INSIDE

Preface
CEO Diary
Awards & Recognition
Organization Updates
Volunteer Impact
Sports
Corporate Acknowledgement
My Story

Rahul Dravid is Brand Ambassador of 2nd T20 World Cup 2016

Awareness on source segregation of waste - ITC WOW Parisara Programme

The Newsletter Team
Sithara Medappa
Kumaraswamy
K Lalitha

Upcoming Disabled Friendly Residential School - Bengaluru
Dear Friends,

It’s been a great start to year 2016. In retrospect, one of our greatest achievements has been forging new partnerships and expanding our geographical ambit to positively impact more than 12000 persons with disability.

Our partnership with ITC has scaled new territory with the establishment of new Livelihood Resource Centres (LRC) in Kolar and Mysore. Our collaboration with them in the 'Well-being out of Waste' (WOW) programme has yielded rich dividends. Segregation of waste at source and recycling of dry waste has been ingrained into the psyche of the citizenry with the waste disposal mechanism of Bengaluru now aligned with environmental sustainability. Successfully implemented in 14 wards of Bengaluru, this programme is advancing full throttle in several new wards.

Focusing on our pan India vision for LRC, skilling and placement programmes have now been initiated in East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand supported by the Government of Jharkhand. In all, 8 Livelihood Resource Centres have now been established across Karnataka and Jharkhand with several more on the anvil in Andhra Pradesh and other areas.

In collaboration with United Way of Bangalore and Applied Materials, we have inaugurated an RO water plant on 8th March which will supply pure drinking water to 12,000 people in 4 villages of Bangarpet Taluk, Kolar district.

Support from Microsoft will enable us to expand to two districts of Andhra Pradesh.

To nurture inclusion and well-being of persons with disability, we have steadily worked to create opportunities for them in every sector. In sport, we organized the first-ever T20 Asia Cup Cricket Tournament for the Blind in Kochi, Kerala, in association with Cricket Association for the Blind, Kerala, during January this year. A state level open cricket tournament for visually impaired students was also organized by Samarthanam Belagavi from 8th - 10th January, 2016.

The first-ever walkathon in Hubballi Dharwad was successfully organized this February in line with our vision to replicate the annual Bengaluru walkathon model in various cities. It effected mass sensitization on inclusion of the disabled in the North Karnataka region where little is known about disability.

We gratefully acknowledge the overwhelming support that has come our way from the corporate sector during this concluding quarter of the financial year.

On our 19th anniversary, my appreciation, felicitation and gratitude go out to all our supporters for their extraordinary efforts which manifested in our exponential reach and impact last year.

Mahantesh G Kivadasannavar
Founder Managing Trustee
Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled

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Dear All,

I would like to share with you the impact of volunteers in this edition of our newsletter.

Volunteers are an indispensable resource to non-governmental organizations. Without them most non-profit organizations would be unable to reach many beneficiaries, functioning as they do with limited staff and budgets. They are well placed to augment many tasks performed by employees including generating awareness and enthusiasm, raising funds, providing new skills, increasing engagement with various stakeholders among other things. As they do not receive any monetary or other benefits their altruistic attitude spills into their work lending passion and in many instances, better impact than if it were handled by paid employees.

Impact on Samarthanam

Volunteers have been the mainstay of Samarthanam since inception. In the initial years when resources were scarce and even now by bringing wide ranging skills, time and zeal they have aided value creation to the assigned activities. We will not be far off the mark in attributing nearly 15% to 20% of work done by Samarthanam, to them. Their impact has been profound and far reaching with regard to our initiatives as detailed below:

**Education:** Corporate and student volunteers provide practical exposure and quality guidance to our school children through tutoring, field trips and extracurricular activities. Our college education programme engages volunteers all through the day, over the course of one or more years to provide scribe and reader services to beneficiaries availing the distance education courses. **Merck, Goldman Sachs, Cisco, Christ University, Credit Suisse etc.** are some among many companies that have lent a helping hand.

**Livelihood Resource Centre:** Volunteers have imparted soft skill training and computer education, provided voice recordings & scribe facility in the skilling programs undertaken by us. **Wells Fargo, Merck, ANZ, Scope International, Deloitte & HP** are a few of the companies that have rendered these services. **Vidyaprasad** – Our midday meal programme for government schools has witnessed a unique cooking activity by **VMware** volunteers in the kitchens of Samarthanam wherein a full-course meal was prepared and served to our primary, middle and high school students. **Events:** The annual Bengaluru walkathon has recorded massive participation from volunteers of **ANZ, Scope International, Christ University, HP, Cisco**, who were involved in propagation of our cause and fundraising activities.

