

SOULFREE'S THIRD ANNUAL REPORT (2015-16)

September 7, 2016 marks the completion of three years since Soulfree's launch. It is only when we take the time to plot the trajectory of our growth, we are able to see how far we have come in such a short time. I wish to share some of the highlights of the last year and express my deepest gratitude to all of you and the Almighty for blessing our efforts.



Phenomenal Growth: Our growth in the last year has been truly phenomenal, with marked improvements in all our current projects like:

- ✓ **Wheelchair Donation** – We have succeeded in donating more than 50 imported KARMA wheelchairs specially suited for persons with SCI in this year alone.
- ✓ **Monthly Stipend** – We are continuing our efforts to identify persons with SCI and provide them with hope through our MSP, so that they begin to understand that they can lead productive lives after spinal cord injury. After thorough investigation, we are supporting between 15-20 persons at all times. We are deeply grateful for our volunteers, who are doing incredible work in the background to investigate and counsel our beneficiaries. Please log onto our website www.Soulfree.org to register as a volunteer.



✓ **Spinal Cord Injury Awareness**

Campaigns – Raising awareness about this currently incurable condition amongst the general populace, especially the youth of India is one of our top



priorities. We are constantly going to many colleges to explain about what a spinal cord injury is and all the necessary precautions that need to be taken to prevent it. We are also making our best effort to touch government officials and social leaders at the highest levels and make them sensitive to the needs of persons with SCI. Two of the highlights this year were our meetings with the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, Ms. Kiran Bedi and Mata Amrithanandamayi, the force behind the Amrita Group of Institutions.

- ✓ **Networking and Peer Counselling** – We are making constant efforts to identify persons with SCI, especially around Tamil Nadu and connect them with peers and counsellors, so that they do not feel alone.



Instituting Traditions - Soulfree's Deepavali and Tamil New Year Gift boxes became such a source of happiness and help for our beneficiaries that they wish to turn them into a long-term tradition, so that our extended family members can look forward to our gifts every year. We are also gifting blankets, umbrellas, food containers and other essentials to the severely-disabled on the streets seasonally.

Laying the Foundation - We have learned a great deal about organising our processes and accounts in such a way as to maintain complete transparency. Our efforts to set up our first rehabilitation centre continue and



we have made a great deal of progress in the last year. We are also in the process of applying for FCRA clearance so that Soulfree will be able to accept donations in foreign currency as well.

Enabling Independent Living - One of our key priorities is to enable



Soulfree enables independent living by encouraging entrepreneurship by providing sewing machines to open tailouring shop for Nirmala.

persons with SCI to have financial independence by providing assistance with vocational training, finding employment or through seed-funding and interest-free loans towards entrepreneurship. Poosari, one of our first major recipients has now gone from doing nothing at all to farming on a three acre property. He has harvested more than 100 sacks of rice in this year alone and is not only brimming with self-confidence but has also become an employer now!

Soulfree SCI Get-Together - The

Soulfree SCI get-together gave us an amazing opportunity to interact and

share our concerns, ideas and innovative solutions to some problems all of us face. Also, the media recognised our activities and Makkal TV, a leading Tamil channel featured our story in three episodes of a program called "Azhagiya Tamil Magal". The support of the media goes a long way towards reaching out to persons with SCI who are hidden in their own homes, which is vital to give them the confidence to reach out to us for help and guidance.

Soulfree Volunteer Get-Together - We were given a rare and precious opportunity to listen to one of the world's leading mental conditioning coaches, Mr Harry Singha, who came all the way from the UK. All of Soulfree's volunteers and many young leaders were given the opportunity to interact with him and gain from his vast knowledge. We wish to thank Ms. Giada Bono and Mr Muralidharan from Banca Sella for making this possible.

Slowly but surely, we are working towards fundamentally changing the way the positively-abled are viewed in India. We are building upon our dream of transforming the so-



called "disabled" and empowering them to become "**Positively-Abled**" through improved opportunities in rehabilitation, employment, vocational training, education and entrepreneurship. We thank you for encouraging our work, and look forward to your continued support, now and always. Please do share the details about our work with your family and friends. This will help us spread awareness and gain more well-wishers.

Thank you,
Preethi. S

IF YOU WOULD LIKE SUPPORT OR CONNECT WITH US PLEASE CONTACT:

NAME:	PREETHI SRINIVASAN
DESIGNATION:	FOUNDER, SOULFREE
WEBSITE:	WWW.SOULFREE.ORG
E-MAIL ID:	PREETHI@SOULFREE.ORG
FACEBOOK:	SOULFREETRUST
TWITTER:	@PREETISTAN
PHONE NUMBER:	9952996336, 9994282299