



Annual Report 2019-2020



Contents



- **Message**
- **Introduction**
- **Academics**
- **Learn For Life Foundation**
- **Health Care**
- **Counselling and Co-ordination with CDPU**
- **Spandan**
- **Experience of the 12th Grades**
- **Attitude Prime Impact**
- **Vocational Training**
- **Life Beyond Sports**
- **Events & Celebrations**
- **Volunteers Speak**



Snehagram

VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR CLHIV

Vision & Mission



Snehagram envisions to ensure quality of life and future of the orphan and vulnerable children living with and affected with 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.

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 psycho-social and emotional well-being.
- 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.

Motto

Educate For Life



Messages

Message from the President



Inspirational Adventure

It is always a pleasure to write a message when there is good news to convey. Snehagram is doing such a great job for the adolescents living with HIV and its achievements become a real joy. When our life becomes tough, the tough gets going. Life is tough and a challenging reality to be embraced and lived out effectively, meaningfully and fruitfully. It has often been around and is still around at Snehagram.

It is amazing to see how these children are marching ahead with a sense of enthusiasm and joy, with a sense of wonder and innovative ideas that enhance the quality of their life. It is commendable to highlight the way these boys and girls are responding to the challenges and demands of the situation, with positive energy and creative initiatives, in order to bring a new direction for their life and thus transform the ordinary life into something special, unique and precious. However, they are able to discover the resources available in and around them, find meaning for their life and build their life on their own. It is an inspirational adventure for the younger ones of SCT.

Sincere appreciation to Fr. Johnson Vellachira, the Director and Fr. Joy Inchodikaran, the Administrator, for their hard work and commitment. A word of thanks to all the staff, volunteers, collaborators, associates and well-wishers for their selfless services and generosity. Sincere thanks to our friends, benefactors and donor agencies for their timely financial support and encouragement. Sincere appreciation and best wishes for my beloved children for building their life meaningfully with a sense of new direction that their life must take.

Fr. Baby Ellickal MI,
President, Sneha Charitable Trust

Message from the Founder



I have entered into a new phase of my life from June 2019 as I moved out of Snehagram and took a sabbatical to reflect and renew my call to ministry. In 2002 God chose me to journey with the HIV infected and affected persons and from 2008 He entrusted me with a special mission of caring for the HIV infected children. From then my life was blessed not only with “Sneha Children”, but many who joined me as “sojourners” to make their lives and dreams “special”.

From the humble beginning at our novitiate house in Snehadaan in 2008 with 20 children, through the beautiful “Sneha Care Home” to the lush green of “Snehagram” and now to the third phase of “Snehasparsh” I have been led by God’s generous love and providential care to build the fragile lives of hundreds of children and their families. Gratitude is my predominant feeling at this juncture of this journey to God, to all who journeyed with us and to you my “special” children, now many of you young adults. I will continue to dream with you and journey with you as a father, friend, teacher and guide. I pray that the Lord who was so generous with us all be faithful to fulfil all our dreams. So happy and grateful that you came into my life and I was allowed to be part of your lives. Thanks be to God and may God Bless us all.

Fr. Mathew Perumpil, MI,
Founder of Snehagram

Director's Note



A group of 25 teens guided by the former director Fr. Mathew and a small team of care takers began their life in this small village with big hopes and great dreams in June 2013. Today, after seven years we look back to this great initiative of the Camillians in India with ardent faith and tribute of gratitude to God and the many hands that joined us in building up the lives of many young ones.

Snehagram today is a very lovely campus and home to young boys and girls, transforming their fragile lives into people leading meaningful and hope filled life. Within this short span of time, in this abode of love and care, many of the young adults moved to the main stream of life as responsible and confident people who are able to stand on their feet. 'Snehasparsh' the third phase of the project became another milestone of Snehagram where it becomes a home away home for those passing out to begin their independent life and also come back and continue to be united and feel bonded in their time of need.

We are grateful to the good hearted individuals and organizations who joined their hands in moulding the lives of these young people. It brought great sense into the lives of these young people who once were facing difficult future. Let us continue to join together in bringing more smiles onto their faces and building a sure foundation of their meaningful future.

May God bless all who became part of this initiative and have contributed in various ways in shedding more light into the lives of our young people.

Fr. Johnson Vellachira MI,
Director of 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 to provide 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 Bangalore for the CLHIV for the age group of 6 to 13. Most of the children who got enrolled at SCH were from families with poor economic background and they were having either one of their parents surviving or having lost both the parents to AIDS.

Orphan-hood and economic hardships got them to a dark tunnel or 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 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 psycho-social 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 a learning site for the care centres across the state of Karnataka.

