

2023-24

Annual REPORT



Snehagram



Snehagram

Snehagram, the adolescent phase of the comprehensive care program by Sneha Charitable Trust (SCT) for Children Living with HIV (CLHIV), was established in 2013. This program results from SCT's ardent pursuit of an advanced care program exclusively for CLHIV. This program, which spans three phases, envisages providing comprehensive care by addressing all the issues and needs of children about each developmental stage and helping them live independently as they reach adulthood.

Vision and Mission

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

Our Motto: *Educate For Life*

Objectives

- Create a nurturing environment for children with HIV to rebuild their lives.
- Foster educational attainment for a promising future.
- Ensure quality of life through comprehensive care and emotional well-being.
- Boost self-esteem and confidence via life skill training and support.
- Guide adolescents toward responsible, healthy adulthood.
- Facilitate skill development for employment through aptitude-based vocational training.
- Mentor and rehabilitate adolescents for a settled life.

President's Message

Fr. Bijoy K. George



I am delighted to scribble down these words of admiration about Snehagram, our esteemed Centre where we care, nurture, and train our young adolescent children living with HIV/AIDS. This report will bring out the incredible progress and impact we have made over the past year, providing quality care, unparalleled education, and job-oriented training to our children. At Snehagram, we affirm that every child deserves love, care, and support, regardless of their circumstances or physical/emotional state. Our mission is to provide a nurturing and empowering environment for adolescent children living with HIV/AIDS, where they can grow, thrive, and reach their full potential.

Our medical team has worked tirelessly to provide quality healthcare services, including antiretroviral therapy, regular check-ups, and counseling. We are proud to report that the health outcomes of our children have improved significantly, with a remarkable decrease in opportunistic infections and an increase in overall well-being. Education remains a key focus at Snehagram, as we believe it is a powerful tool for breaking the cycle of poverty and discrimination. Our dedicated teachers have provided quality education to our children, ensuring they receive the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue their dreams and build a brighter future. We have witnessed remarkable academic achievements, with several of our children excelling in their studies and gaining admission to prestigious institutions.

In addition to healthcare and education, we have also emphasized the importance of psychosocial support and life skills training with I'm Possible fellowship programs and Magic Bus training, which focussed on bringing up peer leaders enabling them to grow to their full potentials and lead a healthy and secure social life. Our team of counselors and mentors have been instrumental in providing a safe and nurturing environment, where our children can express themselves, overcome trauma, and develop resilience. Through various workshops and activities, we have equipped them with essential life skills, empowering them to make informed decisions and lead fulfilling lives.

This wouldn't have been possible without the generous support of our donors and partners. We are deeply grateful for their financial contributions and various types of support, enabling us to sustain and expand our programs. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff and volunteers, who work tirelessly for the well-being of our children, without forgetting Fr. Sunil Joseph and Fr. Baby Joseph who courageously led them from the front. Looking ahead, we are committed to continuing our efforts to empower and uplift the lives of these less fortunate children. We will strive to enhance our programs, strengthen our partnerships, and advocate for the rights and well-being of all children.

On behalf of Snehagram, I would like to thank each and each of you for your unwavering support and belief in our cause. Together, we can make a difference and create a world where every child, regardless of their health status, can thrive and live a life full of energy and dignity.

Director's Message

Fr. Sunil Joseph MI



Stepping into the future with unwavering determination and boundless optimism, the path forward beckons us with infinite possibilities. As we stand at the crossroads of opportunity and progress, let us embrace the challenges ahead as catalysts for growth and innovation.

The way forward is paved with the lessons of the past, the resilience of the present, and the dreams of tomorrow.

It's a journey where collaboration, dedication, and a shared vision become the compass guiding us through uncharted territories. Together, we have the power to shape a future that reflects our collective aspirations and values. In the pursuit of excellence, let us continue to foster an environment that nurtures creativity, learning, and inclusivity. As we navigate the ever-evolving landscape, adaptability and openness to change will be our allies. Each step forward is an opportunity to make a positive impact, leaving a lasting legacy for generations to come. The way forward is not just a destination; it's a continuous journey of growth, discovery, and evolution. Let us approach it with courage, resilience, and a sense of purpose. Together, we can carve a path that leads to a brighter, more sustainable, and inclusive future for all. The road ahead is what we make of it, and I am confident that our collective efforts will shape a world filled with endless possibilities and positive transformation.

