



# **We miss you Aneesha!**

**Ms Aneesha Wadhwa**

November 15, 1976 – January 4, 2021





I sometimes hold it half a sin  
To put in words the grief I feel;  
For words, like Nature, half reveal  
And half conceal the Soul within.  
But, for the unquiet heart and brain,  
A use in measured language lies;  
The sad mechanic exercise,  
Like dull narcotics, numbing pain.  
In words, like weeds, I'll wrap me o'er,  
Like coarsest clothes against the cold:  
But that large grief which these enfold  
Is given in outline and no more ...

**Alfred, Lord Tennyson**





## Ms Aneesha Wadhwa

A Brand-Communications professional by education and career, Aneesha decided to be a homemaker and an available mother, when her son was born but continued to contribute her professional services, in a voluntary capacity to us, at Udayan Care, an organisation, serving the cause of 'children without parental care', and also for those in their families, but from disadvantaged backgrounds. She became a mother to hundreds of them, and engulfed them with her love and care and brought stability and nurturance in their lives. Rising steadily, from being a Mentor Mother to an Advisory Board Member, to a Trustee, she served every role in Udayan Care, with equal passion and aplomb. Her interest in Aftercare for children in Alternative Care took her to study further and hone her skills to become an Oxford Gurukul Fellow in 2018. In 2019, seeing her brilliant, passionate, focussed approach, she was requested to become the Executive Director, and she led from her heart and soul for 1.9 years. Her untimely demise has left everyone shocked and bereaved.

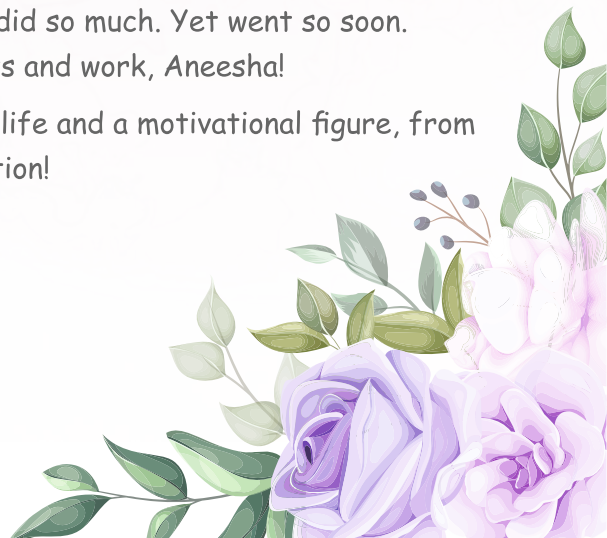
Her's was a soul that illuminated and inspired the world around her with love, compassion, energy and spirit. She truly was a leader of people, through her intelligence, focus, and devotion, a leader who played multiple roles with equal dexterity. One that did so much. Yet went so soon.

Shall never be able to fill your place in our hearts and work, Aneesha!

You said you were mini Kiran, whereas you became larger than life and a motivational figure, from whom all of us take our inspiration!

**Kiran Modi**

Founder-Managing Trustee  
Udayan Care





My world became better since you came along! You made me believe in myself and pulled me, channelized, and opened my eyes to the better side of the world.

To an orphaned and abandoned girl who had lost all her trust in people, you showed utmost love and hugged her until everything felt alright. I saw the whole world in your eyes and poured my heart onto your hands, you understood and accepted me the way I am. Your strength gave me the courage to fight because I remember you saying -  
Life never gets easy, it's you who gets tough!

Today I am compelled to open my eyes in the world which you aren't in it. Only your teachings and love remains and I promise to keep you in the safest corner of my heart and live the life you helped me build. Di, you will just not be missed, you will be celebrated each and every day. You told me - If you could help one person get an abroad education, you'd fulfil your life's purpose, to this I'll say- If I could become half like you, I'd fulfil my life's purpose too. Love you so much di and have fun with the angels above. Your rebel girl

**Sakshi**

Alumni, Udayan Ghar



To make a difference in someone's life you don't have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful or perfect you just have to care and be yourself. She said it all the time. In the eyes of the world, you've just been the mother, daughter, wife and the ED pushed up, But we remember now in love, Your life from when you started your journey with Udayan to end, And we're just glad we knew you as the best Mother, as a best friend, as the best guide, and an inspiration to all. You were our best friend, someone we could confide in, a shoulder to cry on, secrets to share warm hearts and hands that care. you touched our hearts, you touched our souls, you changed our lives and you changed our goals. You were there when we took our first steps and went unsteadily in the outside world. You pushed and prodded encouraged and guided, you are a true definition of love and perfection. You will always be remembered as the strongest woman, a perfect daughter, coolest friend and an incredible mother of proud daughters.

**Simi**

Alumni, Udayan Ghar





To my love of life Aneesha di. There isn't a single day I don't think about you. Each time I look at your picture, I get a sharp pain in my chest and start thinking of all the memories you left me with. While I sit and write this letter I am getting all the beautiful memories of us.

You were not only a mother to me but my best friend. A friend that I never had to pretend to be anything. I was always me when I was with u. I miss how I use to keep my head on your shoulder or lap and you used to put your fingers into my hair and say I love u' choti'.

