

Letter from RUHSA

Jan 2022

Dear Friends,

What a year 2021 has been! All of us knew that life will be different after the COVID-19 experience of 2020. But the second wave affected many of us and our community in unimaginable ways. We've been picking up the pieces after the second wave started settling from August 2021, with community programs restarting in different ways. The health outreach has continued with eye care restarting in a non-camp mode. Elderly centres have been functioning "normally" for months. Running our youth and adolescent programs has been challenging with schools reopening, uncertainty with community work, delayed college entry etc. The Community College enrolment was less, but one batch has gone out for industrial training after completing the classroom component.



Christmas cheer with elderly and children



COVID vaccination in the community was one of our important activities in the last few months and we are happy to have contributed to the government effort in vaccinating as many as possible in our block.

A typical vaccination camp

We received excess rainfall this year, starting in September. The lake in Kavanur has been full and overflowing. Many villages on the banks of Palar river had damage, but 25 families in one village, Kamarajapuram, were affected badly in November. We were involved with the local administration to support the relief and rehabilitation

activities. St. John's Church & College of Nursing were major contributors to the relief work. Many staff and local people came forward to support this.



The destruction due to flooding of Palar river and relief activities in Kamarajapuram

Just before Christmas, a gypsy community near another lake was affected with limited flooding due to water table going up and water seeping out of the lakes. Relief work was immediately organised as per the need.



Relief work with the Gypsy community

With so much going on, and the threat of another wave of COVID, our usual Christmas time celebrations had to be modified. However, we went ahead with getting together, getting out children to celebrate (they are missing the second Christmas season festivities) and hope to have our volunteers meet if possible.



RUHSA Chapel



It's Christmas

Many changes in our work pattern and structures for adapting to COVID-19 are now permanent fixtures. We are waiting for our obstetric load to go back to pre-COVID days, but do not know if that's going to happen. Due to this, our in-patient facilities need changes.

We are also hoping to start few of the long-awaited building projects, the Community College (Vocational Training Centre), Roads, Operation theatre and labour room modification and the hostel for women students.

As we look forward to another year, there are more questions than answers, more uncertainty. But in the midst of all, we have one who is constant, our God; always loving, always present, always giving. We are thankful for all of you who support us, our community in KV Kuppam, our patients, CMC community: God's way of telling us (RUHSA), that what we do everyday matters!

We take the step in faith because of the assurance that *"He is able to do far more than we could ask for or imagine"* because of HIS power, working in US. (Eph. 3:20)

Shantidani Minz & RUHSA family