**Roles and responsibilities envisaged for volunteers in future**

At Samarthanam, we are constantly endeavouring to structure our systems and processes which include the volunteer management programme. In order to use this precious resource wisely, a proper orientation and training programme as well as a calendar of variegated activities for the year are the order of the day.

We also envision their assistance with job placement support for the disabled, driving inclusivity and accessibility in their own as well as other workplaces, being the torchbearers for equal opportunity employers and driving policy change in public and government forums.

www.samarthanam.org
As a former volunteer with Samarthanam, I can vouch for the positive impact that volunteering has had on my perspectives and attitude leading me to drastically alter course midway through life. Driving social impact through Samarthanam has given me intense joy unlike any other. I do hope all volunteers can take away similar experiences after a stint at Samarthanam.

Prateek Madhav
prateek.madhav@samarthanam.org

APPEAL TO VOLUNTEERS
We earnestly request your assistance with the upcoming 2nd T20 World Cup Cricket Tournament for the Blind to be held in multiple cities across India from 26th November to 11th December 2016.

To volunteer, please contact:
K Lalitha - +91 9449864786 volunteer@samarthanam.org
Sadaf Shah - sadaf@samarthanam.org

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Nasscom Social Innovation Award 2016
Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled clinched the NASSCOM 'Social Innovation Award' for 2016 in the 'Skills and Employability' category. The award was presented by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis along with other dignitaries in a glittering ceremony in Mumbai on 10th February, 2016. Applications were evaluated on multiple parameters including technology innovation, social impact, scalability, replicability, cost and sustainability.

We thank our staff, donors, volunteers & benefactors for their unstinting support and encouragement which make it possible for us to win awards such as this.

HUMAN RESOURCES
Several welfare measures were implemented by the HR team for the benefit of employees in accord with best practices in the industry.

The HR policy was revised to introduce medical and maternity leave. The travel policy has now been systematised and a monthly induction programme for all new joinees instituted. With a view to instilling corporate governance, a training session on balanced score card is being conducted for staff by a corporate trainer, Mr. Subrahmanyam Ivatury.

Key staff from the fundraising team attended a 2 day 'NGO Leadership Summit' in Chennai organized by Sevalaya. A team outing was arranged to 'Discovery village,' a resort on Kanakapura road, in acknowledgement of the diligent efforts of team Samarthanam in staging the ANZ Bengaluru walkathon 2015 which evoked massive support from all our stakeholders.
Our education programme fosters inclusion with disabled children studying alongside non-disabled underprivileged children. Inclusive education helps mainstream children with disabilities more effectively as they learn better social skills and adapt to real life situations easily due to their exposure to children without disabilities. Over 4000 children who have passed out of our schools have graduated from reputed institutions.

We thank all the organizers and sponsors who enabled so many interesting extracurricular activities for the children this quarter, rounding off their education in brilliant fashion.

**Primary School:**

Ms. R. Devamma, a visually impaired teacher was **honoured** by Samarthanam for her excellent service in the field of visual disabilities. The children rendered a **dazzling dance performance** on the eve of the **New Year Carnival** organised by **Vivekananda Education Centre**, Bengaluru on 16th January. Ms. Lalithamma, a teacher who tutors hearing impaired students, attended a workshop on “**Introduction to Braille & Sign language**” organized by **GiftAble Foundation**. The children enthusiastically participated in a **sports meet for NGOs** conducted by **Green Wood High School** where they won 26 prizes in all. The **Republic Day celebration** was studded with a cultural programme and special guests from Dell including Mr. Neeraj Jaitley, Vice President, I&CC Managed Services and Jugraj Singh, Manager Corporate Communications. A special screening of the **Kannada movie, 'Game,'** was organized for the children on 1st March, 2016 by a well-wisher of Samarthanam.

A **dance programme** was organized for the children by the **Shiamak Davar group** on 5th March, 2016

**School for Children with Intellectual Disabilities (ID School)**

The children participated in several outdoor events over the course of 3 months which were delightfully rejuvenating.

