

2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



WASH YOUR WINDOW

"Better keep yourself clean and bright; you are the window through which you must see the world," says George Bernard Shaw. Think of your attitude as the mental filter through which you experience the world. Some people see the world through the filter of optimism (the glass being half full) while others see life through a filter of pessimism (the glass being half empty). Your attitude is you're your window to the world. Why do I say that your attitude is your window to the world? We all start out in life with a good attitude. Just watch young children. They are always

laughing and giggling. They have a sunny disposition. They love to explore new things. Consider the attitude of a child who is learning to walk. When he stumbles and falls down, what does he do? I'll tell you what he doesn't do. He doesn't frown or blame the carpet. He doesn't point fingers at his mother or father for giving him lousy instructions. He doesn't quit. He smiles, gets up again, and makes another attempt. And another. He keeps going for weeks and weeks with a positive attitude until he gets it right. His window is squeaky clean and he feels like he can conquer the world.

But as you know, there comes a point where life starts throwing some dirt at our windows. The problem is the dirt keeps building up and all too many people do nothing about it. They continue to go through life with a filthy window. They lose their enthusiasm. They get frustrated and depressed. And most tragically, they give up on their dreams, all because they failed to clean their attitude window.

It is your job to keep your window clean. You see, you always have a choice. You can leave the filth on your window and look at life with a smeared glass. But there are consequences to that approach and they are not very pretty. You will go through life negatively and frustrated. You will be unhappy. You will achieve only a fraction of what you are capable of achieving.

There is a better way. When you choose to take out you're squeegee and clean your window, life will be brighter and sunnier. You will be healthier and happier. You will set some ambitious goals and begin to achieve them. Your dreams will come alive again. It is only when you clean your attitude window that the other success principles can shine through. When you learn to keep your attitude window clear, the light comes pouring in and you can use these empowering principles to earn more money, have more satisfying relationships, increase your spiritual awareness and reach your full potential. When you combine a positive attitude with the other success principles, you become unstoppable.

Fr. Baby Ellickal MI

President, Sneha Charitable Trust



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



The green lush Campus of Snehagram, the Village of Love brings happiness to all. It is filled with plants, flowers, trees, and fruits. But the children in Snehagram are still more beautiful than the plants and flowers filled around the Campus. Because the children bear better fruit that lasts.

“By their fruits, you will know them” Mt 7:20. Yes, if they are not rooted well they can not have better fruits. I, together with Fr. Sunil, must appreciate Camillans, Staff, and well-wishers of Snehagram who helped the children to be rooted in the shadow of Sneha Charitable Trust. The village of love was not infected by the Covid19 Viral attack but it was affected in a bad way. Most of the children left for holidays could not return to begin the academic year. In the first week of June 2021, the Covid 19 break paused by the kick start of sports and activities and then creatively rejuvenated the academic year.

The ImPossible fellowship program of SCT reminds me of the verse from Luke 1: 37, “For Nothing will be impossible with God”. Yes, ImPossible Fellowship empowered the fellows and reached out to many youngsters infected and affected. The name was derived from the notion that it is impossible for an HIV youth with complex physical, mental and emotional needs to succeed later in life, yet with the proper developmental tools in place, their goals and aspirations for adulthood are not only possible but realistic as well.

The ImPossible concept rests on a well-validated theory of change – to develop strong fellowship among the youth themselves to build support and mediate positive social change for persons living with HIV. We could reach out to 500 youth in south India. “Our Fellowship model is built on securing four Sustainable Development Goals for our children: Health, Gender, Livelihood, and Education. Our partnerships with Sparsh care home, Bidar, Mother Theresa Charitable Trust, Gulbarga, St. Josephs's Home for the children, Bijapur, Christy Girls home, Kolar, and Dayabhavan, Tumkur, has helped us to scale the learnings of the fellowship across the districts of Karnataka.

We learn that with the collaboration and support from the partners, we could multiply the impacts in lives we touched during this year. While we continue to strengthen our bonds, we look forward to creating newer opportunities for our students. I appreciate the support from SOS, TFlx, BSSF, Karnataka Network for people living with HIV, Learn for Life Foundation, and Positive Running Program of Rishi Foundation and John Hopkins University.

Fr Teji Thomas MI
Director, Snehagram





ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE



The Children are Bundles of Talents

As I reached Snehagram, the village of Love, I have come across many students who are with bundles of talents. I have met these children years before when they were below the age of ten in Sneha Care Home in Bangalore. And when I came to this community as the Administrator, I was really happy to see those students doing their 10th grade and 12th grade, some doing graduation and post-graduation studies and some of them are our staff in Snehagram.

In the Gospel of St. Mathew 25: 14-30 we read the parable of talents. According to the abilities of each person, they were given different talents and they have multiplied them. In the same way, the students at Snehagram also are gifted with lots of talents and all are trying their best to multiply the talents given to them. Its because of their hard work, they have crossed milestones in their life. The continuous guidance, accompaniments, corrections, appreciation, respect, and love from the authorities help them to take ownership and leadership responsibly in life.

