

HEART TO HEART TALK

JUNE, 2020

From the Desk of Chitra Viswanathan

The COVID -19 Pandemic has challenged the world as never before, and it has forced us into an extended lockdown. This health crisis has impacted businesses, lives, and livelihoods of so many. We sincerely hope each one of you, your family, and your community are safe and healthy.

We take this moment to appreciate and applaud all the frontline healthcare workers, first responders, and essential services workers for keeping the rest of us safe.

Health crisis like this allows us to reflect and be grateful for the opportunity to serve the underserved and underprivileged families. Aishwarya Trust was started in March 2008 with a mission to help needy children suffering from congenital heart defects (CHD). For 12 years, the Trust has focused on saving young lives and bringing hope to countless families.

AISHWARYA TRUST AND MGM HEALTHCARE, A NEW PARTNERSHIP

This year has been an eventful one for Aishwarya Trust. After a decade-long association with Fortis Malar, On November 1, 2019, Aishwarya Trust officially partnered with MGM Healthcare. Dr. K.R. Balakrishnan, India's foremost cardiac surgeon, along with his reputed team of cardiac specialists, also moved to MGM Healthcare. Located in Aminjikarai, Chennai, MGM Healthcare is now our primary hospital. This partnership marks our renewed commitment to saving young lives and providing the best world-class pediatric care to children in need.

Globally, the economic impact of COVID Pandemic is going to be significant. We realize that the second half of 2020 is going to be challenging. This is the time we need to redouble our efforts and rededicate ourselves to our cherished mission of saving young lives. Many of our young CHD patients and their families are waiting for hospitals to recommence surgeries and for routine screening camps to resume. We look forward to continuing our relationships with our donors, doctors, and volunteers - together we can surmount any challenges and bring hope and smile to those in need.

As we continue our journey, we take a moment to highlight some of our key achievements during the current Financial Year, April 2019 to March 2020.

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy.

Best wishes,

Chitra Viswanathan



Dr. K.R. Balakrishnan cutting cake to mark the 12th Anniversary of Aishwarya Trust

APRIL 2019- MARCH 2020 – ACHIEVEMENT IN NUMBERS

Number of screenings

8000

Number of surgeries

502

Number of heart transplants

21

HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO OUR DONORS

Much of our work would not have been possible without the generosity and continued support of our Donors.



HDFC Life is one of Aishwarya Trust's largest Donors and has been supporting our CHD Program for the past 3 years. The active engagement of HDFC Life's senior management with Aishwarya Trust's operations has been a great source of motivation for all of us.

The HT Parekh Foundation, a CSR arm of HDFC, completely funds our Pediatric Heart Transplant Program. Heart transplant is a high cost procedure, which is normally beyond the reach of underprivileged families. We acknowledge the Foundation's invaluable role in helping our goal of saving precious young lives.

Terumo India has been a generous supporter of Aishwarya Trust for the past 4 years. Their support and involvement in our Screening Program has been especially noteworthy.

Primavera India, Plasser India, and TE Connectivity have been long term donors to Aishwarya Trust's CHD Program. Deutsche Bank and Cognizant Foundation too have supported us over the years.

Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI) and WABCO are the latest to support us in 2019.

SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDING SCREENING CAMPS:

Early diagnosis and timely treatment are vital to realizing the Trust's vision – "Save little hearts and bring down the infant mortality rate." Screening camps are, therefore, integral to our success. In collaboration with partner hospitals, we bring screening camps to people across small towns and villages. These camps provide economically challenged families an opportunity for early detection and timely correction of CHD as well as identify children suffering from critical conditions like complete heart failure. If detected early, these children have a chance at a new lease of life and an opportunity to build a bright future for themselves.

This year we have successfully screened over 8000 children. Aishwarya Trust works with Govt of Tamil Nadu, under the auspices of the RBSK Program of Rural Health Mission, for screening children, for CHD, at select Govt. Medical College hospitals. At these camps, our team identifies children who need medical intervention and transport them to our tertiary center. Here, these children are provided quality care and treatment with the help of the State Government Insurance Scheme and Aishwarya Trust funding. Every Wednesday of the month, our ongoing screening camps are held by rotation to cover Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, Vellore, and Chengalpattu districts. Further, Aishwarya Trust has partnered with Rotary Club and its "Gift of Heart" program. Under this partnership, Rotary Club will run the screening camps to diagnose children with heart defects and in need of medical intervention. Aishwarya Trust will provide financial and medical support for these children and bring them to MGM Healthcare, Chennai for further evaluation and surgery. The first round of these screening camps was held at Erode, Coimbatore, and Tirupur. More towns will soon be added to this growing list. The goal of the Aishwarya Trust Screening Program is to fund treatment for at least 600 – 700 children every year.



