

### HELPING HAND IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

Karnan Thatha was found in a dire condition on the streets of Pondicherry. Seriously ill, he was immediately taken for emergency medical care, where he remained hospitalized for 20 days due to multiple health complications. During this time, Snehan began tracing the location Karnan had mentioned. After two days of searching, we discovered his son. Upon contacting the family and informing them about Karnan's condition, they arrived and took charge of him. Given his critical state, the family made the decision to bring him home to spend his remaining days in familiar surroundings. The hospital approved their request and discharged him, but as they lacked the funds for transportation, the family reached out to Snehan for assistance.



It was an eye-opening experience witnessing the harsh realities faced by impoverished families. Since our vehicle was battery-operated, we were uncertain about its range, so we offered to drop the family off in Cuddalore, where they could arrange further transport. Karnan's son agreed and spent nearly 30 minutes making calls, desperately trying to borrow 200 rupees for transportation. Unfortunately, every attempt failed, until one person finally agreed to help. However, the auto driver approached quoted 600 rupees—a sum to reach home, they simply couldn't afford. In the end, Snehan decided to take the risk and drive Karnan Thatha all the way home.

Thankfully, the battery held up, and we made it back safely.

This experience taught us a valuable lesson: not everyone has enough to meet, even the smallest needs—many struggle for as little as 10 rupees. Poverty is deeply entrenched, especially in rural areas among marginalized and uneducated communities. Sharing with those who have less is truly a blessing.



### HEALING AND HOPE: A LIFE REBUILT AT SNEHAN HOME

Mr. Devaraj, aged 55, he was employed as a laborer in the construction industry when an unfortunate accident occurred—he fell from the first floor of a building, resulting in severe leg injuries. He was immediately rushed to JIPMER hospital for urgent medical attention. During the initial days of his hospitalization, his family unexpectedly abandoned him, leaving him without support during a critical time. Mr. Devaraj underwent a successful leg surgery at JIPMER hospital. Recognizing the need for a safe and supportive environment for his recovery, the hospital authorities collaborated with Snehan Home, a residential care facility dedicated to aiding those in need during their post-recovery phase.

At Snehan Home, Mr. Devaraj received comprehensive care and support. Over time, he made remarkable progress and gradually regained mobility. Within three months, he

achieved the ability to walk slowly and even contribute to the daily activities and responsibilities at Snehan Home as part of his rehabilitation process.



With his steady recovery, the time has come for Mr. Devaraj to be discharged from the institution. He is now ready to reintegrate into society, find suitable employment, and reunite with his family members. The team at Snehan Home wishes him continued success and a bright future as he begins this new chapter of his life. Mr. Devaraj's journey is a testament to perseverance and the power of collective care and support.

### **FINDING HOPE AFTER LOSS: 79 YEARS NATARAJAN JOURNEY TO HEALING**

A 79 years old, Natarajan Thatha arrived at Snehan Home, carrying a broken heart and the weight of unimaginable loss. His beloved wife passed away during the COVID-19 pandemic, a separation he found impossible to accept. For months, grief consumed him—tears

became his companion and loneliness his reality.

Just as he was beginning to emerge from the depths of sorrow, another tragedy struck—his only son ended his own life due to family problems. The pain of this loss was beyond comprehension, leaving Natarajan drowning in despair. Depression took hold, and many days passed without food or purpose. Life felt devoid of meaning, and as financial struggles deepened, he found himself unable to pay rent, eventually becoming homeless.

In his darkest hour, Snehan Home became his refuge. With compassionate support, he slowly regained his strength—physically, mentally, and emotionally. Now, he is secure with the essentials, surrounded by people who listen and care.

At Snehan Home, Natarajan has found a sense of purpose. He assists in the kitchen, lends a hand at the tailoring center by stitching buttons and trimming excess yarn on bags, and on weekends, he sets up a stall on the beach to sell eco-friendly bags as part of an income-generating initiative.



Today, Natarajan has reclaimed his health and happiness. His golden years are now filled with meaning, spent in the comforting embrace of a community that stands with him.

## **PATHWAYS TO UNDERSTAND GERIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH**

On April 11th and 12th, 2025, Snehan members had the privilege of attending a national-level conference titled “Intergenerational Bonding and Ageing in Place: Pathways to Understand Geriatric Mental Health.” Held at Pondicherry University and organized by the Department of Social Work.



The event was a remarkable opportunity to deepen our knowledge and enhance our ability to serve in our field. The conference brought together 175 participants from across India, all dedicated to working with aging populations in various specializations. Representing Snehan Home, Mr. Anumuthu, Mrs. Esther Rani, and Mrs. Sheeba Rani actively participated in this enriching experience.

