



Newsletter #35

January 2024 – December 2024

Dear Readers,

We wish you a happy and a prosperous 2025. Our heart is always so full of gratitude for all our donors, supporters, well wishers, friends and family for their unwavering support for us. Here is our year 2024 in detail.

January

Our Children Arnald R & John Paul participated in the Quizabled finals held at BMS college Bangalore on 6th January 2024, organized by Seva In Action.



WARDS attended the ADIP (Scheme of Assistance to Persons with Disabilities for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/ Appliances) distribution camp on 6th January 2024 at Ravindra Kala Kshetra organised by National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (Divyangjan) in collaboration with Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt of India. The Chief Guest was Shri. Thawar Chand Gehlot, Excellency Governor of Karnataka and The Guest of Honour was Shri. Narayanaswamy, Hon'ble Minister of State – MSJ&E- GOI. We received 41 kits. The show put up by the 75 artists with disabilities from 5 different states including Karnataka was heart touching emphasizing "there is ability in disability".



Rangoli competition was held on 11th January 2024. Children along with their teachers participated with much enthusiasm and we saw so much creativity on that day. It was indeed a artistic day enjoyed by all. Mrs. Rajalakshmi Varma was our judge for the day.



We visited the Lalbagh Flower Show 2024 for Republic Day at the Lalbagh Botanical Garden, renowned as one of South Asia's most diverse and beautiful gardens on 23rd January 2024.



Mahatma Gandhi Rural Energy and Development Institute, functioning under the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Government of Karnataka, has built a Model Heritage Village in Thanisandra, Bangalore in order to convince the next generation of Karnataka's village culture, heritage and goodwill. Our tiny tots from WARDS visited this model village and enjoyed the whole experience.



WARDS celebrated 75th Republic Day on the 26th January 2024. Mrs & Mr L N Hegde were our chief guests. Our children did the march past and the tricolor was hoisted by Mrs. Sunanda Hegde. Our children performed two energetic dances to "Ettara Jenda" & Phir bhi dil hai Hindustani. Our staff sang Saare jahan se accha. The program came to an end with the distribution of sweets.



February

Children from WARDS along with their teachers visited GRS Fantasy Park on 3rd February 2024 for a one day outing. It was a fun day where children and the staff enjoyed and relaxed.



June

"Inside every child is a rainbow waiting to shine"
Our beloved children were welcomed warmly on their 1st day of school on 3rd June 2024 after 2 months of summer break.



Environment is no one's property to destroy; its everyone's responsibility to protect" - Mohith Agadi. We visited Cubbon Park on 5th June 2024 and celebrated "World Environment Day".



We celebrated the 75th Birthday of "Our Beloved Founder" Late C M Kathavarayan Sir on 15th June 2024. His life is truly an inspiration for each of us, even through his inability to see he achieved so much for the special needs children and loved them unconditionally



Our children celebrated Father's Day on June 18th 2024 by making beautiful cards for them.



July

We celebrated "National Doctor's Day" by visiting Dr. Suhas Chakraborty from HAL hospital on 4th July 2024. He has been treating our children for many years now. Our children also did a small role play about doctors and patients at school.



Yoga brings the body and mind together and is built on three main elements – movement, breathing and meditation. Yoga has many physical and mental health benefits including improved posture, flexibility, strength, balance and body awareness. Yoga is an ancient and complex practice, rooted in Indian philosophy. It began as a spiritual practice but has become popular as a way of promoting physical and mental well-being. We celebrated "International Yoga Day" on 21st June 2024.



A team from CGI visited WARDS along with their Chief Information Officer (CIO), Leslie McKay on the 4th of July 2024. They donated yoga mats for our children and also desks for a class. They even planted two fruit trees as a remembrance of their visit. We are very grateful to them.



Friendship Foundation along with INAS SIVUS INDIA organized "Skillathon"(Celebrating Persons with Intellectual Impairment) for exploring potentials, building confidence, empowering, celebrating diversity and enabling talents on 6th July @ Cathedral High School, Bangalore. Children from WARDS participated in solo singing, group dance, flower arrangement, pottery painting, waste- reuse and fancy dress. We are extremely happy and proud of our children for winning 2nd in group dance, Mohammed Asif bagged the 1st place in pottery painting, Kalap Vinod Vaid bagged 1st place in flower arrangement and Claudia Joyceline bagged 3rd place in waste re-use. She made a photo frame out of dry twigs. It was indeed a wonderful day along with all the other institutions to come together and see the creative talents of our differently abled children.