Administrator Message

Fr. Baby Naikarakudy



In the pursuit of excellence and growth, I am thrilled to highlight our steadfast commitment to education and training within our organization. As we navigate the ever-evolving landscape of our respective fields, investing in the continuous learning and professional development of our team remains paramount. Education is not merely a one-time event; it is a lifelong journey.

We believe that by providing ongoing educational opportunities and comprehensive training programs, we empower each team member to unlock their full potential. Our efforts in education and training extend beyond the acquisition of skills; they encompass the development of a mindset — an attitude that embraces challenges as opportunities for growth.

At Snehagram, we understand that the professional landscape is constantly evolving, and so must we. Through workshops, seminars, online courses, and mentorship programs, we strive to create an environment where learning is not just encouraged but celebrated. We believe that a well-trained and knowledgeable team is the driving force behind our innovation and the key to achieving our organizational goals.



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. 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. It is a residential programme 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 their 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.



Service Delivery



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.



The three main components of the education program include academics, skilling and leadership training. Classroom sessions provide academic preparation for secondary and higher secondary education under the National Open School Curriculum. Second, the curriculum focuses on holistic learning, with job-oriented classes, vocational trainings and life skills, including basics of computer, language and communication, customer care services, driving, farming, craft-making, tailoring, and embroidery.

From the year 2013 to 2022, 282 students participated in the 'learning for life' curriculum. As of 2021, 90% have completed class 10 and have passed board exams; 50% are pursuing class 12, and 50% are enrolled in graduate degree programs. The students get employment across sectors, such as in hospitality, information and technology, and teaching. Students have gained the confidence to independently manage their expenses invest their savings for higher education, and plan their future lives that involve a smooth integration into society. The Academic Year 2023-2024 was officially opened on the 12th of June 2023, All the classes and sessions are conducted within the institution and the subjects are taken by mentors and staff in Snehagram.

Empowering HIV-positive adolescent girls and boys with an enabling and holistic education model has a positive impact on their lives, where they gain confidence, and leadership skills, and can lead healthy and productive lives

In the third phase, we focus on supporting youth aged 18 and above. The program provides continued education, accommodation, healthcare, counseling, and skill development, empowering these young adults to lead independent, productive lives. Snehagram has expanded its services to adolescents through vocational training, agriculture farming, and community initiatives, aiming to empower these youth for independent living.

Impact:

- All the students of the 12th Class are registered under the NIOS
- All the students are able to complete their 10th as the minimum education.
- Secure employment and livelihood opportunities while also enabling them to reattempt and complete their minimum educational qualifications, such as the 10th standard.



Vocational Training

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

- Organic Farming
- Dairy Farming
- Chicken Farming
- Data Entry
- Mango Garden cum plant nursery
- Catering



Impact

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

Co- Curricular Activities

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
- Yoga
- Gardening
- Exposure visits
- Creativity Development Programmes
- Monthly cultural Program



Impact

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

Adolescents living with HIV confront a great challenge in transitioning to healthy adult life. Snehagram is meeting this challenge by making every effort to develop leadership skills. 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

The leadership program aims to develop a good balance between different skills that would help one become an effective leader i.e. problem-solving skills, decision making, planning, and managing power and influence. The program helps in the ability to convince others with their manner of speech and action, and then the possibilities of success are limitless. This creates a platform for extensive interaction with people and developing essential skills to have an influence.

Impact

- Children can make decisions for them.
- Children are improving their quality of life
- Increases participants' ability to lead change, improve teamwork, enhance performance and ultimately deliver better results.

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 has been 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 the Snehagram program, 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 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 well-being”. The onus is on creating a healthy mind in a healthy body. Children are helped to address the psychosocial issues related to adolescence through individual counseling group counseling and peer counseling. There are Well-being groups of children who meet every week and discuss their issues and provide mutual support in dealing with life challenges and in goal setting.

The curative aspect takes care of treatment and drug 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 for healthcare
- Involvement in sports and nutrition has decreased the risk of disease,



Projects

The I'mPossible Fellowship

The I'mPossible fellowship was launched by Sneha Charitable Trust on 26 January 2021. We started the fellowship with 10 fellows and 4 mentors. The fellowship is built on the four Sustainable Development goals they are Health, gender, Livelihood, and education. The fellows in I'mPossible Fellowship reach out to 250 children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The students are monitored and supported to lead a healthy life and guided to complete their Education.