On February 4, 2020, Dr. Rajesh Kumar of MGM Healthcare led a team of health care workers to perform bi-weekly screening and diagnostics at the Saidapet Corporation Hospital. Mr. K.K. Sridhar, Trustee, Aishwarya Trust, was present to observe the screening camp in progress.



DATA PLATFORM LAUNCH IN 2021

Aishwarya Trust is developing a Beneficiary Information System (AT BIS) to capture and store key information pertaining to Aishwarya Trust's beneficiaries through the lifecycle of their engagement with AT. The objective of this record keeping is to facilitate (a) audits including donor audits; (b) patient review by doctors from remote camp locations; and (c) analysis and research that can help improve the effectiveness of the Program. Due care will be taken to maintain the confidentiality of all patient data with access strictly limited on a 'need to know' basis. Aishwarya Trust plans to deploy its BIS in Q1 of FY 2021.



MGM Cardiac Team with Dr. K.R. Balakrishnan

FUNDING AFFORDABLE LVAD RESEARCH - OUR NEXT MISSION

Heart transplant may be the only hope of survival for many patients (adults and children) with end-stage heart disease. Patients assessed suitable and eligible for a heart transplant often wait several months for a suitable donor. A Ventricular Assist Device (VAD) is increasingly being used to keep the patient alive and well till a heart transplant can be performed. However, the high cost of a VAD, which is not supported by Insurance makes it unaffordable.

The prohibitive cost of VADs inspired Dr. K.R. Balakrishnan, Co-founder Aishwarya Trust, and India's leading cardiothoracic surgeon to find a solution for accessible and affordable low-cost VADs. In partnership with a team of Doctors from the Circulatory Support Private Technologies, Pvt Ltd, Sydney Australia, Dr. K.R. Balakrishnan is working on designing a low-cost VAD. The prototype has received a Patent from the USPTO (United States Patent & Trademarks Office) This device is currently under clinical testing and trial before commercialization. Aishwarya Trust is looking to raise funds for this important and path-breaking research work.

AISHWARIYA TRUST CELEBRATES ITS 12TH ANNUAL DAY



Mr. R. Ramasubramanian, AVP, HDFC Life receiving a memento from Dr. Suresh Rao, Director, MGM Healthcare. Also seen in the picture, Ms. Chitra Viswanathan and Mr. K.R. Chandrasekhar, Trustee Aishwarya Trust.



Virender Bansal, Director - Finance, Terumo India receiving memento from Ms. Chitra Viswanathan & Dr. Suresh Rao.



Beneficiary children, their families, donors, doctors, and the Aishwarya Trust team come together to mark 12 years of Aishwarya Trust.

Aishwarya Trust celebrated its 12th Annual Day on March 14, 2020, at MGM Hospital, Chennai. Mr. N. Murali, Chairman, Kasturi & Sons Limited, and President of the Music Academy was the Chief Guest. The Annual Day Celebration provided an opportunity for 20 beneficiary children, including heart transplant recipients to meet with their Donors and well-wishers; listen to the stories of their life journey from the team of doctors, and for the Trust to rededicate itself to the mission of saving young lives born with CHD. This celebration also provided an opportunity to felicitate the Trust's two principal donors - HDFC Life and Terumo India. Without the generosity and support of our principal donors, much of our work would not be possible. A short film capturing Aishwarya Trust's purpose and its unique comprehensive program was released on the occasion.

Ms. Chitra Viswanathan, Managing Trustee of Aishwarya Trust, welcomed the gathering. She used the occasion to thank our donors for their generous contributions, the team of Doctors for their selfless service, and our partner hospital MGM Healthcare for their wholehearted support.

SUCCESSFUL HEART TRANSPLANTS HELP TWO YOUNG GIRLS RETURN TO NORMAL LIFE

Eleven-year old Agalya and Seventeen-year-old Tushitha suffered from severe cardiomyopathy and were referred to Dr. K.R. Balakrishnan for further evaluation. Coming from underprivileged families with no financial resources to turn to, the parents of these girls could not even imagine the possibility of a heart transplant. Learning about their stories and their plight, Aishwarya Trust stepped in to fully fund their one last hope - life-saving heart transplant surgery.

Led by Dr. K.R. Balakrishnan and Dr. Suresh Rao, together with a team of cardiac specialists, performed these heart transplant surgeries at MGM Healthcare in November/ December 2019. Both these young girls have since recovered from the surgery and are doing well today.





ONE GREAT TEAM

Dr. K.R. Balakrishnan seen here with the cardiac team, donors and teams from MGM Healthcare and Aishwaryya Trust.

12TH ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATIONS





CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION



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