

SNEHAVAANI

Voice of Children, Snehagram, Sneha charitable trust



Director's note

The Ripple Effect of Giving



Giving is a timeless and universal act that has the remarkable ability to transform lives. Whether it's a small gesture of kindness or a significant philanthropic effort, the act of giving goes beyond the mere exchange of material possessions. It touches the very essence of humanity, fostering connection, empathy, and positive change. When one person chooses to give, the effects are far-reaching, creating a ripple effect that extends beyond the immediate act. Imagine a world where each individual embraced the spirit of giving, whether through time, resources, or compassion. This collective generosity would create a society built on empathy, understanding, and mutual support.

Fr. Sunil Joseph MI

Bangalore Marathon

Participating in the Bangalore Marathon's half marathon was a remarkable experience. The vibrant atmosphere at the starting line, coupled with the city's landmarks as the backdrop, set the tone for an exhilarating run. The diverse course, weaving through urban streets and green pockets, showcased Bangalore's essence.

The journey was not just physical but a test of mental resilience, with inclines and descents demanding extra effort. Amidst the rhythmic breathing and pounding footsteps, a sense of camaraderie emerged among runners. Water stations, manned by dedicated volunteers, offered both hydration and encouragement.

Crossing the finish line was a moment of personal triumph, symbolizing the dedication and training invested. The finisher's medal draped around my neck served as a tangible reminder of the transformative power of setting ambitious goals. The Bangalore Marathon's half marathon was more than a race; it was a shared experience that celebrated the resilience of the human spirit.

Ramu



Freedom Run

The JLBR (Jobless Long Boring Runners) of Runners High are embarking on a multi-day run event from Oct 18th - Oct 22nd, covering 76 km daily to commemorate India's 76 years of freedom. The aim is to raise funds for various NGO partners, focusing on meeting the nutrition needs of children and youth across five initiatives supported by Sai Vishwanath Memorial Trust. The running route spans areas where these initiatives are located.

The journey began in 2009 when we initiated a running program for children at Sneha Care Home when they were just 6-7. Sneha Care Home, a haven of love and care, has played a pivotal role in changing lives and empowering children to impact others positively.

The journey involves young adults who, having graduated, have taken on mentorship roles, understanding the struggles of those they help. Running has been a constant at Sneha Care Home, Snehagram, and various initiatives across Karnataka working with children affected by HIV/AIDS. The funds raised will contribute to the wholesome nutrition of the children and youth of Snehagram who regularly train for running. The youth are now organizing the Footprint Run, a collaboration between Sai Vishwanath Memorial Trust and Runner's High. We invite everyone to register and be inspired by these remarkable individuals who can change lives.

Santhosh

Semester Exams

Navigating through the semester exams and gearing up for the annual assessments has been a rollercoaster of experiences. The semester exams, akin to a series of checkpoints, demanded focused preparation and strategic time management. Juggling between various subjects, each exam became a puzzle piece contributing to the larger academic picture.

The semester exams, with their quick turnarounds, provided a glimpse into our understanding of ongoing coursework. It was a test not only of academic knowledge but also of adaptability and resilience. Nervous anticipation and late-night study sessions became routine as we strived to showcase our best in each subject.

As the semester exams unfolded, there was a sense of accomplishment and relief, yet the journey was far from over. Transitioning from semester exams to gearing up for the annual assessments brought a shift in perspective. The annual exams represented a comprehensive journey, requiring a deep dive into the entire year's curriculum. In retrospect, the combined journey of semester and annual exams has been a profound learning experience, shaping not only academic skills but also instilling a sense of discipline and determination.

Sahana



Launch of I'mPossible Fellowship 3rd Batch

The 18-month I'mPossible Fellowship, a collaboration between SCT and the RISHI Foundation, offers hope to HIV-affected youth. With 09 graduates and 08 fellows from Batch II impacting nearly 250 individuals, the program aims to welcome 11 new fellows this year, targeting 600 peers. Batch III kicked off with a 5 KM run on Independence Day, symbolizing positive change. Padmashri Krishnadas Nair, Chief Guest, praised the initiative, emphasizing compassion and inclusivity.

Dr. Anita Shet highlighted the fellowship's focus on Sustainable Development Goals, providing holistic support beyond medical treatment. Dr. Arun Shet introduced the concept of change-makers, emphasizing positive impact. The event showcased personal journeys, mentor perspectives, and the transformative role of programs. Program Director Michael Babur Raj celebrated success, urging continued innovation and resilience in creating lasting change.

Suhas



Celebrating life

On November 4th, 2023, Snehagram proudly hosted Fr. 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.

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.

Suhas



Diwali

Celebrating Diwali at Snehagram with friends was a joyous experience filled with warmth, laughter, and a commitment to eco-friendly festivities. The air buzzed with excitement as we gathered to light diyas and share in the spirit of togetherness. Instead of traditional firecrackers, we opted for vibrant and eco-friendly alternatives like paper lanterns that gracefully adorned the night sky.

The soft glow of diyas and the gentle flicker of lanterns created a magical ambiance, emphasizing the beauty of sustainable celebrations. Delicious homemade sweets and snacks were exchanged, symbolizing the sweetness of our shared moments. As we embraced the eco-friendly Diwali, the joy of the festival blended seamlessly with our commitment to a greener, more sustainable future. It was a Diwali not just of lights and colors, but also of mindful choices and collective celebration.

