organic farming and Cultural activities. Students from the various departments Christ University pay occasional visit to the Snehagram and conduct activities and workshops for the students.

MEDIA WORKSHOP

As a part of SPANDAN, the students of the department of Journalism and Mass Communication visited Snehagram on 7 & 8 January 2017. There were 47 of them and they conducted workshops on the topics related to media and communication for our students.



For Healthy lives of our Children...



HEALTHCARE

Since the beginning of the Snehagram programme, we have been following a three pronged approach in healthcare; preventive, Promotive and curative. Preventive aspect focuses on preventing our children from infections through keeping them mentally and physically fit through sports, running and exercises which have become a lifestyle itself for our children. These along with balanced nutritious diet play a pivotal role in preventive healthcare management

The Promotive care aspect of our healthcare is based on the belief "health is a state of complete mental physical and psychological wellbeing". The onus is on creating a healthy mind in a healthy body. Children are helped to address the psychosocial issues related to adolescence through individual counseling group counseling and peer counseling. There are Well-being groups of children who meet every week and discuss their issues and provide mutual support in dealing with life challenges and in goal setting.

The curative aspect takes care of treatment and drug adhesion. All the children, in compliance with the NACO guidelines, are on ART (Anti retroviral Therapy).

IMPACT

- Minimal cases of hospitalization & Zero viral load
- Decrease in medical expenses, especially drugs for co-infections
- Children have become confident that they can stay healthy with minimal expense for healthcare



**COUNSELLING
SESSION**

HEALTHCARE: OUR APPROACH



OUR PARTNERS IN HEALTHCARE

PSYCHOSOCIAL

- o Karnataka Health promotion Trust (KHPT)
- o Christ University Bangalore, Dept. of Psychology

TREATMENT

- o Snehadaan (Primary Level Inpatient care)
- o St. Johns Medical College Hospital, Bangalore
- o Rajeev Gandhi Institute for child health

PREVENTIVE CARE

- o Bangalore School Sports Foundation(BSSF)
- o Runners High

SNEHADAAN, BENGALURU

Snehadaan, the first healthcare initiative of Camillians in India (estd. 1997) and a pioneering venture in providing care for PLHIV, is the primary care centre providing inpatient and outpatient services for our children.

Snehadaan will continue to be a point for providing the primary healthcare even after they have left the protective care of Snehagram.

For Sustainable Livelihoods...



DIVERSE PROGRAMMES FOR SKILL TRAINING

As the major focus of this phase is 'Equipping the children for Independent Living', skill training is given utmost priority. The children who have completed secondary education through NIOS are exposed in to various vocational training programmes for one year. This would help them to identify their areas of interest and choose a career based on their aptitudes. Others who have stopped formal education also join them for these programmes. Students who wish to opt for a career other than the areas covered under these programmes are facilitated to get external training in their chosen areas.

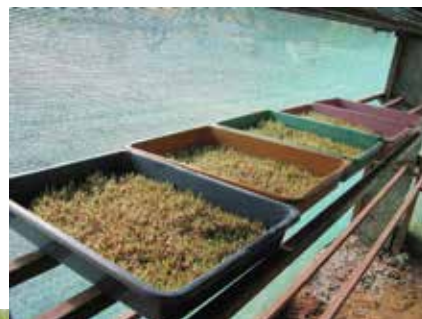
SOME OF THE PROGRAMMES THAT ARE INTRODUCED FOR SKILL TRAINING ARE:

- o Organic Farming
- o Hydroponics
- o Dairy Farming
- o Chicken Farming (Separate units for broiler and indigenous variety)
- o Data Entry (Reporting and Documentation)
- o Mango Garden cum plant nursery (To train children in preparing the land, planting, maintenance, pruning etc.)
- o Cookery
- o Sales and marketing



IMPACT

- Children have developed self-confidence and many have identified their potential career choices.
- Children have got exposure to different career avenues before them.



Value Additions...



