

KALEIDOSCOPE

Change is the only constant

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THEANUGRAHAPROJECT@GMAIL.COM



IN EACH QUARTERLY EDITION, WE WILL SHARE:

- **Success Stories:** Discover how individuals and communities are breaking barriers and achieving their dreams with the help of our programs.
- **Spotlight on Impact:** Explore the tangible outcomes of our projects- enhanced access to education, the transformation of a vast area by eliminating parthenium growth, and the establishment of habitable communities. These endeavors open up opportunities for children to participate in activities within a healthier environment; community engagement such as hosting health camps, promoting recycling, particularly in the context of establishing a kitchen garden.
- **Feedback and Engagement:** We value your input and engagement, and we invite you to share your thoughts, suggestions, and ideas with us.

In the inaugural edition of Kaleidoscope in November 2023, we established a platform for community narratives, events, and initiatives. As we step into 2024, we anticipate delving deeper into creativity, inspiration, and community ties. This edition encapsulates the essence of our community and its diverse constituents, featuring stories that reflect our collective journey. Since our debut newsletter three months ago, significant strides have been made. Notably, our vision expanded beyond expectations as we secured funding for the school and attracted numerous opportunities for collaboration. Partnerships with [Aarunya Foundation](#), [Bangalore Boulder](#), [Menda Foundation](#), [MITU Foundation](#), [NG Associates](#), [Sampoorna Ahara](#), [Sparsha Trust](#), [Tharangini Studio](#) and [UrbanMali](#) have enriched our endeavors, paving the way for further growth and impact.



 [PLAY NOW](#)

At the TEDx event hosted by New Horizon College of Engineering, Bangalore, on January 19, 2024, our founder, Manya, shared an inspiring journey of resilience and transformation. At just 15 years old, Manya turned personal grief into a beacon of positive change. Through her vision and determination, she spearheaded the reopening of a pre-school, igniting a ripple effect of empowerment within the community. Her TEDx talk illuminated how seemingly insurmountable challenges can be transformed into opportunities for growth and meaningful impact. Manya's story underscores our core belief at The Anugraha Project: that through collective action and unwavering determination, positive change is not only possible but inevitable.



COLLABORATIVE SUCCESS:

PRE-SCHOOL REOPENS WITH ENHANCED PARTICIPATION

With the reopening of the pre-school, we've noticed a notable increase in the number of children attending, including several from outside our community. We want to express our sincere appreciation to the Sparsha Trust for their invaluable support in several ways, including providing teachers and substitutes as needed. In addition, meals for the children at the school are prepared using nutritious ingredients supplied by Sampoorna Ahara. This collaborative effort has contributed to the overall well-being of the children, both physically and emotionally. Furthermore, national holidays and special occasions are celebrated with warmth and generosity, thanks to the support of various sponsors. This collaboration between NGOs exemplifies the power of effective partnerships in serving our community.



R VAIKUNTA RAMASUBRAMANIAN

AARUNYA FOUNDATION: CHILDREN FLOURISH WITH GROWING INTEREST

The Aarunya Foundation oversees the education and development of 22 middle school students, who have demonstrated significant academic improvement alongside the refinement of their etiquette skills. There's a noticeable uptick in interest from additional children keen to enrol in our distance learning program, which is promising.

Nonetheless, our existing space constraints pose a hurdle. To address this issue, we've acquired shipping containers to expand our facilities. Architect Gunjan Das, Principal architect at N.G. Associates, has graciously volunteered to design the containers at no cost to TAP.

EXPLORING ARTISTIC EXPRESSION: A JOURNEY WITH RITHISH GOPINATH, FOUNDER.

The Spero Collective: Spero Collective merges fashion, art, education, and social change, empowering marginalized communities through luxury fashion. Every purchase fuels sustainable support and educational initiatives. This is exemplified by recent sessions with Rithish inspiring middle-school children, from our community, towards creativity and empowerment.



RITHISH GOPINATH



TRANSFORMING SPACE:

COLLABORATION WITH URBANMALI AND N.G. ASSOCIATES



Before



After

When we initially visited the community a year and a half ago, we were alarmed to find a vast area (4500 sq. ft.) overrun by parthenium weed, serving as a landfill. The children in the area suffered from persistent coughing due to the adverse effects of this weed, known to cause allergic respiratory issues, contact dermatitis, and exacerbate asthma ([Read more](#)). Recognizing the potential for positive change, we envisioned repurposing the space to benefit the community.

Generous donations from friends and family and support from UrbanMali, BBMP, and the local community have allowed us to transform this area. The removal of parthenium weed and garbage accumulation has paved the way for projects such as organic kitchen gardens and a playground for the approximately 150 children in the community.

Additionally, plans are underway to establish a multifunctional hub within the shipping containers, which have been procured, for education, skill development, health and wellness activities and several other initiatives.