I loved our lunch dates and our gossips about everything. I loved how you were always so interested in what's happening in our lives. I will always miss u di. I will always regret that I will not be able to get married in your presence because I know how happy and excited you would be seeing your choti getting married. I miss your voice, miss your beautiful smile. I remember how you used to brag about each one of us and sound like typical Indian mommy you were so proud of us and we will never let you down. I love you the most Aneesha di. I miss your tight hugs and kisses. A part of me is still lost and I am wondering if I will ever get it back. Love you- Your Choti

**Pooja**

Alumni, Udayan Ghar



"Dearest Aneesha (MY ANEESHA),

It'll take me forever to accept that I can't pick up my phone to message you and make you feel guilty about not having enough time for me! You weren't my sister, but I have lost a person I went home to. You weren't my best friend, but now I don't have a person I can pour my heart out to.

You weren't my mentor, but I feel directionless now that you aren't around. You weren't my daughter, but you knew I had never felt so protective about any other soul on this planet. And you were certainly not my mother, but for the first time, I do feel like an orphan, a word that you knew I always hated and ran away from. You made me believe I was one of the most independent, self-sufficient people you knew. You made me believe I was the most thoughtful person in your life.

You made me believe I am a badass who can achieve anything and everything I dream about. And most of all, you made me believe that I am gifted with the quality of making people around me feel special. Today, when I close my eyes and think about all the wonderful things you made me believe, I realize it was only because those were all YOUR qualities that you saw in me. I can't thank God enough for every second of the amazing time I have had with you and for the countless memories, you have left me with! Your daughter, not by blood but from the pure gold heart you had,

Love you much more than you ever accepted I could,

**Gurmeet**

Alumni, Udayan Ghar





It's not easy for me to give voice to my thoughts and emotions I have for Di. I keep myself BUSY with the things I do because every time I stop doing work I think about you. It's not easy for me to give up the thought that I won't be able to see you again and whenever this thought comes across it suddenly becomes harder to breathe. It's like an invisible pain passes through my body. I think I'll MISS YOU forever. You'll always be in my heart, in my mind and my thoughts. I LOVE YOU DI... I am trying my best to swim across the ocean of emotions you created and I promise I'll manage to swim over. I promise you that the path of "being strong" showed by you to me - I'll try my best and make you proud by being what you wanted me to be. That will be a Farewell gift from me to you!!! Love you a lot and miss you too baba...!

**Ruhi Mahajan**

Alumni, Udayan Ghar





I am struggling and my hands are trembling right now to communicate my sentiments on something which has impacted my life tremendously. The departure of a passionate, optimistic and someone I used to look up to, a soul who touched and transformed the lives of thousands of underprivileged children, left a never filling void in my heart. Ever Since she has left, it has been strenuous for me to receive and comprehend the fact that the dearest and greatly loved "Aneesha didi " by the whole Udayan Family left us all alone. I joyfully ponder over and reminisce the times of the past when we both exchanged thoughts and experiences on travelling loved by both of us the most. She always encouraged and supported me to travel as much as I can and muster the uncountable and joyful treasures of this exquisite life. Last, I spoke with her on her birthday in November. She sounded so cheerful and full of life and in that 15 minutes conversation, we both discussed my life, her life, and the plans for Udayan Care she had. What a conversation we had !. At the age of 40, she appeared as young and fit like some slender young girl. What a veracious woman she was. I want to send her a hug and loads of love wherever she is. I believe she is still showering her unconditional and infinite love on all of us and would keep doing it until our existence.

### **Neelam Udayan**

Alumni, Udayan Ghar





I came in contact with Aneesha around 2010 when I first started volunteering at Noida children's home. Over the years I could see what a dynamic personality she had. She was ever so assuming, simple and always full of knowledge and energy. The love and compassion she had for every Udayan Care child and youth were just really beyond description. After taking over as ED in Udayan Care in April 2019, her deep involvement across all the programs was exemplary. She was a great leader who could inspire and motivate everyone with her strong commitment to the cause of Udayan Care.

I am of the view that the void she has left would take a long time to get filled or plugged. Also sitting in heaven I am sure she will continue sending her blessings to each one of us. I would personally miss her in my life-time just like I miss my father who went for his heavenly abode 30 years back in a road accident. God bless Aneesha 's soul

**Deepak Sharma**

Trustee, Udayan Care



When I met Aneesha she had volunteered with Udayan care a while and was now in the capacity of a Mentor Mother to 12 girls in the Mehrauli home. Youngest mentor mother...the way she was occupied and the time invested in the girls futures at such a young age of becoming a Mentor.... impressed me very much. She was inspirational and I was drawn to her instantly. We would think very similarly and I would always say, 'A, you are my Siamese twin, and am so impressed with the way you conduct yourself and everything around you. You have the qualities of a true leader' and she would laugh and reply 'Excuse me, you have no idea how much in awe of you I am!' It was mutual admiration but I knew Aneesha would surpass me in many ways and she did. She was the support I needed at work and slowly and steadily roles reversed and she started getting me to work for her and I would tease her and always call her 'My Boss'. She was firm yet gentle, very encouraging and motivating, always willing to listen and learn. Extremely polite.... Thank you and Excuse me were very much a part of her Vocabulary. Ingrained in her, she would keep apologizing to me for the number of times she would say thanks even for very simple things as though it's a huge favour done. Her 'thank you' and then Sorry for it became our little joke! I can go on and on about Aneesha. Spent so much time with her over 16-17 years but seems like much more.... Will miss you loads 'A' (I always called her that). Gone too soon leaving a huge void but I wish you peace and hope you are happy wherever you are. Aneesha, the highly spirited and always charged up, WILL BE MISSED but is a life that needs to be CELEBRATED not Mourned. I will always have you in my heart and I know every time I shut my eyes I will see those gorgeous dimples and the colour coordinated frames.... an image that will always remain with me. Love you my friend, sister and partner in crime... Rest in peace

