NEWS UPDATE

MAY 2025

Let All Be Happy

"Every charitable act is a steppingstone toward heaven."

- HENRY WARD BEECHER



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INTRODUCTION

HISTORY OF M S INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Manu and Rika Shah founded MSI in 1975, in the basement of their home in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. MSI is now the largest importer and distributor in the world of Premium Surfaces including granite, marble, porcelain and ceramic tiles, slate, travertine, limestone and other natural stone products from 37 countries. Most notably, MSI provided the granite for the Vietnam Memorial in DC.

Manu and Rika Shah established Sarva Mangal Family Trust (Sarva Mangal means 'let all be happy' in Sanskrit) over 20 years ago with compassion as their driving force for philanthropy. Manu's vision for SMFT is to act as a catalyst, challenge status quo, nurture passionate change-makers and support leapfrogging ideas that are scalable and sustainable. Today, all members from the Shah family are involved in social impact initiatives that are undertaken by SMFT. Manu supports VOSAP – Voice of Specially Abled People, which has created over 10,000 change makers and rated over 18,000 buildings rated for accessibility. He also supports Lend a hand India, which provides digital vocational training to over 300,000 students in 20,000 schools.

In 2007, Mr. Manu Shah was named Ernst & Young's national Entrepreneur of the Year in the distribution, manufacturing, and security category.

ABOUT SARVA MANGAL FAMILY TRUST

Established in 1994 by the Founders of M S International, Inc. The mission of the Sarva Mangal Family Trust is to improve and strengthen the health, education and wellness of communities and help them prepare for global jobs of the 21st century. Sarva Mangal is a Sanskrit word which means Goodness to All.

To advance this mission, the Sarva Mangal Family Trust has donated to and is continuing to work with various organizations and programs in health promotion and prevention, assisting victims of domestic violence, empowering seniors, entrepreneurship, technological literacy, community activism, and children's education.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS



CA, USA: ILLUMINATION HEALTH + HOMES HONORS SHAH FAMILY

The Broadway Recuperative Care Center in Anaheim has been renamed the 'Shah Happiness Recuperative Care Center', honoring the Shah family's generous support through the Shah Happiness Foundation. Operated by Illumination Health + Home, the center offers safe, post-hospital care for people experiencing homelessness. The renaming highlights a shared mission to provide dignity, healing, and support to those in crisis, and marks a meaningful milestone in advancing compassionate care across Orange County.

(Continued on Page 4)

EVENT – SHAH HAPPINESS RECUPERATIVE CARE CENTER

April 2025: Shah Happiness Foundation (SHF) funded Illumination Health + Home has officially renamed its Broadway Recuperative Care Center in Anaheim, California to the 'Shah Happiness Recuperative Care Center's, in recognition of the generosity and long-standing support of the Shah family and the SHF.

The recuperative care center provides safe, temporary housing for individuals experiencing homelessness who have been discharged from hospitals. Clients receive medical oversight, behavioral health therapy, case management, and substance abuse counseling during their stay.



In addition to supporting the facility's operations, the Shah family has provided rugs for each resident's room to help create a warmer and more comfortable environment.

"*Today marks a very special day for our family as we celebrate the naming of the Shah Happiness Recuperative Center for Homeless to Health and Home. This center represents our belief that every life holds value and that healing, and hope must be accessible to all. Our belief is simple: to offer a safe, compassionate space where individuals can rest, recover, and rebuild their lives. We are deeply grateful to Illumination Health + Home and all the dedicated individuals who have worked tirelessly to bring this vision to life. It is our prayer that this center stands as a symbol of human kindness and second chances for many years to come*," said Manu Shah, Chief Giving Officer, Shah Happiness Foundation.

Dr. Pooja Bhalla, CEO of Illumination Health + Home, added, "*We are so grateful for the generosity of the Shah Happiness Foundation and their shared dedication to our mission of disrupting the cycle of homelessness. Through the Shah family's generosity, people experiencing homelessness have a safe, caring place to recover.*"

The SHF has also played a key role in opening the Shah Happiness Home, a family emergency shelter that began operations in January 2024. The foundation is committed to improving health, education, and quality of life in the communities it serves.

