



## Taking Care of Our Caretakers



Our Co-founder, **Mrs. Shyama Kaviratne**, on learnings from Covid-19.



The pandemic and the resulting lockdown has been a difficult time for everyone. For the St. Judes team - our families, staff, Team Members and consultants - this has been a trial by fire. Thankfully, we have come through without being singed.

I spent the last month connecting with our teams to find out how they were doing. I had zoom meetings with centre staff, consultants, our 'bhaus' (housekeeping staff), drivers and security guards and everything I heard filled me with joy and pride.

It was heartening to hear staff across India express their deep gratitude for the management. They said that they had received amazing moral, emotional and financial support including timely salaries and increments and will never forget how St. Judes stood by them in these uncertain times. Many women were running their homes on the remuneration from St. Judes as their husbands were not earning or had reduced income.



The centre staff was initially afraid to resume work. However, after seeing the safety arrangements, they felt reassured. They were eager to come back to work and see the joy on the children's faces. The time away from centres gave them an opportunity to learn new things and many had enrolled in online courses to enhance their skills.

The families also stepped up and took over extra responsibilities during this time to ensure the smooth functioning of the centres. They regard St. Judes as their home and were happy to help under these trying circumstances.

None of this would have been possible without our donors who continued to support us during the pandemic, ensuring that we could continue to provide care and support to our children throughout.



## Introducing St. Jude's For Life ❤️ (Founded in Memory of Mrs Rani Vicaji)

St. Jude's for Life, our new vertical that aims to support children who were diagnosed with cancer more than five years ago and who are now disease-free and back in the mainstream, was approved at the last Board meeting.

In keeping with our promise: 'Once a St. Jude's child, always a St. Jude's child', this vertical will help fulfil each of these children's potential. Currently, children who stayed at St. Jude's Centres between 2006 and 2015, and were treated at the Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, are part of the pilot. From June 2021, we plan to include children from Kolkata, Delhi, Jaipur and Hyderabad who were with us till 2016.

Our focus will vary according to the age of the child: education, career counselling, mentorship and counselling, building life skills and medical support. We have tied up with various NGOs to tailor and meet every child's needs.

We also interact with these children, and their parents, over Zoom calls on the third Sunday of every month. During these sessions, guests who are experts at their fields are invited to guide and talk to the children about various aspects of life.

### Some of our alumni include:

Anchal Suresh Kumar is a cancer survivor who loves painting.



Pratik Goswekar is currently studying Mechanical Engineering.

Priti Pallab Nag participated in 'The World Children's Winners Games' in Russia last year and won a silver medal for chess.



Megha Atugade now leads a happy life with her daughter and husband.





## St. Jude's In The News



Earlier this year, St. Jude's was chosen the 'Social Enterprise of the Year at the Business Standard Awards for Social Excellence', by a five-member jury, chaired by Tata Institute of Social Sciences Chairman S Ramadorai. The jury consisted of Bain Capital Private Equity Chairman Amit Chandra, GiveIndia Director & CEO Atul Satija, Pratham Co-founder Farida Lambay, and Indian School of Public Policy Founder-Director Luis Miranda.

Our co-founder, Mr. Nihal Kaviratne, received the award during a virtual conclave held on November 5th. The award ceremony was followed by a panel discussion where winners of different categories spoke about ways of making giving more sustainable during these crucial times.

[Read all about the winners conclave here >>](#)



## Collaborations and Partnerships

We collaborated with Arpan, an NGO working on the issue of Child Sexual Abuse in India, last month to celebrate **#ChildSafetyWeek** from November 14th to 20th.

The aim of this partnership was to increase awareness about child sexual abuse through a number of informative videos posted on social media, and dedicating time for conversations, actions, and change efforts for child safety.





## Amazon India Supports Our Online Sessions



During the lockdown, our education, recreation and skilling activities were initially disrupted, but we were able to adapt very quickly and go online through platforms such as Zoom and WhatsApp. One of our supporters, Amazon India,

donated tablets to our children across India to ensure physical distance did not come in the way of their education.

[Know more about the initiative here](#)

## Stories of Hope

Manvi Choudhary came to our Kavita Care Centre in Jaipur from Churu, Rajasthan, after she was diagnosed with blood cancer. She is undergoing treatment at the JK Lon Hospital Jaipur.

Manvi was very shy when she first came to the centre and would always be with her mother in her room. But slowly, she became acquainted with her environment, and started mingling with others and attending various sessions. She is now one of the most active children in the centre.



She loves dancing, drawing and playing with her friends. She has been staying with us throughout the lockdown and has started enjoying our virtual activity sessions that are held on Zoom due to the pandemic. She enthusiastically participated at the virtual Children's Day programme organised last month and won the first prize in the 'best dressed' category.

We wish her a speedy recovery and a bright future.

## Happy New Year

As we get ready to say goodbye to this unprecedented year, here are some of the big highlights of the year gone by!



**WITH LOVE, ST. JUDES FAMILY!**



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