St. Judes launches new BMT centre in Vellore

This Holi was extra special for us as our 45th centre located at Vellore became operational. This Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) centre is an extension of our existing premises leased from the Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore. The new centre has eight units for children undergoing BMT procedures at the hospital. So far, we have been taking care of 22 families at any given time in Vellore, ensuring they get safe and clean accommodation, healthy nutrition, education, recreation and counselling during their cancer treatment.

With the launch of the new centre in Vellore, St. Judes now supports 547 families across 11 cities in India.
St. Judes wins ‘Best Civil Society Award for 2022-23’

We were recently awarded the 'Best Civil Society Award for 2022-23' by Asian Centre for Corporate Governance & Sustainability.

Ms. Manisha Parthasarathy (Chairperson, St. Judes India) and Mr. Anil Nair (CEO, St. Judes India) received the award on our behalf.

Asian Centre for Corporate Governance & Sustainability was established in 2001 as a 'not-for-profit' independent institution. The awards aim to raise the quality of Corporate Governance and Sustainable Development and recognise Companies, Industry Leaders, and Directors who are doing exemplary work to improve these standards in their respective companies. Asian Centre has been presenting these awards since 2006.
International Childhood Cancer Day, marked on February 15th, was celebrated with much gusto in our centres. The day is commemorated globally to raise awareness about childhood cancer and to show support for children and adolescents battling cancer, along with their families and caregivers.

We marked the day with the launch of a very special book, ‘Happy Healthy Meals’, a collection of simple everyday recipes that tickle taste buds and warm hearts. The nutritious recipes are lovingly curated by the dedicated parents of the young cancer warriors undergoing treatment. "We are excited to present Happy Healthy Meals, a testament to the resilience and creativity of our parents at St. Judes. This book not only celebrates the culinary heritage of India but also serves as a beacon of hope and nourishment for our young warriors and their families," said Mr Anil Nair, CEO of St Judes, during the launch.

The book was launched by Chef Irfan Pabaney, Country Head-SodaBottleOpenerWala and Olive Bar and Kitchen Private Limited in the presence of our Team Leaders, staff, and families at Cotton Green Campus, Mumbai.

Read and Download Happy Healthy Meals

Happy Healthy Meals is a tribute to the parents who tailor-make their children’s meals with wholesome twists to ensure they can enjoy their favourite meals during their intense treatment. These meals bring comfort, familiarity, and love, giving the children some normalcy during challenging times.

You can download Happy Healthy Meals for free. Do try these recipes and support us by scanning the QR code at the back of the book. Funds raised will help us continue providing children with cancer with safe and hygienic accommodation and holistic care, including nutrition, during their treatment.

Influencers’ take on Happy Healthy Meals
Digital content creator and cancer survivor Chhavi Mittal visited the CGC centre during the launch of Happy Healthy Meals. Chhavi, it turns out, is also an awesome cook! She recreated a recipe from Happy Healthy Meals for the children and families at Cotton Green Campus. Everyone enjoyed her version of the ‘Egg Rawa Chilla’ and was very happy to spend time with her.

Well-known wellness blogger and content creator Sucheta Pal conducted an Instagram Live with Mr. Anil Nair, CEO, and Ms. Pereena Lamba, Communications Team Leader, to discuss Happy Healthy Meals on International Childhood Cancer Day.

Discussion on Navigating Challenges of Childhood Cancer

St. Judes for Life (Founded in Memory of Mrs Rani Vicaji) - our vertical that supports our survivors (referred to as Judians) celebrated International Childhood Cancer Day with a panel discussion focused on ‘Navigating Challenges in Childhood Cancer.’

The esteemed panel included Dr. Maya Prasad (Professor, Tata Memorial Hospital), Ms. Gargi Mashruwala (Director, St. Judes), Dr. Mrunal Marathe (Counselor, St. Judes), Ms. Lory Gaur (Program Lead, St. Judes), Ms. Deepika Das (Program Lead - Infection Control), Shubham Agrahari (a Judian) and Ashish Kumar (our Judian Anjali Kumar’s father).