Phase 2- Snehagram (THE ADOLESCENT PHASE)



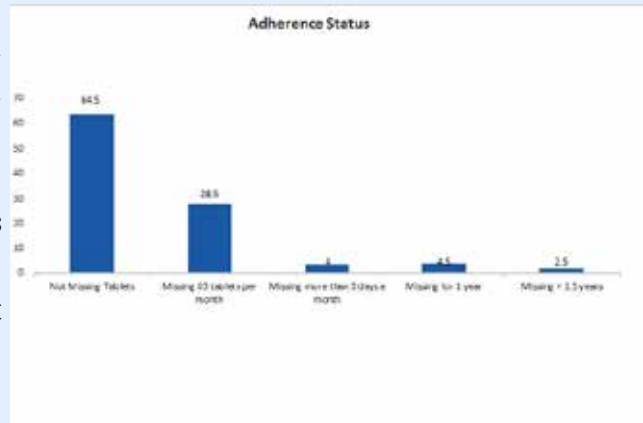
Snehagram, the second phase was established in 2013 to cater to the needs of children who have been under care at SCH once they reach past the age of 13. Major focus in this phase is to impart vocational skills and to prepare them for independent living. In this phase the children are also provided with 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 - Snehasparsh (TRANSITIONAL PHASE)

Snehasparsh, a concept designed to address the concerns of the youth through a two way model:

- **Follow-up plan post Snehagram:** Through a peer-led approach, the mentors, who have grown with experience and have developed life-skills to understand and cope with their own life challenges, continue to be connected with the youth to assist them to take important decisions, learn new skills and be ready and resilient in the face of unknown challenges. The peer leader approach effectively reaches out to address and build skills of youth, both among those who reside within institutions and also those living independently or within extended families.

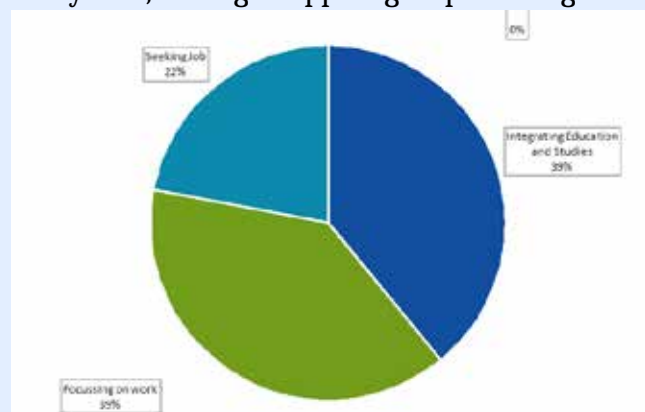
Peer leaders connect with the youth, through WhatsApp video chat and other platforms on a weekly basis. Quarterly/ Half yearly, meetings held at zonal levels (South, Central and North) helps in building the bonding and strengthens the support system. Through regular reach out, the program provides them the constant support to take ownership of their life as well as be able to lead a healthy and meaningful life. Further,



Snehasparsh also builds the leadership and ownership skills of the youth to reach out to their friends.

- **Identifying the skill sets of the youth:** The youth are facilitated to identify the key skill sets they have, for building a sustainable livelihood. A strategic plan is drafted through facilitation by the youth on the options he or she has. Based on the draft plan, the youth is supported to complete job-oriented/ skill based training program. Once the skill program is completed the youth takes a call on his/ her plans to move out of Snehagram and live an independent life. The team and the mentors support the youth in the initial three months support both in his/her work as well as place of residence to ensure effective treatment, adherence and sustainability.

Currently Snehasparsh mentors reach out to 190 youths of which 40 have been staying in Snehagram and moved out to seek job and 150 youth who didn't have an opportunity to stay in Snehagram, but who have been connected with our youth, through support group meetings and youth workshops.



The preliminary finding has brought forward the challenges and concerns that would need both short term as well as long term bonding to address the same. Of the 39% who were working 32% of them had one or two issues in their workplace, the primary being issues related to salary, taking treatment and job being difficult or tough and they were forced to work overtime. Keeping this in focus, Snehasparsh initiated collaboration with Institutes implementing Job Oriented Courses, and started its discussions with Don Bosco, Christ University and BOSCH. All these institutes had agreed to provide free training, but expressed the challenges related to providing food and accommodation. Don Bosco, has been supportive to our students and helped them to get a feasible accommodation close to their training center at minimal cost.

Impact

- The collaboration helped two of our students to successfully enroll and complete the program and get a job of their choice, currently both are employed.
- Further, for the new batch four of our boys got enrolled in the program and also got free accommodation facility at Don Bosco Centre

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 session are followed by group discussion and individual learning.

The students of Snehagram are grouped into five; 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th and Degree. Students' progress is monitored and assessed through comprehensive evaluation conducted in ever semester.