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The co-curricular activities strengthen the base of curriculum. These activities enable children to share their emotions and strengthen the bond of friendship. In extra-curricular activities, creative works are given importance which develops skills and imagination of children. Adolescent stage is a period of turmoil and restlessness where energy of children has to be tapped for productive work. These are the activities which motivate students for learning and make their lessons enjoyable.

EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

Throughout the year, we conduct events and celebrations to engage our children and showcase their talents. The events are of national significance such as independence day, Republic day and of religious nature like Christmas, Diwali, Dussera and events of social significance such as Children's Day, World AIDS day etc. Children work in groups, prepare for days and put up great talent shows. They also get to meet people and get appreciated by them.

CULTURAL EVENINGS

Last Saturday of every month is celebrated as the cultural day at Snehagram. This is a great opportunity for children to develop and showcase their talent and to develop leadership skills.

PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Sporting aspirations have been given prominence and treated with equal attention that is given to academics. It is because we recognize the significance of sport in all round development of children.

Life in this 17 acre sprawling campus is bustling with activities from the crack of the dawn where children start their day with routine exercises and running. The eco-friendly, green and luscious haven provides the ideal environment for children in sporting activities.

The games that are played regularly include football, volleyball, throw ball, netball and cricket. The children are motivated to excel in whatever activity they are engaged which causes them to be mindful of how they care for their own bodies.

MAJOR RUNNING EVENTS ATTENDED BY SNEHAGRAM-CHILDREN IN 2017

SNEHAGRAM RUN	KRISHNAGIRI
SALVATION RUN	BANGALORE
BOSTON RUN	BOSTON, US
INCOME TAX RUN	BANGALORE
TCS WORLD 10 K	BANGALORE
MIDNIGHT MARATHON	BANGALORE
KOLKATHA MARATHON	KOLKATHA

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Adolescents living with HIV have a challenge to transition into healthy adult life. Snehagram is meeting this challenge by developing leadership skills in them. Child parliament system that is implemented within Snehagram is the best example for this effort. Apart from this, students are also groomed to attend conferences and workshops and influence stakeholders to take action that will uphold the rights of children living with HIV.

CHILD PARLIAMENT

Child parliament is a system of self governance by children. INSA India, a partner of Snehagram supported in setting up the child parliament system in Snehagram which is actively functioning since 2013 and has become an inspiration to many more organizations working for Children affected by AIDS (CABA) in the country.

Under this system, children select their own parliament; Prime Minister and Dy. Prime Minister along with ministers for Law, Education, Health, Environment, sports and leader of the opposition. Cabinet meetings and parliament meetings are convened regularly and children take active part in managing and guiding the affairs of Snehagram.

SUPPORT FOR SUMMER CAMPS

Children of Snehagram have taken part as resource persons in the Camps conducted for CLHIV by KHPT. They have participated in the camps conducted in the states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. They shared about the child parliament system and helped the children to form child support groups.

Speaking Aloud...



ADVOCACY AT THE STATE, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

Snehagram has been instrumental in bringing to the fore various issues faced by CLHIV at state, national and international levels and have been championing the cause through our children.



Building Bridges...

Snehagram as a Learning Site has established strong linkages with the more than 20 care centres for CLHIV in Karnataka and around 10 centres in Andhra Pradesh by providing handholding and mentoring support.



Together WE Move Forward...

COLLABORATIONS & SUPPORT



- USAID-KHPT - learning site development
- KHPT-McAIDS - Leadership development and for partnership building and training of other care centres in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh
- St. Johns Medical College Hospital – Healthcare
- INSA India - Child parliament and developing child protection policy
- Christ University - Knowledge sharing and academic support
- Christ University (Dept. of Psychology) – counselling support
- Bangalore School Sports Foundation – Development of Sports, games, Running and fitness
- Runners' High – Running events & Training

*They came... saw... got involved...
And thus, they spoke...*



STUDENTS, VOLUNTEERS & VISITORS SPEAK

The students were very welcoming and enthusiastic about the session their constant participation kept the session going. Though, there were certain hurdles, but the overall session went smoothly. I would love to take more phyoeeducation classes and individual Thorpe sessions with them. I would love to be part of Snehagram again. With love and blessings

Prathishta Raj
12/3/2017

Hi, dear's such an immense pleasure to be here today. I thank Fr.Mathew and team the wonderful service given to the children. It's well disciplined and well maintained home for the homeless. God bless you fathers and sisters who give wonderful service for these children. Behalf of chroshau community and represatator of government of Karnataka, minions commission wish you all the very best to Snehadaan. I assure from any side do my best whatever from government. I can do the needful. Thank you. Wish you all the best.

