



Jeevodaya Hospice

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Vol. XXIII – Issue I, Jul - Aug - Sep 2021
A quarterly News Bulletin
RNI: TNENG/2000/1198



For Private Circulation - Re. 1.00

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

From the Editors Desk

Editorial

Touching the feet of elders is an age-old Indian tradition that is considered to be a mark of respect. In our culture, elders have always enjoyed a position of respect, their blessing considered invaluable, their presence in our lives a source of joy, especially for grandchildren.

As lifestyles change, as life expectancy increases, just like other countries, the elderly are increasingly seen as a burden. Over the last decade, the elderly population has doubled, posing a serious concern for policy makers as well. Studies predict, the ageing population will triple by 2050. It is also very difficult to watch loved ones face medical and psychological problems as they age. They require a great deal of love, care, as well financial outlay for

medical expenses. Even though more and more old age homes are set up, many of our elderly are struggling to get support both emotional and financial. One major drawback in many old age homes is that when a member falls seriously ill, there is no provision for their care and no provision for an attender if they are hospitalised. This, in spite of that fact that 70% of the elderly is said to suffer from chronic illness.

It is in the face of this overwhelming concern, that Jeevodaya has decided to start an Old Age Home that will look after the elderly who need medical care. The elderly who are ill, will find a haven and sanctuary here, where they can live out their days in peace surrounded by love.

Sr. Lalitha Teresa
Editor

Geriatric Palliative Care Centre

– New Project of JEEVODAYA

Sr. Lalitha Teresa FCC

The first palliative care centre for cancer patients in South India - Jeevodaya Hospice - constituted by Jeevodaya Public Charitable Trust has completed 26 years inpatients care service by March 2021.

Beside inpatients care we do cancer awareness and screening camp, mammogram camps, home care service and special programs to school children in collaboration with the NGO “Celebrating Life” to motivate them to keep away from tobacco and to inspire them to be the messengers of ‘No to Tobacco’ in the society.’



Ashirvad Bhavan

A community clinic with a clinical lab is also functioning at Jeevodaya campus giving free general medical care and less expensive clinical tests to the people of the village.

As the rural extension of the Trust, in 2013 the Trust opened a unit – ‘Ashirvad Bhavan’ at Chinnabommagikulam of Nemallur Panchayat Gummidipoondi Taluk Thiruvallur District and upgraded it as a community clinic cum diagnostic centre in

2016. More than 2666 patients registered through this centre are provided free medicine and clinical examinations with the minimum expense.

(Continued...)

The tribal colonies near this centre have been adopted and efforts are being taken to help them with their basic needs like food and clothing.

Present generation believes in the concept of earning double income which requires both the parents to be out for work to manage the smooth running of the family. This means both the parents are away from home for work and the children go to school and college. The elders at home are left alone which makes their life difficult. They need support and care and the busy schedule of the family members makes it difficult and rather impossible for them to care for their needs. In such instances they have to approach homes for the aged to take care of their elders. There are a good number of paid homes, but for average families the expense in these centre are not affordable.

Many families approach us for help as the services at Jeevodaya Hospice are free to all. As per the policy of Jeevodaya Public Charitable Trust Jeevodaya Hospice at Mathur can accommodate only cancer patients whose disease is in the stage beyond cure, while the cry of patients with other ailments and cases of senior citizens who are ailing and bedridden are avoided and are left unanswered.

When we direct these cases to other similar centers we could understand that almost all the existing homes for aged paid and non-paid are not willing to accept disabled and bedridden patients. .

Such situations made us thinking of lending a helping hand and extend shelter and care to the



old and disabled - lending a hand of consolation and support to them. The protection and care of such people has become the need of the hour. With this noble thought the Board of Trustees decided to start a home separately for the aged and disabled -

A hospice for the aged, mainly whom the relatives have difficulty to take care.

This home will be part of Jeevodaya Community Clinic & Diagnostic Centre attached to Ashirvad Bhavan at Chinnabommagikulam and will be named as **Jeevodaya Geriatric Hospice**. **'For everything there is time'**

A physician once said

"The best medicine for

human is "LOVE". Someone

asked, 'If it doesn't work?'

He smiled and said,

"INCREASE THE DOSE!"