The students are always active in all the activities of Snehagram. I see in them the readiness to work and a positive attitude towards life and guidance. The daily exercise and the routine health checkups keep them healthy always. The students involve in cooking, farming and we get organic vegetables for house use and milk for daily use. I sincerely appreciate the hard work and commitments of the students.

I am sure that the students are the future leaders of the country. Their compassion, dedication, hopes, and dreams will change our stigmatized society one day. Nevertheless, student life is not easy. A hardworking student keeps in motion between exams, self-learning, and other activities every day, so we must extend our best assistance towards them as well! A little gesture of recognition, appreciation, and acknowledgment goes a long way.

So, study like there's no tomorrow because if you keep putting off your studies for tomorrow, you'll probably be too late. As a student, the most important thing to remember is that laziness is your worst enemy and hard work is your best friend. Your hard work will never go in vain! Be diligent towards your dreams and you will reach there soon enough! Nothing can stop you from reaching your goals as long as you work hard. Your goals are just dedication and determination away.

Fr Sunil Joseph MI
Administrator, Snehagram



SNEHAGRAM

Snehagram, the adolescent phase of the comprehensive care programme by Snea Charitable Trust (SCT) for the Children Living with HIV (CLHIV), was established in 2013. This programme is a result of SCT's ardent pursuit of an advanced care programme exclusively for CLHIV. This programme which spans 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.

VISION & MISSION

Snehagram envisions to ensure the quality of life and future of the orphan and vulnerable children living with and affected by HIV and leads to 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 so as to enable them to live a healthy and happy life.

Our 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 the 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.

SERVICE DELIVERY



HISTORY

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. The 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 the 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. It is a residential program for boys and girls who are 13 years and above with a focus on vocational training and rehabilitation. It has the facility to offer residential training for 200 children, both boys and girls. Snehagram facilitates a preparatory platform for the adolescent CLHIV to face the challenges of life when they reach adulthood. This unique model is evolved to meet the long-term needs of childhood development, adolescent issues, personality development, value development, employment, community, and family acceptance.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Snehagram follows a student-centered academic program. Most of the children lack formal education as they were dropped out of school for a considerable time. Hence, children are facilitated to follow the curriculum of the 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.



Having this as the regular pattern last year due to COVID -19 Pandemic most of the children in the Center were sent to their homes. Many of them could not return due to Lockdown and they could not be registered for their NIOS admission. Therefore the academic year was canceled due to this and other inconveniences. This year again has the second wave of COVID-19, academics were not focused and there was more flexible time and not into the regular stream of education. In the month of June, most of the schools began to function around the country keeping the COVID protocols. In the same manner, the Academic Year 2021-2022 was officially opened on 7th June 2021. We have in total 60 students perusing their education. All the classes and sessions are conducted within the institution and the subjects are taken by mentors and staff in Snehagram

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

SL.No	Section	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Class 9 th	07	06	13
2	Class 10 th	10	05	15
3	Class 11 th	01	02	03
4	Class 12 th (PU)	15	14	29
5	Degree	01	01	12
6	Mentors	03	02	07
	Total	37	30	67



Impact

- The 10th and 12th Class students registered in NIOS and successfully completed.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Many children are involved in different activities and setting their lives to improve their future careers. Some of the programmes that are introduced for skill training are:

- Organic Farming
- Dairy Farming
- Chicken Farming (Separate units for broiler and indigenous variety)
- Data Entry (Reporting and Documentation)
- Mango Farming
- Catering
- Sales and marketing



Impact

- Children have developed self-confidence and many have identified their potential career choices.
- Children have got exposed to different career avenues. Children are interested in learning living skill.

CO- CURRICULAR ACTIVITES

Co-curricular activities are devised to help children in value formation and life skill training, resilience building and coping, and in preparing them to face challenges in life. Some of the programs that are introduced for co-curricular activities are:

- Sports and games
- Running
- Dance
- Strengthening & Stretches
- Gardening
- Exposure visits
- Creativity Development Programmes
- Monthly cultural Program



Impact

- Children are able to find out their hidden talents.
- Adolescent children can channel their energy to productive work
- Develops skills and imagination of children.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Adolescents living with HIV confronts a great challenge in getting transitioned to healthy adult life. Snehagram is meeting this challenge by making every effort for developing leadership skills in them. Some of the activities are as follows.

