The International Safety Week (March 4th-10th), was celebrated with much gusto at our various centres. We look back at a few of the celebrations.

Families from our Kharghar and Parel centres were also present at the festival. They too enjoyed performances and admired the exhibits and artefacts on display there.

Samanay Sarkar.

The children then performed a dance to Vande Mataram, followed by a song sung by Master Anuj, the 8-year-old son of Mr. Santosh, one of the fathers at the centre. This mother-son duo are very well regarded by everyone at the centre. We are very proud of him and the manner in which he tackles his very difficult situation. Anuj loves playing with his younger brother, scientists, and enjoys spending time learning new things.

The children and their families also performed a skit on water conservation. Prepared by activity leader Seema, these children explained the basic rules to be followed by families in kitchens and bathrooms for safety in the appliances and the precautions to be taken while using them. Our counsellor, Ms. Vandana, worked on the idea of a tree representing St. Judes, with leaves made of handprints to represent everyone associated with the organisation. The first handprint was done by our Founder, Ms. Poonam Mittal, who also spoke about the importance of arts and crafts to the families present.

The Art for Well Being, and Connecting to Our Indian Roots.

The Art for Well Being, and Connecting to Our Indian Roots. Thinking of ways to utilise the art skills of both the children and staff at the centre, we created paintings and handmade cards as a source of fundraising. The children, in turn, delighted all for lack of a loving home away from home during his/her treatment.

Mr. Kataki, our Director of Clinical Services, spoke about the possibility of setting up a centre in the Northeast. The centre would be modelled on the existing St. Jude Centres which would be home to 24 families. We were fortunate to have the capital expenses borne by two patrons – Roche Products to create one more Roche Children’s Centre, and the Gupta family, in particular in Assam.

In his address, Dr Kataki spoke of the positive impact that the St. Jude Centres would have on the lives of children and their families. The centres were formally inaugurated by Ms. Poonam Mittal and the Roche team, who remarked on how St. Jude Centres not only had uniformity in look and quality standards wherever they were but also long-cherished dreams that were in line with St Judes’ vision to ensure that no child in need would suffer for lack of a loving home away from home during his/her treatment.

In November 2017 we were invited to set up a centre for children under treatment at the Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati. The hospital was being taken over as a grant-in-aid Institute of the Department of Atomic Energy and would become a unit of Mumbai’s Tata Memorial Centre. We realised there was a genuine need for our services in the Northeast as several patients abandoned their treatment due to the lack of a loving home away from home. The hospital organised a press conference the day before to highlight the inauguration of their state-of-the-art facility.

Roche Products generously supported us in our efforts to set up a centre in the Northeast. We were delighted that our donors Poonam Mittal and Ajai Puri of the P.A.N.I. Foundation, as well as our supporters from Roche, Daniel Pluss, CFO; Shivprasad Laud, Legal Head; Shilpika Das, Director, Communications; and Sonal Kotian, Manager, Corporate Communications, were able to attend the event. The Director of Roche Products, Dr. Nakul Gupta, delivered a speech and expressed his support for the initiative.

Local well-wishers, doctors and members of St Judes’ team also participated in the event. The Directors of Roche Products, Dr. Nakul Gupta; and Mr. Pradeep Purohit; supported the event which was attended by hon’ble Dr. Arun Bhuyan, Mayor of Guwahati; Dr. Anindya Hazari, the sole representative from the Government of Assam; Dr. Bhabani Bhuyan, SDM, Guwahati; and Mr. Ashok Sengupta, Regional Manager, Roche Diagnostics.

We were very impressed by the well-equipped and modern state-of-the-art centre. The official opening ceremony took place on the auspicious occasion of Saraswati Puja. The fit-outs of the centres and a vehicle were handed over to the centre.

We wish to thank everyone who supported us in the setting up of this centre.ampa. For the centre to be able to function, we would require continuous support and we hope to get the required support very soon. We wish him great success and happiness in life.

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