Learn for Life Foundation (LFL) (www.learnforlifefoundation.org) is a registered US non-profit organization and the primary initiative of the Thekkethala Family Charitable Trust. LFL was founded by Thomas Thekkethala, an Indian-American entrepreneur, investor and philanthropist who has worked for over twenty-five years financing, building and leading global technology companies (<https://thomasthekkethala.com/>) and his son Matthew Thekkethala, a Fulbright scholar who recently graduated from Yale University, USA.

LFL's mission is the advancement of international human rights through education, with special focus on disadvantaged children in developing countries and communities around the world. LFL's education model harnesses the power of MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) and government sponsored online K-12 school curriculums and local mentors to help children who cannot access public school systems, receive a high school education and complete their graduation requirements.

Learn for Life Foundation (LFL) has been one of the primary sponsors of Snehagram's residential program since 2013. LFL's goal was to help the Snehagram kids and disadvantaged youth like them around the world achieve their fullest potential. LFL raised awareness about Snehagram through local events, corporations and a network of family and friends in the US. Matthew Thekkethala also spent several summers at Snehagram teaching and mentoring the students.

LFL established the Learn for Life Center at Snehagram, in memory of Matthew's grandfather, Mr. TV Vareed (Thekkethala), the father of India's jet engine, who championed the education and training of thousands of young men and women engineers in India. The LFL Center was powered by solar panels and equipped with laptops donated by Indian IT companies.

Snehagram provides students with a very high quality of life through its holistic model. LFL is confident that Snehagram's broad-based education combined with the healthcare, psycho-social support and vocational training will help the Snehagram children achieve their fullest potential. LFL is very excited that 60 students have completed the secondary and senior secondary certifications administered by the Government of India and are well prepared to enter college or the work force and face the real-world challenges ahead.

Learn for Life Foundation (LFL) is a registered US non-profit organization co-founded by Matthew and Thomas Thekkethala in in 2012, based in the New York Metropolitan area and Bangalore, India.

For more information please visit:- www.learnforlifefoundation.org

Follow us on Facebook:- <https://www.facebook.com/LearnForLifeFoundation>

Twitter:- <https://twitter.com/LearnForLifeFDN>

For more information on the founder:- <https://thomasthekkethala.com>



Health Care

Since the beginning of the Snehagram program, we have been following a three pronged approach in health care: preventive, promotive and curative.



Preventive aspect focuses on preventing our children from infections and keeping them mentally and physically fit through running, sports, which is part of the lifestyle. These along with balanced nutrition diet plays a pivotal role in preventive healthcare management.

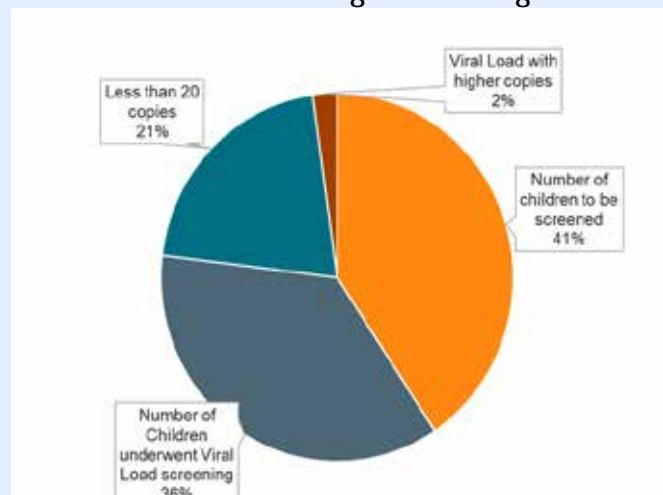
On the promotive care aspect, the onus is on creating a healthy mind in a healthy body. Children are helped to address the psychosocial issues related to adolescence through individual counselling, group counselling and peer counselling. There are well-being groups of children who meet every week and discuss their issues and provide mutual support in dealing with life challenges and in goal setting. The senior mentors also discuss with the younger ones on the various aspects that help them to be healthy.



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

This year we faced some challenges due to drug shortage at the Centre, which had some impact on drug adherence among our children, at this juncture we got good support from Mr. Thyagaraj, Assistant Director (CST), KSAPS. He supported and ensured our children got their drugs.

Further, the national programme has initiated to use viral load testing for both routine and targeted viral load testing, patients are tested using routine viral load monitoring tests to identify virological failure. In case of suspected clinical or immunological failure, targeted viral load monitoring will be used to confirm treatment failure. The goal of ART treatment is to keep viral load low and CD4 cell count high.



Counselling and Co-ordination with CDPU

I am Not What Has Happened To Me. I am What I choose To Become.

Most of the children at Snehagram believe in the impossible and over the course of time they have made it possible what the society thought as impossible. Many of them suffer from the traumatic experiences they had in their childhood. So when they are here, it is very important to help them accept their past and live in the present with beautiful opportunities. Through many sessions with children, we can lead them to an awareness of their potentials in them and create positive energy in them. In order to help them to get rid of their negative feelings, we conduct individual sessions, group activities and other psycho-social interventions. They are all aimed at helping them accepting themselves unconditionally, approve, admire, appreciate, forgive, trust, and ultimately love themselves.