Regards
Dr. Mahilda d souza
16/8/2017

Today we have visited this campus for the purpose of the granting registration under juvenile justice act 2015. We went around the campus and visited and inspected the facilities available inside the campus. We also inspected the registers, document of CCI/vocational training programmes. Fr.Mathew, the director of the institution explained the function and activities of the institution. We were very much impressed with their service and facilities of institution, and assured our support in their future endeavors. All the best!

District Child Protection Officer
13/9/2017

I had been on a visit to your campus. I was pleasantly surprised with the excellent campus and facilities in the campus. The hygiene environment, the priests and sisters making sure every child does not miss out their breath. When you all become job settle time comes to confident gap for good career. Thank you again.

Dr. Roy.C.J.
Chairman – Confident Group
16/8/2017

Vow! Indeed it was one of the best and memorable days of our life. We had an opportunity to be with the children for a day. But never ever they complained about their sickness. We were impressed by the following:

- 1) Cleanliness.
- 2) Hospitality and Family spirit.
- 3) Confidence and command over English language.
- 4) Optimistic approach towards their sickness.
- 5) Kind of facilities and care give to the children
- 6) Holistic formation
- 7) Clarity in their goals/ambitions/aims.
- 8) Scenic beauty
- 9) Healthy diet and daily follow up of the children
- 10) Dedicnted service of the staff mebers and management.

We would love to come and visit this center again

Thank you.....! God bless you.....! Praying for you.....!

Brothers and fathers of Kristhu Joythi College.
15/11/2017

Beautiful campus smart, talented, confident children wishing them good luck and bright future.

Sushmita Kerketta
11/1/2018

Moments to Cherish...



Major Events & Celebrations



SNEHAGRAM RUN 2017

The first Run at Snehagram, planned and organized by our children, was held on 26 February 2017 at Snehagram. This was organized to create a platform for our benefactors and well wishers to come together and express their solidarity to our programme. There were 30 runners from Bangalore as participants in the event along with the Snehagram-children.



NEWCOMERS 2017

After their primary level education and support at Sneha Care Home, 23 students who have reached the age of 13, joined Snehagram on 31st May 2017, bringing our total number to 70.



STUDY TOUR TO MYSORE

Every day has been so short, every hour has flown by and every minute was filled with life; that was what Snehagram study tour 2017, for me.

Vanitha

SUMMER CAMPS 2017



Many of the students from Snehagram were given opportunities to facilitate the summer camps organized by Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT), for children living with HIV, at various places in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The target groups of these camps were children from the communities and those in the institutional care. The aim of these camps was to impart the participants with life skills, values and career orientation. The camps had the air of a fun filled environment, which don't give them the boredom of classrooms. This was viewed as a platform for Snehagram-children to nurture their skills as trainers and to enhance their confidence level for their own personal development.

SALVATION RUN

The first salvation Run was held in Bengaluru on 09 April 2017. Arch Bishop of Bengaluru, Rt. Rev. Bernard Moras flagged off the Run from St. Xaviers Cathedral, Frazer town, Bengaluru. The event comprised 5Km Run and 3Km walk. The Run aimed to help people discipline themselves with a healthy lifestyle and a purposeful living. Fifteen children from Snehagram participated in the event.



TCS WORLD 10K BENGALURU

TCS World 10K was held on 21 May 2017. The run was held in Shree Kanteerava stadium. The run was conducted by Tata Consultancy Services(TCS). Five students from Snehagram had participated in it.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

On 5 June, we have observed world environment day at Snehagram. To mark the day, two videos were exhibited on the importance of protecting the environment and various methods of waste management.