In an attempt to focus on providing sporting opportunities for men, women and children with physical impairments, **SBI Pink-A-Thon** organized events in 3 categories for NGOs associated with disability - 'Wheelchair Race with Volunteers,' 'Wheelchair Race without Volunteers,' and 'Race on Crutches' at **NIMHANS**, Bengaluru on 16th January. In total, 10 participants from the ID & Primary School, Swadhara and Livelihood Resource Centre participated in the event. **16 year old Anjan** took away the **first prize** in the '**Wheelchair race with Volunteers'** category.

Around 100 children from the ID & Primary School visited **Bannerghatta National Park** on 3rd March. They were accompanied by 25 members including staff and parents of severely challenged children. The programme was sponsored by a senior official from the **Karnataka Forest Department**. The trip was enjoyed thoroughly by the children who embarked on a **safari ride** where they sighted lions, tigers, bears, elephants and deer; visited the **butterfly park** and the **zoo**. The lush greenery & peaceful environment enchanted the children who wish for more such outings in future. Four children participated in “**QUIZABLED” – 2016**, organized by **Seva- in-Action** on 13th February. The
International Yoga Day celebrations organized by Rashtriya Seva Samithi on 14th February at an outdoor venue had the participation of all children. The all-round skills of the children were excellently showcased during the inaugural ceremony of a development programme supported by First Advantage on 11th March, 2016.

High School

The students participated in a sports meet organized by Greenwood High School on 23rd January, where they won several prizes. High school students participated in cultural activities organized by Tata Institute and quiz competitions organized by Vivekananda Makkala Sangha and Seva-in-Action. On 27th February, staff & children participated in the felicitation ceremony for visually impaired players who were part of the Indian squad that won the 1st T20 Asia Cup Cricket Tournament for the Blind. The students participated in the Interschool Athletic Meet organized by TCS for visually impaired children on 10th March where they won several prizes.

Higher Education

Currently 220 students avail the higher education course at Samarthanam. The pass percentage in the III year BA exams was 82% and the toppers were Taslima from APS college who scored 82% and Priyanka Mallappa (visually impaired) from Surana College who scored 76%. Children’s day was celebrated with a singing competition for visually impaired students and a colouring competition for speech and hearing students. Deepa, an expert in various fields, has been visiting the hostel to teach resident students activities such as yoga, painting, music, dance and making of handicrafts. 6 students took part in the Republic day celebrations held in Manek Shaw Parade ground, Bengaluru on 26th January 2016 and to their immense joy were awarded the first prize for march-past by the Governor, Mr. Vajubhai Vala. Lions Club, JP Nagar, Bengaluru generously awarded scholarships of Rs. 3000 each to 31 visually impaired students and Rs. 2000 each to 9 speech and hearing impaired students.

First Advantage support for the Intellectual Disabilities School

A year-long holistic development programme for children studying in the Intellectual Disabilities School supported by First Advantage, was launched on 11th March, 2016. Under this programme, gross motor skills, sports, extracurricular activities, wish fulfillment, vocational training, sports, art competitions, field trips, among several other activities will be enabled for the children.
The Livelihood Resource Centre at Samarthanam has become a byword for innovation. Training modules are specially formulated for persons with disability by mapping the disability, professional qualification and experience of the candidate to the industry specific skill requirement.

Supported by ITC Ltd, we have inaugurated two new Livelihood Resource Centres in Kolar and Mysore districts of Karnataka on 16th & 18th March respectively while a second LRC located at KVIC Bengaluru was launched on 19th March 2016.

The second batch of candidates for the 'Shared Services Skill Training Programme' sponsored by ITC commenced training on 15th February, 2016.

The second batch of female candidates who enrolled in the 'Samartha Sthree Training Programme' supported by 3M completed the course on 13th February. This course imparts soft skills, basic IT education and spoken English. Training for the 3rd batch which commenced on 1st March is currently underway.

Supported by Wells Fargo, a 'Skill Development Programme' for the second batch of candidates commenced on 8th February and the 3rd batch on 1st March 2016.

LRC has successfully placed candidates in companies such as TE Connectivity, Wipro, ITC, Kotak Life Insurance, Randstad, D-Mart, KFC, Jockey, Vindhya E Infomedia, CAREER MARK6 and QSAT.

The Department of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Government of Karnataka, in collaboration with Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled has been providing community based rehabilitation for persons with disability in Ramanagara district since 2014.