Soundarya



Sunny Smiles Camp

The Sunny Smiles Camp, held from October 26th to 28th, 2023, was a remarkable three-day event at Snehagram. It offered a well-needed break for children post-exams and marked the first time junior mentors organized it. With guidance from senior mentor Mr. Babu and Snehagram staff, we worked hard for a memorable event.

The camp began with a lively Sports Day featuring Team Daisies and Team Orchids in competitions like long jump, high jump, and tug of war. Team Daisies dominated, fostering healthy competition. Arts Day on the second day showcased singing, dancing, and fancy dress contests, with Team Orchids impressing and earning praise.

The final day featured an early morning trek to a nearby mountain, fostering nature connections. An evening barbecue brought everyone together for a delightful meal, strengthening bonds. The camp wasn't just entertaining but also a valuable learning experience for junior mentors, fostering personal growth.

Amar



SVP Meeting

On November 2, 2023, Snehagram hosted the Social Venture Partnership (SVP) team to showcase its impactful livelihood program. The day began with a lively field tour, allowing the SVP team to witness firsthand the initiatives of Snehagram's dedicated students.

The fellows warmly welcomed the SVP team, providing a brief overview of diverse projects, and leaving a lasting positive impression. In the conference hall, Suhas extended a warm welcome, followed by a comprehensive presentation and video showcase by Babu, illustrating impactful work by Magic Bus and Snehagram. Fr. Sunil and Dr. Michael provided insights into Snehagram's mission and the I'm Possible Fellowship.

The meeting concluded with group discussions on improvement and doubt clarification. The session significantly contributed to the fellows' understanding of SVP, highlighting areas for focus and improvement. The adjournment at 1:00 pm left all participants inspired, reinforcing Snehagram's commitment to positive social impact.

Meghana

Footprints 2023

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.

Prashanth



TISB Park Run

On October 8th, The International School Bangalore (TISB) hosted the TISB Park Run, a collaborative effort with Snehagram that brought together individuals from diverse backgrounds. Over the past three years, TISB students have dedicated their time to support Snehagram students academically, strengthening educational ties and fostering camaraderie.

The TISB Park Run buzzed with electrifying energy as participants from various walks of life united for a run, reflecting a spirit of unity. After the run, everyone gathered for a shared breakfast, symbolizing not only the physical achievement but also the joy of coming together and building lasting connections through shared experiences.

For some Snehagram students, this event marked their first visit to TISB, forging new bonds of friendship. The warm reception showcased the potential for collaboration beyond academics. The TISB Park Run inspired a commitment to a healthier lifestyle, emphasizing the importance of community well-being. The event highlighted the spirit of unity, community, and the significance of collaborative efforts between educational institutions.

Gangamma



Ranipet Marathon

Being part of the 5th Ranipet Run with my friends from the Jolly Boys running team was an unforgettable experience. We prepared ourselves for the race ahead.

On December 24th, it was finally time for my first 10km run. Nerves fluttered as I stood at the starting line, surrounded by friends. But as the race began, exhilaration replaced my apprehension. Every step forward was a testament to our determination and endurance.

With each kilometer conquered, we felt a sense of accomplishment growing within us. As we approached the finish line, a surge of energy pushed us forward. Crossing that line was a moment of triumph, filled with pride and joy.

Meghana



Mutual Learning

The mutual learning initiative between TISB students from Bangalore and Snehagram students has created a dynamic platform for shared experiences and collaborative learning. This unique exchange fosters an enriching environment where both sets of students bring their diverse perspectives and insights to the table.

The synergy between urban TISB students and those from Snehagram not only transcends geographical boundaries but also bridges societal gaps, offering a valuable opportunity for cultural exchange. Through this collaborative journey, students from different backgrounds share their experiences, engage in open discussions, and collectively enrich their learning.

The initiative goes beyond traditional classroom settings, promoting a holistic understanding of the world and nurturing empathy among students. This mutual learning endeavor is not just an educational exchange but a testament to the power of diversity, fostering a sense of unity and shared growth among all participants.

Ranjan



Footprints 2023

On December 1st, Mrs. P. T. Jennifer, Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority in Krishnagiri, visited Snehagram Sneha Special Home, distributing stationery to the children and emphasizing the importance of education. In an inspiring gesture, she motivated them to pursue their studies diligently and strive toward achieving their ambitions.

Mrs. Jennifer engaged with the children, imparting words of encouragement and empowerment, fostering a positive and motivating environment at Snehagram. Her visit showcased the commitment of the District Legal Services Authority to community engagement and 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, especially those in need of special care and attention.

Savitha



Christmas

On the eve of the 24th, our Christmas festivities commenced with a sacred Eucharist, setting a reverent tone for the joyous celebration. Following the spiritual observance, we embraced the warmth of togetherness during a delightful barbecue night.

The children joyfully shared moments of laughter, exchanged wishes, and created cherished memories through snapshots. Gifts and sweets were exchanged, enhancing the festive spirit.

The delicious feast became a centerpiece of enjoyment, complemented by the rhythmic dance and melodious tunes of our collective singing. In essence, our Christmas celebration was a harmonious blend of sacred traditions, delightful feasting, and the pure joy of shared moments, making it one of our most memorable celebrations to date.

Raju





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