Through this fellowship, we are able to bring all the students together and share joy happiness learning give guidance teach them life skills, and take sessions on the 4 STGS through camps. The community students feel confident that the fellow is there to listen to their needs help them with their challenges and guide them to the vision they have. Through the fellowship, the fellows have helped the students to focus on their health and supported them in education and livelihood and lead a happy life.



This 24-month experiential Fellowship under RISHI Foundation builds resilience and skills in children and young people living with HIV. The program equips them to lead a healthy and productive adult life by addressing their physical, psychosocial, and educational needs, and focuses on transforming them into role models for their younger peers. A unique aspect is participatory action research that builds capacity within the community and puts them on a world stage with national and international academic institutions.

For more information: <https://rishifoundation.in/impossible-fellowship/>

The Positive Running Program

Inspired by Rishi's love of running and building upon Snehagram's existing educational framework for children living with HIV, this program incorporates appropriate nutrition, daily running/endurance training, and confidence-building. Children are encouraged to become coaches themselves, learn to organize running events, and develop leadership skills. The essence of the Positive Running Program is to create not winners of the race, but winners for life.

The mission of the Positive Running Program under RISHI Foundation is to enable good health and self-sufficiency in children living with HIV and growing up in disadvantaged circumstances. The essence of the Positive Running Program is to create not winners of the race, but winners for life.

The objectives of the Positive Running Program are to:

- Incorporate age-appropriate daily running, strength training, endurance training, and confidence-building
- Provide children with appropriate nutritional knowledge and support

The Positive Running Program is implemented in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, in southern India. In 2023, the Program reaches 250 young people (8-21 years) living with or affected by HIV. In 2024-25, the Program will expand to include 100 more children in the two states.

On 1st December 2024, children and youth from the Positive Running Program under RISHI Foundation organized in partnership with Sneha Charitable Trust Footprints 5K/10K run in Bangalore. The goal of this event is to raise awareness about running and to incorporate running for a healthy lifestyle in children. 819 registered participants ran together that day, aged 5 years to 78 years.

For more information: <https://rishifoundation.in/positive-running/>

Magic Bus

Sneha Charitable Trust and Magic Bus, entered into a partnership, to sustain the livelihoods. Established in 1999, Magic Bus India Foundation works with children and young people from underserved communities, taking them from a childhood full of challenges to a life with meaningful livelihoods. They equip young people with the skills and knowledge they need to grow up and move out of poverty. Magic Bus, youth cantered Livelihoods Program connects the aspirations and potential of young people to available market opportunities.

They build employability skills and map job potential based on individual strengths and mobility. In this context, Sneha Charitable Trust has partnered with Magic Bus to address and support the skilling as well as placement issues of children born into HIV-infected families. Currently, 126 young adolescents are enrolled in the virtual training program for 45 days following these along with in-house placement support. Sneha Charitable Trust has assured long-term support to the students, in completion of the training program, as well as to ensure the sustainability of their lives.

The 10-week training program was meticulously structured to enhance participants' employability skills and equip them for job sustainability. Throughout the training, emphasis was placed on fostering healthy living practices, incorporating sports, and promoting holistic approaches. In the final two weeks, special attention was given to honing interview skills through mock interviews. The initial phase introduced students to the program's framework, emphasizing the concept of "Learning to Employment."



A detailed schedule highlighted critical learning areas such as Communication Skills, Life Skills, and Computer Skills. The training delved into the practical applications of electronics and computers in the workplace, underscored the significance of life and communication skills in job scenarios, and explored customer service principles, including the respectful treatment of customers. Subsequent weeks focused on talents and skills essential for marketing, emphasizing interpersonal skills, attributes, spoken and written English, and digital literacy. The program stressed the importance of systematic communication in daily life and the workplace to enhance overall communication skills. Special attention was given to emotional management, acknowledging the challenges faced by vulnerable communities, and encouraging participants to manage emotions effectively in the workplace.

