

# WOW!

HYDERABAD

*food*

CHECK OUT  
THE LOVELY  
SPERO  
PATISSERIE

*nightlife*

PROST IS BACK

*trends*

STYLE UPDATE  
2022

*start-up*

RAKUL PREET  
AND AMAN'S  
NEW APP

*Changemakers:*

MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE

EXCLUSIVE  
SITARA,  
MAHESH BABU'S  
DAUGHTER,  
A TRUE STAR



**CAUSE**

A vertical space started by the **St. Jude India Childcare Centres** helps cancer survivors with their education and livelihoods

# Life after Cancer

We sometimes hear of happy endings for cancer patients, especially children suffering from cancer, where they successfully beat the disease. But, what happens to these survivors after the ordeal? Are these kids able to go back to school, complete their education and live normally? Or do they drop out due to financial constraints, stigma, social ostracization?

The St. Jude India Childcare Centres have long been working in the space of providing a clean environment and support to children undergoing cancer treatment across various cities in India, including Hyderabad. Based on research and feedback received from oncologists, survivors and parents, they found that the

children who were cancer free and are now young adults were finding it hard to assimilate back into society. Due to the stigma and prejudices, and their own psychological scars of fighting cancer, they were not able to lead full lives.

The founders decided to set up **St. Judes for Life (SJFL)**, a vertical space that works with children who have completed treatment, are cancer free and are now at an age where they wish to study further or be gainfully employed. Usha Banerji was the CEO for St Jude India, and is now a team leader at SJFL on a voluntary basis; and the one in charge of setting up this initiative. She says, "St. Judes was started in 2006 so a lot of children who came to us have now grown up. Follow-up with these survivors showed us that they were not always able to cope physically, emotionally or even financially after they beat cancer. Doctors focus is on the medical aspect when they meet survivors. Lack of time does not permit them to get too many details of the other aspects of their lives, such as education and emotional wellbeing, though they understand their importance. So we decided to help such survivors integrate back into society."

To do so, SJFL works with survivors through various NGOs and start-ups like Pratham, Samiksha, Edugroomers and Proteens. They provide skills and



vocational education which then lead to a host of opportunities for these young people. The courses offered to the survivors are based on their interests and skill set. Financial aid to complete college or other courses has also been provided by SJFL; in some cases, to survivors who lost their parents to COVID last year too. They even have the survivors speak to the children currently under their care to boost their spirits and keep them positive.

Success stories abound and many of those children are now gainfully employed or enrolled in professional courses. As more survivors fit the bill of being cancer-free for five years and more, SJFL will continue to provide the support they need to be well adjusted individuals. ■ MINAL

For more details visit: [stjudechild.org](http://stjudechild.org)

