

A FOND FAREWELL AND A BIG THANK YOU

On behalf of St. Judes, **Ashutosh Pednekar** bids goodbye to **Usha Banerji** and extends a warm welcome to our new CEO **Anil Nair**



Usha Banerji, our loving and fantastic CEO of almost seven years, will retire on July 31, 2019. I remember my first interaction with Usha in late 2012 when she had just joined St. Judes. Soon after, I was lucky to call her my friend and have found her to be a huge support. From the start, Usha was keen on understanding how each one of our Team Members was involved with St. Judes and how the work we did could be done better.

When she joined, we were present in Mumbai, Kharghar and Kolkata. Usha not only helped to consolidate our processes, but she also oversaw our expansion to other cities – Delhi, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Vellore and Guwahati. Her enthusiasm guided St. Judes to achieve a pan-India presence while keeping the spirit and values of St. Judes intact. Usha's presence at our centres gave confidence to our staff, support to the parents, and love to the children. She was available for each one of them. Her interactions with doctors of the various hospitals, and in particular TMH, Mumbai has created a bond that has taken St. Judes to greater levels of engagement and performance. We will sorely miss her, and on behalf of everyone at St. Judes, I wish her the very best.

Taking over from Usha is Anil Nair who joins us after working as the Head of Governance Reforms at the Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy. Janaagraha is a non-profit focused on improving the quality of life in India's cities and towns and is among the country's best-known organisations working on urban transformation.

With his rich experience, we believe that Anil will be an able leader who will steer St. Judes to the greater heights, including the ambitious expansion plans and meeting the needs of more children across India. Presently, he is working in tandem with Usha and will be visiting all our centres to meet our Team Members, staff, hospitals, doctors and of course, our children and their parents.



ST. JUDES ENTERS VELLORE!

The centres were formally inaugurated earlier this year on April 28, 2019.



The two centres, which have been operational since May 2018, were formally inaugurated earlier this year on April 28, 2019. We were most delighted that one of our donors, Mr. N. G. Chanrai, drove down from Chennai with his friend Mr. Srinivasan for the function. Along with them, our local well-wishers, doctors and members of the St. Judes' team also participated in the event.

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INNOVATIVE FUNDRAISING BY INFOSYS USA

A big shout out to the IT giant for collecting over US\$800 for our children!



St. Judes is delighted to have received an unexpected donation from the employees of Infosys USA through an innovative fundraising method. In May, the Infosys HiTech unit had a two-day sales meet in Dallas, Texas. The meeting had a tight schedule and packed agenda so participants were required to pay close attention to all proceedings. Komal Jain, Vice President and Head of HiTech, devised a clever approach, that he aptly described as "killing two birds with one stone" - to adhere to schedule and to support St. Judes India.

Every time a participant was found to be non-attentive, like attending to phone calls, or checking text messages, he/she was penalised by amounts that ranged from \$20 to \$50. At the end of the two days, an announcement was made that all collections would be given to St. Judes India!

This announcement led to voluntary donations as well, and US\$890 was collected in total. Our kids from St. Jude India ChildCare Centres wish Komal and his team continued success, and thank them for their generosity.

WE ARE NOW A GREAT PLACE TO WORK!



Great Place to Work is the global authority on recognising high-performing workplace cultures. They serve businesses, non-profits, and government agencies in more than 50 countries. And we are very happy to share that St. Judes is now a certified Great Place To Work!

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OF CITIZEN RIGHTS AND DUTIES

Our Mumbai centres recently organised a special session on the intricacies of voting and electing a government in India



Taking a cue from the recently held Lok Sabha elections in the world's largest democracy, our teachers at St. Judes' Mumbai centres organised a session on the intricacies of voting and electing a government in India.

To keep the experience authentic, the children were made to vote for a 'St. Jude Child Minister' from amongst them. A number of candidates stood for the post, and from centre to centre, asking others to vote for their respective parties. They also gave speeches about changes they would bring about if elected.

On D-Day, the centre organised a mock election whereby the public cast their votes in secret ballots. This was followed by the announcement of the winner! The teachers and staff members also emphasised though that winning wasn't everything, and that despite the outcome, one could still work as an ideal citizen.

STORIES OF HOPE

HEMIKA SHARMA



Hemika Sharma is an adorable four-year-old girl who came to our Jaipur centre from the Bhiwani District of Haryana to be treated for blood cancer. Initially, Hemika took a while to settle into the centre as she missed her family back home and did not like interacting with other children, families or staff members.



Gradually, Hemika realised that St. Judes is not a hospital and that the other families and staff members loved and cared for her as much as her parents did. Slowly she started warming up to them and interacting with everyone. Nowadays she waits for the staff every morning so that she can chat with them. She loves to dress up and wants to work in a place like St. Judes when she grows up.

Her father is very supportive and understands the importance of rules at the centre. From his first day, he has been guiding other families to keep the centre clean and hygienic. He also participates in all our activities and actively engages with others.

We wish Hemika a speedy recovery and hope that her dream comes true soon someday.

With Love, St. Judes Family!



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