



Jeevodaya Hospice

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Sr. Lilly Maria F.C.C., Chairman and President

From the Editors Desk

Editorial

Dalai Lama once observed, It is very rare or impossible that an event can be negative from all points of view. But when disaster happens it is difficult for us to see anything positive and we question why this had to happen.

The pandemic has now lasted one year. When it began, very few would have predicted how long we would have to live with it. It's still ongoing. There are new variants, it is spiking in some countries, a second or even third wave is predicted by some. As a silver lining are the global vaccination efforts. Meanwhile the impact is enormous. In the US studies show that five million women alone have lost their jobs. In India no such studies exist to see accurately the depth of the devastation. But we know men and women have lost jobs, businesses have gone bankrupt, any number of small vendors have lost all means of livelihood, closing of schools have meant the loss of even one proper meal for children. Funds have dried up for many NGO's depending on individual donations. It is true that the share markets are doing well, but it may mean that the divide between the rich and the poor are widening even more.

This year we have lost someone who was a good Samaritan, who made a difference in thousands of lives. A great soul, a wonderful human, Dr Shantha was a great friend to Jeevodaya. She will be missed by all at Jeevodaya and elsewhere. Samaritan today means a person who is kind and helpful. But in the time of Christ, Samaritans were looked down upon. Think of them as people belonging to the group of humans wrongfully termed as lower caste. But with one act of kindness, Samaritans came to stand for all that is good among us. And in that parable of the Good Samaritan, the definition of neighbour was also changed. Neighbour is no longer someone who lives next door; neighbour is anyone who needs help. And the fact that help is willingly and gladly given to each other is the one silver lining in the middle of the pandemic. Even when we socially distance ourselves, we have not forgotten to be neighbours.

There is always good news. This time we are happy to share that Jeevodaya Hospice received an award from Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation for our unique service in the field of Palliative care.

Sr. Lalitha Teresa
Editor



Dr. Udaya Mahadevan felicitating our Chief Guest, Dr. Shantha, during the silver Jubilee Celebrations

Dr. Shantha

A legend fades away...

By Dr. Manjula Krishnaswamy

*Oruvar vaazhum Aalayam
Uruvam Ila Aalayam
Nilaithu vaazhum Aalayam
Nenjil or Aalayam.....*

ஒருவர் வாழும் ஆலயம்
உருவம் இல்லா ஆலயம்
நிலைத்து வாழும் ஆலயம்
நெஞ்சில் ஓர் ஆலயம்...

- கவிஞர் கண்ணதாசன்

The greatest of monuments for great souls are not built of mortar and bricks, but built as a formless temple, undying, in the hearts of people whom they have touched.

Dr. Shantha, Chairman of the Cancer Institute at Adyar, who passed away recently is one such great soul. For Theresamma (in picture), the longest inmate of Jeevodaya, 24 yrs to be precise, an annual visit to Cancer Institute for check up was like a pilgrimage for she would be meeting her 'Amma'. When she came back she was fully rejuvenated, healed in body and soul, for her 'Shanthamma' had not only called her by name, had touched and examined her and enquired after her well being. She felt blessed.

I am sure, Theresa is not an exception, hundreds of patients and their relatives would have felt the same about Dr. Shantha. When she passed away encomiums poured in from all parts of the world. There was a lot said about her life, her achievements, her awards -national and international- her courage, her selfless dedication to a cause. But for us in Jeevodaya she was a simple, humble person whose compassion for her patients knew no bounds. We were indeed blessed to have her as an advisor and she was with us all the way right from the inception of Jeevodaya, thirty years ago. She never missed an

opportunity to visit Jeevodaya to meet our patients, most of whom were invariably the ones treated by her and she took part in all the celebrations starting from the inauguration to silver jubilee celebrations. In fact, we were in a dilemma about inviting her as Chief guest for the Silver Jubilee celebrations as we were not sure about her health, but when we approached her, she had all the enthusiasm of a teenager and insisted that she would never miss a chance to be a part of Jeevodaya. She came and she delivered her inspiring speech to a standing ovation! We, especially the seniors like Sr. Lalitha, Dr. Ponni and myself (not to forget Dr. Snehalatha who was her student), feel we are very fortunate to have had special moments with a person who can unarguably be called a legend in the medical field.

She has followed the footsteps of another phenomenal person, Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy, the founder of the Cancer Institute and kept the flag flying high, not only for her Institute but for entire humanity. Her name will find an indelible place in the annals of the history of Cancer in India!

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Dr. Shantha, Honorary Advisor of Jeevodaya with the patients and staff of Jeevodaya

Governor lauds Mahaveer award-winners

The Hindu 30th January 2021



Sr. Lalitha Teresa FCC, receiving the award from Governor Banwarlal Purohit

“The forces of modern culture are sweeping across the globe and upsetting our traditions, values and attitudes”.

“It is imperative that we do not lose the core values of our culture, namely, non-violence, peace and harmonious living and helping the needy,” said Governor Banwarilal Purohit.

He was speaking at the presentation ceremony of Mahaveer Awards organised by Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation in the city on Friday.

The Governor lauded the award-winners, in various categories like women social entrepreneur, education, non-violence and vegetarianism, medicine, community and social service, including Federation of Indian Animal Protection

organisation, New Delhi, Baba Palla Singh Goushala, Punjab, Shree Panchmahal Anusuchit Jati Education Trust, Manav Kalyan Trust, Gujarat, Anand Kumar, founder of ‘Super 30’, Shyamalatha Mohan Raj, **Jeevodaya Hospice for Cancer Patients in Chennai**, Pain and Palliative Care Society, Kozhikode, Gramin Adiwasi Samaj Vikas Sansthan, Madhya Pradesh and Sewadham Ashram, Madhya Pradesh.

D.R. Mehta, former chairman of SEBI; S.Gurumurthy, Editor, Thuglak, T.S. Krishnamurthy, former Chief Election Commissioner of India, and Prasanchand Jain, Managing Trustee, Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation and other dignitaries participated.



Cardinal His Grace Mar George Alanchery with the patients



Chairman Rev Sr. Lilly Maria FCC
with the village community at Nemallur

Staff and patients of Jeevodaya receiving Covishield Vaccine on 3rd March, 2021



Scan this QR code on your Smart Phone to view the
Jeevodaya Anthem on YouTube

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