**Meera Sawhny**

Trustee, Udayan Care



"Although it's difficult today to see beyond the sorrow, I am hopeful that looking back in memory may bring some comfort to our tomorrow". You will be missed Aneesha, your purpose, your passion and your perseverance have all been priceless! Lots of love.

### **Akansha Arora**

Advisory Board Member, Udayan Care

In our heart and eyes, she was the torch-bearer of the future for Udayan care.

In my three decades of volunteering with various NGO's, Kiran is one of the most compassionate, passionate, committed, competent leader, I have come across, all-in-one.

Aneesha surpassed Kiran in many ways, she had all this and more, she inspired others to find purpose, nurture passion, motivated perseverance, provide guidance and thought leadership.... We all were at rest that we have found our leader for generation next. Until..... younger Kiran lost its flame. But her leadership qualities stay with us. We will always miss you, Aneesha.

### **Sanjeev Gupta**

Advisory Board Member, Udayan Care

Had known Aneesha for around 16 years as a person and as a professional.

Always wondered how can someone be working so passionately voluntarily for a cause I just got introduced to back 2004-5. Her passion and love for the cause were infectious.

Over the last 2 years, while working with her closely on a few assignments, I realised that it had only grown within Aneesha, and she only became another source of inspiration for me to give my best. Her love for kids at Udayan Ghars and her focus on improving their life was unmatched. She shall be missed while we meet various milestones laid by her at Udayan Care.

### **Sameer Mehta**

Advisory Board Member, Udayan Care

Dearest Aneesha, undoubtedly the grieving from your sudden departure is beyond description. But, you must know that you taught us hope. Your energy, your passion, your care and your laughter will always light a path for us. Wherever you are, rest peacefully. And, know this, what you began will never stop. Love

### **Sanjay Gupta**

Trustee, Udayan Care





In 2004, a young, chirpy visitor came to home 3 to join us as a volunteer-that was Aneesha. With her loving disposition, ready smile and charming dimples, she soon won the hearts of not only the girls, but the five mentors as well. Immediately we felt so comfortable with her, like we had known her for years. Soon, it became evident that she too was loving the work Udayan Care was doing, for she gave up her job with Discovery Channel and joined us full time. A new designation of 'mentor didi' was coined by us and a new family member was introduced into the lives of the girls. The addition of a younger person was of great advantage as we were able to understand the girls better, and in turn, the girls found a brilliant role model in her. It is amazing how beautifully she gelled with all of us and how much she brought in with her. She was truly a God-send to home 3, in particular, and Udayan Care as a whole, for she was made a trustee and later the ED of the organisation.

When the heart is full of emotions  
comforting words stumble and fail,  
a drop in the eye washes oceans,  
a gentle touch writes volumes  
and poignant silence says it all.  
Simple joys cherished most  
are moments spent with loved ones.  
Little gestures touch a chord  
to give one's life a meaning.  
It matters not how long you live,  
It matters more about what you  
can give. Your body comes and  
passes on, the deeds you do is what  
lives on.



## **Dolly Anand**

Mentor Mother, Udayan Ghar 3

Dearest Aneesha,

I cannot even begin to imagine the deep despair and heartbreak that you must have felt at that moment. If only you would have reached out to someone who could have been there to remind you of the "Astonishing Light of Your Own Being" when you "were lonely and in darkness." Alas, that was not to be and we, in Udayan Care, are all left with terrible heartbreak.

We can no longer look upon that smiling, dimpled face that always brought great joy to everyone who met you. However, I promise you this. The memory of your smiling face will never fade and the bright light of your being will always envelop us, especially the many children whom you nurtured and loved. In grief,

**Isabel Sahni**

Mentor Mother, Udayan Ghar 1



No one can heal, love leaves a memory, no one can steal. People, we love, disappear from our lives, we seek comfort in the memories of good things happened. It's difficult to move Past the pain...but memories keep hearts warm forever. We never lose the person we love....They continue to participate in every act, thoughts and decisions.

### **Madhu Gupta**

Mentor Mother, Udayan Ghar 2 & 8



I miss Aneesha. She was such a beautiful, vibrant, vivacious woman so full of life. Ever smiling with beautiful dimples and great energy and passion, I met her at Udayan Care. I met her at the Mukteshwar Marathon where she and Pankaj were raising funds for the school they were building in Uttarakhand. I met her and her family eating dosas at Udipiwala in Kathgodam. I watched her vibrant and full of energy at the Udayan Shalini Fellowship Conference at the India International Centre. She was everywhere and everyone loved her because she showered so much love on everyone. Why was I not there to shower some love back on her when she needed it? I will miss her deeply and always remember her with great fondness and affection.