Therefore as they are ready to venture into the mainstream of the society they can get amicably integrated into it and be very much at home. We find that they are able to talk about their feelings, they become less overwhelming, less upsetting and less scary. Snehagram has already achieved and brought out many beautiful personalities who went through these processes and are living a wonderful and meaningful life in the society. We could achieve all these through timely interventions in their lives. We continue to journey with them in leading and achieving their dreams in life with an assurance that Snehagram is a home away home

Aby Michael



Spandan

This year, the visits from the Department of Psychology, CHRIST (Deemed to be) University to Snehagram, revolved mostly around teaching Psychology to the tenth and twelfth grade children. The main agenda was to dispense effective techniques to the students in terms of both studying for the examinations as well as writing them. For this, the children were divided into smaller groups so that the volunteers could provide their complete focus and attention to them. Analysis of question papers, tips for writing answers appropriately, and sample answers for important questions were all given out to the students.

Quizzes on the topics, timed tests as well as repeated rehearsal sessions added benefit to this. These sessions provided proper insight, understanding, important tips and techniques, and practice to the students which will definitely help them perform better on their examinations. In addition, for the initial few sessions, the ninth grade children participated in life skills training while the eleventh grade children underwent group counseling sessions. Both these aspects were aimed towards a more holistic development of their minds. While the counseling sessions provided a safe space to the children to discuss their thoughts and feelings, the life skills training helped them learn important virtues, necessary to live a prolific life.



Finally, periods of mindfulness meditation, which have been seen as one of the best methods to end the two day long sessions on a calm and peaceful note, have also been a part of most of the visits. All in all, the sessions held in this academic year have been very fruitful with respect to the academic growth of the children. We, as a team, are always awestruck with the amount of things we get to learn from these children while trying to teach them the ways of life, and this year was no different.

Reflection

Working for Snehagram under the flag of Project Spandan, launched by the Department of Psychology, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), has been one of the most enriching experiences for both of us as project heads. We had initial apprehensions about how much we'll be able to impact the lives of students at Snehagram but the lovely visits and our interaction with the students left us with no doubt that this project was worth all the effort!



Our visits have been a rich source of knowledge to us. We feel we have learnt so much more from the students than what we've taught them. Their discipline, punctuality, positivity and resilience are just some of the many things that we've learnt from them. Our conversations with the students, the highly interactive life skill sessions, the meals that we had with them, the football games that we enjoyed together and the academic learning and teaching experiences are some instances that have transformed us internally.



In fact, we look forward to our visits every month as it brings us great joy and lights up our weekend with satisfaction as well as recreation. Children at Snehagram are high achievers! No one can deny this after seeing the many laurels they've earned for themselves and for the organisation. Babu, for instance, inspires all of us in the team! Every conversation with him charges us up with the will to achieve big in life. The fact that he clearly knows what he wants in his future at such a young age is truly admirable.

Children at Snehagram widen our perspectives on life and teach us that happiness can be sought from the small little things in everyday life, be it from a joke that was cracked or even through ghost stories that we have all shared with each other. We draw inspiration from them and thank the team at Snehagram for having given us this wonderful opportunity to collaborate with these bright minds and not only help transform their lives but ours too!



HIV-AIDS still remains a taboo and we and our enthusiastic team are proud to be a part of this organisation that aims to normalise AIDS, spread awareness about HIV and provide equal opportunities and quality support to the vulnerable population. We pledge to provide our complete support to the children at Snehagram.



Naina Rao and Aslesha Prakash
Department of Psychology
CHRIST(Deemed to be University),Bangalore

Experience of the 12th Grades

From a learner to a leader, are we ready?

We are proud of our 10 students who will be writing their Senior Secondary exams this year and moving ahead in their lives. From being students and learners, they are growing up to be leaders and responsible youth. Here are a few insights, from the discussions I had with them.



Life in Snehagram has been a period of learning, exploring, identifying and building new skills. While most of them felt that Snehagram team has been like a family and they made some good friends for life, others shared that the systems has helped them, become responsible and healthy adolescents. One thing they will all miss from Snehagram is

the friendship they cherished and the healthy living environment, integrated with education and sports. Each one of them look forward to continue some of the good things they learned and also felt that integrating sports, education and working in the coming days, will be a challenge, but committed, that they will be strict in ensuring treatment adherence.

The next steps of life, have been diversified, - 'It is boring to study, hence I want to finish my 12th and start working', shared one of the students, others felt having a degree certificate will give them with better employment and hence would want to integrate studying while working. All of them have shared and discussed about their future either with their family members, friends or seniors in Snehagram, but have not been able to take a decision till date, but promised to do once the results are declared.