This quarter, 760 people were identified by DDRC for rehabilitation in 4 taluks comprising 86 villages. 52 checkup camps and 78 rehabilitation camps were conducted, disability certificates were disbursed to 152 persons, 554 people were identified for issue of aids and appliances which was provided to 154 people, 46 persons were identified for skill development training and employment and 65 people were provided free bus passes.

Vision centre eye care project at Kanakapura - Initiated by Canon in partnership with Samarthanam & Charity Aid Foundation

This project aims to eliminate preventable blindness & visual impairment in Kanakapura, Bangalore. The services of Vision Centre were availed by several this quarter, as indicated in the diagram.
Maharaja Katte school education project – Initiated by Canon in partnership with Samarthanam and Charity Aid Foundation

The objectives of the education programme encompass improvement in the enrollment of children at the school and facilitating inclusive and quality education to optimize age-appropriate learning of each child.

The school which now boasts 82 children recording an increase since last year had several developmental activities dotting its calendar between January and March this year. They include: constant nurturing of the lush green kitchen garden which is a source of learning as well as nutrition for the children’s midday meal; parent teacher meetings for educational development, wish fulfillment – kind courtesy, Canon; preparation for the final exams, tutoring through materials provided in the activity centre.

Inauguration of the community drinking water project in Bangarpet, Kolar launched by collaborating partners, United Way of Bangalore, Applied Materials and Samarthanam

It is a basic human right, however access to safe drinking water is still denied to several. In Bangarpet Taluk, Kolar district, Karnataka, the prolonged gold mining activity culminated in severe arsenic contamination of ground water.

In order to prevent & banish orthopaedic problems afflicting the rural inhabitants of this area caused by unsafe drinking water, United Way of Bangalore, Applied Materials and Samarthanam joined hands to install an RO water plant at Bangarpet taluk. The plant was inaugurated on 8th March to the immense relief of the 12,000 residents.

### Vision Centre Statistics

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SI No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>No. of patient who visited the Vision Centre for check-up</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No. of patients who were given spectacles</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>No. of patients referred for spectacles</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>No. of patients diagnosed for eye care</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>No. of patients referred to hospital</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>No. of patients operated upon</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Samarthanam has launched a new Livelihood Resource Centre in East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand to implement a skill development and placement programme for disabled youth under the pilot phase of ‘Saksham Jharkhand Kaushal Vikas Yojana.’ This programme has been introduced by the Jharkhand Skill Development Mission Society which is an autonomous body functioning under the Department of Labour, Employment, Training and Skill Development, Government of Jharkhand. Currently, the first batch including 25 persons with disability, are undergoing training at this centre.

The programme aims to provide wage/self employment-linked skills training which is compliant with the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) and in line with the “Common Norms” notified by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship on 15th July, 2015. The goal of the programme is to provide industry validated and market relevant skills in high-impact sectors identified for Jharkhand which
PARISARA

The Samarthanam Parisara and ITC WOW juggernaut continues to spruce up the wards of Bengaluru leaving a cleaner city in its wake.

‘WOW’ – Well-being out of waste

A corporate social responsibility initiative of ITC Ltd., ‘WOW,’ or ‘Well-being out of Waste’ seeks to instill and implement source segregation and recycling of waste among households, the general public, schools, commercial establishments, industries and corporate houses. ITC has partnered with Samarthanam Parisara and collaborated with BBMP to bring several wards of Bengaluru under the purview of this programme.

Programme implementation

The programme has been successfully implemented in 14 wards of Bengaluru including Madivala, BTM Layout, Lakasandra and Sudduguntepalya among others and is currently operational in Bairasandra, Gurappanapalya & Pattabi Raman Nagar. BBMP officials have extended wholehearted support and cooperation to this endeavour. Politicians and municipal authorities alike have expressed their appreciation over the efforts and implementation thus far.