Our teachers Ms. Shanta Pujar & Mr. Karthik Reddy attended a one day training program conducted by Enfold Proactive Health Trust at Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled at J.P Nagar, Bangalore on 11th July 2024. Training focused on practical inputs on strategies and methods to teach life skills, personal safety and sexuality and how to use the Suvudha Kit with children with autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability and related conditions.



Our teachers from WARDS visited Government Telugu Higher Primary School, Nelluru Puram , Bangalore on 24th July 2024 and celebrated "Doctor's Day" by having small skit with the children about doctor and patient. The children really enjoyed acting as doctors and patients. Our teachers also spoke about the importance of doctors and the work that they do for the betterment of the community.



August

Our children visited the Vidhana Soudha along with our teachers as a part of their education trip on 13th August 2024.



We celebrated our 78th Independence Day along with our children at WARDS. Our chief Guest for today was Mrs. Mythily, who is our student Guhan's mother.



Children from WARDS attended the 1st "Ecotherapy" session at Cubbon Park on 17th August 2024.



We celebrated Sadbhavana Diwas, also known as Harmony Day on 20 August in India. The day is dedicated to promoting communal harmony, peace, and national integration. It commemorates Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary.



A group from 'Bramha Kumaris' visited WARDS on 20th August 2024 and celebrated Rakshabandhan with our children.



WARDS had their annual sports day on the 29th of August 2024 which also happens to be 'National Sports Day'. We had our sports day in a public ground in Thippasandra, Bangalore as there is an ongoing construction at our school premises. Children participated with so much enthusiasm and sportsmanship.



September

Teachers Day is a special day for the appreciation of teachers. It is celebrated on the 5th of September every year. This year we celebrated along with our children and our children put up a great show for us. The chief guest for our special day was Mr. Alexander Ninan , Our Board Member.



We celebrated "Our Founder's Memorial Day" on 12th September 2024. We paid homage to "Our Beloved Kathavarayan Sir" who laid the foundation of our esteemed institution. His dedication and foresight have shaped our school into what it is today. Children were most important to him and he loved them dearly. It is true that we miss him but we are always grateful to him for his life, his vision and his teachings.



Onam is an annual harvest festival mostly celebrated by people of Kerala but now celebrated universally. Flower rangoli (Pookalam) is an Onam tradition. We celebrated Onam on 13th September 2024.



We visited Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium on 18th September along with our children and watched the show "Our Sun & Its Family". It highlights the important features of the eight planets of our solar system and extends to a brief mention of asteroids, Kuiper Belt Objects and 'Oort cloud' of comets through enthralling visualization supported by inspiring animations. Our children enjoyed the show.



Our Children Arnald R & Harsha participated in the finals of Quizabled held in Chennai on 20th September 2024. We are very proud to announce that "Harsha" was declared the "2nd Runner Up" in "ID Junior Category" We are so proud of our boys. Congratulations Harsha!!!!"Its not our disabilities, its OUR ABILITIES that count"



A team from CGI along with their clients from HMD, Finland visited WARDS on 25th September 2024. They spent time at WARDS watching, observing, learning and participating. They joined along with our children at the vocational section and tried painting diya's. We are very grateful to CGI and HMD for their initiative to donate an OTG for our Vocational baking unit and an instant rice grinder to our kitchen.



A medical health check up camp was held at WARDS on 27th September 2024 through "Good thought charitable foundation (GTCF)". The medical team included Dr. Deepa Srivatsava (MBBS) Ex-Medical Officer, ECHS(Command Hospital) Bangalore, Dr. Vibha Rathor (OBG) Rainbow Children Hospital & Motherhood Hospital, Bangalore, Dr. Kumar Manvendra, Physiotherapist, Well Pro Physio clinic, Bangalore. We are very thankful to GTCF for organizing this medical health check up camp for our children. Around 45 children participated in this and availed the services. Our heartfelt gratitude to the doctors who lovingly examined and made conversation with our children.





October

Ayudha Pooja was celebrated at WARDS on 1st Of October 2024 before the children began their Dussehra vacation.



Gandhi Jayanthi was celebrated on 2nd October 2024 to honour the birth of Mahatma Gandhi, one of the key leaders of the Indian independence movement and a pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.



We are very happy to share that we were declared winners of N.S Hema Memorial Award 2024 by The Association of People with Disability (APD) on 4th October 2024 for outstanding NGOs in the Disability sector in South India. We are very grateful to APD for this recognition and encouragement.



Our staff put up a stall for Diwali in CGI on 28th & 29th October 2024



Diwali, also called Deepavali, is the festival of lights. It symbolises the spiritual victory of Dharma over Adharma, light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. Children celebrated Diwali at wards on 30th October 2024 by painting diyas and decorating their classrooms. It was a day filled with lot of light and colours.



