
Udayan Care USA Spring Newsletter

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Udayan Care USA's quarterly newsletter.

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The past year has been one of great hardship and loss, and the Udayan Care USA family has not been spared from tragedy. In January we lost one of our own--long-serving UCUSA board member and Executive Director of Udayan Care, Aneesha Wadhwa. Aneesha was a profoundly kind and deeply loyal friend; she was incredibly vivacious and effervescent; and she devoted her life to helping others. We dedicate this newsletter to her, knowing that the best tribute we can offer to her memory is to carry on the work to which she gave so much of herself. For all she gave as a friend and colleague, and especially as a champion of the young women and children of Udayan Care, we honor her. You can read tributes to [Aneesha here](#).

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



Meet Snegha

A Shalini Fellowship Student - Chennai

The beautiful Snegha (pictured above, wearing red) was born to a poor family in Chennai. Her father works as a TukTuk driver, and both of her parents are illiterate. Their limited resources, financial and otherwise, greatly restricted their ability to provide for Snegha's future and that of her two sisters. Still, they always wanted better for their children, and Snegha dreamed from a young age of rising to the top of her class. At ten years old she wrote in her slam book that she wanted to see her name at the top of the board honoring the best students in her school. She worked tirelessly toward this goal, but in spite of her academic achievements it seemed impossible that Snegha would be able to continue her education beyond the tenth grade. That is when free schooling ends in India, and her family simply could not afford to pay for private education.

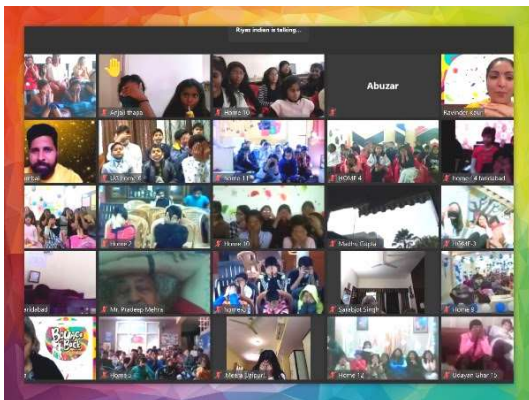
Becoming an Udayan Shalini Fellow meant not only that Snegha would be able to finish high school and pursue higher education but also that she would gain new skills and resources to excel in her studies. When the pandemic hit, impoverished young women like Snegha were particularly vulnerable, and many of them were married off in order to relieve some of the economic burden on their families. The Udayan Shalini Fellowship helped to ensure that Snegha was not one of them, and she has been able to continue her studies despite the additional challenges facing her family. USF provided her and her fellow Shalinis with phones and data plans to give them access to online classes, in addition to offering supplemental virtual classes and workshops to help them adjust to their new normal. As a result, Snegha is doing better than ever.

She scored a 92% on her 12th grade final exams, and she is working toward her dream of becoming a top-level bureaucrat for the Indian government. The Shalini program paired her with a retired IAS officer, who is serving as her mentor and helping her toward her goal. Snegha epitomizes the Shalini program's ethos of hard work, integrity, and service; she is a true "Shalini," and her future has never looked brighter. You can help support young women like Snegha [here](#).



Udayan Care officially turned 27 on February 7, 2021. During that time, Udayan Care has transformed the lives of more than 30,000 women, children, and youth across India. The organization began with just one small Ghar in Sant Nagar, Delhi in 1996. Now it serves 211 children in 17 Ghars, 33 young women and men in 2 Aftercare facilities, 3,600 young women in 21 Shalini chapters, and 485 youth in 14 IT Centers. Here's wishing Udayan Care the same growth and success for the next 27 years. Happy birthday!

Virtual Winter Carnival



On February 21, Udayan Care held its first ever virtual Winter Carnival for its Ghar children. More than 250 children from 17 Ghars participated, as well as 100 staff members and Mentor Parents, 20 alumni, and a host of volunteers and officials from Team Adidas India and Samhita. Ghar children performed group dances and skits, and they also enjoyed mimicry by Mr. Riyaz Indian and a magic show by Mandar the Magician. The event offered a wonderful respite from life in quarantine, bringing the Udayan Care family together again in a safe and truly special way.

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

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