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# SNEHAVAANI

Voice of Children, Snehagram - Sneha charitable trust



## Director Speaks

### The Passing of Time!



As I sit down to reflect on the time that has passed, I am struck by how quickly time has flown by. It feels like just yesterday we were setting goals, planning projects, and imagining the possibilities of the months ahead. Now, here we are, having navigated through challenges, celebrated milestones, and grown together in ways we couldn't have imagined.

These months have been of immense beauty—filled with moments of joy, learning, and togetherness. The growth we've seen in both our work and our people has been nothing short of inspiring. We've celebrated successes, but more importantly, we've watched each individual step up, embrace change, and contribute to something bigger than themselves.

Time, though it passes swiftly, leaves behind the memories and the impact of what we've achieved. And as we move forward, we carry with us the lessons, the gratitude, and the excitement for what's to come.

Looking back, it's hard to believe how far we've come in such a short span. Every challenge faced and each triumph achieved has shaped us into a stronger, more resilient team, and I couldn't be prouder of what we've accomplished together.

**Fr. Sunil Joseph MI**  
Director, Snehagram



## Farewell to Ms. Reni

The community recently bid a heartfelt farewell to Ms. Reni, who served as a counselor, teacher, CWC officer, and friend. Her dedication and compassion made a significant impact, offering guidance, support, and encouragement to many. The farewell gathering was filled with touching memories and gratitude, celebrating her remarkable contributions. Though it's hard to say goodbye, her legacy will live on in the lives she has touched. As she moves forward, we wish Ms. Reni all the best in her future endeavors.

Ramu

## Ugadi Celebration

The Ugadi festivities at Snehagram were vibrant and filled with joy, marking the start of the Hindu New Year. The day began with colorful rangoli patterns and fresh mango leaf decorations, symbolizing prosperity. A special prayer ceremony set a reflective tone, as everyone gathered to seek blessings for the new beginnings.

The children brought the cultural spirit alive with traditional dances and folk songs, narrating the significance of Ugadi. One highlight was the preparation of "Ugadi Pachadi," a dish representing the varied experiences of life with its six distinct flavors. The day concluded with fun activities and storytelling, embracing the spirit of unity, cultural pride, and the promise of a hopeful year ahead.

Yesheswini

## A Celebration of Faith

On July 14th, Snehagram hosted a distinctive celebration of the St. Camillus Feast. With senior students unable to join due to exams, the occasion took on a different atmosphere. The lead-up included 14 days of prayer and meditation, alongside preparations to decorate the chapel and dining area. The day commenced with special prayer, attended by Camillian fathers from Bangalore, emphasizing prayers for the sick worldwide. Festivities continued with a communal breakfast, laughter, and cricket, with the joining of super seniors adding a nostalgic touch, reinforcing a sense of enduring community and shared faith.

Nirmala



## Embracing New Students

Over the past year, Snehagram experienced a quieter period, but the arrival of new students has breathed new life into the community. As they join to continue their studies, the atmosphere is filled with optimism for a future rich in learning and growth. The new members have quickly settled in, making friends and contributing fresh ideas. A senior student shared memories of his own early days, while a newcomer expressed excitement about the warm welcome and opportunities for personal growth.

Prakash



## Unforgettable Experience

My first Trot Marathon will remain etched in my memory forever. The excitement kept me awake, and despite the pouring rain, I was ready for the challenge.

Arriving late added to the chaos, and the inclement weather only fueled my determination. Running through the downpour was tough; the slick pavement made each stride uncertain, and the relentless rain stung against my skin, testing my resolve. Yet, these challenges reminded me of the joyful runs at Snehagram, where each stride felt like home. With my friend Nagesh by my side, I pushed myself harder than ever, ultimately finishing second while he claimed first. We celebrated our achievements over breakfast, sharing laughter and reflecting on the day's challenges, cherishing the bond we formed through this unforgettable experience.