In the evening, around 15 children went to a mountain close by, which is polluted with litters by the frequenting visitors, and cleaned it up.

This day reminded us that environment protection should not be confined merely to the observance but everyone should take it as their obligation to the nature which sustains our lives.



SPORTS CAMP 2017

Sport is indispensable part of our life in Snehagram. It is one of the means that we employ to keep our children fit. We do athletics and games. To impart proper training and knowledge in sports, we conduct sports camps every year before we start our academic year. Runners High and Bangalore School Sports Foundation partner with us in conducting these camps. This year's sports camp was conducted in the last week of May.

CHAMPION RUN/FITNESS CLUB

We have formed Champion run/fitness club this year. We had the services of many good coaches and trainers. They gave special focus on strengthening exercises and endurance.

These camps help our children to advance with our sports regimen and help us to be more systematic and organized.

CHILD PARLIAMENT 2017



The election for the new child parliament for the academic year 2017-18 was conducted on 1 June 2017.

Manik Prabhu was elected as the PM and Vanitha, who has secured the highest number of votes from the girls' side, was declared to be the DPM. Suresh, who stood second, was chosen to be the leader of the opposition.

PM and DPM jointly selected the members of the cabinet from among the nominees. Each cabinet minister was assigned with an assistant to assist them in discharging their duties. The new cabinet has sworn in on 6 June and the first meeting of the parliament was held on the same day.

BOSTON 10 K RUN

It was another proud moment for Snehagram, as two of the children from Snehagram could take part in the prestigious Boston 10 K run. Besides the joy of participation, they could also clock good timings in the event. Babu Seenappa and Manik Prabhu recount their experiences on preparations for the travel to Boston and the participation in the event.



SNEHAGRAM 4TH ANNIVERSARY

Fourth Anniversary of Snehagram was celebrated on 22 July 2017. Bishop Lawrence Pius Dorairaj was the chief guest for the day's celebrations. Fr. Xavier of Dharmapuri, children from Snehasadan of Tamilnadu, a few supporters and old staffs of Sneha care home and Snehadaan have attended the programme.

We had a special holy Mass at 5:30 with Bishop Lawrence. After that we had small cultural program at 6:30 pm. Students performed dances, songs, mime and a brief presentation on our life at Snehagram. The cultural programme was followed by a sumptuous dinner which was prepared by the students with the help of kitchen staff. Every year we are growing and developing and evolving as a better place. This fourth anniversary is an occasion that inspires us to continue our life in Snehagram in preparation for a hope-filled future.



GUARDIAN SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Four students from Snehagram were awarded with the Guardian Scholastic Awards on 06 August, 2017 at a function held at St. Joseph's College in Bangalore. The awards were given by Guardian of Dreams, a social start-up that aims to provide quality life outcomes to children living in orphanages and street shelters in India. It is being given to meritorious students.

Pooja, Sandesh, Sanjay & Vinay Kumar were the students from Snehagram who have become eligible for the awards. The awardees were given away with a scholarship amount, which would assist them to pursue their higher education.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Independence Day was celebrated grandiosely. Various programmes were organized to add colour to the celebrations.

Sr. Rani rendered the Independence Day message. It was followed by patriotic dance performances by the children. Various competition events like elocution, quiz and debate were conducted to mark the day. The cultural events of the day were concluded by watching of some videos on India. The day was concluded with some sports competitions in the evening.



VISIT OF MR. ROY, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFIDENT GROUP

Mr. Roy, a renowned builder and the honorary consul of Slovak Republic, visited Snehagram on 16 August 2017. He addressed the student gathering. His speech was a real morale-booster for the children. He narrated his humble beginning and his rise to the status of a millionaire. He stressed the importance of hard work in success. He reiterated that there is no short cut other than hard work to be successful in life.

ONAM CELEBRATION

Onam, the harvest festival of Kerala, was celebrated at Snehagram on 4th September. Children laid pookalam (the traditional laying of floral carpet, which is associated with the festival) and involved in cooking Onam lunch. A delicious OnamSadhya (Onam Feast) was served for lunch, concluding our Onam celebration this year.



