



ST. JUDES ENTERS THE NORTHEAST WITH NEW CENTRES IN GUWAHATI

Aware that there was a great need for our services in the Northeast, we took our first steps into the region with two new centres.

In November 2017 we were invited to set up a centre for children under treatment at the Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati. The hospital was being taken over as a grant-in-aid Institute of the Department of Atomic Energy and would become a unit of Mumbai's Tata Memorial Centre. We realised that there was a genuine need for our services in the Northeast as several patients abandoned their treatment because they had to travel long distances and had nowhere to stay near the existing few treatment centres. We accepted the offer and took our first step into the largely underserved Northeast region and are happy to announce that the Tata Trusts are setting up a number of centres in the area, particularly in Assam.

The Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute generously provided us with space in their existing Jirani Ghar 1, a guesthouse in a compound next to the hospital. Soon work began on converting this into two St. Jude Centres which would be home to 24 families. We were fortunate to have the capital expenses borne by two patrons – Roche Products to create one more Roche Children's Centre, and the Gupta family, in memory of Dr Dharm Pal & Vidya Devi Mahajan.

The centres became operational in December 2018, but the formal inauguration was held on February 10, 2019, on the auspicious occasion of Saraswati Puja. The fit-outs of the centres and a vehicle were generously sponsored by the P.A.N.I Foundation. Other sponsors included: Tutropes Pvt. Ltd for the water treatment system, Balkrishna Industries for the elevator and Urban Foundation for children's play area.

The hospital organised a press conference the day before to highlight the inauguration of their state-of-the-art linear accelerator and the St. Jude Centres on February 8th and 10th respectively. The children and their parents were extremely excited with the flurry of activities and pitched in to help the staff with the preparations.

We were delighted that our donors Poonam Mittal and Ajai Puri of the P.A.N.I. Foundation, as well as our supporters from Roche, Daniel Pluss, CFO; Shivprasad Laud, Legal Head; Shilpika Das, Director, Communications; and Sonal Kothan, Manager, Corporate Communications, were able to attend the function.

Local well-wishers, doctors and members of St. Jude's team also participated in the event. The Director of BCCI, Dr Amal Katak, Paediatric Oncologist Dr. Munlima Hazarika, our Vice Chairman, Gargi Mashruwala, Shivprasad Laud of Roche, and ex-District Governor, Rotary, Mr Prabhakar Kedia, were invited to light the traditional lamp by our Team Member Ketaki Bordoloi, who also made for an excellent compere.

In his address, Dr Katak spoke of the positive impact that the St. Jude Centres would have on the treatment of pediatric patients. Our CEO, Usha Banerji, spoke of how these centres were a fulfillment of a long-cherished dream and were in line with St. Jude's vision to ensure that no child in need would suffer for lack of a loving home away from home during his/her treatment. The children, in turn, delighted all with a peppy dance, making it difficult to believe that they were ill.

The centres were formally inaugurated by Ms. Poonam Mittal and the Roche team, who remarked on how St. Jude Centres not only had uniformity in look and quality standards wherever they were but also had the warmth that made them a home away from home for our families.



CREATING VALUE THROUGH ART

At the Arts & Craft Cultural Festival, exhibits created by children and their parents were displayed at our Cotton Green Campus.

Art, recreation and cultural activities are integral to providing the 'home away from home' environment for children undergoing cancer treatments at our centres and their family members accompanying them. The Arts & Craft Cultural Festival held on January 26, 2019, was one such endeavour.

The festival took place at our Cotton Green Campus in Mumbai. Here we displayed various art exhibits created by the children and their parents. The festival themes were: Water Conservation, The Art for Well Being, and Connecting to Our Indian Roots.

The backdrop was created by our staff members, Ms. Priyanka Jamdar and Ms. Neha Bore, who worked on the idea of a tree representing St. Jude's, with leaves made of handprints to represent everyone associated with the organisation. The first handprint was done by our Founder, Ms. Shiyama Kaviratne, followed by the children of our Cotton Green Campus.

On D-Day, our Founders Mr. Nihal Kaviratne and Ms. Shiyama Kaviratne, and chief guests, Chairman & Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Ashutosh Pednekar and Ms. Sharmila Pednekar, cut the ribbon to inaugurate the festival. Mr. Pednekar took this opportunity to speak about the importance of arts and crafts to the families present.