### **Ricky Surie**

Chief Mentor, Udayan Shalini Fellowship (USF)



The news of sudden demise of Aneesha has shocked all members of the Core Committee of Gurugram Chapter of USF. It was difficult for all of us to believe that someone who was present with them on Dec 28, 2020 during online Induction Ceremony of 9th Batch of the Chapter was no more. Her energy, zeal and enthusiasm to carry forward mission of Udayan Care will be missed by all. It must have been a shattering personal experience for you as she was always by your side in all activities of Udayan Care. We pray to Almighty to grant peace to the loving departed soul and give strength to the bereaved family and all associated with Udayan Care to bear this irreparable loss. Please convey our heartfelt condolences to family members of Aneesha. In Remembrance,

**All Members of Core Committee**

Gurugram Chapter of USF Program





The sun still rises and sets leaving its glorious colours behind and I still pick up my phone to capture the moment to share it with you and then am reminded that you are not there. I still keep making notes of points to discuss with you during our monthly catch ups or messaging you when something about UC is bothering me or if there is an exciting opportunity. I miss sharing my personal ups and downs in the past month and listening to yours.

I don't think we were able to solve each other's problems but we knew the other person was there. We still have our board and USF meetings and I miss your ideas or frankness or side messages. I miss you Aneesha! I wish you peace and hope you are smiling when you read this from up there. You were a lot more special than you realised.

**Pooja Mehra**

Convener, USF, Mumbai Chapter





Aneesha, a life well lived but gone too soon. Remembering Aneesha is like visiting sunshine. Her commitment, spontaneity, empathy, attitude, and grace speak volumes about the person she is. The greatest tribute would be to imbibe those qualities and take her legacy forward....that's how we at Mumbai would like to remember her. Our Shalinis will do you proud.

### USF Mumbai Team



#### She Is Gone

You can shed tears that she is gone  
Or you can smile because she has lived  
You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back  
Or you can open your eyes and see all that she has left  
Your heart can be empty because you can't see her  
Or you can be full of the love that you shared  
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday  
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday  
You can remember her and only that she is gone  
Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on  
You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back  
Or you can do what she would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

Her smile, her ideas and her sheer energy, is what I will always remember. Aneesha!  
We will create the USF, that she wanted us to.

**Nayna Prabhu**  
USF, Pune chapter





The name Aneesha in a spiritual context has several meanings. The one when associated with humans, means 'someone feeling helpless' at times and I speculate that she felt that with herself or the speed of change for the cause she was championing all her life. It will always be a mystery laced with deep sadness that I was not around to alleviate that feeling. The godly meaning of Aneesha is 'someone who is the supreme' and the work she did and where she is, now defines that perfectly. The world, the cause of girl child liberation lost one of its best advocates forever. I will always miss Aneesha as she was the energy to my joining Udayan in 2016 and at various other stages. I truly loved our chats and she was always oozing adrenalin on every issue at any time of the day. May you find peace and divinity and lucky are those who are around you now. I hope her near and dear find the strength to cope with this loss.

**Naveen Narayan**

USF, Chennai Chapter

Blessed souls like her will live with us eternally through the selfless ideas.

We will always be connected with her that way

**Jothilakshmi Sundaresan**

USF, Chennai Chapter



Though a short period but I have learnt a lot from her.. My deepest condolences to her family and Udayan family.. I am sure she will always be remembered for her work in the fraternity.. Om shanti !  
My deepest regards to a beautiful soul and an enriched professional. Aneesha leaves us with a void that can never be filled. Rest in peace

**Arundhati Sen**

USF, Kolkata Chapter

Aneesha was an evolved soul and a true Karma Yogi like Swami Vivekanand and Swami Satyananda, who chose the moment of their own Maha Samadhi. She left an indelible imprint on the hearts and minds of each and every person she came in contact with and will continue to inspire us to work harder and do more, and we will always strive to do so because of the love she lavished on us and the deep affection we have for her that is embedded forever in our hearts.

**USF team members**

Aurangabad Chapter

'You shall be missed'..A void created in Udayan Care family.. May her soul rest in peace...

**Sudha Bazaz**

USF, Aurangabad Chapter





We will miss the ever young, always with energy, vivacious smile..Aneesha. Aneesha not present will leave a vacuum for us the Udayan Family. Prayers for strength to the Wadhwa family and Udayan Family

**Kiran Anuradha Dhoot**

USF, Aurangabad Chapter

Just heard about Aneesha. Such a big blow to us at Udayan. Unbelievable!!! We had a video call just the other day planning for the new inductions. Life is such a bubble... God bless her soul.

**Rajnish Virmani**

Member USF, Gurugram Chapter

I'll remember Aneesha as a dynamic and vivacious lady, who always believed in the cause of Udayan Care. Her untimely death is an irreparable loss to Udayan Care family. I will remember her as a good friend and a great colleague. Through her power of communication, she had been able to convince everyone and make friends. She was a source of energy and dynamism.