FOOTBALL TRAINING CAMP

We had a five-day football training programme at the campus, from 12 to 16 September. Ms. Victoria, who coaches at the national level, rendered her service for the camp.

A one day football tournament was conducted at the end of the programme.

ART AND CRAFT TRAINING

Seven girls from Snehagram Participated in a seven-day Art and Craft Training programme conducted at Snehadaan Campus from 7 to 14 September. The participants were trained in crafting wonderful products out of discards.



OBITUARY: LAKSHMIPATHI

Lakshmipathi, age 16, left us to be with the angels in heaven on September 21, 2017. He breathed his last at the Indira Gandhi Hospital, Bengaluru, owing to meningitis.

Lakshmipathi joined Sneha Care Home, Bangalore in 2012 at the age of 11.

He was under the guardianship of his grandmother after the death of his parents.

As an active participant in curricular and co-curricular activities he had made his vibrant presence among us. The news of his death was a shocker for us, since it happened quite unexpectedly. Though he went away from us, his loving memories will sustain among us forever. We pray that his soul may rest in peace.

GANDHI JAYANTHI

We celebrated Gandhi Jayanthi at Snehagram on 02 October, in line with the nationwide commemoration of the birthday of 'our father of the nation'.

Throughout his life Gandhiji practiced, insisted and propagated cleanliness. 'Where there is cleanliness, there is godliness' was his mantra. He dreamt of a clean India. As a homage to him, his birthday is observed as 'Swatchatha Divas' (cleanliness day) all over India.

At Snehagram we had observed Gandhi Jayanthi as a day for voluntary work (Shramdaan). Children and staff took up cleaning of the campus and its surroundings especially the roads leading to Snehagram.

FUN FILLED WEEK AT SNEHAGRAM

When we had finished our semester exams we thought of having one week of break with fun filled activities.

We started the week with sports activities. We had lot of fun with many games. All students participated in the activities and were having lot of fun. Some of the activities we had were: reverse running, three legs race, and Frog jump race, shooting the goal and rolling of the ball to an object. Most of us enjoyed and wanted to play longer. It was a day of fun with lot of games. We really enjoyed the day.

After the sports day we had Arts day. All students were excited about that day. All of us were curious on what the events would be the next day. Some of the Arts day activities were: painting, Paper dance, Memory test, Single Dance (It did not have any selected participants but everyone had to do together spontaneously). We had three winners from both boys and girls. We had fashion show which was a cheery activity; we had to dress up using only leaves, grass and flowers. It was a creative activity which we had never done before in Snehagram. We had one activity which was new to us and very exciting, fake story about visiting a place. It was an interesting activity where we had to imagine and narrate a travel story on



a place we have never visited. The last activity we had was the beauty contest where a person has to be beautified in the funniest way possible. On the third day, we had Mega Quiz to conclude an eventful week.

It was totally an all new experience where it brought in a lot of relief and enjoyment for all of us.

Manik Prabhu

VISIT TO AGASTYA FOUNDATION

On 14 Oct 2017 Our students visited Agastya International foundation which is an initiative to help the rural students to have science learning with a lab kind of experience and teach them to spread the knowledge of what they have learned.





VISIT BY STUDENTS OF IIA

Students of Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru, visited Snehagram on 28 October. Our students had spent some quality time with them and had some valuable learning from them.

SNEHA RUN

Sneha run was conducted at the Snehadaan Campus on 03 December. It was organized by Sneha Care Home in association with Runners' High.



CHAMPION IN ME 2017

Champion in me – The annual sports event for CLHIV was conducted on 10 December. We used to have Champion in Me every year with participants from all over Karnataka, but this year it was only for Sneha care home and Snehagram. We were happy to spend our time with our little brothers and sisters at Sneha Care home. We thank all the staff of snehagram and Sneha care home and other volunteers for organizing this event.