Family members, have been proud of their growth and shared, that they have been responsible in their life. While some felt that their family members have one or the other opinion about their studies and future, others felt that they have been left to their choice and hope to get the family support once they take a decision.

Future has been a challenge for all our friends - they all feel that they have some skills, but will the skills give them a job to be financially stable is a challenge? While most of them felt that doing some business will help them become financially stable, others felt that job oriented training program, can give them a job to start with, just like their seniors.



Future has been a challenge for all our friends - they all feel that they have some skills, but will the skills give them a job to be financially stable is a challenge? While most of them felt that doing some business will help them become financially stable, others felt that job oriented training program, can give them a job to start with, just like their seniors.

It is proud to hear from some of our friends that they would like to go back home, spend some time with family members, especially their mothers, who need their support. But others have a challenge whether they will be accepted in their families or other relatives.

Taking ownership of life, right decision to become financially stable and being a healthy individual is not an easy transition, but being open to the new learnings will certainly help us to become leaders one day.



Impact

- All the 10 children are confident to write the 12th exam and have also been able to identify their skills and potential career choices.
- Children are confident to enrol for graduate programs as their seniors and look forward to learn and earn.

Attitude Prime Impact

I was introduced to Snehagram in 2017 by Elvis Joseph to treat the sports injuries of the children who were participating in running. Ever since, this journey has really been gratifying to me. Initially there were so many children who used to be injured because of running, is what I have observed. Eventually with the help of Fr. Mathew and Fr. Joy Inchodikaran I changed the training plan for these children including more strengthening and flexibility training along with optimal running. This brought down the injury rate dramatically. This came to existence with a good team work.

The children had already established a solid framework of leadership roles. This came very handy to execute my fitness regime efficiently towards all the kids. I also shared many motivating messages from God's Word (The Bible) to encourage them and give hope. Together we achieved not only injury free running but also a healthy life to the children thus reducing their visit to hospitals.

I thank God for giving me this opportunity and the Fathers in charge of Snehagram for allowing me to contribute to the children.

Dr. Gladson Johnson

Impact

- Injury free runs
- Continuity in running
- Better performance in daily activity
- Increased strength and conditioning
- Knowledge on how to manage crams and aches
- Being a professional runner
- Right method of doing exercise



Sustainable Programs

Broiler Poultry Farming



Organic Farming



Snehadhaar Farm



Dairy Farming



Rabbit Farming



Data Entry



Mango Farming



**Solar
Food Dehydrating Training**



Cookery



Natti Chicken Poultry



Impact

- Students are exposed in all fields to find out their interest
- Helped students in finding their career
- Improved confidence to face the society
- Added knowledge and skills

Life Beyond Sports

Crisis Outreach in Response To The Global Pandemic COVID -19



Bangalore Schools Sports Foundation with its long-standing partnership with Sneha Charitable Trust (Snehadaan & Snehagram) has made Sports & Healthy Lifestyle as a fundamental goal to build the lives of CLHIV



Champion In me has built a life-long positive effects on CLHIV, it has not only developed important social skills but strong character & values as well. In this journey they have celebrated success but above all learned to accept failures gracefully. This in turn has built immense resilience & confidence in them.

Throughout history, crises of different forms have challenged humanity. In an increasingly interconnected world, crises throw up profound questions for us all as individuals, communities, organizations, societies, nations, and as human race. From climate change to religious polarization, from HIV/AIDS to refugee crisis to COVID-19, humanity is being challenged as never before.



The outbreak of COVID-19 has crippled the state and Nation. Children and youth living with HIV, need to be protected and provided with all recommended preventive measures to minimize exposure to the virus and combat infections that may compromise the immune system.

Team CHAMPION IN ME, took the lead forming a CRISIS OUTREACH TEAM to respond to the Global pandemic COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and with its Strategic Partnerships helped reach out to people Living with HIV/AIDS across urban and rural Bangalore providing lifesaving support such as food supplies, ART Medication & Hygiene Supplies



“NOTHING IN LIFE IS TO BE FEARED, IT IS ONLY TO BE UNDERSTOOD, NOW IS THE TIME TO UNDERSTAND MORE, SO THAT WE MAY FEAR LESS”

Elvis Joseph

Events & Celebration 2019



6th Anniversary

On 15th July, Snehagram celebrated the Feast of St. Camillus de Lellis and the 6th anniversary of the centre. Rt. Rev. Dr. Lawerance Pius, Bishop of Dharmapuri Diocese, celebrated the Holy mass. Cultural programme by children added colour and beauty to the event. Fr. Baby Ellikcal, Fr. Susai Raj, and Camillian Religious were present for the celebrations.

