



# SNEHAVANI

VOICE OF CHILDREN, SNEHAGRAM, SNEHA CHARITABLE TRUST  
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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE



I am inspired by the Geese and I look at you, my dear children. Geese fly in V formation during long flights because it helps them conserve energy by using the air pressure of the bird in front to support their lift. This lets them fly longer without needing as much rest. Scientists have determined that the V-shaped formation that geese use when migrating serves to conserve their energy. Each bird flies slightly above the bird in front of them, resulting in a reduction of wind resistance.

How do geese determine who leads? Geese decide who leads their flying formation by taking turns sharing the responsibility. Geese typically take an equal share of leading their flying formation to split the load among multiple birds.



I am really glad to see the Peer education model that we develop through the I'mPossible fellowship in Sneha Charitable Trust of Camillians. Camillus himself was the best peer educator being a wounded healer. Here many of you are doing an amazing job reaching out to children and youth to support each other. I am glad that you have conducted a number of camps through Karnataka and Tamilnadu and supported many to fly on their wings just like geese do support each other. May your life be a blessing like that of our founder St. Camillus who still inspires me and many.

**Fr. Teji Thomas MI**  
**Director**  
**Snehagram**



## CELEBRATE LIFE: CAMP ORGANIZED

Snehagram organized on January 14 and 15 a camp under the banner Celebrate Life for the children of Christy Girls home. Fr. Teji, Sr. Lourde, and Dr. Micheal, were present at the official inauguration of the camp.

The following were the objectives of the camp:

- To bring two communities together
- To understand the life in the simple form
- To learn life-oriented topics
- To focus on fun learning and spending time together
- To identify, the hidden talents of children.



We started the camp with ice-breaking sessions. We looked at more fun learning sessions than in a classroom setting. The focus was mainly on the topics such as teamwork, health, hygiene, sharing and respect, communication, decision-making, and anger management.

The mentors and fellows along with other trainees managed the sessions. The participants showed active interest and their feedback helped us with the assurance that the camp filled them with positive vibes and added insight and clarity to their thinking process.

**Madhu**



## DASRA UK: HIV CARE INITIATIVES



The proposed project fits fully into the framework of national and local policies and strategies aimed at promoting education, equal opportunities, and inclusiveness, for the most vulnerable groups, including gender, and supporting the integration of youth living with HIV, into mainstream society. Since its inception, the project is designed to educate, enable and empower HIV-positive youth to own the program. The proposal itself is a direct result of a series of meetings with youth living with HIV.



The program will serve as a useful platform to help them to stabilize their lives, and their employees and to help them to lead meaningful lives. SCT will identify the steps that will enable owners of the Hubs and Spokes and multiplication of the Peer Leaders. SCT will document the best practices and share the experiences with Government, Corporates, and other donors to scale up the learning and action to empower HIV-positive youth to lead a healthy and stable life. The project since its beginning looks forward to sustaining the efforts, by building the leadership of youth



and ownership of the partner institutions; hence more than 40% of the project cost is raised by SCT and partner institutions. Sustaining lives amidst the COVID crisis is a Dasra-funded project implemented by Sneha Charitable Trust. The key interventions of the programs are Health, Education, Livelihood linkages, and Gender-related concerns to ensure children living with HIV are able to build a meaningful, sustainable and healthy life.



The project works with 3 districts of Karnataka to empower youth living with HIV to improve their own quality of life with comprehensive physical, nutritional, social, and psychological care, through peer support. On March 2, 2022, we inaugurated and conducted staff induction training for three days. The induction training included a small session on introduction to the history of the HIV care program, methods to address challenges at the community level, and to identify beneficiaries in the state of Karnataka. Staff Roles and responsibilities were well defined through the induction program.

**Kalesh**

### PONGAL FESTIVAL CELEBRATED



This is an occasion when people come together with their family and friends to celebrate the harvest and hard work of farmers. It is a festival mainly observed in southern states and we can also see it celebrated under different names, throughout India. Snehagram family celebrated the Pongal festival with the girls from Christy Girls Home who joined us for the festivities. The lively Pongal decorations added color to the celebrations.



A much-awaited item was the Pongal rice which is a distinct cuisine for the season of Pongal. Sr. Lourde superior of Christy Girls Home helped us in preparing special Pongal rice. "This was the first time I celebrated Pongal with so many new friends;" says Arpan. The students helped in the preparation and some of them were writing down the steps as they were keen to learn how to cook it.

In the Meanwhile, we shared sugarcanes among ourselves and everyone enjoyed it. The Pongal rice was served later on and we shared it together as a family.



**Ramesh**

## FIRST SEMESTER EXAMS



I was a bit tense because these were my first exams of the year. It was not very easy to remember what I studied. I studied every subject without fail but I was not able to answer any questions according to my expectation since I got mixed up and confused at the time of writing my exams. I could barely pass any exams.