The importance of patience and resilience in shaping one's career was highlighted, recognizing their ongoing impact. Financial management challenges were addressed, emphasizing effective financial handling both in jobs and the broader working environment. The training also dedicated a week to building confidence, emphasizing resume building and effective communication for successful company presentations. The program concluded with a focus on interview skills, empowering participants to navigate critical aspects confidently and present themselves strongly during interviews.

Events and Celebrations

Being the Change

Being selected as an Ambassador for the first edition of One Eight Run, held on the 26th of March 2023, was an honor and a privilege. Representing a cause that is so close to my heart, HIV/AIDS, and promoting a healthy and active lifestyle was an incredible experience that filled me with both professional and emotional fulfillment. Through this position, I was able to be the voice of the voiceless children and spread a message of hope to stop the stigma and discrimination of HIV and provide equal opportunities for everyone in all fields.

As an ambassador, I took it upon myself to encourage others to participate and spread awareness about the cause, sharing my personal experiences with running and promoting the benefits of an active lifestyle.



One Eight Run

On March 26th, we eagerly awaited the highly anticipated One 8 run event held in Bangalore. Our preparation for the event began after the Bangalore 10k marathon, and our mentor, Babu Sir, who is an experienced runner, guided us through a strict training schedule that included strength-building workouts to maximize our performance. Despite the challenging cold weather, we persevered in our early morning training sessions to condition our bodies for the run.



We also made sure to prioritize rest and recovery to ensure that we were physically and mentally prepared to perform our best. A total of twelve students from Snehagram participated in the One 8 run and demonstrated exceptional performances. During the event, we took the opportunity to take photos, interact with other runners and groups, and strengthen our relationships within the community.

Visit of District Judge

On December 1st, Mrs. P. T. Jennifer, the Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority in Krishnagiri, paid a visit to Snehagram Sneha Special Home. Accompanied by staff members, Mrs. Jennifer took the opportunity to distribute stationery items to the children, emphasizing the importance of education. In an inspiring gesture, she motivated the young minds, encouraging them to pursue their studies diligently and strive towards achieving their ambitions.



During her visit, Mrs. Jennifer engaged with the children, imparting words of encouragement and empowerment. Her presence not only provided noticeable support through the distribution of stationery items but also served as a source of inspiration for the children to believe in their potential. By emphasizing the significance of education and setting ambitious goals, Mrs. Jennifer contributed to fostering a positive and motivating environment at Snehagram Sneha Special Home.

The visit by Mrs. P. T. Jennifer not only showcased the commitment of the District Legal Services Authority to community engagement but also highlighted the collective effort to uplift and support the educational journey of children at Snehagram. The event served as a meaningful reminder of the positive impact that individuals and organizations can have on the lives of children, particularly those in need of special care and attention.

Circle of Life

The Circle of Life concert, dedicated to the memory of Rishi, a passionate music enthusiast, aimed to continue his legacy of supporting orphaned and vulnerable children. Following Rishi's 2017 "String Theory" concert, we organized the Circle of Life event on August 2023 successfully raising funds with widespread support. Particularly touching was the impactful mime performance by Snehagram students, conveying the message of kindness's profound impact on lives.



This concert served as a beautiful tribute to Rishi's commitment to making a difference through music. Excited about participating in the concert, I joined a mime group. Our teacher guided us in choosing a theme and patiently trained us with daily expression exercises. Despite initial setbacks, our teacher's encouragement motivated us to persevere. On the concert day, performing in front of a large audience was exhilarating. The well-received mime garnered applause, reinforcing the importance of practice and our exercises. This experience not only brought personal satisfaction but also aligned with the Circle of Life concert's goal of uniting music lovers in memory of Rishi Shet.

Independence Day

On August 15th, 2023, Snehagram embraced the spirit of Independence with a vibrant celebration. The day commenced with the hoisting of the tricolor, symbolizing unity and freedom. The residents and staff gathered for a cultural program that showcased the diverse talents within the community.

The program featured patriotic songs, dance performances, and inspiring speeches that underscored the significance of Independence Day. Residents actively participated, expressing their patriotism through various artistic expressions.



The festivities extended into the afternoon with a communal lunch, where residents, mentors, and staff came together to share a meal and strengthen their bonds. The day served as a reminder of the shared values that unite the Snehagram community, promoting a sense of belonging and pride in being part of a larger whole.