Eyes Checked Up

Many of us were wondering why we are not able to read our texts properly until we went for an Eye Check up camp at Krishnagiri organized by the Lions Club of Krishnagiri. Thirteen of us were prescribed with eye glasses and our Krishnagiri District Collector was generous enough to contribute the eye glasses to help us read better. Now we have better sight and hope that we will be able to see our future better as well.



Football Camp

Once again the spirit of football was in the air. 10 days of football camp began on 16th July. Ms. Mary Victoria, Senior Coach of SAI was guiding the camp along with Ms. Nancy and Ms Ranjitha. The training was tough but children enjoyed it and had lot of fun. The Camp was concluded with a tournament.

Child Parliament Election

The formation of the new child parliament for the year 2019-2020 was held. Mr. Sijil and Ms. Clera conducted the election proceedings. It was very challenging for the nominees to get the majority. There were three rounds of voting to finalize the Prime Minister of Snehagram. Mr. Karthik was elected as the Prime Minister, Ms. Suhasini as the Deputy Prime Minister and Shekar as the Opposition Leader of Snehagram for the academic year 2019-2020. It was formally declared on 10th June after the oath taking.





Onam

Onam was celebrated with its traditional pomp and glory on September. The day was marked with variety entertainment program, tug –of- war, and delicious Onam Sadhya with 21 varieties of vegetarian dishes. One of the students dressed up as Mahabali and entertained the group.

Deepavali

Celebrated diwali, illuminating the main buildings in the campus with diyas. It looked so beautiful diyas breaking the darkness with their tiny flames. Special diwali sweets were made and served by the cooking group.



Christmas

We Celebrated birth of Jesus with lots of Joy and fun. We had been seriously preparing for the day by carefully making Crib, decorating and cleaning campus as well as making snacks. Rev Fr. Basil MI celebrated the Holy Eucharist as the main celebrant along with Frs. Joy and Johnson followed by a gathering to wish each other Merry Christmas. Crib was something unique that one side of it reflected the Icy cold winter and the other side calm and greenish area illumined by lights and eco of natural music by a water fountain.

Basketball Tournament

On November 15th we conducted a Basketball tournament for girls dividing them into four teams. All the teams tried their best to be selected for the finals. The team named Winston Churchill and Lincoln were selected for the finals, and the team Lincoln beat Winston Churchill with a huge margin.



Snehasparsh Meet Up

On 14th July 2019, Snehasparsh gathering was held in Snehagram in which 26 members participated. Mr. Michel, Fr. Mathew, Fr. Joy and Fr. Johnson and Snehagram Staff facilitated the discussion. The gathering discussed the major concerns and challenges of living outside. The meeting looked into the four major concerns: Health, Education, Psycho-social issues, and Sustainability. Mr. Michael emphasized on various ways to address and solve problems that come in life. The mentors in Snehagram played a major role in conducting the meeting.



Seva Cafe @ Snehagram

Living is Giving. This motto is once again made real through their visit to Snehagram on 22nd of December 2019. It was their 3rd visit to Snehagram, it was lovely to see that they gladly follow their motto 'Living is Giving' and it was a great experience of love sharing. We enjoyed the different entertainment program they organized and the sumptuous meal they cooked. Each student was given personal Christmas gifts, and the presence of Santa made the program more colourful.



Spiritual Renewal day

The day was conducted by BTM Church through games and activities, conveying the core message that we are valuable and precious in the eyes of God. It was held on 22nd June from 9 am to 4 pm. All children actively participated, recharging their spiritual battery for the year to come. With grateful hearts we acknowledge Mr. Vincent, Kiran and whole team.



Tie & Dye Workshop

Tie and Dye training was held in Snehagram by Mr. Paul. He explained how to make natural dyes on the clothes and how this can be a livelihood option. The students were very curious in learning and making all sorts of natural colours on the piece of cloth given.



Semester Holidays

Tension and stress of exams melt away in a week's time. Semester holidays were organized with varieties of entertainment programme and learning activities. The caption of the week was 'book free learning'. The week was planned on the basis of six themes spread out in six days, namely, Environment, Arts, Sports, Knowledge, Creativity and Performance. Activities were conducted with a competitive mode among the three groups.



The memory of participants was tested through quiz competition and memory test on the knowledge day.

Creativity day was really spirit filled one. It included mud designing, weed house making and clay modelling.



Performance day was part of the monthly cultural day. Variety entertainment programmes were put up by the groups. Arts and sports day was done with traditional items at the same time with fun filled competitions like Male Queen and Female King.

Environment day was organized with a focus on creating awareness among students about the need of protecting and caring for our Mother Earth. Clearing off littered plastics, removal of weeds, and planting trees were some of the activities of the day.



It was indeed a rejuvenating experience for all the children recharging their battery for the next semester of serious studies and activities.