The topic of geriatric mental health is profoundly relevant in today’s world. For over a decade, Snehan has been committed to supporting neglected elderly individuals who are sick and dying on the streets of Pondicherry. We’ve faced countless questions about the behaviors, deteriorating health, changing habits, and expectations of our beneficiaries. These unanswered questions often left us struggling to fully understand and support our beloved elderly residents.

However, the insights gained during these two days provided clarity and guidance, answering many of our pressing concerns. One touching example from our work involves an 80-year-old

bedridden man who was abandoned by his family despite having provided them with wealth and opportunities. His family, now settled abroad, left him alone in India during his final days. We cared for him tenderly, treating him like a child in his vulnerable state. One day, he tearfully requested that I end his suffering with an injection—a plea that pierced my heart. I embraced him and reassured him that he was never a burden and that I would stand by him until his last moments.

This experience underscores a painful truth: as children, we often fail to truly understand and support our parents, taking much from them but offering so little in return when they need us most. At Snehan, we strive to bring light to those living in darkness, offering care and compassion to the elderly who have been forgotten.

## **FROM STREETS TO SHELTER: MANICKAM’S FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL**

Manickam, a 60-year-old man from Coimbatore, was forced to leave his family eight years ago due to a dispute. His wife and two sons remain in Coimbatore, while he has spent the years since in Tiruvannamalai, surviving on the streets through charity. Without direction, he eventually arrived in Puducherry, continuing to depend on the kindness of strangers.



One day, while on the streets, an argument broke out between two individuals, and



Manickam was caught in the violence. He was struck hard with a stick, injuring his knee. Unable to move and without anyone to support him, his wound worsened, leading to a painful infection. A passerby noticed his distress and called an ambulance, ensuring he was admitted to JIPMER for urgent medical care.

At JIPMER, doctors performed surgery to treat his injury. As part of his recovery, hospital authorities sought assistance from Snehan Home to provide him with residential care and support. Here, he is receiving nutritious food, proper medical treatment, and compassionate care. With time and support, we are hopeful that Manickam will regain his mobility and live an independent life once more.

Snehan Home continues to be a sanctuary for many vulnerable individuals, offering them a second chance at dignity and well-being.

### KANTHARI KNOCK MEET 2025



After two years, the Knock Meet was held at the Kanthari campus. Around twenty participants gathered for a two-day workshop, where we explored fascinating new topics, including AI. It was incredibly insightful for

many of us to learn how AI tools can enhance the efficiency of NGOs in their documentation.

Beyond this, the event fostered an amazing sense of fellowship among the Knock gathering. Sabriye and Paul, as always, brought their infectious energy and highlighted the importance of Knock and its significant potential to empower alumni around the globe.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Mr. Sanoj, Biju, and Ajith, who went above and beyond to organize this wonderful event.

### A LIFE RECLAIMED: SNEHAN'S MISSION TO SAVE A DYING

Mr. Krishanan, a man over the age of 65, was discovered in a severely unstable condition on the streets. Understanding his urgent need for assistance, we at Snehan approached the nearest police station to seek intervention. After assessing the situation, the authorities provided us with a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to proceed with his rescue.

Upon further inquiry, nearby street dwellers revealed that Mr. Krishanan had been assaulted by drug addicts living on the streets. Approximately 35 days ago, four young men approached him late at night, demanding money. Despite his insistence that he had none, they refused to believe him and resorted to violent aggression. As a result, he sustained severe injuries to his head and back.

Following the attack, he became immobile, unable to stand or move from his spot. His deteriorating condition led him to stop eating altogether, surviving only on buttermilk. Over time, his health declined drastically, leaving him frail—reduced to mere skin and bones.

Upon rescuing him, we ensured he was bathed, provided fresh clothing, and introduced liquid nourishment to stabilize his condition. While his food intake has gradually improved,

we noticed irregularities in his behavior, indicating potential mental health concerns. Additionally, medical evaluations revealed a spinal fracture.



For the past three days, we have been at the Government Hospital, where he has undergone multiple tests and medical investigations. He is now receiving treatment for both his mental health condition and spinal injury as an outpatient. Doctors have advised strict bed rest, requiring him to remain immobilized with a supportive belt around his torso for an extended period.

At Snehan Home, we are doing our utmost to care for him—feeding him three times a day, regularly changing his diaper, providing sponge baths, and ensuring he receives his prescribed medications. With unwavering hope, we are committed to his recovery, eagerly awaiting the day he regains his strength and is able to resume his daily life independently.