- Training programs and workshops
- Developing Peer Leaders from among the children to train the children in the communities.
- Life-skill training
- Living Value Education Programmes

Impact

- Children have the ability to make decision for them.
- Children are improving their quality of life



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 Deputy Prime Minister along with ministers for Law, Education, Health, Environment, Sports and opposition leader. Cabinet meetings and parliament meetings are convened regularly and children take an active part in managing and guiding the affairs of Snehagram



HEALTH CARE

Since the beginning of Snehagram, we have been following a three-pronged approach in healthcare; preventive, Promotive, and curative. The preventive aspect focuses on preventing our children from infections by keeping them mentally and physically fit through sports, running, and exercises which have become a lifestyle itself for our children. These along with a 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 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 curative aspect takes care of treatment and drug adherence. All the children, in compliance with the NACO guidelines, are currently on ART (Anti-retroviral Therapy) and some of them are on second line treatment.

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.

PROJECTS

LEARN FOR LIFE FOUNDATION

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 a 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, 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 healthcare, psychosocial 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 workforce 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 2012, based in the New York Metropolitan area and Bangalore, India. For more information

THE POSITIVE RUNNING PROGRAM

Introduction

Physical activity is an important part of a healthy lifestyle for children and youth. Incorporating routine exercise in children’s daily lives can boost immunity to certain diseases, keep bones healthy and strong, and help them achieve their full potential.

In keeping with Snehagram’s mission to enable self-sufficiency in children living with HIV and help them lead healthy and productive lives, the organization provides a platform to incorporate a physical fitness program for children. The sporting activities originally started in 2009 with the first phase of the Sneha Care Home for younger children. The running skills picked up by the children led many to participate in competitive sports and achieve wins, but this also helped many children in their daily lives.

The Positive Running Program is instituted in memory of Rishi Shet, a young teenager who loved running. The program is supported by the Rishi Children’s Fund run by Johns Hopkins University. It builds on the existing Snehagram framework by incorporating routine running activities, appropriate nutrition for children, and necessary equipment for running training. The program aims to empower children and youth at Snehagram by using athletics as a catalyst to harness their physical abilities and confidence to pursue an active, healthy and holistic lifestyle.



Aims of the Positive Running Program

- Incorporate running as a routine physical fitness endeavor among children living in Snehagram.
- Provide children living in Snehagram with appropriate nutritional support that will enable robust participation in the running program.
- Evaluate the impact of the running program on the well-being and quality of life of children and build a model that can be scaled up for other vulnerable children.

As part of the Positive Running Program, children will be provided with:

- Running gear (shoes, clothes) and training gear (cones, hurdles, agility ladders).
- Professional coaching by experts who will provide guidance in regular training, nutrition reviews, and injury prevention.
- Lessons on physical health, first aid, basic anatomy, and physiology.
- Appropriate nutrition and locally-sourced food that is sustainable and cost-effective.



At present all 72 children aged 13-17 years residing in Snehagram will be allowed to participate in this training program. As a nested program, up to about 10 children with high ability and motivation may be selected for more intense and professional training.

The benefits of this program are anticipated to be wide-ranging and long-long-standing. Running is an activity that can be easily built into one’s lifestyle, and promote healthy living well into adulthood. In particular, we believe that this program will teach children the value of practice and perseverance, build endurance and self-esteem, foster a sense of well-being, and develop leadership abilities.



SNEHASPASH: EMPOWERING WITH CARE

Amidst the challenges of COVID crisis and lockdowns, the project supported by ThoughtWorks was able to identify and address the critical challenges faced by the beneficiaries. These were addressed through a holistic and comprehensive model that enables adolescents and youth to live a healthy, meaningful, and productive life towards attaining their maximum potential by overcoming the challenges.



Based on the assessments:

- We were able to reach out to nearly 87% of the proposed numbers (500) periodically, of these 47% were females.
- Nearly 85% of the individuals contacted have been adherent to treatment, these were followed up and counseled.
- The beneficiaries from critical socioeconomic backgrounds were prioritized - among the beneficiaries, only 26.5% have both parents alive and 35% live with single parents, 22.5% with grandparents/ extended family members, and nearly 16% stay in the hostel/ PGs, hence the critical need to reach out arises.
- The livelihood linkages had been a challenge, due to COVID impact and moreover, only 15% have completed graduation or diploma course, further 22%, are pursuing 12th and more than 60% were below 10th. Of the cumulative, 19% have requested support to continue studies, and the project is making the needful efforts. But we were able to partner with 10 organizations, that provided the support and services during the COVID crises as well some were supported to get suitable jobs.
- The peer leaders have grown up to become the primary link for the adolescents and youth. They used both their personal experiences and learnings to build their lives and link the beneficiaries to critical services amidst the COVID crises.
- Nearly 60% of the beneficiaries are supported with dry ration during the COVID crises through building partnerships with other donors.
- Life skill and youth camps were supported and facilitated by the HIV-positive youth themselves.
- Nearly 100 Case studies were documented to present the concerns and learning's

The camp was held for HIV infected youth under the banner 'Navu Nammavaru'. It focused on life Skills and leadership skills that helps to address the critical growing up challenges and facilitating them to lead a quality and healthy-life. The primary objective of the camp was to facilitate the adolescents and youth to come together to share and learn from each other. The space was created for the adolescents and youth to express themselves and accept that life is full of challenges but we can find a way to lead a healthy and meaningful

life if we take care of ourselves and our friends. Further the camp was an opportunity for the youth to come together, share their experiences to affirm to stand by each. The camps were organized in the four districts of Karnataka and we reached out to 183 participants through implementing seven camps.