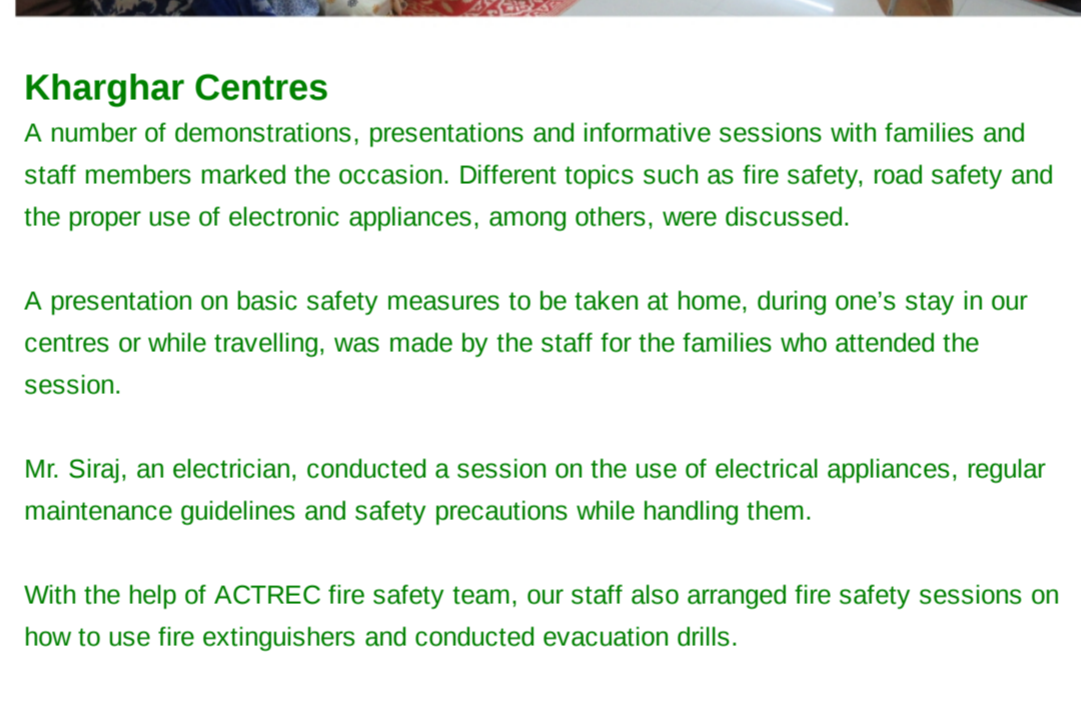
The children and their families also performed a skit on water conservation. Prepared by activity in-charge Santosh and Centre Manager Ms. Sharayu, the play was engaging and entertaining. The children then performed a dance to Vande Mataram, followed by a song sung by Master Samanay Sarkar.

Families from our Kharghar and Parel centres were also present at the festival. They too enjoyed the performances and admired the exhibits and artefacts on display there.



SAFETY ISN'T JUST A WORD, BUT A WAY OF LIFE AT ST. JUDES

The International Safety Week (March 4th-10th), was celebrated with much gusto at our various centres. We look back at a few of the celebrations.



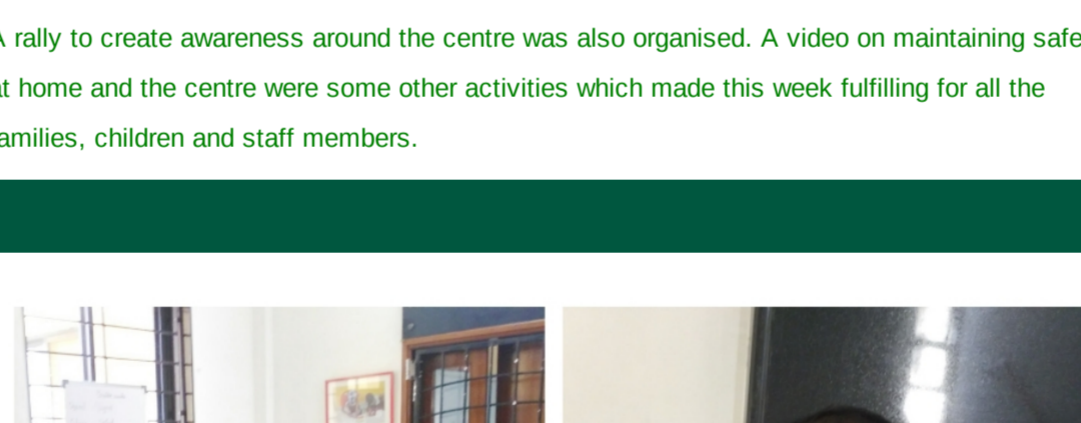
Kharghar Centres

A number of demonstrations, presentations and informative sessions with families and staff members marked the occasion. Different topics such as fire safety, road safety and the proper use of electronic appliances, among others, were discussed.