Gandhi Jayathi

Snehagram celebrated Gandhi Jayanthi with due respect to the Father of our Nation. It was a day set apart for cleaning the campus and nearby roads. Cleaning was focused on removing plastics and papers littered the campus. Allergy causing plants Partheeniyum were also removed in large quantity.

Trip to Wayand

Eight of the senior students had been on a learning trip to Wayand (Kerala). We spent time in visiting few of the nurseries, seed festival, botanical gardens, hill station animal farms and water falls. It was a 2 days trip, and indeed a fun-filled and learning trip.



We @ Fever 104 FM

On 14 of December some of the students form Snehagram got chance to go on Record in Fever 104 FM Radio. The participants spoke about how sports and regular exercise help children and youth living with HIV. It was a fruitful time of sharing our learnings, views and ideas.

Visit of Vicar General, Camillians

Global Camillians made their presence and blessed us all in Snehagram through the visit of Rev Fr. Laurent Zoungrana, Vicar General of Camillians, and Bro. Jose Ignacio, General Consulta for Mission and Finance along with Fr. Alessandro Vigano the delegate from the Mother Province. We welcomed them wholeheartedly. They spent time with the students and the staff appreciating and encouraging students and staff to continue their journey trusting in God for a better and bright future.



Events & Celebration 2020



Happy New Year 2020

We ended the year 2019 with an evaluation of the year and vision building exercise for the coming year. 2020 was welcomed with usual rituals of burning the effigy, thanksgiving prayers and entertainment program.

Ponagaloo, Pongal

Being in Tamil Nadu, the Pongal celebration reaches an extra higher level of devotion. Snehagram never missed a chance to be part of this cultural extravaganza of Tamil Nadu. This year also we celebrated Pongal with all its rituals. Prepared special Pongal sweet in a very traditional way. Sugarcane sticks added special taste to the celebration. Ceremonial preparation of Pongal was the most interesting part of the event.



Grammy Night

Our annual celebration, Grammy Night, was celebrated on 4th January 2020 with its usual pomp and glory. Students put up dances, skit, presentations, and various entertainment programs. Programs were well watched and the guests marked their appreciation on students. The program was followed with a sumptuous dinner. Fr. Baby Ellickal, Provincial, Fr Susai Raj, Parish Priest, Krishnagiri, and Mr. Vincent, Chairperson of CWC were some of the guests of honour.

Republic Day

We celebrated the Independence Day on 15 August. The day was begun by hoisting the Flag, and continued the celebration with various activities. Quiz, Treasure Hunt, Drawing, Screening Videos about India and Skits were some of the important attractions of the day. The day was concluded with colorful cultural programme based on the theme of Freedom.





Trip to Pondicherry

Fun and family time again! Long awaited trip to Pondicherry took place on December 5th Thursday. Many of the students had not seen and played in beach that was the main reason of choosing Pondicherry. We began the journey at 3.00 in the early morning.

We spent time in Sadhana forest, Botanical Gardens, Aquarium, Museum and at the beach. Children were bit disappointed as they were not allowed to take dip in the sea due to the rough waves. However, children enjoyed the time in beach, by collecting shells, making sand houses, running around, and ofcourse getting a feel of the waves on their feet. It was indeed a time of excitement and togetherness. A big thanks to all those who sponsored it and made it a reality.

Welcome Fr. Johnson

Fr. Johnson Vellachira was appointed as the new Director of Snehagram and he was handed over the responsibility by the community on 10th June. Fr. Joy Inchody continues to serve as administrator.



Thank You

Farewell to Mr. Subin Varghese



Right from the beginning of Snehagram, Mr. Subin Varghese also started his journey with us being part of us in everything. He played an important role in accompanying our students to various places for multiple reasons. Lastly, he was serving as warden of boys, purchase manager, and maintenance in charge. We sincerely thank him for his selfless service to the institute.

Farewell to Daughters of Divine Providence



The collaborative ministry with Daughters of Divine Providence officially began in June 2013, with three sisters who joined Snehagram under the leadership of Sr. Lilly. In 2016 Sr. Rani took over the baton and continued their service till April 2019.

It was indeed a remarkable era of genuine commitment and altruistic service. On 30 April 2019 Snehagram bid farewell to our dear Sisters as they moved to other mission centres of the congregation. We were indeed grateful to them for the 6 years of contribution to Snehagram, especially guiding and mentoring girls. Sisters also served as in-house nurses caring for the children whenever they fell ill or by giving tips to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Teaching was another area they contributed. It wasn't a happy moment for Snehagram to end this collaboration, but as it is said there is a time for everything.

Farewell to Fr. Mathew Perumpil

The beginning of the New Academic year also marked some important changes in the administration of Snehagram. Fr. Mathew Perumpil, the architect and director of Snehagram went for a sabbatical and got transferred from Snehagram on 12th June. We appreciate the initiatives of Fr. Mathew that he envisaged the second Phase of Children affected and infected with HIV in a creative way.