EVENT – CSR EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY

May 2025 – Between May 5 and May 13, MSI Services offices in Bangalore held a CSR Employee Engagement Donation Drive, organized by the Social Impact Team in collaboration with the Admin Team.

The drive aimed to support three children's homes and one elderly home in Bangalore with in-kind donations. A total of 28 boxes containing biscuits, supplements, clothes, toys, stationery, adult diapers, and sanitary napkins were collected and handed over to a home for children with special needs run by Mathrushree Manovikasa Kendra in Kumara Park, Bangalore Urban, a home for adults with special needs by the same organization in Nelamangala, Bangalore Rural, a Child Care Institute named Makkala Dhama in Devanahalli, Bangalore Rural and an elderly home called Sai Krupa Trust in KR Puram, Bangalore Urban.

The initiative began with a needs assessment to understand what the homes required most. Conversations revealed a significant demand for diapers and instant cereals such as Cerelac and Protinex, as many residents are either bed-ridden or affected by motor disorders like cerebral palsy or muscle spasms, which prevent them from accessing toilets or chewing food.

Employee participation in this drive was truly commendable. "*I'm happy with the donations, but what really touches my heart are the thoughts and care our colleagues are putting in*," said the Social Impact Team Manager. "*People come during lunch and ask what would make the children happiest. These small gestures turn donations into gifts*." She added, *"The Admin Team has worked tirelessly behind the scenes—this drive wouldn't be successful without them*."

This initiative reflects the power of collective compassion and shows how small acts of kindness by many can bring meaningful change to the lives of those who need it most.


Children with Special Needs at Mathrushree


Girls at Makkala Dhama Posing with New Toys



Elderlies at Sai Krupa Trust



A Specially Abled Adult at Mathrushree

NGO VISIT – ALPHA PALLIATIVE CARE

May 2025 – On May 6, 2025, the third SMFT-funded Palliative Care Link Centre in collaboration with Alpha Palliative Care was inaugurated in Punalur, Kerala. The first two centers were established in Kuttanad and Thiruvalla regions of Kerala.

The inauguration was attended by Vilakkudy Panchayat Member Ms. Regina Thomas, Alpha Palliative Care Community Director Mr. Suresh Shreedharan, Alpha Governing Council Member Mr. Chandramohan Nair, and the SMFT Team.

The two-storey centre, built on approximately 2,000 sq. ft., houses a physiotherapy unit equipped to assist patients with conditions ranging from paralysis to Parkinson's disease. Operational since April 21, 2025, the centre had already registered 75 patients by the date of its inauguration, thanks to outreach efforts and the support of Alpha Palliative's Student Wing.

At launch, the centre was serving three Gram Panchayats and one Municipality within a 15-kilometre radius. SMFT-funded Alpha Palliative Care offers free specialized medical care to patients with serious illnesses or those nearing end-of-life, aiming to relieve pain and suffering.

Alpha Palliative Care operates 26 centres, each with trained nurses, medical staff, and drivers who provide transportation and care services. For patients unable to travel, home visits are conducted by the nursing team.

During the visit, the SMFT Team learned that since its launch, all three centres are collectively serving 702 patients annually delivering more than 6,000 free-of-cost sessions.

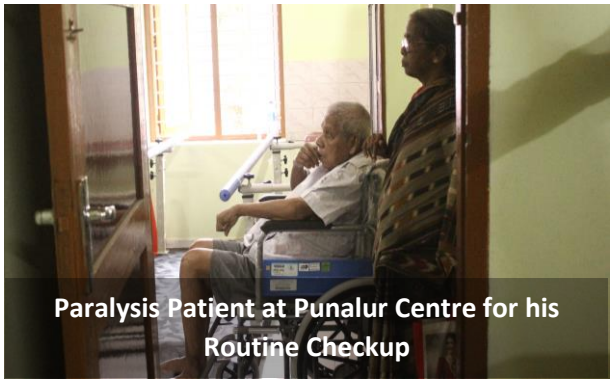
The partnership between SMFT and Alpha Palliative Care stands as a testament to compassion and dignity, ensuring that even the most vulnerable receive care and comfort in the final stages of life, close to their loved ones.