Thirumal

## Independence Day

Independence Day was a memorable and joyous occasion that filled my heart with pride. It felt wonderful to see my country smiling after such a long time. My friends and I woke up at 4 AM, eager to contribute to the preparations. Decorating was a breeze for us, as we had experience from previous events. The day began with a small morning Mass, followed by a vibrant flag hoisting ceremony. We honored our heroes by singing patriotic songs, culminating in the national anthem, which filled our hearts with pride and unity. After the celebrations, we enjoyed a friendly cricket match, further solidifying our bonds of friendship and patriotism.

Nandhini



## A Joyful and Educational Camp

At Snehagram, we had the privilege of conducting a camp for the girls from Christ Girls' Home. While our organizations had previously connected, this camp marked a new chapter, deepening our relationship through shared learning experiences. We invested significant effort in preparation, ensuring every aspect of the three-day camp was well organized and meaningful. The girls arrived with contagious excitement, eager to engage in various activities, including exercise, nutrition, and essential life skills. They particularly enjoyed the computer sessions, mastering software skills that lit up their faces with joy. Beyond learning, the camp fostered friendships and camaraderie, making it a truly memorable experience for all involved. One participant expressed, "This camp was so much more than I expected. I learned so many new things, made new friends, and felt like I was part of a big family. I didn't want it to end."

Amar



## Celebrating Teachers' Day

On September 5th, we celebrated Teachers' Day with excitement and gratitude. The event was meticulously planned a week in advance by my friends and me, culminating in a vibrant cultural evening filled with games, activities, and heartfelt moments to express our appreciation for our teachers. Students presented handmade cards, symbolizing our gratitude for their dedication and guidance. Witnessing teachers engage in games for the first time added joy to the celebration. The smiles on our teachers' faces made the day unforgettable as we came together to honor their unwavering support.

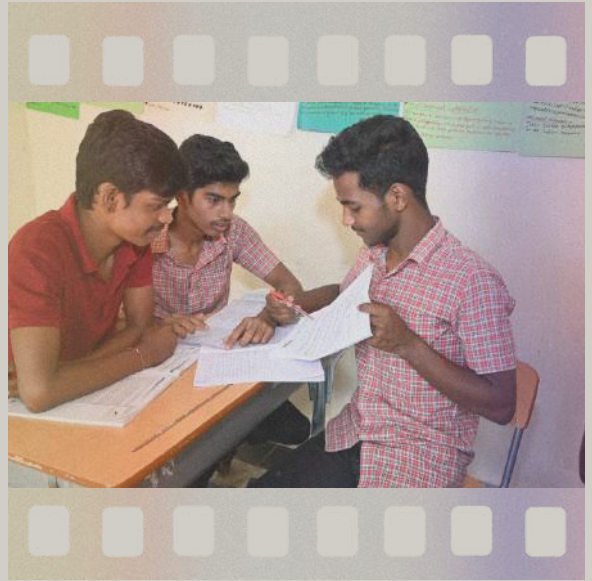
Savitha



## The Significance of Exams

Exams have always been a challenging yet essential part of my education, testing both my knowledge and resilience. As the dates approach, I feel a mix of excitement and anxiety, especially with subjects I find difficult. Early mornings are tough, but each study session pushes me closer to my goals. Group discussions and short breaks help me manage stress, while support from teachers and family keeps me grounded. Ultimately, exams are about more than grades; they're about personal growth and learning to overcome challenges.

Gangamma



## Exposure Visit of TISB Students

The visit from TISB students was a refreshing experience that went beyond typical classroom learning. Their enthusiasm was evident as they jumped into activities, from teaching us communication and English grammar to sharing insights on subjects like Business Studies and Psychology. We found the life skills sessions particularly engaging, sparking meaningful conversations on real-world challenges.

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Vinay Kumar

## Onam Celebration

Celebrating Onam at Snehagram was a heartwarming experience that brought us all closer. Creating the "Pookalam" (floral rangoli) together filled the air with excitement, as we carefully arranged colorful flowers, symbolizing the spirit of the festival.

Dressed in traditional attire, we enjoyed cultural performances that made the day lively and meaningful. The grand "Onam Sadhya" feast, served on banana leaves, was a delightful treat, with each dish tasting even better in the company of friends.

