

EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved.
- Helen Keller

Warm greetings as we begin the New Year and reflect on the past couple of years; the resonance of the above words express a collective sentiment of many who are associated with Passages.

When we're feeling down we need someone to help motivate us, family and friends are an excellent source of encouragement in helping us to rebuild our self-confidence. Often though, words of wisdom do the trick and their keen insight gives us the lift we need.

On the eve of our 25th year (yes, we turn 25 in July 2023), we are filled with appreciation and gratitude for all the learning experiences with their trials that have made us evolve, emerge and enhance our vision — to prepare and strengthen women by education, guidance and support through the various 'passages' of their lives.

The very ethos of Passages is SUPPORT. We do our utmost to extend a helping hand to the caregivers and patients who approach us; in an attempt to give them the strength and resiliency to face challenges of their ongoing treatment. Our support extends in the form of resource information, oral chemotherapy medication supplied on a monthly basis, and extending to financial aid to several patients. Celebratory gifts at festivals are included annually. We are grateful to our donors, for their confidence in their continuous support of us.

We, at Passages, are an inclusive team of women, backing each other through the years; having the underlying belief that we are only as strong as we are united or as weak as we are divided!

Keep holding hands with someone as you go through the various 'PASSAGES' of life!

Kaya Shewakramani

CANCER HEALTH PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES (1st April – 31 Dec. 2022)

a) Medicine Bank

Patients from Cama Hospital were informed of the distribution dates and about 30 patients regularly visited our Office to pick up the Chemotherapy tablets.

Our thanks to Rita Advani, Snehal Salve and Rehana Sheikh for the smooth distribution and documentation of this initiative.

b) Patient Appeals

For this specific period of time from April to December 2022, we had extended Financial Aid to 6 individual patients under our 'illness to wellness' initiative. Two of these were offered assistance for the second and third time to maintain continuity in the treatment.

This monetary help is offered after the Directors scrutinize their appeal forms and recent bills that are given to Snehal at the office. The amounts vary per patient and are scaled accordingly; these may also be a one-time or ongoing.

c) Donations made in Kind / Cheque

Date of Donation	Amount (Rs)	Items & Institute
14.10.2022	4,800/-	5 Study Table / St. Jude's Childcare India
20.10.2022	8,725/-	Food items / Cama Hospital patients
27.10.2022	7,055/-	Food essentials / Shanti Avedna Sadan
27.12.2022	10,199/-	Food items / Cama Hospital patients

DONATIONS IN KIND



20.10.2022: Passages' (Diwali) donation of food items to our regular patients/caregivers who come to the office for chemotherapy tablets every month. Our staff, Snehal, Rehana and Arjun seen with some recipients.)



27.10.2022: Donation of food essentials to Shanti Avedna Sadan, Bandra, as per their requirements. (Our staff members handing over the same to Sr. Ancy, Administrator.)



27.12.2022: Passages' (Christmas) donation of food items to our regular patients/caregivers at the office. (Seen with Kaya Shewakramani, Director, Passages as well as Jeh Khubchandani and Jehan Khubchandani – students volunteering to interact with the patients under the initiative of their school CAS programme. Our gratitude to Simran Khubchandani, sponsor of these gifts.)

CANCER HEALTH PROGRAMME (a report by Rita Advani)

Dear Friends and well wishers, welcome to the start of a New Year.

Let us look forward to a Healthy, Happy and Fresh start.

The Passages' Team continued dispensing Cancer Tablets to our regular patients in 2022. On an average, around 20 to 25 patients visit the Passages' office at the Indian Cancer Institute Medical Centre, Cooperage, once a month, on a given date. Luckily, there were no pandemic roadblocks this time round.

Festivals in 2022 were celebrated with a new zeal. People thronged the streets after two years of exercising caution.

As we had done earlier before the pandemic struck, Diwali gifts were distributed to the patients this year too, in late October.

Just before the New Year a well wisher, Simran Khubchandani, Jeh and Jahan sponsored food items for our regular patients from Cama Hospital.

Our grateful thanks to these twin boys for taking time out to interact with these patients at the office.

Here's wishing everyone well and hoping that the New Year continues on the same positive note.