I'M POSSIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Adolescents and young people, between the ages of 10-24 years, number 460,000 [260,000-680,000] among the newly infected with HIV. South Asia, with the largest numbers from India, accounts for 35% of all AIDS cases reported among young people of the age group of 15-24 years. Studies across the world, have highlighted the transitional challenges of AYHIV as there is a constant need for these young people to re-adjust to different phases of psychosocial development in addition to the challenges associated with HIV. Poor ART adherence increases the risk of HIV transmission and is the major predictor of not achieving adequate suppression of HIV replication that is required to minimize the emergence of drug resistance, disease progression, and death. As well, adolescents go through a critical crisis of self-stigmatization, as there is always a fear of other people finding out, especially at a time when families plan for their marriage.

The fellowship is a platform for HIV-positive children, adolescents, and youth to build their self-belief, work in a team supporting each other and create a process of change both for themselves and the children across the country. Sneh Charitable Trust hosts the fellow for a two-year fellowship program, wherein the support is provided to sustain the basic needs of life and technical support to lead a healthy and meaningful life, through a focus on Health, Education, Livelihoods, and Gender Equality.



The fellow is provided the support to effectively address both his personal needs as well as organizational needs, through the mentors and SCT technical team, in partnership with TFI, SOS, and other key organizations. The fellowship was launched on 26th January 2021, with the first batch of 10 fellows, who started their learning journey.

Areas of Intervention

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Facilitating Access to ART
Screening for TB and OI
Facilitating Hospitalization for non-HIV-related concerns
COVID screening
Facilitating Vaccination and access to other health care needs.

Working closely to identify the best livelihood option
Linking to the training programs that are most suitable and able to complete it successfully.
Strengthening partnerships with local institutions.
Provide them the support to sustain in the job they choose

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Retention in School/ College to complete 10th/ 12th
Linking/ Facilitating with donors and partners to support the children who are finding it difficult to pay fees.
Linking with partners to provide residential centers to address school dropouts and financial instability at home.

Listing girls who have dropped out of schools.
Identifying the challenges, they face continuing education and suitable livelihoods.
Facilitating discussions with families to support girls' education.
Working closely with girls to delay marriage.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



COVID OUTREACH

Introduction

The COVID 19 pandemic threatened the food security of India. It has impacted all four aspects, namely availability, access, stability, and utilization of food. The pandemic has however had perilous implications for food security, particularly for the poor and most vulnerable. This was demonstrated in more than one way by the singular phenomena of the fragile living of over 100 million workers, who had to walk miles and miles but empty stomachs. The care for the poor and most vulnerable was perhaps the most arduous task for the government and other stakeholders of society. We could extend our hands to the needy and poor through the support of Buddhist TZU CHI Foundation, Taiwan and Pro.sa, Italy



We could reach out to the poor people with food kits and medical help in Kangaeyam, Dharmapuri, Hosur, and Krishnagiri in Tamilnadu in collaboration with Dharmapuri Social Service Society, Mercy Matriculation School Kangeyam, and St. Joseph Health & Social Work Centre, Kottur. We also organized food kit distribution, and Medical help to a few villagers through Jayamatha convent Balosore, Odisha, and Devamatha Ashram Ujjain, MP. The medical help were done through the Society of St. Vincent De Paul, Payyanur in Kerala. We could reach out to the people of five states from this village. We could serve the food kits to many HIV-infected families, especially widows and children through the positive network of Karnataka and fellows of lamPossible fellowship placed in different districts of Karnataka.

Analysis

The needy people were very happy to receive food kits and medical help. During this time of the pandemic, they were really in a struggling situation. We could reach out to many people and share our care. The list is followed below:

Medical assistance: 1,216 Persons

Educational support: 70 Persons

Food Kits : 2,092 Families & 9,731 persons

PPE for Health Care: 319 persons

Clothing and Footwear: 268 persons



Conclusion

Our volunteers, fellows, and collaborators could give them awareness regarding prevention, and N95 Masks were distributed to the vulnerable population. Our activities have brought in good results in some areas. We could reach out to the deserving students to extend our helping hand in supporting their education.

EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

Children's Day

The Children's day which is also the birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was celebrated as a tribute to him. We all, in one or the other way, are children and, Children are the happiest ones as it is their day to rejoice and celebrate. We celebrated the day with lot of creative activities and sports. Each and every one of us participated actively and made the day memorable.