The idea of Snehagram was born in his heart and actualized by his initiative with the support of the Indian Camillian Province. His tireless effort and hard work helped the program to be established with all the necessary infrastructure, conducive ambience and well equipped staff. It also reached new heights by establishing 'Snehasparsh' a program continuing to mentor the adults passing out from Snehagram.



Running Events



Celebrate Bangalore 10k Run

On 15th of December, eight of our boys participated in 10K Marathon in Bangalore. It was a tough run but our boys made it through and clocked their best timings. It was a proud moment as two of the boys were the podium finishers in the open men's category. Babu clocked 38.34 minutes and was the second runner up and Nagaraju clocked 41.36 and was the 3rd runner up.

TROT 10k Run

On 27th July TROT run was held in Bangalore. 10 of our students participated in the 12.5 and six participated in the easy run 5k. All the students did very well clocking their best timings. The happiest thing was that none of them had any major injuries during and after the run.



Snehagram Run

We run we live. That's the motto of Snehagram Run. On 15 March 2020, we had Snehagram Run 5k and 10km. The running trail is amazing path with green trees around. All the students participated along with members from outside. This year we had Mr. Murli as our chief guest for the run.

Thumb Celebration 10k Run

Yet another 10K Marathon was a landmark in the history of Snehagram. It was held on 1st December 2019. Eight of us participated in the 10k and another eight in the 6k event. We were very proud as Vijaykumar and Sahana won the first prize in the open category of men and women. Sanjay completed the run as the first runner up in men's 10k category. Congratulations to all participants and winners.

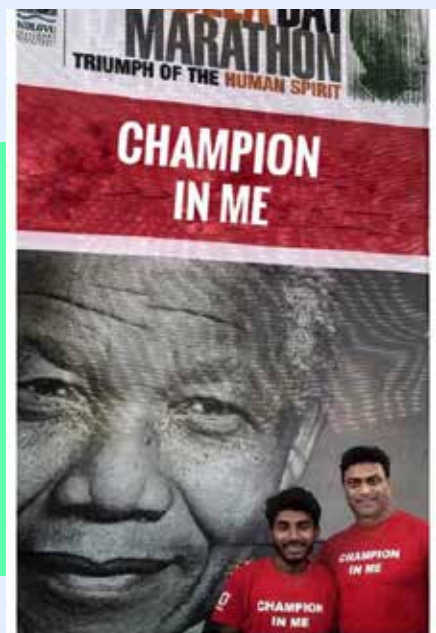


Jerusalem 10k Run

The event included several tracks – marathon (42.2 km), half-marathon (21.1 km), 10 km race, 5 km race, family 1.7km race and an 800 m community race. This is one of Israel's largest marathons, with 3000 participants of which thousands are elite runners and runners from abroad

Nelson Mandela 10k Run

Nelson Mandela Marathon was held on 25th August year 2019 in South Africa. One of our students, Babu, participated in the event through Champion In Me program. He was accompanied by his mentor and Coach Mr. Elvis Joseph, representing Champion In Me and Sneha Charitable Trust. He participated at the 10k event and touched the finish line in 42 minutes.



Volunteers Speak



I stayed one month in Snehagram for an internship. This was my first time in India. I joined the children in their daily routine. It was so impressive. The students are trained in gardening, cleaning, cooking, washing and more. But they already work independently.

I gained a lot of experiences in this month. I learnt more about the profession as social worker, which I think about to become in my future. I am impressed by the children's attitude. They always think positive and did not complain about their disease, but they are always happy. Also, I got to know the Indian culture, food and traditions. I had the chance to watch the girls and boys performing Indian dances and tried classical dancing by myself. I really liked the campus with beautiful nature. Snehagram is a wonderful home for children and guides them to become responsible adults with a good future.

Judith



I worked as volunteers for three weeks at Snehagram from 25th November 2019 to 20th December 2019. We stayed at the little guesthouse in front of the football field. Snehagram is surrounded with beautiful nature, flowers and trees. All the food we ate at Snehagram comes from the garden of Snehagram. We were so impressed by how all the kids participated in every part of this place. They take their history, knowledge and interest in everything they do and they do it to the fullest. They inspired us to be more interested in them and helped us to be more eager to learn. We are so impressed!

Julie



We spent six meaningful weeks in Snehagram as part of our learning visit. The students and Staff were taking such good care of us. We worked on a nursing-project about women's health, focusing on menstrual issues. We spent our time participating in activities with the students at Snehagram. We are so inspired by how joyful and physically active the students are. The place reminds us of a Botanical garden and it is well taken care of by the students. We are grateful for our time at Snehagram and thankful to meet so many inspiring students and friendly staff.
By Agnet, Kamilla and Hanna, VID University, Norway.

Students of VID University, Norway.



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