This made me realize that I wasted my time without really understanding what I read and tried to mug up at the last minute which did not help me pass my exams. My teachers and mentors didn't give up on me, they gave me tips and ideas as to how to prepare for the exams. I kept up my efforts and spent enough time with the books. I was happy as I did better in the second mock exam. I now have only a month leading to my annual exams and I know the importance of time and I wish not to waste my time. I study hard and I am looking forward to scoring good marks in the annual examinations.



**Gayathri**

## GRAMMY NIGHT CELEBRATED



Every year we have a Christmas celebration and it is called Grammy night in which we honor our benefactors and well-wishers. January 14, 2022, we organized our ninth year of Grammy night at Snehagram. We had the students from Christy Girls Home from Kolar for the celebration. The evening was very special with the presence of our Provincial Fr. Baby Ellickal as the chief guest and our local neighbor and friend Mr. Basavaraj.

We honored Dr. Micheal Babu Raj (started I'm Possible Fellowship Program), Mr. Kaleshwar (completed TFI teacher's training), and Mr. Babu Seenappa (completed 100days 5km challenge) for their contribution in their respective fields. Dances, songs, and skits electrified the celebrations. The night came to an end with the delicious meal prepared and served by the students. It was another year of success and memories.



I enjoyed the night celebration and it was amazing to see all my friends contributing their best in the preparation for the evening. Our campus looked gorgeous with all the decorations and lights around. There was lots of energy in the program and I was very excited to perform my event. I was a little nervous but I was also proud at the same time as I was able to stage in front of a large crowd. The celebration was special as I was able to meet some of my old teachers and staff and it added more life and joy to me. I treasured each moment and this night would remain with me for long time.

**Srinitha**



## FUN FILLED RUN – WALK

We did have a run-walk as one family in Snehagram. Thinking of climbing the hill excited me. I was so excited to go and was ready early in the morning and waited eagerly. I walked and ran simultaneously and still my energy level was the same. As I reached the top of the mountain, I still had a lot of energy to play. I enjoyed the breakfast with my friends which we carried from Snehagram.



After our breakfast, we spent some time on the mountain relaxing and exploring the beauty of the mountain. We loved and enjoyed capturing our fun-filled moments and the photos looked amazingly good. Walking back to Snehagram was rather tiring as the excitement slowly faded. I certainly enjoyed the Jolly walk run and will love to do more of this in the future.

**Sathish**

## VISIT OF MAGIC BUS FOUNDATION OF INDIA



Magic Bus is an organization that works with children and young people who live in poverty, in India. Its mission is to provide children and young people life with meaningful livelihoods. The children and young people are equipped with the skills and knowledge on their way to moving out of poverty. On February 17, 2022, Magic bus team visited Snehagram and presented us with a new livelihood option.

There are many children over 18 years in Snehagram and this idea was very pleasing to each and every one of us. We were excited to launch this program at the earliest. The name of the program is Skill Development Training. It includes 2months of training and job placement is assured.



It is a great option for the students as it is very flexible because it gives work from home option. Students can work and simultaneously do their further education and this way it will generate a stable income and they can pursue their education without any trouble.

**Akhila**

## REPUBLIC DAY OBSERVED



We observed our 73rd Republic Day on January 26, 2022. It was a very special day for me as I was part of the organizing team to conduct activities. After doing the needed arrangements and decorations we were ready to hoist the flag. Prime minister and deputy of Snehagram led the assembly.

Ms. Reni had the honor to hoist the flag and we paid our respect to the day by saluting the flag and singing National Anthem. We learned more about the day with activities that followed. I loved watching the live parade show on television. In the evening we had matches conducted for juniors. The seniors had a volleyball match and it was a pretty good feeling as I was part of the winning team. The experience that comes from being a member of an organizing team is a huge learning curve.



**Divya**

## BANGALORE INTERNATIONAL HUBBA



This BIC's vision was framed by a group of like-minded civic leaders, educators, professionals, government officials, artists, academics, and thinkers, who felt that Bengaluru deserved an institution that encouraged the intellect, facilitated open dialogue, and stimulated the senses. This Hubba was to bring together like-minded NGOs and create space for promotion and be able to raise funds. It was a privilege as Snehagram got an opportunity to showcase its works

and to interact with other NGOs. Those who represented Snehagram numbered 5. We posted our pictures, and banners and displayed reports of videos on television. We tried making it more interesting and thought-provoking. We also had candles for sale, and it was one of the centers of attractions at the event.

There were more than 80 other NGOs who had set up their counters as well. It was a unique experience for every one of us as it gave us an opportunity for us to explain and promote our activities. Many came forward to learn about our NGO and quite a few bought the candles. Later on, we went around exploring other NGOs and learned about their activities. I and my friend Sahana went to different counters and listened to them their stories while we also shared ours.