SNEHA SPARSH

Life Beyond Snehagram

Snehagram is into its fifth year and as around 20 children under our care have reached the age of 18 or are reaching, Snehagram is at a crucial juncture at which the transition of these children who are about to leave care (age out) has to be pondered over. Snehagram very well understands that a sudden transition is not possible as the students are not well prepared enough to get relocated in to the community for independent living. To guide the care leavers for independent living, Snehagram is ideating a transitional phase – named SNEHASPASH – to prepare the children for independent living; envisaged to materialize by imparting intensive vocational training, handholding and mentoring. This phase envisages an aftercare and transitional model addressing the varied needs of the children as identified by them over the years. Based on this Snehasparsh will have nine components, each of which will be designed to meet the needs of individuals and groups:

- ▶ A range of accommodation options and support for transitioning individuals from Snehagram to living arrangements that are appropriate to continuing needs
- ▶ Further vocational training beyond 'the basics' and according to needs, to more fully prepare individuals for employment and/or self employment in the community at large
- ▶ Guidance and practical support for individuals for obtaining and retaining employment and/or self employment
- ▶ Education and support for navigating complex urban environment
- ▶ Continued support in maintaining a healthy lifestyle including maintaining ART, healthy eating and regular exercise
- ▶ Continued maintaining and updating individual medical records, and availability of the records to enable individuals to inform future healthcare professionals
- ▶ Continued support and counselling for individuals in the event of unlawful, unethical or hurtful discrimination and rejection
- ▶ A support network to facilitate contact and communication with others infected by HIV and with similar conditions and experiences
- ▶ A communication network with other organisations concerned with the treatment, management and support for people infected with HIV.



VOLUNTEERING AT SNEHAGRAM

My family and I were first introduced to Snehagram by Fr. Mathew when I was 15 years old. When we heard that it is a school and home for children with HIV/AIDS, my parents were somewhat skeptical about sending me and my sister to volunteer there, as was I. Fr. Mathew continued to persuade them, and I realized what a wonderful experience this could be. My little sister immediately said yes, and I decided to agree as well, although this was a very important summer, as I could get an internship or begin working after 10th grade. However, these opportunities only come very rarely, and who knows, maybe this could be a better factor to get into college than an internship.

The month before we left, our parents would give us multiple pointers and tips to be cautious, as this was a bit of a frightening experience for them; after all, they were sending their reckless, teenage children to a place filled with students that could have AIDS. However, when we arrived, we realized that there was nothing to worry about.

The Snehagram facility was a beautiful area composed of lots of lush vegetation and resources. Everything was well maintained, with the students being well disciplined and living a life of order. The directors had done an impressive job, having the students live a healthy lifestyle, while still being happy. On top of this, the students were all very inspiring; one child even travelled to 5 different continents due to his running achievements. All the students were physically capable, with little sickness, which is a true achievement, as



they overcame their childhood troubles, and are now living a healthy lifestyle. They had strict, regimented schedules, which included running at 6 in the morning, daily mass at 7:30, school at 9, agricultural activities at 3, sports at 4:30, etc.

When we first saw the students and staff, we were immediately met with warm hospitality from everyone, and that hospitality lasted throughout the entire experience. All the students were taught good morals and given lots of love.

At the end of our first week, there was a celebration for the 4th anniversary of Snehagram. There we truly saw the talents of the children, as they sang and danced for an audience. It was a fantastic experience and we saw the hard-working mentality of the children. As the days went by, we got to connect more and more with the children, and learned about some of their struggles. Overall the experience was a touching one, full of love. I learned a lot from it and I hope I helped them as well.

Rahul, USA

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

By donating to Snehagram you are making the childhood and adolescence memorable for children living with HIV and supporting a program through which they receive guidance, protection, promotion of rights of children, opportunities to develop their full potential, make independent decisions, skill development, life skills and values that will guide and sustain them in their personal and social lives.

The donation made to Snehagram are exempted from tax 80G (5)(vi) of the IT Act 1961.

Contact us directly through our website, e-mail or phone.

Thanks & Adieu...

Shyju
Academic Coordinator

Anthony
Training Coordinator

Jithin
Learning Site Coordinator

Sr. Prasantha
Staff Nurse

Ronu Mathew
Consultant- Learning Site

We wish them All the best!



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