Inauguration Addressal at Alpha Palliative Care Link Centre at Punalur, Kerala



Sensory Equipment at Punalur Centre



Paralysis Patient at Punalur Centre for his Routine Checkup



Diya Lighting Ceremony at Inauguration

NGO VISIT – INDUSTREE FOUNDATION

May 2025 – On May 26, 2025, the SMFT Team undertook a field visit to the Industree Foundation's operational sites in Karnataka. Organized after a recommendation by Dr. Nitin Bajaj, the visit included stops at the Production Centre in Chamrajanagar and the Pre-Processing Centre in Channapatna. The team also received an overview of Industree's ambitious new initiative, *Project R.E.A.L. (Regenerative Agroforestry Livelihood Project)*, in Maharashtra.

Chamrajanagar, a district with a population of 1,015,000 and a growing MSME sector, is home to the 'Jagrudha Mahila Mutual Benefit Trust (MBT),' established in 2023. This MBT has empowered 140 women, with 45 currently active. Most of these women were previously unemployed. Through training and capacity building, they are now engaged in producing eco-friendly, bamboo-based products. The initiative provides consistent local employment, reducing seasonal migration and enhancing household incomes. One beneficiary reported *"Alcohol abuse is common here, my husband is also an alcoholic. Thanks to Industree, we have our bread and butter sorted*."

Industree Foundation, established in 2000 by Neelam Chhiber and Gita Ram, focuses on climate resilience, gender equity, and economic empowerment. Operating under the Greenkraft Cooperative, it supports rural women by organizing them into MBTs, which are then federated into Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). With 44 FPOs currently active, the model has generated employment for over 16,000 women and achieved over $58.9 million in sales.

Looking ahead, Project R.E.A.L. aims to establish 21 bamboo-based production units across Maharashtra, impacting 10,500 women and sequestering over 31,000 tons of carbon annually—linking environmental restoration with economic inclusion.


Women Weaving Bamboo Mats


SMFT Team with MBT Members


Woman Operating Bamboo Splitting Machine


Some of the Finished Bamboo Products

NGO VISIT – VISION AND ANEMIA SCREENING CAMP

May 2025 – The SMFT team visited 3 community outreach screenings that are part of SMFT project with Shrimad Rajchandra Love and Care, implemented through Shrimad Rajchandra Hospital. These screenings took place on 8th, 16th, and 29th of May. Although the project provides free vision care and anemia mitigation services to underprivileged communities in 13 and 8 states respectively, SMFT team visited only the ones that took place in South Gujarat.

On May 8, the team, along with the hospital's vision and anemia teams, visited the Government Primary School in Limbarpada village for vision and anemia screenings. A total of 52 low-income residents underwent vision screening, and 31 received free eyeglasses. The screening used Snellen charts, a manual trial set, and the QuickSee Autorefractor, which helped those who couldn't clearly describe their vision problems. Anemia screening was done for 55 residents, of whom 17 were found anemic and provided with iron and folic acid supplements.

On May 16, the team held a similar community screening at Shiv Mandir in Balchondhi village. Vision screening was conducted for 112 residents, and 96 were provided eyeglasses. Anemia screening covered 117 individuals, with 52 found anemic. During the camp, 65-year-old Savitaben Gulabbhai, who had difficulty with daily tasks like sorting grains due to poor eyesight, received +2 near-vision glasses, restoring her ability to see clearly.

On May 29, the team conducted screenings at Jalaram Mandir in Bamti village where a total of 156 residents were screened for vision, and 132 received free eyeglasses. Anemia screening covered 157 residents, with 63 found anemic.

All the people with Anemia were given iron folic acid tablets to alleviate their problems faced.

These camps reflect the commitment of SRLC and SMFT to improving health and nutrition in underserved communities.



Vision and Anemia Screenings, Limbarpada


An Elder Resident Undergoing Vision Screening with QuickSee Autorefractor



Eyeglasses Distributed After Vision Screening



Free Iron-Folic Supplements for Anemic Patient

NGO IN FOCUS MAY'25 – ALPHA PALLIATIVE CARE

About the Nonprofit



Alpha Charitable Trust, Thrissur in Kerala is a public charitable trust working for three decades. Its focus is Palliative Care and is known as the largest community owned Palliative Care provider in India with 26 centers, including one hospice which gives 24x7 in-patient care facility, across the state with 64,951 patients and their families as beneficiaries.