November

We celebrated Children's Day along with our children on 14th November 2024. Dr. Suhas Chakraborty, HAL Hospital was our Chief Guest. Teachers performed a hilarious skit 'Back to school after Covid Part 2', Fashion show and an energetic fusion dance. Children enjoyed the programs watching their teachers perform for them.



WARDS participated in the sports day held at Kanteerava outdoor stadium 22nd November 2024. This was organized by Zilla Panchayath, Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens and Department of Women and Child Development, Bangalore.



A pension adalath was organised on 25th November 2024 @ WARDS by District office, Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens and District Disability Rehabilitation Centre , Bangalore. Around 35 children made use of this opportunity and we are very grateful to everyone who helped us in this event.



WARDS participated in the dance and drawing event held for World Disability Day by the Department of Women and Child Development Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens on 26th November at Sambrama and The Association For The Mentally Challenged (AMC). Our children danced for 'Varaharoopam' and also exhibited their talent in drawing & colouring.



WARDS participated in the Children's Day 2024 held by Department of Women and Child Development Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens on 29th November at Bal Bhavan, Bangalore.



WARDS kept a stall at 'Run for cause' event at SHELL Business Operations Office at Brookfield, Bangalore on 30th November 2024. The enABLE Network is an Employee Resource Group (ERG) at Shell Business Operations (SBO) in Bangalore that aims to help people with disabilities reach their full potential. It is an employee-driven volunteering network that works on creating awareness about disability.



December

"Know me for my abilities, not my disability" – Robert M. Hensel. World Disability Day is celebrated on 3rd December every year. WARDS participated in the World Disability Day event held at Kanteerava Indoor Stadium by Department of Women and Child Development Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Bangalore. We also kept a stall from our vocational unit displaying all our materials.



WARDS attended Sambhav 2024 held at India International Centre, New Delhi from 30th November to 1st December 2024. Our children performed dances for Varaharoopam, I am a disco dancer & Sher khul gaye. Manjunath sang two songs. Team from WARDS consisted of Our Secretary Mrs. Aruna, Special Educators, Licy Jolly, Karthik Reddy & Mohammad Sharief. Sambhav, in Sanskrit means, something which is possible. The Association for Learning Performing Arts & Normative Action (A.L.P.A.N.A.), a not-for-profit registered organization based in New Delhi, India organizes SAMBHAV as a global platform, to celebrate inclusive arts. Celebrated every year in November since 2006, SAMBHAV is a major international platform of inclusive arts to showcase inclusiveness of global society. Sambhav is essentially for artists with disability.



Our children attended the International Day of Persons with Disability celebrated by APD on Monday, 9th December 2024 at India Campus Crusade for Christ, Bangalore. The program features a mela with interactive stalls representing APD's programs. Each stall presented a distinct aspect of their work and allowed participants to explore and learn.



Mrs. Aruna, Our Secretary visited 350 tribal families on 14th & 15th December 2024 in Kothamangalam, Konai, Kuthamoondi, Appampattu & Konai in Villupuram, Chennai who were affected by the cyclones this year. We were able to buy and distribute groceries and clothes for these families through our donors. We are very thankful and grateful to all our generous donors who contributed and made a meaningful difference in the lives of these families.



We celebrated Christmas at our school on 23rd December 2024. Mr. Das Suryawanshi, the State Commissioner for the Office of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Karnataka was our chief guest. Our other guests included Fr. Martin, Mr. Krishnamurthy, District Disabled Welfare Officer, Mr. Alexander Ninan, Our board member & Mrs. Lidwin. Our children gave powerful dance performances for "We wish you a Merry Christmas" & "Jingle Bells".

They also performed “Birth of Jesus Christ” tableau with the staff choir singing carols for them according to the story. The program ended with distribution of gifts for staff and children and also with a sumptuous lunch for all.



This year went by fast with so many activities all-round the year. The highlight of 2024 was receiving **N.S Hema Memorial Award 2024** for “Outstanding NGO in the Disability sector in South by The Association of People with Disability (APD) on 4th October 2024. We have also started our building construction in the 2nd floor to have extra rooms for therapies and classrooms for children so that they can learn and excel in a comfortable environment. It is critical that the special education classroom is comfortable, accessible and pleasant for students. It is our aim to have all the therapies pertaining to our children with special needs under one roof so that it becomes easier for the parents and children. If not, they have to travel to far off places taking these children for different therapies which causes a lot of discomfort and challenges. We look back at 2024 with gratitude and look forward to working with enthusiasm in 2025.

Thanking You,

WARDS News Desk

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