Programme Impact

- Awareness generated on source segregation of waste
- 80% segregation at source accomplished
- Dry waste collection centres have been instituted and are now operational
- The quality of dry waste collected has improved considerably as there is no contamination with wet waste
- While increased quantity of dry waste is being recycled, the WOW bags being distributed for collection of dry waste also encourage reuse
- Before intervention by ITC WOW & Samarthanam, low value plastic (for instance, biscuit wrappers) were being sent to the landfill whereas now, it is being collected from pourakarmikas for onward submission to cement factories, at our expense
- Reduction of black spots in collaboration with BBMP, courtesy the WOW helpline
- In three of the wards, dry waste collection centres are being manned by disabled persons. The aim is to have all the centres manned by them, thereby providing employment to the disabled
- As on 21st March, 115 individuals have been recruited by Samarthanam to implement this programme thus generating employment
- Sustainable livelihood created for waste collectors by paying them for dry waste collected.
- Daily reports are prepared by the Samarthanam WOW team ensuring compliance
- Effective collection and waste management system instituted

www.samarthanam.org
Samarthanam North Karnataka introduced several new initiatives to enable mass sensitization on disability and positively impact the lives of persons with disability.

**First-ever walkathon in Hubballi**

Samarthanam Dharwad organized the first ever Hubballi-Dharwad walkathon in Hubballi on 5th February 2016 to raise awareness on inclusion of persons with disability. The event witnessed the participation of more than 2000 people including 700-800 persons with disability. Stalls were set up at the venue displaying the various processes of empowerment with regard to employment, education, accessibility, government schemes and policies. Folding canes were distributed to 150 people and mobility devices for the visually impaired, called 'Ausion', were disbursed to 100 people.

**First-ever job fair at Raichur**

Samarthanam Ballari organized a job fair for persons with disability on 5th March 2016 at Raichur. More than 300 persons with disability and around 10 companies such as Vindya E Info Media Pvt Ltd, SISCO, Lemon Tree Hotels among others participated in this event. Around 100 individuals were shortlisted for jobs in Raichur district.

**Blind cricket tournament at Belagavi**

Samarthanam Belagavi organized a cricket tournament for the blind between 8th and 10th January 2016 on the eve of the 207th birth anniversary of Louis Braille, the inventor of Braille and 4th anniversary of the Belagavi centre. Thirteen teams from all over the state participated in the tournament with Samarthanam Belagavi clinching 1st place.

**First-ever meet for organizations working in the disability sector**

Samarthanam in association with Disability NGO Alliance (DNA) organized a meet for organizations working in the disability sector at Ballari. It was facilitated by the Executive Director of APD, Mr. Basavaraj, who is also the secretary of DNA. Samarthanam received an opportunity to visit JSW Steel Ltd., which operates a day care centre for children with intellectual disability hailing from the surrounding areas. A session was held for parents of the children.

**Volunteer engagement programme with Tata Hitachi**

Samarthanam Dharwad celebrated International Women’s Day with volunteers from Tata Hitachi. The team donated a Dell laptop for daisy recording.
VOLUNTEER IMPACT

To improvise on a popular Latin phrase, “I came, I saw, I conquered,” attributed to Julius Caesar, we would not be wrong in stating, “They came, they saw, they conquered,” of the scores of volunteers who contributed wholeheartedly to our programmes.

A fortnight long programme witnessed volunteers from Sigma Aldrich don a tutoring role. Cisco generated profiles of school children interspersing it with birthday celebrations and learning activities. Bharat Petroleum created awareness on the environment through a drawing competition for primary school children. Deloitte sponsored an educational field trip for primary school children to the historic Nandi hills dotted with heritage temples and the Muddenahalli Museum housing the personal effects of Sir Vishweshwaraiah.

Pegasystems and Flipkart associated with us on International Women’s Day. Visually impaired students participated in an athletic meet conducted by TCS for NGOs in the disability sector. Herbalife and Fauracia Emission Control Technologies donated stationery items to the school. GKN Aerospace conducted 3 interactive sessions on the significance of Republic Day, health and hygiene and International Women’s Day for the school children as well as the higher education students. A team from SKF Global Innovation Centre visited our premises on an orientation trip. The Wells Fargo US leadership team volunteered at the Samarthanam Digital Book Library by recording a book for the visually impaired community. They also undertook an orientation visit. The VMware leadership team visited our project sites in HSR layout. Volunteers from Sandisk created study charts on multiple subjects for the primary school children.

Foreign volunteers from Indonesia, Germany, Belgium, USA and Norway volunteered at the schools. A group of student volunteers from St. Paul’s English school, Bangalore, painted beautiful pictures of study subjects on the partitions within the school for children with intellectual disabilities. Students from Texas & Zurich Universities visited our facility for a study on NGO functionalities. Students from ITM B, NMIMS, SPJIMR, XIME, IIT, New Delhi, underwent internship on various significant projects. 48 students from Christ University as well as others from various educational institutions underwent internship and claimed credits.