Its mission is to enhance the quality of life of people in pain and distress due to life limiting illnesses without any discrimination.

It aims to deliver palliative care at the time of need, at the place of need, free of cost to the receiver. They provide the needed fillip to national policy for the palliative care demonstrated by its work. In a society that is largely unaware of the need of palliative care, an untrained workforce, growing cancer and other illness burdens and poor access to morphine, etc., they show the way to do it in a people centric and cost-effective manner.



NGO IN FOCUS MAY'25 – ALPHA PALLIATIVE CARE (Cont.)

About SMFT-Funded Project

SMFT has funded three of its link centres in Central Kerala and has donated 150 oxygen concentrators. Partnership started with supporting Alpha Palliative Care Kuttanad Link Centre to achieve its objectives. Subsequently funded for the startup of two more centres. Each of these projects serve bed ridden patients due to old age, critical illness at their home and provide physiotherapy to stroke affected, children with cerebral palsy, and other neurological problems. Supporting the formation of such people's collective and addressing one of the critical health care needs of the country proves to be a path breaking initiative for both the parties.



Project Location/Geography

SMFT supports three Link Centres of Alpha:

- Kuttanad Centre in Alleppey District, covering 7 villages
- Thiruvalla Centre in Pathanamthitta District, covering Thiruvalla Municipality and 3 village panchayats
- Punalur Centre in Kollam District, covering Punalur Municipality and 8 nearby villages



NGO IN FOCUS MAY'25 – ALPHA PALLIATIVE CARE (Cont.)

Recent Project Updates

All the three centres proved to be a boon to the people in these areas, hitherto not covered by any such initiative. The centres' trained nurses visit the patients at home 6 days a week and a doctor visits them twice a week. Kuttanad Centre has progressed well since its beginning two years ago and they have two home care teams serving 450 people at their home and providing physiotherapy to the people.



The Centres provides support to patients by offering mobility aids, including regular wheelchairs, specialized wheelchairs for spinal cord injuries, commode wheelchairs, walkers, tripods, and semi-fowler beds for those who are bedridden. Additionally, the Centre assists with essential medications, dialysis kits, oxygen concentrators, and food. The team also ensures that patients receive care for their physical hygiene as well as psychosocial support.

Together these centres serve 702 patients. In Thiruvalla, a total of 155 patients received treatment, including 37 for physiotherapy and 118 for medical consultations. In Punalur, 97 patients were treated, with 46 undergoing physiotherapy and 51 receiving medical care.

NGO IN FOCUS MAY'25 – ALPHA PALLIATIVE CARE (Cont.)

Overall Impact

Alpha Palliative Care creates a profound humanitarian impact by delivering compassionate, community-based care to those suffering from life-limiting illnesses. The approximate cost per person for the services provided by Alpha is ₹1,500 ($17.5) per month, for a population of 450 individuals. Their work saves the community up to ₹81 Lakhs (approx. $95,000) in medical care each year. This figure does not include the additional savings in time, effort, and the intangible benefits of social and emotional support that they offer.

One of the significant impacts of their work is that they facilitated a peaceful home death for 145 out of the 180 individuals who passed away during this period. This service also helped avoid exorbitant and unnecessary hospital expenses for poor and marginalized families to take care of bedridden patients, particularly the elderly and those with critical illnesses in their homes.

By supporting the development of this community-focused initiative and tackling one of the country's pressing healthcare challenges, we are paving the way for impactful advancements in patient care.



NGO IN FOCUS MAY'25 – ALPHA PALLIATIVE CARE (Cont.)

Highlight of the Month

The Alpha palliative care centre has served 590 new patients across 26 centres, providing 1,044 doctor home visits and 5,428 nurse visits. They have facilitated peaceful deaths of 348 individuals, out of which 83% occurrence were at home. They have provided dialysis services covering 2,129 sessions for 190 patients, reflecting their commitment to quality care and patient support.



Awards

Alpha Palliative Care Chairman, Mr. K M Noordeen, was awarded Thissur Chamber of commerce award for Social Work by the Kerala Governer, Mr. Arif Mohd Khan.



