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Empowerment Chronicles: Breaking Barriers

Welcome to the latest edition of our bimonthly newsletter, titled "Empowerment Chronicles: Breaking Barriers." We offer a comprehensive overview of the myriad activities and initiatives undertaken by Udayan Care across our various programs. The content spans a diverse spectrum of events, notable achievements, and inspiring success stories, encompassing the realms of education, healthcare, and child protection.

As you delve into the "Empowerment Chronicles: Breaking Barriers," you will also gain valuable insights into Udayan Care's active engagement in significant international events, including the BICON conference and the INTRAC Steering Group Meeting. These endeavors exemplify our commitment to making a difference on both national and global stages.

Udayan Care IT Centre



HCLTech client visit attended by IT Centre alumni

Shruti Jha and Abhishek, two alumni from Yuvakendra - our IT Center at NOIDA, supported by HCL Foundation, had the opportunity to represent Udayan Care during a client visit at HCLTech's campus. This opportunity allowed them to meet senior HCLTech leaders and clients. Both Shruti and Abhishek have flourishing careers: Shruti is a process developer (Band IV) at Genpact, and Abhishek works as a graphic designer at Editvo Complete Advertising Solutions (Noida). HCL's clients appreciated their achievements.



Celebrating 77th Independence Day

We firmly believe in instilling a sense of responsibility and patriotism in the youth. With the shared goal of "Nation First, Always First," we celebrated the 77th Independence Day at 21 Udayan Care IT centers. The day was marked by various activities, including decorating the center premises with a tricolour theme, a social media post design competition, and skits highlighting the efforts of social reformers to address specific social issues. Over 950 students currently enrolled in our IT courses came together to celebrate the day and spread happiness.



3rd Campus Placement Drive

Udayan Care's Information Technology Program successfully organized its 3rd campus placement drive at the HCL Foundation supported Yuvakendra in Noida. The event saw participation from seven companies, including Tech Mahindra, Tatwa Technologies, DigiCommerce, 3i Infotech BPO Solutions, Velocity Xcelerator, My Money Mantra, and Adroit Solutions.

A total of 21 recruitment team members conducted interviews for over 250 youth who had completed their training as Data Entry Operator (DEO) and Accounts



3rd Typing Speed Competition

Every student getting ready for a career needs to be able to use digital devices efficiently. Typing is one of those skills that must be developed through training and repetition. Therefore at Udayan Care IT Program, we give importance to students learning to type - speedily and without mistakes.

We continued our series by organizing the 3rd typing speed competition at Udayan Care's head office on September 23, 2023. A total of 59 students who had completed a Data Entry Operator course at Udayan Care's

Executive (Tally Prime) at Udayan Care's nine IT centers in East Delhi, Noida, and Ghaziabad. Participants from Udayan Care's other programs, such as Udayan Shalini Fellowship and After Care Outreach, also took part. The event was well-organized by a team of 22 IT center staff members, with support from Anjali Hegde (ED), Deepak Sharma (Trustee), Manoj Shrivastava (Program Head), Prashant Singh (Asst Dir - HR), and a volunteer Mr. Abhishek from HCL Tech. The day concluded with excellent results, as 167 students were selected, and more than 70 youths qualified for the final round, with job opportunities as data operators, backend support, tally support executives, etc., offering a monthly salary ranging from Rs. 10,000 to 14,000 initially.

IT centers participated with the goal of winning the competition. Five alumni from different centers, now successfully pursuing careers in the growing sector, joined to motivate these young champions. The competition was thoughtfully organized, ensuring each student had the opportunity to showcase their skills. Shivam, a student from the Vinod Nagar IT Centre, set a new record and emerged as the winner of the 3rd typing speed competition. He was awarded a gold medal and a 1000 rupees voucher by Mr. Manoj Shrivastava, the head of the Udayan Care IT Centre program. Saurabh, a student from the Dundahera IT Centre, secured the 1st runner-up position, receiving a silver medal and a 700 rupees voucher. Ram Avatar, a student from the Loni IT Centre, earned a bronze medal and a 500 rupees voucher.