Launch of I'mPossible Fellowship 3rd Batch

The I'mPossible Fellowship, a collaboration between SCT and RISHI Foundation, marked the launch of its third batch with an inspiring 5 KM run on Independence Day. Having impacted 250 individuals through the active engagement of 08 Batch II fellows, the program is set to welcome 11 new fellows this year, aspiring to reach 600 peers.

Padmashri Krishnadas Nair, a metallurgical scientist and Chief Guest, praised the fellowship as a beacon of hope. He emphasized the values of compassion, innovation, and inclusivity, distributing seed paper flags to symbolize each fellow's potential as change-makers.

Dr. Anita Shet, Rishi Foundation Board Member, highlighted the fellowship's alignment with Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on

holistic support for HIV-affected youth. Education, emotional well-being, and sustainable livelihoods are integral aspects, of breaking the cycle of poverty.

Dr. Arun Shet shared 'Rebekka's' story, illustrating that every fellow is a change-maker. Father Teji urged commitment and collaboration, emphasizing the fellows' role as positive forces for change.

Mentor Babu S praised the fellowship's impact, while Meghana and Suhas shared their empowering journeys. Mala emphasized the role of positive parents, and Sandeep, the magician, artistically portrayed the fellowship's narrative.

Program Director Michael Babur Raj celebrated success, stressing the commitment to innovation and resilience. The event concluded with a reminder of the fellowship's enduring dedication to creating lasting change in the lives it touches.



Leadership Training -Cultivating Success

The three-day training emphasized leadership development through clear roles, responsibilities, and individual support. It highlighted the importance of continuous learning, focusing on the 3Cs—Character, Competence, and Compassion. Participants explored these principles through case studies, committing to apply them in daily practices.



A session by ASHA Foundation experts addressed peer pressure, love vs. infatuation, and marriage, offering strategies for decision-making, communication, and understanding HIV-related aspects. The training provided practical insights and tools, preparing participants for future leadership challenges.

Diwali

At Snehagram, we celebrated the festival grandly and festively. The campus was adorned with a beautiful array of lights, diyas, candles, and tube lights. I was a part of the decorating team and was deeply involved in the preparations. The trainees of Magic Bus also lent their support, making the celebration even more colorful and memorable. Everyone had the opportunity to light one lamp, which was a unique and special moment



Unfortunately, we didn't get to blast firecrackers, as the community members didn't desire to pollute the environment. While I was happy to be a part of something that protected nature, I was also disappointed that the traditional aspect of the festival was missing. However, I learned a valuable lesson on this Diwali, that true celebration is not just about individual enjoyment, but about coming together as one family and celebrating as a community.

Cultural Exchange with TISB: Learning and Bonding

The arrival of TISB students at Snehagram marked a unique learning opportunity for both groups. Beginning with a nourishing breakfast, we formed teams to tour the campus and collectively plant vegetables and flowers, a task efficiently completed in just one hour. The TISB students generously offered individual lessons, clearing many of our doubts and boosting our confidence.



The day concluded with a cultural program, shared meals, recreational activities, and a friendly football match, transforming strangers into strong friendships. This experience emphasized the significance of cultural exchange and building connections for mutual learning and growth.

Celebrating Life

On November 4th, 2023, Snehagram proudly hosted Father Mathew, the visionary behind the organization, for a heartwarming reunion. Approximately 120 former students, now working outside Snehagram, gathered to celebrate their journeys. The event kicked off with heartfelt introductions, allowing participants to share their experiences after leaving Snehagram. Babu delivered a compelling presentation on the significance of "U=U" in HIV health, emphasizing that maintaining an undetectable viral load prevents transmission. Mr. Kalesh led a session where students openly discussed their life challenges, covering issues like job changes, adherence to HIV medications, and nutritional struggles. Amidst inspiring stories of overcoming adversity, students shared achievements, including savings, dream bike purchases, continued education, and marriages with HIV-negative children.

Personal narratives, such as Sanjay's resilience despite workplace discrimination, Vijay Kumar's journey from contract to permanent sports teacher, Meghana's challenges in Amazon, and Deepthi's triumphant story of societal acceptance, highlighted the resilience of Snehagram alumni. The unexpected rain shower during open sharing added a refreshing touch to the day. Father Mathew outlined his vision for the children's future, stressing the importance of informed choices, financial independence, and better job opportunities post-12th grade.