തൃശൂർ ചേംബർ ഓഫ് കോമേഴ്സിന്റെ 75 – ാം വാർഷികാഘോഷത്തോടനുബന്ധിച്ച് മികച്ച സാമൂഹ്യപ്രവർത്തകനുള്ള ടി.പി. സീതാരാമൻ മെമ്മോറിയൽ അവാർഡ് 2023 സെപ്റ്റംബർ 8ന് തൃശൂർ കാസിനോ കൾച്ചറൽ ഓഡിറ്റോറിയത്തിൽ നടന്ന ചടങ്ങിൽ ബഹു. കേരള ഗവർണർ ശ്രീ. ആരിഫ് മുഹമ്മദ് ഖാനിൽനിന്ന് ആൽഫ പാലിയേറ്റീവ് കെയർ ചെയർമാൻ കെ.എം. നൂർദീൻ ഏറ്റുവാങ്ങിയപ്പോൾ.

In the News

Alpha Palliative Care has been featured recently in a news outlet for inaugurating the construction work of Alpha Hospice, a centre of excellence, built in a 5-acre plot of land received as donation at Thrissur, Kerala. The event was attended by hundreds of well-wishers. It was also feature for Foundation stone laying of Alpha Chalakkudy Centre.

Mathrubhumi
മാതൃഭൂമി

ആൽഫ ഹോസ്പീസിൻറെ നിർമാണത്തിന് തുടക്കം



എടമുട്ടം ആൽഫ പാലിയേറ്റീവ് കെയർ ആസ്ഥാനത്ത് നിർമിക്കുന്ന പാലിയേറ്റീവ് കെയറിലെ ആൽഫ ഹോസ്പീസിന്റെ നിർമാണോദ്ഘാടനം കളക്ടർ വി.ആർ. കൃഷ്ണതേജ നിർവഹിക്കുന്നു

തൃശ്ശൂർ ▸ ആൽഫ പാലിയേറ്റീവ് കെയറിന് കീഴിൽ ആരംഭിക്കുന്ന ആൽഫ ഹോസ്പീസിന്റെ നിർമാണം കളക്ടർ വി.ആർ. കൃഷ്ണതേജ ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്തു. ആൽഫ ചെയർമാൻ കെ.എം. നൂർദീൻ അധ്യക്ഷനായി. സംവിധായകൻ സത്യൻ അന്തിക്കാട് മുഖ്യപ്രഭാഷണം നടത്തി. സി.പി. വിഷ്ണു നൃത്തം അവതരിപ്പിച്ചു.

50 ഹൈ ഡിപ്പൻറൻസി മുറികൾ, 140 ബെഡ്ഡുകളുള്ള ഫിസിയോ തെറാപ്പി സെൻറർ, 32 മെഷീനുകളുള്ള ഡയാലിസിസ് സെൻറർ, 36 മുറികളുള്ള കെയർഹോം എന്നിവയും നൂതന പരിശോധനാ-ചികിത്സാ സംവിധാനങ്ങളുമടങ്ങുന്നതാണ് ആൽഫ ഹോസ്പീസ്. ഒരേസമയം 190 പേർക്ക് പാലിയേറ്റീവ് കെയർ കിടത്തിച്ചികിത്സ നൽകാൻ കേന്ദ്രത്തിനുകഴിയും.

ആശാ ഗ്രൂപ്പ് ചെയർമാൻ സി.പി. സാലിഹ്, മെയ്സലൂൺ ഗ്രൂപ്പ് സി.എം.ഡി. സുമ വേളേക്കാട്ട്, ഫ്ലോറ ഗ്രൂപ്പ് ചെയർമാൻ വി.എ. ഹസ്സൻ, വി.എസ്. സുഗുണൻ, രവി കണ്ണമ്പിള്ളിൽ, വി.ജെ. തോംസൺ, കെ.എ. കദീജാബി, ആൽഫ ഹോസ്പീസ് എക്സിക്യുട്ടീവ് കൗൺസിൽ പ്രസിഡൻറ് ബാബു പാനിക്കുളം, സെക്രട്ടറി റഷീദ് ആതിര എന്നിവർ പ്രസംഗിച്ചു.