It will be difficult to forget her for a long time.

**Arun Talwar**

COO, Udayan Care





Do you 'hear me' Aneesha?

It's been over 10 hours now that I have just been thinking about you. About your smiling face, your energy, your passionate way of reaching out and your clarity. Above all your words that you would so much love to be in the ART department and work on Aftercare as that was so close to your heart! Just cannot overcome my urge of calling you. To tell you that I was trying to learn a lot from you - to not work in the 'madness' and not keep crazy' timelines. Your advice that I needed to take a few steps back, that I needed to go out for my walks daily and that it was me more than anyone else who would take on more than one could chew... my promise to you that in future, I would not be overwhelmed and think and plan realistically. And last but the most important confession that you made to me right after the convention - that you cannot manage so much at one go and you wondered how I did it all... words are just doing its rounds in my head...I have not been able to take my mind off you and the memories of having worked with you so closely for the last two years. How I am feeling blessed and happier that I was able to hug you recently in office, despite the corona norms, just because both of us needed that 'hug' and later I felt so happy that I had shared this with all my team.

Whenever I complained or made a point, you would say "I hear you Leena"! The 'EUSARF' paper we wrote painstakingly is yet not published - it was the first paper we co-authored together and you were so happy for its final shape. How could you not live to see the paper published? I have so many questions to ask you and so keen to have presented my Q3 review to you soon. You had wished for a 'gentler' 2021 but the year has begun on a most cruel note. 2020 was much better. I hope you hear me wherever you have gone. Stay happy and smiling. Sending this note to you with love and hugs!

**Leena**

Asst. Director, Udayan Care (A.R.T.)





Martine just told me that Aneesha has passed away. My sincere condolences to you and the whole Udayan Family. I only knew her briefly but even through the cameras during the online Convention, it was obvious that she had such a beautiful spirit and energy and love for the children and for what she was doing. I am sure that much of this will stay in your hearts forever, but know that you all will miss her very much. May the solidarity and love and hope that is the Udayan family give you all comfort and strength. I am thinking of you!

With my warmest regards,

**Anna Schmid**

FICE, Switzerland

Please accept condolences from myself and the entire Kiran Anjali Project team for your loss. Sending our thoughts and prayers to Aneesha's family, the Udayan Care team, and everyone she touched with her positivity and energy. I feel honoured to have met Aneesha and witness a bit of her magic.

May her soul rest in peace.

With deepest sympathy,

Nita and the Kiran

**Anjali Project team**

USA



The death of Aneesha has touched me very much and I feel, my dearest Kiran, that your heart is bleeding. This is a terrible loss for her family but also for her chosen family Udayan Care.

Joy and sorrow are parts of our life, but "the most important thing is the traces of love we leave behind when we go away" (Albert Schweitzer). With heartfelt sympathy and a warm embrace, yours

**GerlindeBüchinger-Schmid**

Germany

Still out of words.... our paths just crossed.... Your energy, passion, professionalism and smile will be missed from India to The Netherlands. You've made the world a better place and inspired many others to do the same. RIP!

**Martine Tobé**

Kinderperspectief

A huge shock indeed! An amazing and very inspiring soul. Praying for her, her family and all the Udayan Care family! May Her Soul Rest In Peace..

**Luis Aguilar Esponda**

International Volunteer





I am so, so sorry to hear this dreadful news. It must be a terrible shock to you all at Udayan Care as well as of course to her family and friends. I met with Aneesha a couple of times when she was in Oxford in 2019 and was tremendously impressed by her dedication and energy. She will be greatly missed. I had been meaning to write to you both to say how impressed I have been by the huge advances Udayan Care appears to have made in promoting the needs of care leavers in India. I keep coming across your various activities. I hope you are having as much impact in India as you are having internationally through INTRAC and other forums. It is really sad that Aneesha has not lived to see more of the fruits of your work. Thank you for letting me know - and I will of course pray for her and all of you at Udayan Care.

With best wishes,

**Harriet**

Emeritus Professor Harriet Ward CBE,





We are saddened to hear the news about the passing of Aneesha Wadhwa. We will remember Aneesha as a very smart, sparkling, inspiring and truly remarkable person. You are all in our thoughts in these difficult times. Sending you love and wishing you strength, from all of us at Hope and Homes,

**Tessa Boudrie**

Hope & Homes

I just wanted to say how terribly sorry I was to hear of Aneesha's death. I have no idea how she died but I do know that many many people will be devastated by and mourning her loss. She was a bedrock of Udayan Care - radiating the sunshine of the organisation, always full of passion, energy and hope, and so effective. I hope you are OK. I been thinking of you, and all of the Udayan family, as you navigate your way through this heavy time. Sending much love,

**Charly Dugdale**

Artreach India

I've just heard about the tragic passing of Aneesha. I can't even get my mind around it, I'm lost for words. I am sending you and the team my thoughts and prayers. Do let me know if there is anything I can do to help.