The Trust will be following the same pattern of service as we do for cancer patients at Jeevodaya Hospice, Mathur, giving free service to the needy elders irrespective of caste, class or social status, giving more preference to bedridden cases.

This is a new venture and in the present situation, the financial burden also is little heavy. The Chairman of the Trust, Sister Provincial of Franciscan

Clarist Congregation Alvernia Province has agreed to bear the Major financial burden of the building construction. Still we have to find a good amount to provide the other needs of the project.

Even though the foundation stone of the building was blessed on 20.06.2021 the commencement of the work is delayed due to lock down of the pandemic Covid 19. Now the work started on 17th August and it is in full swing. We expect to complete the construction of the ground floor by August 2022

which will enable us to accommodate 30 patients. If further expansion is needed, the second phase, that is the construction of the first floor, can be done as the foundation is prepared considering further expansion.

Since the inception of Jeevodaya Trust we were experiencing divine providence and divine touch in every step through our well wishers and benefactors. Jeevodaya has an array of well wishers and benefactors who are always with us to fulfill all our dreams culminating into the service of the humanity. We believe and expect that such support, guidance and encouragement will continue and we will be able to bring in one more feather to our cap.

Everyone has to leave this world but every life is precious. We cannot change the outcome but we can make their journey better. Taking care of those who once cared for us is one of the highest honors. It is our greatest responsibility. Those who walked before us have contributed so much to our existence and this is our time to give back. So let us move forward together to lead our sick and helpless grandparents to eternal bliss with love and care.

A physician once said “The best medicine for human is “Love”. Someone asked, ‘If it doesn’t work?’ He smiled and said, “INCREASE THE DOSE!”



Blessing Stone



Work in progress



Work in progress



Front Elevation - Proposed Geriatric Hospice



CELEBRATIONS

The lockdown due to Corona Pandemic restricted and blocked all the festival celebrations of Jeevodaya Hospice for the last two years and people are left within the four walls without any visitors. The members of various NGOs “Thenmozhi Trust” Arun and team, “Kanivin Karam” Lawrence and team, “Celebrating Life” Shammi and team, members of Overseas women used to come, organise cultural programs, give snacks and gifts to the inmates for the celebrations like Rose Day, Deepavali, Pongal, Christmas etc. But all such programs could not be conducted in the last two years.

One of the the attractions of Jeevodaya campus was the presence of kids of Alphonsa Nursery school and of Alphonsa Kids Library. For the last two years these kids were missed for flag hoisting ceremony of Republic Day, and Independence Day. These annual day celebrations were very colorful and thrilling. Dr. Shanthi and team of Advessa Trust made these programs more active and entertaining with various programs like exhibition on child related themes, completions etc. Our patients used to enjoy these programs forgetting all their physical discomfort and pain. Such activities could not be conducted during the pandemic.

This year there was some relief from the restrictions and we took this opportunity to bring in some entertainment. On 21st August 2021 the patients, doctors and other staff celebrated Onam festival in a little relaxed way. On 20th the patients and staff under the leadership of Sr. Alin Rose, our PRO decorated the beautiful ‘Onam Pookalam’ and enjoyed the evening by singing the classical Onam Song ‘Vanjipatt - Thithithara thai thai thithi thom’

On the day of Onam Medical Director Dr. Manjula Krishnanswamy and family, Joint Director Dr. Ponni and her sister, Medical Officer Dr. Abdul Jabar and relatives came in time, interacted with the patients and made them relaxed and happy by joining them for the Kerala style ‘Onam Sadya’ prepared by our Executive Director Sr. Sneha and team. Thus made it a memorable day for the years to come.

Jeevodaya believes that life should not only be lived but also should be celebrated. Though Corona and lockdown has put a break in our steady social life we are happy that we could bring a smile on the faces of our inmates. May God Almighty bring us more opportunities to make their stay in Jeevodaya as enjoyable as it can be made.



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

Published by Sr. Lalitha Teresa, on behalf of Jeevodaya Public Charitable Trust from Jeevodaya Hospice,
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Printed by : J.A.E. Diaz, at Pio Printers Pvt. Ltd., 83, East Mada Church Road, Royapuram, Chennai - 600 013. Ph.: 98403 27012 Email : info@pioprinters.com