World AIDS Day



World AIDS Day is observed on December 1st. It is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with it, and to commemorate those who have died from AIDS-related illnesses. We conducted Quiz on HIV/AIDS and related topics. We took sessions on HIV/AIDS, COVID, and other related issues, inviting everyone to take health as their major personal responsibility. The day was concluded with a prayer service in the evening sitting around lighted lamps.

Christmas

At last, the long wait is over as Christmas is at our doorstep on the 24th evening to receive the Spirit of Christmas into our hearts and lives. Each year Shehagram celebrates Christmas in a unique way to express our joy on the birth of the Saviour of the World. Night Vigil Mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Basil MI followed by the blessing of the Crib. We partied all throughout the late evening, sharing gifts and sweets, dancing, shouting, and taking snaps to add color to our memories. To bring the celebration to fullness, a sumptuous and delicious lunch was served.



Grammy Night 2021



Grammy night is an evening with Sneh children to share and celebrate the joy of Christmas. This year it was celebrated on 2nd January 2021. Due to COVID protocols, this Grammy Night was celebrated as a family affair only. This year it was unique because it was conducted outdoors. Adding enough light and decoration, it was done to look like a function place. Live cooking and hot serving made the dinner something different, unlike other years. It was indeed a moment of joy and happiness. With this, Christmas Season was concluded.

Spandan Online Class

Students of Christ University have taken initiative to continue teaching students of Snehagram through an online platform. Nothing is impossible; the students of Christ prove that even at the time of the pandemic crisis, we can do something meaningful. This initiative keeps alive the partnership program with Christ University, Bangalore.



Dance Training

There is an amazing quote on dance that says "You've gotta dance like there's nobody watching", dance is something that never bores us. With the help of Christ University students, all those who loved dancing got an opportunity to fine-tune their steps and be able to dance better with a little training. All the students especially girls loved attending the dance training class on Saturdays of every week. The training has instilled more confidence in the students; the greatest achievement was those who never danced started loving and enjoying the dance. One of the students says "I wish I received this sort of training earlier as I have lost many joyful days being shy and sitting back."



Online Help by Dr. Gladson

Stretch to be fit. Dr. Gladson our sports physiotherapist never loses interest in the students, to monitor the fitness level, and to addresses various bodily pain and aches; Doctor does the consultation online due to the pandemic. The enthusiasm level of the doctor is way too far as he spends his valuable time for the students, helping them by teaching new stretches and strengthening and at the same time monitoring over the students about the overall fitness level.



Medical Check up

Our medical doctor comes to the home to do the regular check-up of the students. The doctor meets every student individually assessing the health issues and in need prescribing the needed medicines and care. This time doctor had a review of the overall health system and talked to the administration about the concerns issues of a few students. Other than that doctor took a session making students aware of COVID and the ways to be protected from the deadly virus. The doctor was very happy to hear that so far there are zero cases of COVID in the institution, as it in return show how well the administration and the students are following the protective and preventive measures.



Farewell to Fr. Johnson and Fr. Joy

Saying Goodbye to our dear ones are not a nice experience but at some point, in our lives, we all have to do so. Fr. Johnson and Fr. Joy had to move on with their new mission. We did have a farewell party on 29 May, for our dear director Fr. Johnson who served for the past two years, and our administrator Fr. Joy who was part of our community for the past five and half years. Hugs, tears, and words were not enough to express our gratitude to our fathers for their selfless services. Every person who comes into our lives leaves an imprint so did these two fathers. They could bring about a change towards life positively and they cared for all of us like their children. Dances, songs, speeches, cards, and sweets were part of our farewell ceremony and everyone at Snehagram expressed their love and appreciation to Fr. Johnson and Fr Joy.



Welcome Fr. Teji and Fr. Sunil



Life is a mixed bag of joys and sorrows. Most of the time bitter experience would be followed by a sweet and lovely one. It is a great joy to have Fr. Teji as the new Director and Fr. Sunil as the new Administrator of Snehagram. The Snehagram family is happy to welcome both the fathers to be part of our lives. We hope and pray for a wonderful and color-filled time with them.

Opening of the Academic Year 2021-22

The opening of academic year 2021-22 was on 7th June. Rev. Fr. Joy, Fr. Teji, Fr. Sunil, and Mr. Aby were part of the opening ceremony while Fr. Mathew who was our chief guest joined us via video conference from the USA. Everyone who spoke motivated and encouraged us to pursue our studies in a meaningful way. Fr. Joy in his speech said that "learning is not enough but one needs to Learn for Life or in other words one needs to apply what he or she has learned. The students have been excited as they are getting back to classes after a long interval and the enthusiasm and passion are seen in every one of them.