My warmest

**Delia Pop**



It is hard to know where to start- so much so I have been avoiding writing about my many memories and feelings towards Aneesha. I remember the first-time I met Aneesha. It was at a Symposium on Trauma in Delhi. I was going to be on holidays in India with my family at that time and Kiran had asked me to present- it seemed too good an opportunity to miss. I turned up at the venue and amidst the crowd of people I noticed this energetic, warm, attractive young woman greeting people, organising things and generally helping keep the day on track. She was MCing for the day and she seemed to be everywhere, interweaving the different threads and creating coherency and connections.

I remember she was wearing a black and white shirt and black pants- a stark contrast to the stunning colourful sari's that filled the room. There was something about the simplicity of her attire that accentuated her warmth, intelligence and vitality.



That was in 2014 and since then Aneesha and I became friends. I loved being around her even though our time together was few and far between. We would text and speak via video links and shared our lives together. The last time I was in India was in March 2018. In between attending the bi-annual conference and running some training for Udayan Care staff, Aneesha, Kiran and I managed to squeeze in some time away to visit Aneesha's house in the Himalaya's foothills. The trip was a very special time. It took us over 9 hours to arrive travelling by car and train. We had 3 days together to explore the area and the different projects Aneesha was involved in, especially the local school she had helped build. We ate together, walked together and sat and





talked about life, our stories, our dreams, our hopes. I treasure this time we had together and the excitement of what was possible. Aneesha's commitment to social justice, to Udayan Care, to her sons, to improving the lives of others, particularly children, was inspiring. She made me a better person and gave further meaning to my hope of helping others.

I grieve for all the lost opportunities in the future, the love, care and the way Aneesha connected people, ideas and organisations. I grieve for all the times we can no longer be together and share our lives and hopes and plans. The world is a lesser place without Aneesha. I will remember the richness she added to so many people's lives, the richness she added to my life and keep this memory close to my heart as a farewell her and hope she has found peace wherever she has gone.

Much love and sadness

**Helen**

Melbourne, Australia





"Leadership is about making others better as a result of your presence and making sure that impact lasts in your absence." This one is for you Aneesha... big cheers to your leadership! Just not able to believe that you are gone so early. May your soul rest in peace. Wherever you are, please know that we are thinking about you... You are and will always be alive in our hearts...

Lots of love to you and prayers... With all my love and remembrance

**Ravinder Kaur**

Sr. Manager, Alternative Care

I would remember Aneesha, not only as an inspiring boss but also as energy that helped you materialize that inspiration. She always pushed us and ensured that we achieve our next level in every possible way. We miss you every day, whenever we look at your empty cabin. We may not have your pep talks, your references and forwards any more, but you'll always be an inspiration for Udayan Care. May your soul rest in peace!

**Hasnain Waris**

Communications, Udayan Care

My deepest sympathies to her family and to the Udayan family that she served. I know she will be missed and her loss felt every day.

**Monisha Akhtar**

USA



Om Shanti Om Our Sincerest Condolences!  
May God give strength to the family to bear this untimely loss.

**Manish Kasliwal**

Udayan Care, Jaipur

My name is Wendy and I had the chance to volunteer with Udayan Care for 8 months in 2011. I was lucky to work with Anesha, from who I learn so much, and the Udayan Team and Meraulhi girls. I wanted to tell you how sorry I was, I know the wonderful work she was doing with you and how close you were. She will be terribly missed, I can't even imagine how it must be difficult but I know you are a very strong person and the world needs you. I did send a note and talk with some of the girls, I know how important Aneesha was in their life and a package is on its way to Simmy and Puja's flat so they can share some photos and memories of her. I keep thinking very regularly about Udayan and I know I will be back in India to visit you one day, I'm currently working in Laos with a setting working for rescue elephants from the logging industry, so not too far. My heartfelt condolences to the family and Udayan Team.

**Wendy Leggat**

International Volunteer, France



# With Deepest Sympathy



**Dear Kiran & Udayan Family,**

We are saddened and shocked to hear of the sudden demise of Aneesha. Our thoughts and prayers are with Aneesha and her family.

It was a joy to have worked with her. All of us who interacted with her will cherish her warmth, her compassion and love for Udayan Care. She was full of life and exuberated such confidence.

A great soul gone too soon.

May the memories of her work, conviction in Udayan Care and many contributions be celebrated by all.

Please accept our deepest and heartfelt condolences for your loss.

With deep sympathy,

**Team iPartner India**

I am in shock after learning about Aneesha's demise. We have lost a wonderful person. Aneesha always spoke about you with great love and regard, and I am aware how much you relied on her to take your vision for Udayan Care forward. May you and the entire Udayan family and kids have the strength to tide over this difficult time.

With warm regards

**Santosh Sreedhar**

Avalon Consulting

I was shocked to hear the news of Aneesha's passing. I was providing her mentorship and while we only had one session I could see the love and dedication that she brought to her work and how much you must depend on her. She was such a vital force, I cannot believe she is gone. Please if you can share how she passed it may help me make any sense of this tragedy. Wishing you and the Udayan family all the love and prayers at this time.

Sincerely,

**Mary Ellen Matsui**

CEO, Atma





We got to know Aneesha about a decade ago when we were looking to support an NGO which focused on children. While doing our research, we came across Udayan Care and dialled the website's number to know more. At that time, we were connected to Mrs Modi & Aneesha. Aneesha's enthusiasm, commitment & professionalism was one of the reasons which convinced us to support Udayan Care. Her sincerity and passion were visible, each time we visited the Mehrauli homes. The children had such beautiful things to say about 'Aneesha Didi' and Aneesha despite being caught up in all her operational roles, always knew what each one of them was up to.