“One of the things I learned from this exposure is that by partnering we can reach out to many”, Says Meghana. This Hubba is a great initiative as it gives the opportunity to display our work and relate to many others.

**Sahana**



## WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION ORGANIZED



This day was very special for all the girls at Snehagram as it was women's day. We dedicated the day to all the women and a free run was organized. Many students took part in the long-distance runs and many completed 13-15km of runs. The experience of running long distances was fairly hard because several of us tried it after a long time. Later that day many experienced aches and pains in their muscles but we were moved by the words of Prakash; as he said "this pain is nothing compared to the pains the women face every day in the society".

It was amazing as all the boys prepared a card for the girls in Snehagram with their names on it; most of the boys sat until late at night to complete preparing the cards. At the time of breakfast, the boys gave the cards and wished all the girls here in Snehagram. Every girl while receiving the card looked happy and pleased. We had a throw ball match soon after the breakfast as for the women's day special and all participated actively. It was indeed a happy day to celebrate and we owe our respect to all the women for their contribution to society.

**Mallava**



## VISIT TO THE HOME OF DR. MICHAEL



All the fellows and mentors of Snehagram along with fathers visited Dr. Michael at his home in Bangalore and had lunch with him and his family. It was a great outing for us. Dr. Michael and his family welcomed us warmly. We spent time chatting and interacting. We enjoyed the delicious food prepared by the family and as we were leaving, we posed for a group photograph. It was a day of laughter and joy.

**Siddu**

## FIRST HOLY MASS CELEBRATED

In the month of December and January, Rev. Fr. Thomas, Rev. Fr. Jaison and Rev. Fr. Deepu had been ordained to Priesthood. It was a blessed opportunity to have them, at Snehagram and to celebrate their first Holy Eucharist with the snehagram children. We received blessings from newly ordained fathers and it was lovely interacting with them. We continued to rejoice later on with the cultural programs and barbeque.



We wish all the best for the fathers as they begin their priestly journey and may they become a true Camillian in their mission of serving the sick.



### PARTNERS MEETING WITH MAGIC BUS



On March 4, the Magic Bus team invited Snehagram for the partner's meeting in Attibele. Fr. Teji Thomas, Director, Dr. Micheal, the Technical Officer, and Mr. Babu joined the meeting. Many HR personnel from different firms had come and it was a wonderful ceremony. Many companies received awards and recognitions for their contribution to Magic Bus. Snehagram received recognition as an emerging company and it was an honor to receive the a

ward from the city manager. We got to meet many like-minded people and it is in reality a good place to create job opportunities for our children at Snehagram and those in the community.

**Sudeep**

### CHRISTY GIRLS HOME: TRAINING CONTINUED



The longer one keeps up the training the better that one can get at it and this is very true in any field. It has been 2 months since the training program started off at Christy Girls Home, Kolar. The progress has been incredible as all of them love to run and train and they take effort and are serious in the training. Along with running, life skill training is also integrated. It has always been an amazing experience training the children and helping them to grow healthy and happy.

**Gowthami**

### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF FR. SUNIL



March 20, 2022, we celebrated the birthday of Rev. Fr. Sunil though the actual celebration took place on March, 27. Fr. Baby Ellickal Provincial of Camillians and Fr. Reji the animator of the pastoral care centre and other fathers from different communities had come down to celebrate the birthday of Fr. Sunil on march 27. We organized diverse programmes and they added colour to the event.

It was a delightful sight while watching the last program, as all the students carried colorful balloons and danced and made it even special as it emerged surprisingly. We invited Fr Sunil to cut the cake and share the happiness of the day. We enjoyed the delicious meal thereafter.

**Amar**





## ACADEMIC CLOSURE



Education is an important tool that is very useful in everybody's life. It makes man the smartest creature on the earth. It empowers humans and gets them ready to face the challenges of life efficiently. After the two years of COVID -19, the present year has been better thus far with education as most of the students were able to attend the classes and complete their education without many hassles compared to the previous year. All the students in Snehagram completed their semestral exams, and assignments and are ready for their annual exams. March 28, the academic year 2021-22 was closed officially, and moved to study leave.

**Umesh**

## MEETING WITH TESCO CEO: EXPERIENCE OF MEGHANA

Meghana one of the trainees in the skill development training (Magic bus) had been given an opportunity to meet the CEO of TESCO. It was a significant experience as she got time to interact and explain about her vision and plans. She says "it is first time in my life that I got an opportunity to meet someone popular and I was pleased as he was humble and spent enough time with us. I always thought those in high positions would be rigid but with Mr. Ken Murphy I felt very relaxed and it was a lovely experience." This has created a room to hear the experiences from the ground level. Thanks to Magic Bus and the team for encouraging the youth with amazing opportunities.



**Meghana**

## NATURE SNAPS







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