Go Do Good Month - Ciena Volunteering Activities:

In September, Ciena had a "Go Do Good Month." They planned several volunteering sessions for their ongoing CSR program, which is part of Ciena's Digital Inclusion Initiative. Our two IT centers, New Kondli (Delhi East) and Dundahera (Gurugram), supported by Ciena, submitted an activity calendar to engage Ciena employees as volunteers for specific sessions aimed at ensuring the holistic development of youths pursuing short-term job-specific IT courses in our centers. Throughout September 2023, we conducted six specific sessions with the assistance of eight Ciena volunteers. These sessions focused on students' personality development, communication skills, confidence building, and awareness of workplace ethics. All the sessions were wonderfully planned by the volunteers. We truly appreciate our partners who engage with us in more ways than just funding.

Cheers to New Beginnings!



Pushpender - IT Alumni

Pushpender graduated in the arts stream but faced challenges finding a job due to a lack of skills. Raised in Mamura Village, NOIDA Pushpender grew up with three siblings and a father employed as a daily wage labourer. Very early on, he realized that his family's income couldn't support their household expenses as well as their children's education. Pushpender took the decision to join a factory but yearned for a different career path. With the goal of establishing a career in the corporate sector, Pushpender studied hard to complete a Data Entry Operator course (DEO) at Udayan Care's Noida IT Center. On completion, he secured a position as a Telemarketing Officer with "TeamLease Services Pvt Ltd," earning a monthly salary of Rs. 15,000.

Udayan Ghar



International Youth Day

On August 12th, the children at the home celebrated 'International Youth



Independence Day

The 77th Independence Day was celebrated with immense zeal and



Raksha Bandhan Celebration

Raksha Bandhan, a festival in India that celebrates the protective and

Day.' They marked the occasion with a two-part exploration of its significance. The celebration began with the children watching an enlightening short film that emphasized the global importance of this day. Following this, they embarked on a creative journey, crafting posters that not only reflected their newfound understanding of the day but also conveyed their unique perspectives on its significance.

The social worker informed them that the first International Youth Day was celebrated in the year 2000 with the aim of bringing youth-related issues to the forefront of the international community's attention, recognizing that today's youth will shape and lead the world tomorrow.

enthusiasm by all the children at the home. The day began with a morning assembly where the children and staff jointly unfurled the national flag and sang the national anthem in unison. Following this, a quiz focused on India and its history of independence was conducted to assess and enhance their knowledge about our great nation.

Sweets were joyfully distributed among the children, and a special celebratory meal was prepared to mark the occasion. Some of the children also participated in the Independence Day programs organized by the Resident Welfare Associations of their respective homes. To further commemorate the spirit of Independence Day, our talented youngsters created vibrant and expressive posters that celebrated the essence of this significant day.

loving bond between brothers and sisters, was observed in all Udayan Care homes. Girls from the homes tied Rakhis to their supervisors, and an interactive session was conducted with the children to explain the significance and meaning of Raksha Bandhan. This session aimed to help them grasp the festival's importance beyond its traditional rituals, followed by a shared lunch.

Children from Jagshanti Udayan Ghar visited the unit of BSF 36th Battalion to celebrate Raksha Bandhan with the Jawans officers and their wives in the evening. They were welcomed with a drill similar to the one performed at the Wagah border and then given a tour of the entire unit, including the offices, mess, and canteen. The girls tied Rakhis to the soldiers, received blessings, and engaged in a brief interaction, sharing their dreams and interests. The evening concluded with a delightful assortment of snacks.

Udayan Shalini Fellowship Program



USF Induction Selection Process 2023-24

The Udayan Shalini Fellowship conducted a selection process in 34 locations across the country for the 2023-24 batch. Written exams, interviews, home visits, and induction occurred in August and September. In the last two months, ten chapters (Haridwar, North Delhi, Panchkula, Vadodara, West Mumbai, Aurangabad, Agra, Gurugram, Dehradun, and Aligarh) completed their selection process, inducting 490 new Shalinis into the fold.



Health Checkup Camp | Pune

On September 17, 2023, Udayan Shalini Fellowship Pune organized a Health Checkup Camp and Menstrual Hygiene Session, supported by Agarwal Samaj Federation Pune, Inner Wheel Club of Pune River Rhythms, and Om Hospital Bhosari. The event included comprehensive health examinations for young girls, covering eye, dental, and general checkups. Ms. Radhika conducted an informative menstrual hygiene session, providing guidance on the monthly cycle and explaining various hygiene products like sanitary napkins, tampons, and menstrual cups. This session not only enhanced women's well-being but also empowered Shalinis with knowledge about their health. The Shalinis received free sanitary pads, ensuring access to essential hygiene products.