VMware ratcheted up their volunteering engagement with Samarthanam by participating in a unique and creative team building activity. Our kitchen at Singasandra was abuzz with activity early morning of 4th March as the VMware leadership team laid stake to it. Around 100 volunteers worked in unison to cook up and dish out a delicious midday meal for the school children of Samarthanam. Planned to perfection with flawless execution and brilliant timing, the awe inspiring effort have us all saying - "Well done, VMware!"
"I started my volunteering activity with Samarthanam back in Dec 2015. It started with an urge to find out what else I could contribute to this area of community work and I was blown away with the work done by the Samarthanam team. They are swift, flexible and willing to support in this ever dynamic environment. I have been part of the coaching and mentoring volunteer activity. I thought I was there to coach and mentor on leadership and was privileged to know each of the individual journeys as also being inspired and motivated. One of the other volunteering activities I participated in was cooking for a cause. The experience was one-of-a-kind. The planning was seamless and the joy of cooking for a cause and being able to spend quality time with the kids and my colleagues was beyond compare. The team is committed to making a difference in the community and I know I will continue my work and relationship with Samarthanam in future too.

Esther Tamang, VMware

"The afternoon I invested at Samarthanam on March 9th was so fulfilling for me personally. While this was part of our Global Corporate Volunteering Program, "Spark," I was so glad that I could be with the children and also support the audio recording of a short book. The kids were amazing. They had absolutely no inhibition though they were meeting us for the first time. They were highly engaged, responsive to us and eager to learn.

I would wish the best future for these bright and energetic children with all the support and service that Samarthanam is dedicating to their lives. I would hope to come back sometime to actively support Samarthanam's objectives."

Ms. Vanaja Krishnan, Director, GSS, Sigma Aldrich

"I slept & dreamt that life was joy. I awoke & saw that life was service. I acted & behold, service was joy."
- Rabindranath Tagore

Merck held a volunteering programme close to 500 hours, at the Primary School, ID school & Livelihood Resource Centre

A volunteer from the Wells Fargo US leadership team records a book for visually impaired persons at the Digital Book Library in Samarthanam

www.samarthanam.org
Over the last decade, Samarthanam has elevated cricket for the blind to unparalleled heights with single-minded dedication and passion through its sporting arm, Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI). It has provided fresh impetus to the aspirations and dreams of several visually impaired people by conducting state, zonal, national and international tournaments in association with local bodies.

1st T20 Asia Cup Cricket Tournament for the Blind

Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled in association with Cricket Association for the Blind in Kerala, affiliated to CABI, organized the first-ever T20 Asia Cup Cricket Tournament for the Blind between 17th & 24th January, 2016 in Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium, Kochi, Kerala. Participating countries included India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka. In all, ten league matches were played between 18th and 22nd January, 2016. The top two teams from the league matches, India & Pakistan, contested the finals played on 24th January, 2016.

Chasing a massive target of 209 off 20 overs set by India, Pakistan crumbled to defeat with 163 off 18.4 overs. Pakistan lost 5 wickets to run outs, courtesy some outstanding fielding by the Indian team, who relentlessly piled up the pressure.

The Indian team now holds the distinction of being the only team to win all three international championships including the T20, ODI and Asia Cups. Congratulatory calls were received by the team from Mr Thawar Chand Gehlot, Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment and Mr Ananth Kumar, Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers.

Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri Oommen Chandy, generously granted Rs. 25 lakhs in support of the tournament.

2nd T20 World Cup Cricket Tournament for the Blind 2016

November 2016 will mark an exciting chapter in the history of CABI as we host the 2nd T20 World Cup Cricket Tournament for the Blind in multiple cities across India. With ten countries participating and 49 matches being played, the logistics and scale of the event are monumental.

We solicit your kind support by way of sponsorship. Do write in to us if you wish to receive a copy or require a presentation of the 'Sponsorship Proposal.'