Parliament Election



Snehagram had its elections on 5th June 2021. This year due to the pandemic we did not have any overseers for organizing the election. Mentors and the senior students who are above the age 18 helped in the process of elections. There were 4 nominees who stood up to be elected as Prime Ministers of Snehagram. All of them delivered inspiring speeches and requested votes and support for them. We did have the voting in the late afternoon. One has to have 60% of the votes to be elected as the prime minister. It was a close fight between the two nominees; Prashanth and Suhas and

the two other nominees had very slim chances to win. Suhas won the election and was elected as the Prime Minister of Snehagram for the year 2021-22. Sahana is the deputy minister and Prashanth is the opposition minister.

Camp RRR (Rebuild, Relax and Reinvent)

We had a sports camp for 5 days held in the first week of June 2021 under the name Camp RRR (Rebuild, Relax, and Reinvent). The main motto of the camp was to rebuild the lost stamina and strength, relax with enough fun-filled activities, and reinvent so as to make things new. The complete camp was organized by the mentors of Snehagram. The students were divided into four groups to bring about the team spirit and for easy handling of the activities. The camp mainly focused on sports development and introduced students to the different pieces of training



namely speed, endurance, strength, and flexibility training. We also brought in Aerobic, Zumba, dance, and meditation adding variety to the camp activities. Futsal, Basketball, and Throw ball found their places in the evening hours. In the mornings we focused on learning some theories relating to sports such as The Importance of drinking water, the sustenance of different muscles, major aches and pains, teamwork, and related skills. it was a unique experience for all the students and their feedback has been very positive.

Protect Yourself and Others



It is a piece of happy news... we above 18 years including staff at Snehagram got the first dose of vaccination against COVID-19 on June 16th, 2021. We all know that vaccination is only protection and not a complete cure for this deadly disease. We have been continuing to take the required precautions. After the vaccination, a few of us faced mild pains on the shoulder, a slight headache and a few had a fever for a single day. We were well told about all these side effects by the doctors and the nurses. This is a great way to protect one-self and others from coronavirus.

Our Rains are Back

In 2017 there were rains that filled the pond and the two well in our campus but after that, we never received that sort of rain. 2018, 2019, and 2020 were years when we feared droughts and water scarcity; by the blessings of the almighty we so far never ran out of water, certainly, all our bore wells except one are dried but the one well is still supplying us enough water. The add-on blessings were felt these days when we received downpours and really heavy rain that filled our pond once again after 3 years. We and the surrounding neighbours rejoiced to see these long and heavy rains for the first time after 3 years. It has filled back the empty pits, ponds and brought back the flow for the small lakes and canals. We continue to wait for more such rains this year



Thought work Training



The training was inaugurated through watering a plant, which highlighted the need to take care of responsibility. The space was created for the peer leaders to review the information they focused upon during the one to interaction as well as identify the critical challenges they need to focus upon during the camps. The primary message during the training was that certainly, COVID has posed a lot of challenges for each one of us.

The primary message is that - life is full of challenges but we can find a way to lead a healthy and meaningful life if we take care of ourselves and our friends. The four-day workshop was an opportunity for the peer leaders to come together, share their experiences to affirm to stand by each other, and take up the responsibility to reach out to the respective peers in their districts. The sessions comprised of exposure visits, interaction among themselves as well as exposure to the various camp models being implemented, among adolescents and youth. The peer leaders during the four days learned for themselves as well as designed a module for taking back to their peers and facilitating learning and sharing sessions. The key focus area of learning was about Health, Education, Livelihoods, and critical life skills.

8th Anniversary & Feast of St. Camillus



On the 22nd of July, we celebrated our 8th Anniversary. Due to Covid we hardly had any outsiders joining the event, only few fathers namely Rev. Fr. Reji, Rev Fr. Bijoy, and Rev Fr. Basil joined the celebration. We also observed the feast of St. Camillus after invoking the 9 days of Novena. We celebrated the holy Eucharistic presided by Rev. Fr. Reji. Later on, the Students had put of great performances that added color and joy to the evening.

The dances, songs, mime, and all the acts of the students were appreciated by the fathers, which is also the fruit of many days' practice. We are thankful for all those who journeyed with Snehagram for the past 8 years making this place a more beautiful and happy place to live.

Child Committee

Having an adolescent group, it is not easy to handle the mixed feelings and troubles that arise from peers. When a staff checks the duties and asks for some responsibility to be taken the response from the group is poor. The Child Committee who will be in charge of the campus from the student's side makes things easy. When such great responsibility is given the group takes it very happily and feels responsible and accountable. This team helps the administration as most of the concerned activities are taken care of by the committee. They decide and plan how to manage all the given activities, of course with the guidance of the concerned authorities.