Akshay



## Embracing the Challenge

Participating in the Bangalore Challenge Run was an unforgettable experience. Standing at the starting line for the 10K and 5K events, a mix of excitement and nerves filled the air. The early morning training sessions at Snehagram had prepared us, but the scale of the event made it feel special.

Running through the ups and downs added to the challenge, and each step was a push to go beyond my limits. The cheers from the crowd and the sight of my friends encouraging each other kept me going. Crossing the finish line wasn't just a victory over distance—it felt like overcoming self-doubt and achieving something truly meaningful. The race left me with not just a medal, but memories and a newfound confidence to take on whatever comes next.

Naszeem

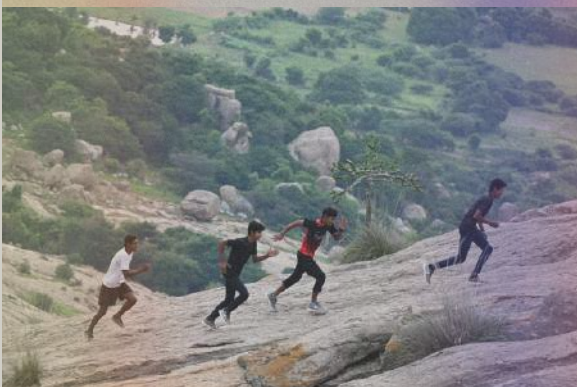


## Discovering Nature's Beauty

After the rain, the mountains transformed into a breathtaking wonderland. The air was fresh and crisp, filled with the delightful scent of damp earth and blooming flowers. As I climbed with my friends, laughter echoed through the valleys, mixing with the soothing sounds of nature. The vibrant colors of the landscape—rich greens and the occasional splash of wildflowers—invited us to explore and discover.

With every step, we felt a sense of adventure. As we reached a vantage point, the view before us was nothing short of magical. The mist clung to the hills, and sunlight bathed the terrain in a warm glow. Gazing out over the valleys below, I was struck by the beauty around me. It was a moment of pure joy, reminding me of the incredible experiences nature offers and the memories we create together in such breathtaking places.

Sachin



## Gandhi Jayanthi

Gandhi Jayanthi at Snehagram was a day of reflection and inspiration. The day began with a simple but heartfelt prayer ceremony, setting the tone for the celebrations. We took part in a community cleaning drive, an effort that symbolized not just tidying up our surroundings but also renewing our commitment to the values of cleanliness and self-discipline that Gandhi cherished. Working together, we felt a sense of unity and purpose, sharing laughter and stories as we did our bit for the environment.

Later, we engaged in a discussion about Gandhi's life and ideals, with everyone sharing their thoughts on how his teachings continue to inspire us today. It was a reminder that even the simplest actions, when done with sincerity, can bring about meaningful change.

Lalitha



## From 2K to 42K

I've always dreamed of running and staying healthy. My journey began at age 7 when I was introduced to running by Coach Santhosh Padmanabhan at Sneha Care Home. In 2008, I completed my first 2K run, followed by a 5K in 2011 and a 10K in 2014. Running became a source of joy and fulfillment, leading me to wonder about the potential of longer races.

In 2021, I co-founded the Positive Running Program under the RISHI Foundation, promoting fitness among children living with HIV. With the support of Dr. Anita Shet and my coach, I trained for my first half marathon, completing it in 1 hour 40 minutes.





I pushed further and completed my first full marathon on October 6, 2024, at the Bangalore Marathon. The first half was manageable, but by 35K, I struggled. Each step tested my endurance, but crossing the finish line in 4 hours 1 minute filled me with joy and accomplishment.

What made the day even more special was that four participants Ramu Sanju, Nagesh, Thirumal and Vinay from the Positive Running Program completed their first half marathon as well. Thirumal said, "Seeing Babu anna run 21K inspired me," while Vinay expressed gratitude for making his dream come true. Nagesh felt proud, and Ramu, the Senior Captain, showed that with the right opportunity, we can achieve the impossible.

Babu Seenappa



Thirumal



Nagesh



Ramu



Vinay Kumar



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