Youth Day and Independence Day Celebrations

On the combined occasion of Youth Day and Independence Day, the Udayan Shalini Fellowship chapters in Bengaluru, Faridabad, Kurukshetra, Kolkata, North Delhi, South Delhi, Baddi, Dehradun, Aligarh, and Greater Noida enthusiastically celebrated, igniting a sense of patriotism and cherishing freedom. Activities varied across chapters:

- Kurukshetra marked the occasion with Rakhi and Rangoli.
- North Delhi engaged in discussions on the significance of youth in nation-building and addressed the challenges they face.
- Faridabad organized a remarkable Independence Day rally where Shalinis voiced their concerns and aspirations for the nation's future.
- South Delhi celebrated with posters, dance, singing, poetry recitations, and acting performances.
- Baddi hosted the "Vande Mataram Fest" with cultural dance, a skit on modern India, and poster/chart-making competitions.
- Dehradun discussed Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsava and explored the meaning of Independence for women in society.
- Aligarh's Shalinis performed patriotic songs and poems at Tika Ram Girl's College Park.
- Greater Noida showcased talents through poems, patriotic dances, quizzes, and speeches, distributing sweets and snacks to instill a sense of pride and responsibility in young minds.

In unity and diversity, each Udayan Shalini Fellowship chapter celebrated Youth Day and Independence Day, imparting values of patriotism and freedom to the young hearts they nurture.

Scaling New Heights: Our Udayan Shalini



Saloni Rawat, USF Gurugram

Saloni, hailing from a humble, low-income family of five in Gurgaon, faced financial challenges with her father earning just 15,000 rupees monthly, making it hard to meet their basic needs.

Her journey began with uncertainty and low confidence. She aspired to be self-reliant and make medical treatment accessible to those who couldn't afford it. Despite financial adversity, Saloni remained dedicated to pursuing a medical career. She prepared for the NEET exam while managing family responsibilities, displaying unwavering dedication and resilience.

With the support of the Udayan Shalini Fellowship, Saloni received crucial career guidance and mentorship, boosting her confidence and determination. Her hard work paid off when she not only cleared the NEET exam but also secured an impressive All-India Rank of 31,101. Saloni's journey from a hesitant, low-confidence girl to a successful NEET qualifier is truly inspiring. Saloni's journey, from a hesitant, low-confidence girl to a successful NEET qualifier, serves as a powerful source of inspiration for all.

Volunteers in Action



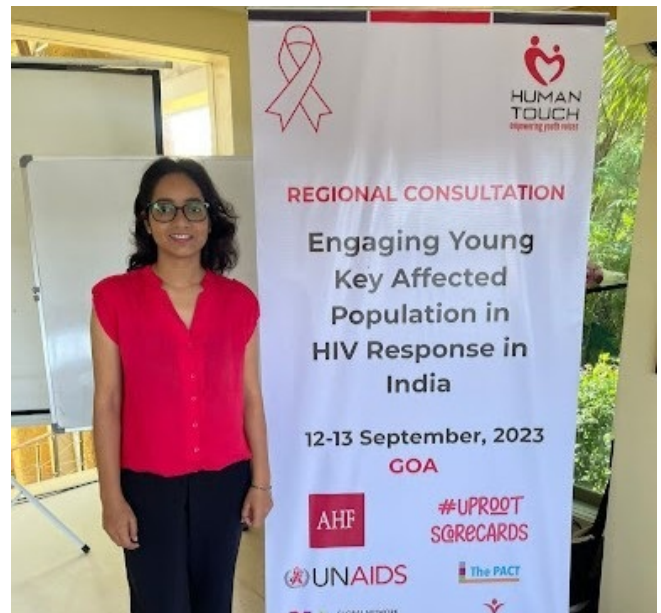
The Delhi Regional Volunteer SPOC Meet, hosted on September 1, 2023, and organized by the Tata Sustainability Group, marked a significant milestone. The event aimed to celebrate achievements, foster discussions on embedding and sustaining scalability in volunteering efforts, and cultivate an engaged Volunteer SPOC cadre. Notably, Udayan Care was the exclusive invitee at this gathering, highlighting the impactful role played by Tata employees as mentors in strengthening the organization's work. The event also served as an opportunity to explore future collaborations and partnership prospects.

Some children from the FIT project had the opportunity to participate in the "Buniyaad ki Pehchaan" themed event, organized by LSR College on their campus. During this event, the children were treated to captivating performances spanning various art forms, including dance, music, theatre, and arts and crafts, all of which beautifully represented India's multicultural values and vibrant colors. The children also gained valuable moral lessons through the theatrical presentations. For these children, the day was a delightful blend of enjoyment and education, leaving a lasting impression that they will cherish. They expressed their eagerness to return for the event next year.