Visit of Dr. Henry and the Team



Dr. Henry Prakash who is a professor in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, in Christian Medical College Vellore Tamilnadu and a passionate runner joined us in Snehagram for the Run. It was an honor to have him with us besides Raja and Dhayanithi the ultra-runners who have completed major marathons in the country. It was motivating to hear that Raja and Dhayanithi have been doing the 21 km run every day for 400 days towards a social cause and it was their 197th day when they had come over to Snehagram. At Snehagram Dr. Henry and his team ran a 5km with students in the morning, during which he observed the physical fitness level of the students and provided few suggestions for our further improvements. We are grateful to Dr. Henry and the team for their visit which indeed has helped us in a tremendous way.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Sl No	Names	Designation
1	Fr. Teji Thomas MI	Director
2	Fr. Sunil Joseph	Administrator
3	Fr. Bacil	Teacher
4	Dr. Mathew	Physician
5	Mr. Michael Babu Raj	Technical Officer
6	Mr. Prabakar	Security & Farm Manager
7	Mrs. Nirmala	Cook
8	Ms. Ambika R	Teacher
9	Mr. Lakshmikanth	Teacher & Warden
10	Ms. Shruthi	Teacher & Warden
11	Babu Seenappa	Teacher & Physical Trainer
12	Mr. Kalesh	Academic Coordinator
13	Ms. Reni N S	Counsellor

ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES

- No one was infected with COVID at Snehagram
- 10th and 12th standard student successfully completed their course
- Organized 3 camps based on different topics (Sports, Health & Education)
- Most of the vegetables were grown for our need
- Creative learnings were introduced as there were no formal classes
- Launched I'm Possible Fellowship
- Launched Positive Running Program
- No major health issues and casualties
- Organized mini runs 5kms
- Children are involved in various vocational training
- Regular follow-up and meetings organized for those students off the campus
- Reached out to needy and the vulnerable at the pandemic and shared our care
- 30 enrolled for Senior secondary and 14 for secondary studies
- Chandru received scholarship for his performance in 10th examination



EXPERIENCES

REFRESHMENT AFTER UGANDA MISSION



It was a new experience to walk into the 'Home of Love' in June 2019. After two wonderful years of service, as I move out of Snehagram for the new Mission, I congratulate and wish all the blessings for the new team. Life with a unique community of Children has enriched and helped me to have a new view of life. The lush campus, cheerful children, and different activities have kept me vibrant, young, and happy. Life in Snehagram has been refreshing and has been a great variety after nine years of Missionary life in Uganda.

Often the world looks at the children with HIV pitifully and considers them as less fortunate. As we live with them we see altogether a unique and vibrant group of dynamic children who are far more capable and motivated than the so-called fortunate. Generally, a family with two or three children talks about the difficulty in handling the kids, Snehagram comfortably enabling to live a harmonious life with more than sixty children owes to the responsible and well-disciplined little buds here. The ability to rise up to the situations against all odds of life and live with a positive attitude is something commendable.

The team of mentors displays extraordinary maturity and capacity in addressing their life situations. It is promising to see all of them pursuing their degree, supporting the various organizations in managing programs for the HIV infected and affected while supporting the Children's program in the Campus. They are witnesses to the world that one can go beyond any limitations and lead a meaningful and inspiring life if there is a compassionate accompaniment and commitment. Finally, it has been an experience of God's immense help, some of the generous benefactors continuing to join hands in making possible what seemed to be impossible. As the mission continues I do wish and pray for all those taken the pain of shedding more light into the lives of very many children and those who continue in leading and supporting this noble mission.

Fr. Johnson Vellachira MI

I WAS IMPRESSED...



Caring non-color, changing Camillian priests set me up on this trip. I decided to call up two passionate and experienced runners whom I knew, much stronger faster, and with batteries inside them, akin to the Nokia 1100 which needed charging once in a week not twice daily! I mention to them briefly about CLHIV (which I too had little knowledge about), and the request. The person on the other end said only one thing, "this sounds very good let's not delay, well go this week itself, and so we did.

As we strolled along our host took turns to explain how the circadian rhythm of Snehagram would sound life from dawn to dusk for the residents. My running mates who do not speak much English had to retire to their rooms with a bit of jealousy on hearing the kid's fluency and confidence with English. We were back to the campus and joined the other boys and girls, their engines warmed up, raring to go for another 5KM to form Babu to complete his first 21 KM. Most of the children covered their usual 5 Km easily. Run was followed by an impressive stretching routine. I was impressed to see the lengths to which their tendons and ligament could go, I could not match even a fifth of those stretches.

We discussed how running can be an individual and a team sport, how running boosts self-confidence and self-esteem. My running mates shared their testimony of how running taught them about the power of perseverance and practice which has brought them success in what they do for a living. Frequently in life, when faced with trials and tribulations we try to run away from it mentally and literally, instead, we need to gather up the courage and run towards life, towards a long healthy, happy, selfless, and compassionate one.