Donations will be greatly appreciated and can be enabled by accessing the link below:

www.samarthanam.org/make-a-general-donation

RAHUL DRAVID IS BRAND AMBASSADOR

We are delighted to announce that Rahul Dravid will be the Brand Ambassador for the 2nd T20 World Cup Cricket Tournament for the Blind 2016. It is a matter of great pride & honour to have him onboard as a supporter & promoter of cricket for the blind.
Tarun Gowda

Tarun Gowda has a remarkable story to tell. When this bright little 10 year old joined the Samarthanam School for Intellectual Disabilities at age 8, he could hardly walk, leave alone move. Sitting in a chair was extremely difficult, so also control over his head, body movements and communication. He had been diagnosed with cerebral palsy resulting from the difficult circumstances of his birth. Despite their weak financial situation, his widowed mother took utmost care of him as well as his brother leaving no stone unturned in providing a living for them through tailoring and other odd jobs. In the initial months, Tarun was totally dependent on his teachers with regard to each and every activity.

His days at the Samarthanam school under the able aegis of the Principal, Ms Geetha and tutelage of his teacher, Manjulamma have paved the way for an astonishing transformation. He is now able to walk without assistance, communicate, follow instructions & perform actions. His favourite activities include solving puzzles, watching cartoons, identifying pictures of birds among other things. Bubbly and cheerful, he appears to be cherishing his new lease on life.
Akshay AO

However hard he tried, a job seemed elusive! For Akshay AO from Mysore, a degree in engineering took a back seat when it came to prospective jobs. His hearing impairment, even though he wore a hearing aid seemed to be the main problem. One day, news of a special training programme conducted by the Livelihood Resource Centre (LRC) at Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, Bengaluru, came to his attention through Mr. Mallikarjun, an ardent supporter of Samarthanam. This 6 week long software testing (manual, mobile & accessibility) course had been specifically formulated for technically qualified hearing impaired individuals with a view to facilitating job placement. Akshay travelled to Bangalore and enrolled. After the course, his profile as well as those of his coursemates’ was floated with various companies by the placement team of LRC. His resume found its way to Intel, who was on the lookout for software engineers. A skill test was arranged by Intel for the candidates at LRC and soon thereafter Akshay landed his first job. His joy knew no bounds! He has been working with Intel as Software Test Engineer, Compliance Department, since 21st December, 2015 & his initial nervousness has now given way to sweet comfort. He dropped by at Samarthanam to thank the LRC team, vouching for the effectiveness of the training programme as well as donating generously to the upcoming Samarthanam disabled friendly residential school building fund.

Pooja N

She always dreamed of working for a multinational company in Bengaluru. Pooja N. was born with a hearing impairment but that did not deter her in any way from scaling barrier after barrier in the realization of her dream. Her parents moved to Mysore when she was a child as they were of the opinion that it offered the education best suited to her needs. With an M.Com degree from Mysore University in 2015 and a course in Tally to her credit, Pooja’s working career began in a Chartered Accountant’s office. Shortly after, she heard from friends about courses and job support offered for hearing impaired individuals by the Livelihood Resource Centre (LRC), Samarthanam, which turned out to be her next destination. To her luck, a ‘Shared Services Training Programme’ was about to commence. She joined the course on 4th January and upon completion attended an interview at TE Connectivity scheduled by the placement team at LRC. To her utter delight, the company offered her a position in MIS on February 18th 2016. She is currently undergoing internship with them and fervently hopes to be absorbed on the company rolls. When we caught up with her, she was all praise for the supportive and patient trainers at Samarthanam and the comprehensive training which included a mock interview session that boosted her confidence immensely. She thanked Samarthanam for helping her clinch her dream job and for the wonderful training experience.

Queries on any information related to the newsletter may be addressed to: communication@samarthanam.org
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Donations made in US are exempted under 501C3
Samarthanam is also qualified to receive contributions through Give India, Give to Asia Charity Aid foundation, USA and American service to India, USA

Donate online through our website www.samarthanam.org
Write to us: info@samarthanam.org
Call us @ +91 9449864784 or +919449864775.
Send cheques or drafts in favour of Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donation options per unit and multiples thereof</th>
<th>₹</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor midday meal for 3 Govt. school students per year</td>
<td>3,600</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celebrate your special days by sponsoring meals at HSR for 341 students</td>
<td>Breakfast - 4,500, Lunch - 6,000, Dinner - 5,500</td>
<td>16,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary and High School Education support for 1 child per year</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Education support for 1 disabled student per year</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential skill training for livelihoods per candidate</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art and culture training per disabled student (Sunadha)</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisions to run a residential hostel facility for one month</td>
<td>1,50,000</td>
<td>2,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction of one class room in accessible school at HSR Layout</td>
<td>6,00,000</td>
<td>8,982</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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www.samarthanam.org