LIFT Fellowship - Impact Stories

Manisha

Manisha has been actively dedicated to addressing the challenges faced by HIV-positive care leavers, particularly those who are among the most marginalized in society. As a care leaver herself, she has personally encountered the numerous obstacles confronting HIV-positive youth, often experiencing discrimination from the broader community. Her endeavours encompass not only raising awareness but also educating fellow care leavers with HIV about ART therapy, health monitoring, and the importance of palliative care in enhancing their Quality of Life (QOL). Her ability to connect her own experiences with her mission as a LIFT fellow has facilitated her transformation from being a care leaver to becoming a leading advocate in her field. Manisha recently received recognition when she was chosen as the sole representative from Rajasthan for the regional consultation organized by Human Touch in collaboration with UNAIDS and AHF. This consultation aims to engage young key affected populations in India in the context of the HIV response. Her pioneering work in this realm sets her apart, and her advocacy on behalf of HIV-positive care leavers is gaining increasing prominence and acknowledgment.



BICON Summit

Udayan Care, along with partners, successfully hosted the 5th BICON conference on alternative care for children in Asia in Kathmandu, Nepal, on September 6th and 7th. This conference has been a leading platform focusing on the rights of children and young people without parental care since 2014. Previously hosted by Udayan Care, it is now



ICB Journal Launch at BICON

Udayan Care celebrated a significant milestone, marking a decade of the Institutionalized Children Explorations and Beyond (ICB) Journal's academic engagement. At the 5th BICON in 2023, Kathmandu, Nepal, a special issue titled "The Evolution of Alternative Care in South Asia over the Last Decade and Way Forward" was launched by distinguished



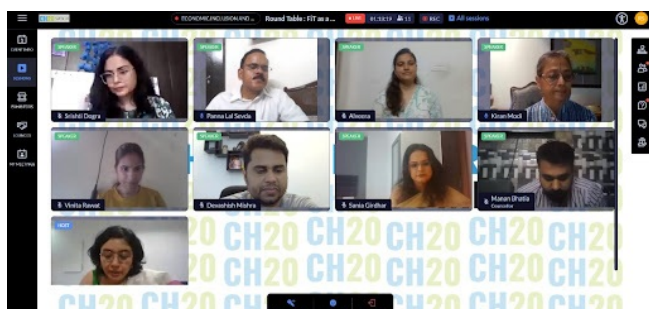
INTRAC Conference

Dr. Kiran Modi, our Managing Trustee and Elected INTRAC member, presented the Indian Aftercare situation and legal framework at the INTRAC Steering Group Meeting on September 12, 2023, at the University of Sussex in Brighton, England. The meeting featured a short film showcasing the voices of care leavers, highlighting their experiences

This event gathered 400+ delegates, both in-person and online, including practitioners, government representatives, academics, and care leavers from Asia. They discussed care reform, children's rights, and emerging trends. Dr. Kiran Modi, the Founder and Managing Trustee of Udayan Care, delivered opening and closing remarks. Ranjana Srivastava presented an overview of community approaches in India, while Surja and Rakesh shared their experiences and challenges as care leavers.

and challenges. The event had representation from 34 of the 48 countries with INTRAC members, including practitioners and academics from various fields.

INTRAC, the 'International Research Network on Transitions to Adulthood from Care,' is an international organization that brings together researchers with the aim of promoting national and international research on the transition from care to adulthood (care-leaving) and facilitating dialogue between care-leaving researchers worldwide.



FiT Families Together, in collaboration with the Connecting Dreams Foundation, participated in the “Changemaker20 Summit” associated with G20, focusing on “Economic Inclusion and Poverty Alleviation”. 137 nations came together to address global challenges during this online event.

In 2022, India launched Mission Vatsalya, a child protection policy focusing on stakeholder convergence and innovative child protection practices. Inspired by this policy, FIT Families Together organized five stakeholder meetings in Delhi, engaging various participants, including legal bodies (CWC, DCPU, DCPCR), community members, NGOs, teachers, healthcare providers, and more. These meetings aim to create a unified platform for resolving crises and providing essential services, education, counseling, healthcare, life skills training, and recreational activities. The FIT Families Together project believes this approach positively impacts children and families, promoting family strengthening and unity, benefiting the entire community.

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