Efforts are also in progress to organize health check-up camps specifically aimed at children, focusing on screening for respiratory disorders. This initiative is particularly crucial due to the community's previous exposure to parthenium, emphasizing the importance of prioritizing health concerns.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION:

STUDENTS VOLUNTEER TO REVITALIZE PRESCHOOL WALLS

The preschool underwent a remarkable transformation, fueled by the enthusiasm and dedication of students from various schools across Bangalore who eagerly volunteered to repaint its walls. This collaborative endeavor not only instilled a sense of ownership and pride among the participating students but also ignited an excitement for them to return to the community and continue their selfless acts. Such experiences contribute to their growth as better human beings, fostering a spirit of ongoing contribution and engagement within the community.



Before



After



EMPOWERING THROUGH CLIMBING: BANGALORE BOULDER

Bangalore Boulder, a hub for climbing enthusiasts, has become a beacon of inspiration, notably founded by paraclimbing world champion **Manikandan Kumar**. Through a collaboration between TAP and Bangalore Boulder, children have had the opportunity to engage in rope-free climbing on low walls. Ten children were sent by TAP to experience this activity one evening, highlighting the empowering and engaging role of sports in young minds (<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C1ZYRIfyFU5/igsh=MXV0dXRkZjc xZHhrMQ==>). This initiative offers them exposure and opportunities, integrating them into the mainstream, thus nurturing their self-esteem and more.



ENGAGING TALES: WEEKEND STORYTELLING WITH MANYA

During sessions with the Aarunya Foundation, children have been introduced to phonetics, associating sounds such as "sss" with a snake, among others. Every weekend, Manya spends an hour reading with the children, incorporating their phonetic learning from Aarunya into storytelling sessions. During these sessions, **Manya** adopts a role-play approach where a child acts out the character, such as a dog if the story includes one. Additionally, when foreign names appear in the stories, the children's names are used instead, making the stories highly interactive and enjoyable for them. This approach seeks to enhance their reading abilities while fostering creativity and imagination. Additionally, it accelerates their learning process, evident in their anticipation for Manya's reading hour every Saturday after school.



FESTIVE CELEBRATIONS BY GIVING BACK

During recent festivals and special occasions, several individuals made generous contributions and spent time with the children.

Shali Chandna donated uniforms and spent time with the children, playing and dancing with them, along with **R Vaikunta Ramasubramanian** and **Kundan Mehta**. She said she couldn't think of a better way to commemorate her husband's first anniversary than seeing the little faces light up with delight. Additionally, Sparsha Trust celebrated Christmas- (<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C1SL9ucyaVH/?igsh=bXFmZWwwNmlvdDd6>), Sankranti and Republic day with the young ones, in keeping with tradition.



SHALI CHANDNA



LIGHTING FOR THE COMMUNITY

Lighting in the newly cleared space will be provided through collaboration. BESCOM has offered lighting inside the shipping container space, while the Menda Foundation will install lights in the open space, throughout the area. Safety measures, including cordoning off the transformer with a chain-link fence, highlight our commitment to prioritizing the community's safety and well-being, particularly its children.

COMMUNITY CLOTHING DRIVE: SPREADING WARMTH AND JOY

Our recent clothing drive received a significant response from generous individuals who contributed clothing and footwear. We distributed these donations to those in need, ensuring each item reached someone who could benefit from it. The children who received these items were happy and shared them with friends who fit the same sizes. This display of compassion and camaraderie demonstrates the spirit of community support that unites us.



[Click here to watch the reel!](#)

ARTISANAL CRAFT: HANDMADE TOTE BAGS WITH ORGANIC PRINTS

Our tote bags are part of a fundraiser and are crafted with artisanal techniques and eco-friendly materials. Each bag is handmade and adorned with block prints using water-based organic dyes. TAP's co-founder, Mira Krish, conceptualized and designed the tote bags; Tharangini Studio created blocks and got them block-printed in organic dyes; and Mitu Foundation, an NGO, stitched the bags. These tote bags promote sustainable fashion and conscious consumerism, offering a stylish and ethical alternative to conventional accessories. They support local artisans and encourage eco-conscious living.



MIRA KRISH

EMPOWERING MINDS: KARTIK KRISHNAN'S CHESS INITIATIVE

In the months preceding his college enrolment, TAP volunteer Kartik Krishnan is teaching chess to a group of children from our community. Driven by his passion for the game, Kartik will lead weekend sessions over the next six months. These sessions cover the fundamentals of chess, progressing to more advanced strategies and tactics. The goal is to offer interested children an opportunity to improve their chess skills and explore the complexities of the game. This initiative aims to empower young minds and offer an appreciation for strategic thinking and intellectual challenges.

As we conclude this issue, let us remember the lessons learned, the joys shared, and the connections strengthened. Together, we contribute to the diverse fabric of our community, each contribution adding depth to our collective journey. Thank you for being a part of Kaleidoscope. We couldn't have done this without you!