### **MR. SEIYALU'S GENEROSITY AND THE IMPACT OF HIS WORK**

In a world where kindness often takes a backseat, Mr. Seiyalu stands as a inspiration of compassion. A skilled expert in Puttur Kattu, the revered traditional bone-setting practice, he has dedicated himself to healing those in need through natural methods. His humble clinic, nestled in Kanakachettikulam along the road to

PIMS, is more than just a place of treatment—it is a sanctuary for hope and recovery.

For the past two years, Snehan Home has brought elderly destitute individuals to Mr. Seiyalu for care, knowing that his hands carry both expertise and empathy. Without ever expecting a fee, he welcomes us with a warm smile, treating each patient with unwavering kindness. His appreciation for our social service is not just in words—it is reflected in his actions, as he continues to stand beside the forgotten, the weary, and the wounded.

Today, we at Snehan wish to express our deepest gratitude to this remarkable soul. His generosity transcends the boundaries of profession and charity; it is a testament to the power of human compassion. Through his noble work, Mr. Seiyalu proves that healing is not merely about mending broken bones—but about uplifting broken spirits.



### **NGO GOVERNANCE TO EMPOWER THE SOCIAL ORGANIZATION IN TAMIL NADU**

Snehan had the privilege of participating in a two-day program on NGO Governance, an experience that stood out as one of the finest seminars I have ever attended. Approximately fifty participants from Puducherry, Cuddalore, and Villupuram came together for this insightful session.

The program was led by Rev. Nova Pauldoss from Trichy, the visionary founder of the NAFI

Consortium—an initiative dedicated to strengthening minority movements across the country, extending their reach to grassroots levels, and shaping effective policy, legal, and institutional frameworks to help cooperatives unlock their full potential.

Rev. Pauldoss is a remarkably knowledgeable individual, embodying both wisdom and humility. He has dedicated himself to studying social organizations, their purpose, and global policies, meticulously analyzing their impact. His expertise led him to engage with the UN Council, where he advocated for NGOs in India and submitted a comprehensive sustainability plan.

As founders of social organizations in Tamil Nadu, we are deeply eager to understand his strategy and incorporate it into our own initiatives, ensuring sustainable growth and greater impact.



### **THE CIRCLE OF KINDNESS A STORY OF LOVE, SERVICE, AND RESILIENCE**

Image that speaks of compassion, resilience, and the beauty of human kindness.

Mr. Rajendaran, a 55-year-old special soul, gently feeding Mr. Krishnan, a 70-year-old disabled man. Their connection is one of care, one of love, one of silent understanding.



In the early days of our Snehan project, Mr. Krishnan was a pillar of strength, dedicating himself as a caregiver in the hospital. His hands worked tirelessly—feeding, cleaning, and comforting those who had no one else. He spent days and nights by the bedside of the sick, ensuring they had a fighting chance. Many who were once on the brink of death are alive today, touched by his unwavering service.

Now, fate has turned its pages. A cruel act by a few heartless souls robbed him of his ability to walk, but it could not strip him of his dignity. And here, at Snehan Home, he is embraced, supported, and loved—proving that kindness always finds its way back.

Then there is Mr. Rajendaran, a man with a heart so pure it radiates joy in everything he does. His smile never fades, his spirit never wavers. Whether it is collecting the plates of his fellow inmates, tending to our garden, or watching over the entrance like a true guardian, his dedication knows no bounds. His willingness to serve reminds us that true fulfillment lies in giving, in contributing to something greater than ourselves.

At Snehan Home, we cherish him deeply. He is a light, a reminder that no act of kindness is too small.



As the Bible says, “What you sow, so shall you reap.” We see it unfold in Mr. Krishnan’s life—once a giver of love, now receiving the same care he selflessly shared. And in Mr. Rajendaran, we are reminded of a lesson we all must carry: to uplift, to support, and to spread love in every little way we can.

What a beautiful world it would be if we all lived by this truth.

### **DANCING THROUGH THE MIST: THE UNFORGETTABLE YERCAUD EXPERIENCE**

For the ladies of Snehan Tailoring, the trip to Yercaud was more than just a holiday—it was a long-awaited dream come true. After ten years, we finally made it happen, coming together not just as colleagues but as friends, sharing stories, laughter, and joy like never before.



For some, this was their very first trip—never before had they been taken on a journey by their husbands or families. But here, as a team of eighteen, we embraced the experience wholeheartedly. Traveling in a van, we arrived at Hotel Tamil Nadu, where all of us stayed together in a shared room, free from daily responsibilities, without a single worry about cooking or household chores.