Shubham and Ashish bravely shared their moving journey with everyone who participated. Their powerful insights shed light on the resilience and strength required to face the challenges of childhood cancer. Their story was a beacon of hope and encouragement for all those battling cancer.
Our Annual Event’s theme this year was education and its importance, and it was called ‘Shiksha Fest’. Celebrated in January 2024 across all our locations, the event aimed to motivate children to strive for excellence, instil ambition and encourage them to pursue success in their educational journey despite the change in their life curve.

The activities planned were based on the importance of education and learning through different platforms and school connections. Children and families eagerly participated in myriad events - from informative group discussions on the importance of education to participating in captivating performances.

Shiksha Fest’s mascot was a big centre of attraction, igniting enthusiasm and curiosity through its ‘Jadui Basta’ (magical bag). Children and parents shared their dreams in this magical bag, ensuring everyone felt a part of the event.

The active involvement of parents further enriched the event as they attended awareness sessions, joined in tiffin box activities, and volunteered their time to support their children's performances. The Shiksha Fest effectively highlighted the importance of education and instilled a passion for lifelong learning among the participants.
Our recent Kindness Crew Meet & Greet events have been a huge success made possible by the support of our volunteers. These gatherings are a heartfelt tribute to our dedicated volunteers who have profoundly impacted the lives of families through their selfless acts of kindness.

In the last quarter, the event spanned multiple locations, including Chennai, Mumbai, Varanasi, and Vellore. It brought together our Kindness Crew volunteers, Local Team Members, and staff at these locations.

The events at all locations saw insightful discussions on future endeavours and our volunteers’ invaluable role in fostering positive change within our community. These were followed by light entertainment in the form of song, poetry, and dance performances. As a token of our appreciation, volunteers were presented with gifts, symbolising our gratitude for their unwavering commitment and dedication.

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**St. Judes In the News**

**EXPRESS Hyderabad**

The New Indian Express Hyderabad on how by providing children battling cancer with a place to live, St. Judes is helping them adhere to their treatment and stay on their path to recovery.  
[Read more](#)

**Dainik Bhaskar**

Dainik Bhaskar on how St. Judes education sessions ensure that children battling cancer and undergoing treatment don’t lag behind once they go home and join their schools.  
[Read more](#)
Journalist and author Rajendra Aneja’s story on St. Jude's and our work was featured in the Sydenhamite magazine – a journal for the alumni of Sydenham College.

Read more.

Indian Express Healthcare spoke about secondary care in pediatric oncology and what it encompasses.

Read more.

Happy Healthy Meals
Several publications and news portals covered the launch of Happy Healthy Meals. You can view and read the articles here.

Read More
At just three, Abantika's life took an unexpected turn when she was diagnosed with Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia (a kind of blood cancer). The news shook her family to the core, but they vowed to fight alongside their little warrior.

In order to give Abantika the best care possible, the family immediately left for Kolkata from Jharkhand. Soon, they discovered that they would have to stay in Kolkata for several months. Distraught, they started looking for accommodation. During one such stressful day, the St. Judes team visited them at the Tata Medical Centres, and Abantika was given admission to our Kolkata Centre.

Abantika underwent rigorous treatments, enduring countless chemotherapy sessions and the uncertainty that comes with the treatment. In 2015, when she was six, Abantika also received bone marrow transplant. The procedure brought new hope for recovery, and in a few years, she won her battle against cancer and was declared a survivor.

Today, at 14, she has found a new zest for life with her love for sports and dance. Abantika has recently won two silver medals in Javelin Throw and a bronze medal in Discus Throw during her school's annual sports event. She also secured the second prize in a Kathak performance during an intra-school competition, showcasing her versatility and passion for the arts.

Judian Abantika's journey serves as a testament to the power of resilience, hope, and the indomitable human spirit. She is not just a survivor but a shining example of courage and perseverance against all odds.

Your Support ensured we could help Abantika when she needed it the most. To continue supporting more children...

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