

SOULFREE'S ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

September 7 marks the second anniversary of the Soulfree Launch. Our year has been extremely encouraging and eventful, to say the least. Here are some of the highlights of our year, which we are delighted to share with you.

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF SOULFREE WEBSITE– With staunch support from Value Labs, a Hyderabad-based IT company, our website was revamped, making it thoroughly professional, enabling it to become a valuable platform to spread awareness about spinal cord injury in India, and create visibility for the work we are doing towards improving the quality of life of people living with spinal cord injuries.



We wish to especially thank Ms Harini Rao for her unstinting support of the soulfree cause.



ESTABLISHMENT OF PAYMENT GATEWAY – After a great deal of hard work, we have also established a payment gateway in our website through IDBI bank, so that contributors in India, can

donate online at the click of a button.

80 G TAX EXEMPTION – While last year, soulfree received income tax exemption under section 12AA , we have successfully become an 80 G tax exempted public charitable trust this year. We wish to especially thank Mr Vivek Harinarain for helping us avail of this important allowance.

MONTHLY STIPEND PROGRAM – We have successfully completed the one-year of the program for nine people, and 18 persons with spinal cord injury are currently benefiting from our monthly stipend program. It has been our greatest victory that at least a few of our beneficiaries, have been inspired to start their own businesses/activities to become economically independent.



VICTORY FOR THROAT FORT – Our initiative to provide voice-based jobs for quadriplegics received a big boost when soulfree founder, Preethi Srinivasan was given the opportunity to be one of the co-hosts of the prestigious 'India Inclusion Summit'. Not only this, renowned Tamil movie director Myskin has assured us, that in every one of his movies from here on, a quadriplegic will be given the opportunity to do the voice-over for a key character. It is our prayer that this will be the beginning of



many more such opportunities for quadriplegics to become financially independent through voice-based work.

DONATION OF WHEELCHAIRS – In our first major Wheelchair Donation Drive, we are pleased to announce that we have donated 19 Aurora wheelchairs to those in dire need. We wish to convey our deepest gratitude to our generous donors. We wish to especially thank Dr Muthukumar of Parvathy Hospitals for donating Rs. 50,000 to the Soulfree cause, through Raindropss, an NGO. These wheelchairs have the capacity to drastically improve the quality of life for those living with spinal cord injury in a country like India, where there is no concept of wheelchair accessibility, and the terrain is very rough.

Soulfree has also donated computers, airbeds, provided funds for medical treatment, and the purchase of mobility aids as per requirement. We also routinely donate food containers, umbrellas, bed sheets for the destitute with disability.

MOTIVATIONAL TALKS – Soulfree founder, Preethi has made it her life's mission to provide a service, that has evolved into a valuable source of fundraising for the soulfree cause. When she gets invited to various schools, colleges and corporate houses for Inspirational Talks, she receives no financial compensation for it, apart from expenses. The request is made that compensation be provided directly to soulfree, as a donation, so that the funds can be used for the best purpose, while also providing the institution with 80 G tax exemption. Amongst numerous schools and colleges that have invited Preethi are, the KSR group of institutions, JKKN group of institutions, Amrita college et cetera. Prestigious firms like the French MNC, Valeo, NTrust Software Solutions, NHRD, NASSCOM have all been delighted with Preethi's unique and experiential perspectives of life.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE – With phenomenal support from the president of the Rotary club of Madras, Mr A. S. Venkhat Ramani, Ashok Leyland has been so incredibly kind as to donate a Stile to soulfree. This wonderful vehicle shall be altered to become wheelchair accessible, so that mobility of quadriplegics, especially the soulfree founder, can be made less difficult, allowing her to keep working hard towards increasing awareness of spinal cord injury in India, identifying and supporting those who are living with this currently incurable condition, especially women.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION – Soulfree founder, Preethi Srinivasan's passionate work towards changing perspectives about the positively-abled in India, has received immense recognition. She has been bestowed with 5 prestigious awards in the last year alone including, the envisage ability award 2014, the Sudesi magazine's "Dhruva award" for excellence in social work, the rotary's highest award "For the Sake of Honour", Femina "Penn Sakthi" award bestowed upon



the top 10 most influential women in Tamil Nadu for the year 2014 and the "Agent of change" Award from district Rotaract Council (Rotary International district 3230) for the year 2014-15.

EFFORTS TO START OUR FIRST REHABILITATION CENTRE-

We have been working very hard towards securing the infrastructure, funding and land allotment required to start our first Centre. With the help of charitable organisations like the rotary, and support from various government administrators, it is our goal to establish our first Centre within the next year.

We take utmost joy in sharing our progress with you, because without you, none of this would be possible at all. Starting from zero, with no knowledge or experience in how to run a public charitable trust, we were told that more than 90%

of NGOs fold up within the first three years. The fact that we have earned the love, respect and support of so many great people who have treated us with such generosity of spirit, is our greatest victory.

However, we fully realise that we have only begun to take baby steps in the right direction, and there is an immense amount of work to be done. Taking nothing for granted, we aim to carry on with the attitude of gratitude, and work with singularity of purpose. Our aim is to ensure that people with severe disabilities, especially women, and especially those who suffer from spinal cord injury are able to live a life of dignity and purpose. Our vision may be extremely ambitious, but with your continued support, and the perseverance that comes from serving a greater purpose, we are confident of manifesting it into reality. Thank you!

With gratitude and joy,

Vijayalakshmi Srinivasan
(Managing Trustee, Soulfree)



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