Discussions on insurance and job support concluded the event, reinforcing Snehagram's commitment to guiding its children toward a successful life.



Socialcred\$ fundraise for Snehagram

After the enriching cultural exchange at TISB, Jahaan Arora, Co-Founder of Socialcred\$, undertook a commendable initiative to mobilize funds for providing 100 days' worth of food for the residents of Snehagram. In collaboration with over 30 dedicated TISB students, a well-coordinated fundraiser was orchestrated, resulting in the collection of funds substantial enough to deliver a remarkable 2 tonnes of essential groceries.

This generous contribution, comprising 600 kgs of rice, oil, salt, dal, lentils, and more, was successfully delivered to Snehagram on November 5, 2023. The collective effort and support received have been truly heartwarming, signifying a meaningful impact on the lives of those at Snehagram. We feel incredibly blessed to have garnered such support, and this gesture holds immense significance for the Snehagram community.



Stride for Change

The Jobless Long Boring Runners (JLBR) from Runner's High are embarking on a five-day, 76 km daily run from Oct 18th to Oct 22nd, commemorating India's 76 years of freedom. Their goal is to raise funds for Sai Vishwanath Memorial Trust's initiatives, focusing on nutrition for children and youth. The route covers areas linked to these initiatives.



The journey began in 2009 with a running program for children at Sneha Care Home. The home has positively impacted lives, empowering children to become mentors. Funds raised will support the nutrition of children and youth at Snehagram, who regularly train for running. Now, the youth are organizing the Footprint Run, a collaboration between Sai Vishwanath Memorial Trust and Runner's High. Register to be inspired by these individuals changing lives.

The run started from Santhosh's home, with Babu Seenappa completing 42K. Thanks to Fr. Baby, Babu, and others for their inspiration. The hilly route was made memorable with the love and compassion of friends and family, with special thanks to Ravi and the Snehagram team for their support.

Sunny Smiles Camp

The Sunny Smiles Camp, held from October 26th to 28th, 2023, was an extraordinary three-day event for the children at Snehagram. It provided a well-deserved break and an opportunity for fun and relaxation following their exams. This camp was a unique experience for the junior mentors as they took on the responsibility of organizing and managing it for the first time.



With the guidance and support of our senior mentor, Mr. Babu, and the entire staff at Snehagram, we worked tirelessly to make it a memorable and successful event. The camp began with a lively Sports Day, featuring activities like long jump, high jump, and tug of war. Team Daisies led throughout the day, fostering healthy competition. The second day focused on Arts Day, where Team Orchids showcased their creativity in singing, dancing, and fancy dress competitions. On the final day, the group embarked on an adventurous trek to a nearby mountain, followed by a BBQ gathering to celebrate the camp's success and strengthen connections among students, mentors, and staff.

Ranipet Marathon

The Ranipet Marathon ULTRA Run, organized by the Jollyboys team, promotes the integration of running into one's lifestyle and encourages exploration on foot. With a passion for running since childhood, I challenged myself to run longer distances, completing 10km runs for over five years. This year, I trained for and accomplished a half marathon at the Bangalore Marathon, building the confidence to participate in the 25km Ultra Run at the Ranipet Marathon.



On the event day, facing physical strain and assisting a fellow runner in distress, I persevered through the 25km Ultra Run. Feeling the strain in my heels and thighs at the 22km mark, I took a brief break, refueled, and sprinted to the finish line. This challenging yet rewarding experience underscored the importance of perseverance and the camaraderie among fellow runners, reinforcing the mantra to aim for the finish and never quit.

Footprints

Footprints 2023, an annual run by the RISHI Foundation in Bangalore, unites 737 participants, including 278 children from India and abroad. The event, organized by Children for Children, features a 5K and 10K run, emphasizing the journey over the race. The Positive Running Program empowers participants, fostering a healthy lifestyle.



Children like 8-year-old Pratisha and 7-year-old Nandari, both facing challenges, inspire the event. The 'Buddy' concept allows anyone to sponsor a child's participation for Rs. 1000. Finishers receive medals with seeds, symbolizing the mission to empower and nurture positive change. Post-run, participants enjoy a nourishing breakfast and music by Vantablack, fostering connections and purposeful discussions. The event echoes transformation, signaling a positive change in progress.