We packed not just clothes, but a sound system too—because what’s a celebration without music? For two glorious hours, we took turns dancing, showcasing talents, and letting our spirits soar. Every meal was an adventure,

shared as a group with food of our choice, savored with smiles that reflected the pure happiness of the moment.



Strolling through the mesmerizing flower show, we marveled at the vibrant beauty of nature. We played like carefree children in the park, and for the first time in their lives, many of us experienced the thrill of boat riding—two boats, eight women per boat, gliding over the water with uncontrollable excitement and joy.

Then came an unexpected wonder—at 6:30 PM, a thick mist enveloped us, turning the world into a dreamy haze where even those standing ten feet away seemed to disappear into the fog. It was a surreal experience, knowing that just 22 kilometers below, the heat blazed at 100°C, while here, we stood wrapped in the cool embrace of the hills.

Evenings were spent walking by the lake, exploring exhibitions, shopping for little souvenirs to keep the magic of Yercaud alive in our hearts. A delightful surprise awaited us—a chance encounter with Salem RR Biryani, leading us to buy parcels and savor the flavors back at our hotel, turning it into a night to remember.

And then, at the highest point of the hill, we gazed upon Salem city, a tiny masterpiece below us. In that moment, we felt the splendor of God’s creation, realizing just how breathtaking the world truly is. To stand in awe of such beauty, to live and cherish it—that is a blessing beyond words.

This trip was not just a getaway—it was a celebration of friendship, freedom, and the simple joys of life. A chapter in our lives we will hold close to our hearts forever.

### **A FATHER'S LOVE NEVER FADES: SNEHAN'S TRIBUTE TO THE UNSUNG HEROES**

“One father is more than a hundred schoolmasters.” — George Herbert

Fathers are God's masterpiece, placed on this earth to embody love, kindness, and unwavering guidance. None of us come into this world without a father, and while some may never truly experience a father's love, most have been blessed by their wisdom, their sacrifices, and their silent strength.



Today, at Snehan, we joyfully celebrate Father's Day in our rehabilitation center—honoring these extraordinary men for who they are and all they have given. These fathers devoted their lives to their children, sacrificing dreams, working tirelessly, and ensuring their families were uplifted. They labored day and night to provide education, comfort, and security, often forgoing their own needs just to nourish their little ones.

Yet, heartbreakingly, as children grow independent, they sometimes forget the hands that once held them, the shoulders that carried their burdens, and the sacrifices made without hesitation. Many fathers find themselves abandoned, wandering the streets, deprived of even basic necessities, simply because their children no longer wish to have them at home. The pain they carry is immeasurable.



The Bible reminds us, “Honor your father and mother,” a commandment given by God as a sacred duty. Now though they may no longer have their children by their side, Snehan stands with them today, honoring their sacrifices, cherishing their goodness, and reminding the world that their love deserves recognition, respect, and deep gratitude.

Happy Father's Day!

### **RESTORING HOPE: WHEN LOVE AND CARE BEGIN THE HEALING**

Mr. Subramaniam, a gentleman believed to be in his seventies, was recently rescued by the Sharon Society of Pondicherry and entrusted to Snehan Home for residential care and medical support. Sadly, very little is known about his background. At the time of admission, he was not in a sound state of mind and was critically ill. He could not walk on his own and suffered from severe infected wounds—deep ulcers on his back, and painful injuries on his hands and legs.



Upon arrival, we bathed him in warm water and gently cleaned his wounds. The following day, he was taken to the hospital for further medical attention. Since then, he has been receiving daily wound care and treatment for his illness.

We are hopeful that, in time, he will recover physically. And if his mental clarity improves, we dream of tracing his origins and, if possible, reuniting him with his family.

At Snehan Home, it brings us profound joy to witness lives slowly transformed. Many come to us in near-death conditions, but with compassionate care and unwavering love, they begin to heal. Each small step toward recovery inspires us to continue this journey with even greater determination.



### Dear Friends,

The Snehan activities would not be possible without your help and contribution. Therefore, on behalf of all our beneficiaries and board members, we say thank you very much for your support. Do share our quarterly newsletter with your friends...

We need your financial support to run Snehan Home for the neglected old and sick adults on streets. Do support us to bring values and save lives of old people.

We are looking for committed and likeminded volunteers to support us in Snehan activities, interested candidates can apply through Snehan

website. <https://www.snehan.org/become-a-volunteer/>

With warmest regards,

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If you wish to support the Snehan activities,

You can contribute online from our website:

<https://www.snehan.org/donate-now/>