06/02/2024 KODUNGALLUR Pg 04

തൃശൂർ | കോട്ടയം | കോഴിക്കോട് | കൊച്ചി | തിരുവനന്തപുരം | പാലക്കാട് | കണ്ണൂർ | കൊല്ലം | മലപ്പുറം | പത്തനംതിട്ട | തൃശൂർ | ഇംഫാൽ | ചെന്നൈ | ബെംഗളൂരു | ന്യൂഡൽഹി | മുംബൈ | ISSN-0972-0022 | www.manoramaonline.com

SUNDAY മലയാള മനോരമ

22 സെപ്റ്റംബർ 2024 ഞായർ 1390 കന്നി 6



പറയാനുണ്ടോ, ഒരു സഞ്ചാരകഥ

ഫോക്കസ് P.12



മ്യൂസിക് ഗിഫ്റ്റ്, ജാസി ഗിഫ്റ്റ് എഴുതുന്ന പംക്തി

ഞായറാഴ്ച P.IV



തിരിച്ചുവരവിൽ ഋഷഭ് പന്തിന് സെഞ്ചറി

കായികം P.10



ചാലക്കുടി ആൽഫ പാലിയേറ്റീവ് കെയർ ലിങ്ക് സെന്ററിന്റെ ആസ്ഥാന മന്ദിരത്തിന്റെ ശിലാസ്ഥാപനം ചെയർമാൻ കെ.എം.നൂറുദ്ദീൻ നിർവഹിക്കുന്നു

ചാലക്കുടിയിൽ ആൽഫ പാലിയേറ്റീവ് കെയർ ആസ്ഥാനമന്ദിരത്തിനു ശിലയിട്ടു

▸▸ 3 നില മന്ദിരത്തിന്റെ വിസ്തീർണം 6000 ചതുരശ്ര അടി; ചെലവ് ഒരു കോടി രൂപ

ചാലക്കുടി ● സാന്ത്വന പരിചരണ രംഗത്തു 10 വർഷമായി പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്ന ആൽഫ പാലിയേറ്റീവ് കെയർ ലിങ്ക് സെന്ററിനു സ്വന്തമായി ആസ്ഥാനം ഒരുങ്ങുന്നു. 6,000 ചതുരശ്രയടി വിസ്തീർണത്തിലാണു മൂന്നുനില മന്ദിരം നിർമിക്കുന്നത്. ആദ്യഘട്ടത്തിൽ ഒരു കോടി രൂപയാണു ചെലവ്. ശിലാസ്ഥാപനം ആൽഫ പാലിയേറ്റീവ് കെയർ ചെയർമാൻ കെ.എം.നൂറുദ്ദീൻ നിർവഹിച്ചു. ശിലാസ്ഥാപന ഫലകം അനാച്ഛാദനം ബെന്നി ബഹനാൻ എംപി നിർവഹിച്ചു. പ്രസിഡന്റ് ടി.ഒ.പൗലോസ് അധ്യക്ഷത വഹിച്ചു. മുഖ്യ രക്ഷാധികാരികളായ ഡോ.വില്ലി ജോർജ്, ലൂക്കോസ് തങ്കച്ചൻ, ബിജി പൗലോസ്, ഷാജു വാലപ്പൻ എന്നിവരെ സനീഷ്കുമാർ ജോസഫ് എംഎൽഎ ആദരിച്ചു.