She always encouraged my wife, Deepika (who knew Aneesha from her school days) & I to give more of our time to Udayan. On her insistence, I joined the board of Udayan Care, and Deepika started helping with legal matters. She was an inspiration to us both. Aneesha was one of the most hardworking, selfless and kind humans we knew. Her untimely demise is an irreparable loss for Udayan Care. With her dedication, she has touched so many hearts and changed many lives, including ours. May her soul Rest In Peace.

Thank you,

**Amit Khanna**

M. D., Phoenix Holdings

I write this to convey my heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of Ms Aneesha Wadhwa. I came to know about this from your LinkedIn post. The interactions I had with her during research on aftercare in Delhi remind me of her dedication to the cause of Udayan Care. May the departed soul be rest in peace!

Regards,

**Dr. Anil Kumar Das**

Human Development Society

We are still in a state of disbelief, shocked and sad, as we send our heartfelt condolences to all of you, and the whole Udayan Care Family, to which Aneesha was a great pillar of strength.

In the last few months of our engagement with Udayan Care, we had the privilege of working with Aneesha very closely and experienced her beautiful spirit and the traits of an astute professional. She played an instrumental role in facilitating the assignment between the two organisations, and we will forever remember her fondly for her contribution and support. As the engagement was very close and recent, it's like a loss of team member for us, and we are deeply pained with her demise.

We stand by you in this moment of loss and pain and shall pray that her soul rests in peace. The best tribute to her will be to remember the wisdom and warmth she shared with us.

Please accept the condolences from NuSocia family.

With Prayers,

**Manju Menon**

NuSocia



It is extremely shocking to hear about the very sudden demise of Aneesha Wadhwa, ED and trustee of Udayan Care. She was energetic, vibrant, dynamic and compassionate. I happened to hear her last on the Baroda Chapter Induction Program. Her demise is a big loss to the cause of women's empowerment and USF Family. Heartfelt Condolence from all of us at Cosmo Foundation. May her soul rest in peace.

Kind Regards

**Mamta Baxi**

Cosmo Foundation

Aneesha for me was the personification of exuberance, selflessness, vivaciousness and empathy. A real-life super-woman in many ways. She seemed to be playing each of her varied roles so effortlessly. Tragic that she didn't share her sorrow within with anyone but continued to give care and love to everyone around her. The world has lost an angel. Will never forget her ever-smiling face and lively spirit. May she find the peace she so deserves. Sincerely,

**Deep Kalra-CEO**

Make my trip

I cannot imagine what you must be going through in the wake of Aneesha's tragic passing! Aneesha was the very epitome of life itself! And will be immensely missed by family, friends, colleagues and all associates. Avinash and I both send our deepest condolences. Om Shanti!

**Indranil Gupta**

BrandNEW Associates

This is shocking and heart-breaking! someone who inspired so many of us, and a stellar human. May she rest in peace!

**Avani Mehrotra Bhanchawat**

Heartfelt Condolences to the family.....an ever-smiling face...we rode on the same bus to school for many years...Aneesha was a batch junior.....well-spoken, vibrant and always smiling....RIP!

**Sunayana Khungar**

It can't sink in that such a wonderful woman, just of my age, with whom i have shared a lot of wonderful moments, is not there. A quick phew took her away. Her work, her associations with children n people can never let her be away from us. May her soul rest in peace.

**Hema Sharma**





Deeply saddened n shocked... May good Lord give strength to Neena n Ashish (parents)  
bear an untimely loss of a loving daughter..

**Rachel Mathew**

Deepest condolences. A professional who blended perfection and passion for the cause of children was always an inspiration. Will miss her cheerful interaction with your UC team in these difficult times. May her soul rest in peace.

**Sonykutty George**

UNICEF

When a great soul, ever accessible & empathetic, dynamic & happy personality, deeply engaged in social causes leaves the world so untimely, I have little reason to believe that things happen for a reason. I am shocked & shaken to the core, my "go-to" person is no more!! Rest in peace, Aneesha!

**Aatishey Khamoshi**

So shocked.... had a very brief interaction with her a long time ago.... but  
an everlasting one. Gone too soon....RIP

**Shobha Rustagi**

Devastating news - Untimely departure. She has made a difference in the lives of many.  
My heart reaches out to her parents Neena and Ashish. May her soul rest in  
peace and may God give the family the strength to bear this loss.

**Padma Nair**

Aneesha was one of the most enigmatic girls in CJM. Good people are  
called above early. So true! RIP

**Henna Wadhwani**

A brave young soul taken too soon. My heart goes out to Aneesha's family.  
May the good Lord take care of her for eternity

**Shaliney Ashta**



I am so shocked and saddened by this news! It was such a privilege to know Aneesha when I was living in Delhi and helping at Udayancare. She was such an amazing mentor mother who truly loved the girls and nothing was too much trouble! She gave herself selflessly to help make a better life for the girls in her care. Praying for all the family at this sad time.

