



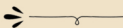
## An Ode to Mother Earth

To celebrate World Family Day observed on 15th May, Sevak Foundation held a virtual drawing competition on 18th of July, 2021. The theme was 'Care for Nature – Mother Earth'.

Children around the world realise the importance of protecting our planet from further destruction. They understand our survival on Earth is dependent on the revival of Mother Earth. Our kids at Ashray Akruti are no different. 16 enthusiastic students participated in the competition to celebrate Mother Earth. 10 were selected to go through to the finals. It was heartening to see their creative sides come to the fore in support of a noble cause.



## Cheer for the champions



Real Page India Private Limited, a software company based out of Hyderabad virtually conducted a Special Olympiad for children with special needs. 55 Students from Ashray Akruti signed up for painting and dancing. 20 students were from Srinagar Colony and Chandrayangutta Centers. Dance takes on a different meaning to the hearing-impaired kids at Ashray Akruti - a combination of precise timing of the steps, coordination with their teammates and immense concentration to keep in tune with a rhythm they cannot hear. Dancing to a beat of their own, they revel in the joy it brings. Such activities also help boost their confidence, making them believe they can do anything they put their minds to. To appreciate their dedication and sincere efforts, a team of volunteers from Real Page visited the Srinagar Colony Center on 23rd September, 2021 and distributed stationery kits. The children were very thrilled and are now eager to participate in more events.



# SPREADING JOY THROUGH PHILANTHROPY

## Providing Equal Opportunity

When the pandemic forced schools across the world to go online, many underprivileged children were left behind because their parents could not afford mobiles, laptops or internet connectivity. The learning gap would widen, especially for kids with special needs. To the parents' relief, Microsoft donated 25 tabs to students of Ashray Akruti. This heart-warming gesture ensured their progress in learning continued unhindered through online classes, while being connected to their peers and other support groups. The tabs were distributed at the Srinagar Colony Center on the 4th of August, 2021 by the Chief Guest, Ms. Sailaja, Director - Welfare of Disabled and Senior Citizens for Hyderabad, Telangana.

Ms. Geetha Lakshmi, Senior Project Manager from Microsoft joined the event virtually.



## Sound of Music

To the hearing-impaired, being able to make sense of the world through sound is a luxury few can afford. Hearing aids are expensive yet necessary. It is one of the most fundamental tools for them towards a life of dignity and equality. At Ashray Akruti, we aim to donate a hearing aid to every hearing-impaired child that comes to us. Hence, it is with immense gratitude that we welcomed the donation of hearing aids with the help of Hitachi Solutions India Private Limited and Deccan Chemicals.



## Full Bellies Make Learning Fun

Ashray Akruti has been able to keep up with its Covid Relief Services thanks to the continued support by its patrons from the corporate sector. They have been donating grocery kits to the families of 630 students studying at their centers every month. With one thing less to worry about, our students are able to concentrate wholeheartedly on their learning.



## Colour Them Fun

Mr. Utpal Setu ,Partner - PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) India Foundation distributed stationery kits, shoes and sweaters to 30 students on the 16th of July, 2021 from classes II to X of Ashray Akruti High Schools at Srinagar Colony and Chandrayangutta. The students were overjoyed and lost no time in putting their imagination to use with their gifts.



## EVENTS

### Celebrating India

Independence Day was celebrated across all the centers of Ashray Akruti. The Indian Flag was proudly hoisted and the national anthem was sung. Spirits were high with a shared sense of pride and belonging. Both students and teachers celebrated India's 75th year of Independence by joyfully dancing and singing.



## Teachers Like Fun Too

The teachers at Ashray Akruti celebrated Teacher's Day by paying their respects to Sarvepalli Radha Krishnan. After morning classes, they participated in various cultural activities like singing and dancing. A few of them shared their experience about their journey with Ashray Akruti while a few others spoke about how they upgraded their teaching skills through technology. It was a memorable day for the students as well since they were overjoyed to see a different side to their teachers.



## Empowering Progress at the Multidisciplinary Center

The Multidisciplinary center at Ashray Akruti is well equipped to offer Speech, Behavioural and Occupational therapies. While both physical and online therapies were offered before the pandemic, only online therapies were continued after the outbreak of the second wave.

Cumulatively, 3499 sessions of therapies have been offered so far to the students at Ashray Akruti. A space where many of our students have found their footing to a better life, we are very proud of our Center and aim to keep updating ourselves with techniques and tools to empower effective intervention.

## Enabling Success at the Multimedia and Animation Training Center

The Skill Development Project by Ashray Akruti aims to train Hearing-Impaired Youth in Multimedia and Animation to provide them sustainable employment opportunities and subsequent financial independence.

Aligned with the national goal of moving towards a Digital India, 150 HI youth are trained annually and 70% of them are assisted with the placement opportunities. Since the outbreak of Covid, these classes are being offered online. Currently, over 75 youth are enrolled for the online training sessions.



## Creating Awareness International Day for Sign Language 23rd September 2021

Ashray Akruti's Sign Language Program aims to bridge the communication gap between the hearing and hearing-impaired communities. So far, 16 candidates have enrolled out of which 2 have been successfully employed as Sign Language Interpreters at a reputed MNC. Additionally, on 23rd September 2021 International Day for Sign Language the project team has conducted various sensitisation programs on theme of "We sign for Human Rights" United Nation's theme for ISL Day, across corporates in Hyderabad to increase awareness towards the needs of the hearing-impaired community.

The deaf population in India stands at approximately 18 million. Yet we have only 250 certified Sign Language Interpreters. Although close to 850 schools provide education to deaf children, most take the ineffective oralism approach while teaching as majority of the teachers do not know Sign Language. The result is that 98% of the kids do not benefit from the education, further limiting the scope for gainful employment. To commemorate International Day for Sign Language, Ashray Akruti appeals to its patrons to learn Sign Language. One more who can sign will ensure many are understood.

Please reach out to Ms. Swarnalatha (+91 996660524, swarnalatha@ashrayakruti.in) to know more about our Sign Language Course.

## Yamuna finds Hope, a success story from Kadapa

Yamuna, aged 10, was born with a hearing loss. Her father is a daily wage earner in Laxshum Palli, Yadiki Mandal, Tadipatri, Anantapur (D) A.P. Currently enrolled in a local school in Grade 3, she is unable to learn due to her condition. Having heard of the Ashray Akruti Center at Kadapa, Yamuna's father brought her there for an assessment with the Audiologist and Speech Therapist. The diagnosis was that she suffered from profound hearing loss and they recommended the immediate use of a hearing aid. Considering his constrained financial situation, Ashray Akruti donated a hearing aid for Yamuna worth Rs. 24,900. Supplementing her learning with auditory therapy twice a week at the local Ashray Akruti Center, Yamuna is now able to understand her subjects more clearly.



As schools are beginning to go offline, providing a safe and enabling environment for learning is pivotal. Hence, we request our patrons to help us in welcoming 500 of our students back to the Centers by donating sanitisation kits and stationery kits.

## A call for Action

To donate, please contact

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