നഗരസഭാധ്യക്ഷൻ എബി ജോർജ്, നഗരസഭാ ഉപാധ്യക്ഷ ആലീസ് ഷിബു, മണപ്പുറം ഫൗണ്ടേഷൻ സിഇഒ ജോർജ് ഡി.ദാസ്, സെന്റ് മേരീസ് ഫൊറോന പള്ളി വികാരി ഫാ.വർഗീസ് പാത്താടൻ, മൂർക്കന്നൂർ ശ്രീഹരി നമ്പൂതിരി, എൻജിഐഎൽ കമ്പനി ജനറൽ മാനേജർ പോളി സെബാസ്റ്റ്യൻ, ബ്ലോക്ക് പഞ്ചായത്ത് പ്രസിഡന്റ് വേണു കണ്ഠരുമഠത്തിൽ, ശിൽപ ട്രീസ, നഗരസഭ പ്രതിപക്ഷ നേതാവ് സി.എസ്.സുരേഷ്, നഗരസഭാ കൗൺസിലർ വി.ജെ.ജോജി, ഡോ.മല്ലിക പ്രസാദ്, മർച്ചന്റ്സ് അസോസിയേഷൻ പ്രസിഡന്റ് ജോയ് മൂത്തേടൻ, ഡോ.ജോസ് ബാബു, സെക്രട്ടറി ടി.ഉഷാദേവി, വൈസ് പ്രസിഡന്റുമാരായ റോസി ലാസർ, എ.എൽ.കൊച്ചപ്പൻ, ജോയിന്റ് സെക്രട്ടറി ജോർജ് തോമസ്, ട്രഷറർ ലീല പൗലോസ് എന്നിവർ പ്രസംഗിച്ചു.

SUCCESS STORY – ALPHA PALLIATIVE CARE



Name: Deenamma
Location: Kerala
Project: Palliative Care Center

The story of Deenamma whom Alpha serve an indication of their work is. A widow and childless, Amma had spent the best years of her life in the service of others – working as domestic help lovingly preparing delicious meals for other people's children and thus finding joy even during hardship.

As the years went, old age gradually wore her down. All that remained of family was a distant relative, a boy. In a fragile, makeshift shed, surrounded by loneliness and the meagre offerings of food mainly biscuits and buns the boy brought her, Amma lived her days without complaint. In mid-December, everything changed when the Alpha Palliative Care Team entered her life, offering her not just medical attention, but a lifeline of hope and compassion.

Their commitment went far beyond treating her physical ailments. They lovingly bathed her for the first time in months, restoring her dignity. They provided her with fresh, clean clothes and transformed her humble home into a more welcoming space, filled with care and attention. Yet it wasn't just the physical assistance that touched Amma's heart; it was the profound sense of love and connection they brought into her life—an experience she had long been deprived of.

Every time the food donors visited, Amma's face would light up as if a spark had ignited within her. With tears of joy glistening in her eyes and a radiant smile that showed her deep gratitude, she would express her appreciation in her own simple but heartfelt way, saying, "My dear children, what you bring me is not just food... you are giving me life itself. May the God who sent you continue to bless you abundantly."

These heartfelt words encapsulate the essence of her spirit and the transformative power of human connection. Amma's story is not just about receiving food; it is about restoring her sense of worth, reminding her that she is valued and loved. The Alpha team's unwavering dedication serves as a beacon of hope, illustrating how a small act of kindness can ripple through a life, creating waves of change.

SUCCESS STORY – ALPHA PALLIATIVE CARE



Name: Ponnamma
Location: Kerala
Project: Palliative Care Center

In a quiet village, Ponnamma, a 63-year-old widowed woman, lived a life heavy with solitude and neglect. Confined to her small shack made from flimsy tin sheets, she struggled daily with her declining health. Her estranged son, caught in the grip of alcoholism, had long abandoned her, leaving Ponnamma isolated and fragile.

When Alpha Palliative Care learned of her dire situation, they sprang into action, albeit too late. Volunteers quickly arrived at her home, transforming her living space and providing the care she desperately needed. They organized a doctor's visit, who diagnosed Ponnamma with suspected anorectal carcinoma, and arranged for a biopsy.

Understanding the importance of nourishment, they set up a regular supply of food, ensuring she received the proper nutrition. The community rallied behind her, participating in fundraising efforts to cover her medical expenses and transport her to the hospital. Despite their best efforts, Ponnamma tragically passed away just three days after being discharged, never receiving the biopsy results.

Her neighbors, who had watched her suffer in silence, felt a deep sense of remorse for not acting sooner. Ponnamma's story resonated throughout the village, prompting a newfound commitment among residents to care for the elderly and frail in their midst.

In her memory, Alpha Palliative Care encouraged the formation of a support network, fostering compassion and collective responsibility. The villagers vowed to remain vigilant, ensuring that no one, like Ponnamma, would endure such loneliness and neglect again. Her legacy lived on as a reminder of the power of community and the vital importance of timely care and kindness.

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