On the way back, we were wondering who learned more on this trip! **Dr. Henry Prakash**

NO IDEA TO SOME IDEA (FELLOWSHIP TRAINING)



Being, trained in the I'm Possible Fellowship program for two months, taught me a lot and added new learnings every single day. At the beginning, of the fellowship, I really had no idea what the training, is and what this could do for me and other friends of mine. Slowly was able to get an idea or the picture, of what it was by asking questions, related to the fellowship, through our facilitators, Mr. Michael, Miss Neha, Miss, Sneha and Namitha, who actually guided me and my other friends, to understand what the fellowship was all about.

I felt a bit boring, on listening to all the lesson planning, because I never thought it would be so hard to be a good teacher, I realized the importance of a lesson plan in teaching. In my usual teaching, I never used lesson plans, as I was more focused on delivering the content in the book. I get into a class I teach the students related to the topic and come out, after attending this training I learned a lot about teaching, feel happy that I received the best training by the best trainers. With all the learnings, I was able to apply it in my teaching style and it seemed easy for the students to grasp the teaching easier. I am now being able to share that knowledge with my fellows. overall it was new learning for me, this training has brought in new insight within me. I certainly know that we become supportive to each other by sharing the knowledge.

Ambika

PERSISTENCE AND PATIENCE



I left for Ranipet on 25th December with my friends from Snehagram. I was so happy when I was listed as one of the members leaving for Ranipet and I had been training for 10k for fairly some time. Having reached Ranipet I felt thrilled about the run the next day. Though it was a bit hard for me to sleep on the floor initially I got along with it easily. I had to wake up early in the morning to freshen up since there were only a limited number of toilets. I was ready and I received my first 10kmarathon bib I was so happy to see my first bib but at the same time, I was nervous about the run. At 6:30 am my run started and I was in the first line but after some time so

many runners passed me by but I didn't give up I kept my pace and continued. Arriving at the 8th km lap I was worn out and wanted to give up but a runner who was behind me encouraged me to run faster. As I reached the finish line, I was really surprised to see my own best timing. I felt happy for having achieved this feat and the feeling can't be put in words.

Suhas

CASE STUDIES



Living life with hope amidst challenges

HIV took her parents due to lack of access to effective treatment. After the death of her parents, she was tested HIV positive and was put on treatment. She learned about HIV and had all her questions answered during the camps. She was put on ART in 2006, she never knew the real reason for the treatment till the age of 14

Once she learned, she feels one among the others. "She says, there are more dangerous diseases in the world and HIV is

nothing compared to them". She shares her status with others's but her uncle and aunty are concerned as they worry about the discrimination in society. Due to covid-19, she and her family were affected immensely. She tried to get a part-time job but nothing clicked. Lac of nutrition had an impact on ART adherence, but despite the challenges, she continued her treatment. She used, every hurdle as an opportunity and continued to build her life with hope. Despite many challenges, she is completing her B.Com. Indeed , she is a person who continues to run towards her dream.

Being Positive in all situations. He lost his father at the age of 17, due to HIV and later on, he was tested positive, but his brother was tested negative. It was hard for him to digest his status and his mother helped him to understand and also the reason behind his treatment. This only made him angry with his parent for hiding the truth for so many years. This led to depression and his mother never gave up on him. She was supportive and hand - lead him continue his education.



Only mother and brother know about his status and none others. He is not comfortable sharing as he fears the stigma everyone holds about the disease. He is happy and works in a private company, no worries or tension as far but his mother has her worries.



Create Your Path

Grandmother took care of him and helped with the basic education. With all the support she managed to keep him in an institution as she was aging and found it hard to take care of self and him. He completed diploma and earned a decent job. He married a positive girl he loved. And now he has a beautiful daughter and she is negative. He has set an example that every HIV infected person can lead a happy and decent life like anyone in society. It is just the matter of acceptance and persuasion

COLLABORATIONS AND ALLIANCES

- INSA India - Child parliament and developing child protection policy
- Christ University - Skill development and Spandan Programme
- Christ University (Dept. of Psychology) - counselling support
- Bangalore School Sports Foundation - Development of Sports, games and Running
- St. Johns Medical College -ART and Tertiary Healthcare
- Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health - ART and Tertiary Healthcare
- Attitude Prime Impact - Physical training, Fitness and motivation
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Tarbes - Counselling and guidance for girls
- Support Orphans of Snehagram (SOS)
- Positive Running Program (In Memory Of Rishi)
- Budhist TZU CHI Foundation Taiwan
- TFlx
- Pro.Sa Foundation - Itali
- ThoughtWorks

PUBLICATIONS

Snehagram publishes Annual reports, active in social networks such as Facebook, YouTube as Snehagram, and a bi-monthly newsletter - 'Snehavaani' that covers all the events of Snehagram during the period. The major shares of the contents are contributed by the children themselves. It also gives a platform for children to nurture their literary skills.



More  into Those Hands....

St. Camillus Our Founder



Snehagram **Snehagram Camillians**

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