Christmas Celebration

The Christmas season brought joy through gifts, delicious food, and lively dances. Morning songs added to the festive ambiance, sometimes lulling me to sleep, other times rousing me with cheer. Being part of the decorating team was a fun experience, embellishing the campus with papers, ribbons, and festive ornaments.



Attending the Christmas mass was visually captivating, with a beautifully crafted crib and warm lights. The Christmas night was filled with excitement, and unable to sleep, I joined the crowd for spirited dancing and celebration. This Christmas was truly unforgettable, marked by traditional rituals, vibrant decorations, and a sense of togetherness that will linger in my memories.

New Year's Day Celebration -2024

On January 1, 2024, Snehagram welcomed the New Year with meaningful activities emphasizing reflection, faith, and togetherness. The day began with a midnight prayer service, followed by a barbecue that fostered community bonding. An afternoon movie session offered relaxation and personal reflection, while the evening concluded with collective prayers for guidance and resilience in the year ahead. The celebration exemplified Snehagram's values of faith, unity, and purposeful living.



Career Guidance Workshop

On February 11th, Snehagram hosted a career guidance workshop to equip its youth with essential professional skills. Three experienced professionals from Bangalore, specializing in human resources and career guidance, led the one-day program. Participants began by sharing their limited knowledge of resumes and interviews, setting the stage for focused learning.



The workshop covered resume building, emphasizing authentic representation of skills and achievements, and interview techniques, framing interviews as constructive conversations. Practical tips on attire, grooming, and preparation added real-world relevance. By the end of the session, attendees were inspired and better prepared to pursue their career aspirations confidently.

Pangal Celebration

At Snehagram in Tamil Nadu, the celebration of Pongal is a vibrant and meaningful event. Students and staff come together to decorate the campus, creating a festive atmosphere filled with traditional colors and motifs. The aroma of freshly cooked Pongal rice signals the start of the festivities.

The celebrations include decorating the kolam, offering prayers to the Sun God, and enjoying a communal feast. For many, Pongal is a time for bonding, strengthening relationships, and creating lasting memories.

Mattu Pongal, honoring cattle for their role in agriculture, is another special tradition at Snehagram. Cattle are adorned with flowers and garlands in a ceremony of gratitude, followed by a traditional meal made from freshly harvested crops. This celebration emphasizes the connection between humans, animals, and nature, creating a sense of joy and community.



Delhi Marathon

The journey to the Delhi Marathon on February 22nd was marked by a lively train ride filled with camaraderie and excitement among the participants. For many, it was their first experience of long-distance travel, turning the trip into a memorable adventure with laughter, songs, and shared enthusiasm. The run itself was both challenging and rewarding, with every kilometer conquered bringing a sense of accomplishment. Cheering crowds and the shared determination of fellow runners created an uplifting atmosphere, culminating in the triumph of crossing the finish line after 10 kilometers—a milestone achieved through months of preparation and perseverance.

The day was made even more special by the chance to meet cricket legend Irfan Pathan, whose presence added inspiration. Post-run, the group explored Delhi's iconic landmarks, such as India Gate and Red Fort, enriching the experience with cultural and historical insights. This journey was more than a sporting event; it was a powerful reminder of resilience, stepping beyond comfort zones, and celebrating the joy of achievement through effort and determination.



Human Resources

Sl. No	Name	Designation
1	Fr Sunil Joseph	Director
2	Fr Baby	Administrator
3	Ms. Reni	Counselor & CWC Officer
4	Mr. Prabhakar	Security Officer
5	Mrs. Nirmala	Cook
6	Ms. Nirmala	Warden
7	Mr. Babu	Technical Officer
10	Mr. Ramu	Teacher
11	Mr. Amar	Teacher



Collaborations and Alliances

- **INSA India** - Child Parliament and developing child protection policy
- **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
- **Runners High** - Sports and running training
- **Rishi Foundation** – Fitness, running training, nutritional support
- **SOS** – supporting and guidance for mentors of fellowship
- **Magic Bus** – Livelihood training
- **Innovasafe** - Livelihood training
- **ThoughtWorks**- Reaching the community

Publications

Snehagram publishes Annual reports, active in social networks such as face book, and YouTube as Snehagram, and a bimonthly 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.



Snehagram Camillians

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