**Liz Brown**

International Volunteer



I'd like to say a few words about Aneesha, whom we tragically lost so recently. I worked with her on this board for many years, but even those of you who only knew her for a short time knew that she was a leader among us for her vivacity, her passion, and her dedication, as well as her kindness. She was always, always willing to lend a helping hand and forever a voice of calm and reason. Her loss was such a shock, not only because it was so unexpected and so devastating but because she was so full of life. She gave all of herself all the time and to everyone, and she is a loss not only to us, as a dear friend, and to her family but also the world. She dedicated her life to helping others, and that means that without her the whole world is hurting. There will be less light and good in the world without her here, and I mourn that loss as much as I can mourn my own. But for that reason, I also know that the most important thing we can do to honor her is to carry on the work that she dedicated herself to. She gave the last full measure of devotion, as Abraham Lincoln once put it, trying to improve the lives of others. And now, as when she was alive, Aneesha will always be here to remind us of what's really important. So let's rededicate ourselves here, in Aneesha's memory, and take a moment to remember the dear friend we have lost.

**Jesse**

Udayan Care, USA



I understand Aneesha worked closely with you over past several years during which, as you mentioned, you developed highest regards and affection for Aneesha thru Aneesha's remarkable inspiration and passion for the causes Aneesha believed in. Therefore, I thought you may like to also send your prayers during her final appearance (attached 8 glimpses) in this world before Aneesha bid farewell along her heavenly abode, a few hours ago.

Cordially,

**Netoo Sethi**

Trustee, UC USA

On behalf of the whole Udayan Care Germany Team, I would like to express our deep condolences about Aneesha's death to you. She was such a great person and we thank her for all she did for Udayan Care. She will always be in our hearts!

**Nina and the team of**

Udayan Care, Germany

I just want to let you know, that many thoughts to you and your team are in my mind. There are no words for what happened Aneesha. Nobody can look inside other people! She seemed to be so strong. I hope you will find good ways to cope with it and to protect the girls who miss her so much!

Warm regards,

**Severine Thomas**

Univ of Hiildesheim, Germany



Om shanti ..may her onward journey be blissful and peaceful

**Dipali Bathla**

I met you for the first time in ADHM last year ma'am. and can't explain what a charm and energy you provide with your presence everywhere. we will always miss you ma'am

**Nikki Jha**

USF Alumni

RIP Aneesha Wadhwa  
you inspired me!

**Radhika Bharat Ram**

Ma'am, you will be always with us in our heart...Rest in peace the noble soul!

**Neerja Khurana**

This is Eika here, Aneesha's flatmate from Oxford Chevening. In the smallness of colliding worlds, we have also met each other when you and Aneesha had invited me to address the Udayan Shalini Fellows two years ago. I have only been gathering the courage to write to you and reach out these last few days. And I don't know if I yet have enough strength of either emotion or words to even begin to express the shock and grief that we're going through right now. And even to fathom your grief and sorrow is beyond ken. Kiran ji, whenever you can find some time or effort or energy, I would like to talk to you pls. Aneesha and I were very very close, not just as apartment-mates, but also as professionals and as people... and I would love to celebrate her life, and commemorate her joys, and cherish her and keep her alive... in hope and in love... and in the faith and belief that Aneesha inspired in all of us and the children at Udayan Care...Much much, much love, deepest hugs, strength and prayers.

**Eika Banerjee**



छोटी किरण

ये स्मृति है, स्मृति की कलम से,  
उस छोटी किरण की -जो किरण ने जलाई थीं,  
आपका सम्पूर्ण व्यक्तित्व मेरी कलम लिखे ऐसी- मेरी बिसात नहीं,  
आपकी प्रतिभा किसी प्रशंसा की मोहताज़ नहीं।

मुलाकातें कुछ कम हुई आपसे,  
मगर आपके जोश की रोशनी से हम दूर नहीं,  
छोटी किरण की याद में ये समर्पण!

ममता ऐसी की - दिल को छु जाए,रूह में उतर जाए  
अपनत्व ऐसा - जो हर कार्य में छलका जाए ,  
स्वभाव ऐसा - हर व्यक्ति एवं परिस्थिति को प्रभावित कर जाए,  
विवेक ऐसा - हर किसी पर भारी पड़ जाए,  
निष्ठा ऐसी अडिग- सिद्धांत और संस्था के लिए हर किसी से प्रेम पूर्वक भिड़ जाए।

खुदको हर पल बढ़ाना और आगे बढ़कर सबको उठाना ,  
मैं क्या दे जाऊ, ऐसी प्यास थी वो, जीवन की तपिश, ऐसी आग थी वो।  
नन्ही किरण नहीं ओजस्वी थी वो।  
यकीन नहीं आता कि हमसे वो गई दूर,  
यकीन मानिए, ये उद्यान (Udayan care) हो गई आपके बिना अपूर्ण II

स्मृति (USF South Delhi)

Your passing away has given us a heartache that nothing can heal, but  
you've left with us loving memories that no one can steal. May you keep  
inspiring us in our work for the vulnerable and underprivileged!

Wherever you are, you will always be  
in our hearts!



A Tribute by



[www.udayancare.org](http://www.udayancare.org)