A presentation on basic safety measures to be taken at home, during one's stay in our centres or while travelling, was made by the staff for the families who attended the session.

Mr. Siraj, an electrician, conducted a session on the use of electrical appliances, regular maintenance guidelines and safety precautions while handling them.

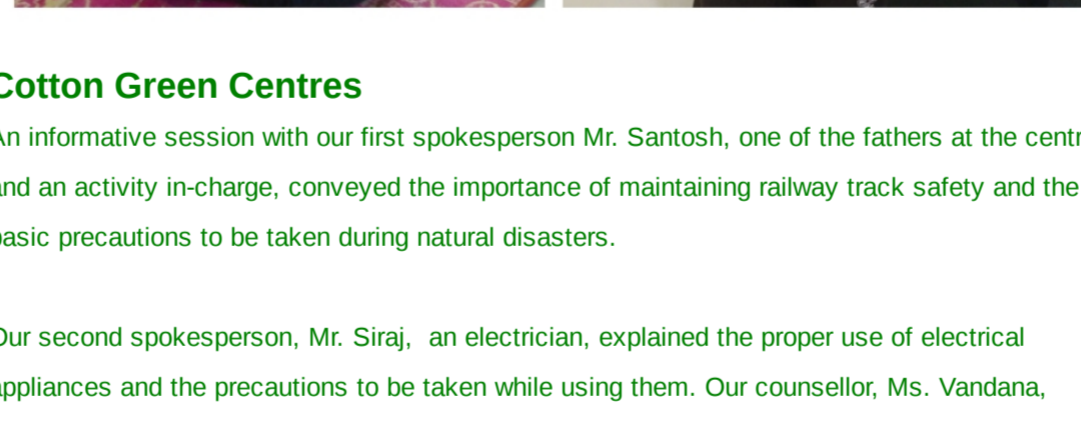
With the help of ACTREC fire safety team, our staff also arranged fire safety sessions on how to use fire extinguishers and conducted evacuation drills.



Parel Centres

Slogans and poster displays, demonstrations on how to use fire extinguishers, interactive lectures on road safety for children and the importance of emergency doors were held at the centre.

A rally to create awareness around the centre was also organised. A video on maintaining safety at home and the centre were some other activities which made this week fulfilling for all the families, children and staff members.



Cotton Green Centres

An informative session with our first spokesperson Mr. Santosh, one of the fathers at the centre and an activity in-charge, conveyed the importance of maintaining railway track safety and the basic precautions to be taken during natural disasters.

Our second spokesperson, Mr. Siraj, an electrician, explained the proper use of electrical appliances and the precautions to be taken while using them. Our counsellor, Ms. Vandana, explained the basic rules to be followed by families in kitchens and bathrooms for safety in the centre and their own homes.

The teachers in the centre conducted a session with children on road safety so that they become responsible pedestrians, drivers and passengers. The day after that, we had a mock evacuation drill with all the families and staff members, including housekeeping staff and security guards, to make them understand the importance of promptness and staying safe in any disaster. A rally and slogan exhibition were some of the other in-house activities.



STORIES OF HOPE



INSPIRING ONE ANOTHER

Anuj Kumar and his family are from Udaipurwati in Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan. He came to our Jaipur centre in July 2018 from JK Lon hospital where he was being treated for B-cell-ALL.

She soon came to realise that Anuj's mother, Mrs. Sunita Devi truly enjoyed the mother's activities being conducted at the centre. She began taking an interest in skill development activities like stitching, fabric painting, embroidery, and henna designs. She told us that these activities not only kept her occupied and distracted from the stress of her child's treatment, but they also built self-confidence in her. Seeing her enthusiasm, Anuj too was inspired to go to his activity classes where he enjoys spending time learning new things.

This mother-son duo are very well regarded by everyone at the centre. We are happy to report that Anuj is about to complete his chemotherapy and return home very soon. We wish him great success and happiness in life.

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