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## Udayan Care USA Newsletter and Coronavirus Update

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Udayan Care USA's quarterly newsletter.

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"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."

- *Desmond Tutu*

The coronavirus crisis has affected us all, wreaking the most havoc upon those who are most vulnerable. It has presented new and unprecedented challenges to the young women and children served by Udayan Care, as well as to the organization that is working so valiantly to support them. But donations like yours are helping to ensure that the futures of these bright young people are not swallowed up by the darkness. In a time of so much fear, isolation,

and suffering, stories like the ones below remind us that there is grace in our darkest and most difficult trials. Thank you for your support.

**The Udayan Care USA Board:** *Rakhi Agarwal, Jesse George-Nichol, Shraddha Gupta, Anitha Kosanam, Dr. Kiran Modi, Ruchi Saran, Netoo Sethi, Minnie Singh, and Aneesha Wadhwa*

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**Meet Abinaya**  
*A Shalini Fellowship Student - Chennai*

Abinaya grew up in a low-income family--the daughter of a machine operator and a domestic worker. Her family's economic struggles made it difficult to afford school tuition for her and her sister, but her parents desperately wanted both girls to succeed. Abinaya was driven, too. She would study day and night, sequestering herself on a small balcony so as not to disturb the others in her two-room home. She remembers that her mother used to wake up at 4am and bring her milk, anxious to help her daughter succeed.

Becoming a Shalini fellow in 2017 ensured that Abinaya would have the opportunity to continue her studies and pursue her dream of becoming a scientist. But it also gave her a whole new set of skills and resources to help her on her way. "Within 10 months I saw a drastic difference in my personality," she claims, "Before I didn't take initiative...Also I didn't have that much confidence." She's gained both as a Shalini fellow, and as a result she has excelled both in and outside of school.

Now Abinaya is pursuing her B.S. in Physics at one of the best universities in Chennai. When the pandemic hit, the Udayan Shalini Fellowship stepped in to provide her and her family with food and support. USF also helped to secure internet access so that she could continue her studies online, and her local chapter has also set up virtual workshops and supplementary classes to help Abinaya and her sister fellows. In a crisis that is hitting the most vulnerable the hardest, the Udayan Shalini Fellowship program is helping to ensure that the futures of bright young women like Abinaya are not another casualty of its ravages.

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## Going Digital



When India went into lockdown this spring, Indian schools transitioned to online learning virtually overnight. While this transition has been difficult everywhere, it has been particularly so in places like India, where less than 40% of people have access to the internet (compared to 90% in the US). Udayan Care is working to provide access to all the children in its 17 Ghars, as well as to online resources, daily Zoom Yoga and Zumba classes,

and interhome activities like "Quizantine" contests. The process has been aided by Udayan Care's Emergency Response Fund. You can [donate now](#) to help ensure equal access for UC's Ghar children.

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## Finding a Way



Amid the myriad challenges of the pandemic, Udayan Care USA's amazing supporters are finding creative ways to raise funds to meet the unprecedented needs of India's most vulnerable women and children. In May Niraj Saran raised \$2,191.00 for Udayan Care by running his first Ultra Marathon (31.2 miles). He dedicated his run to his parents to honor their love, guidance, and inspiration and to Udayan Care, which has sought to provide the same for over 1,100 children growing up without parental care. This generous donation will help a girl from an underprivileged background reach her full potential by funding her Bachelor of Computer Science, Engineering, or Medicine degree.

Click [here](#) to learn more about how you can get involved.

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### Udayan Care USA's Mission

To provide a nurturing home for every orphaned child; an opportunity for higher education for every girl; and for every adult, the dignity of self-reliance and the desire to give back to society. To learn more about the Udayan Ghar (Home) and the Udayan Shalini Fellowship Programs, please go to [www.udayancareusa.org](http://www.udayancareusa.org)

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