

UNITED WAY BENGALURU

CHRONICLES

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | Coverage: January - March 2022

Contents

Lives powered by solar lights

Improving livelihood of women

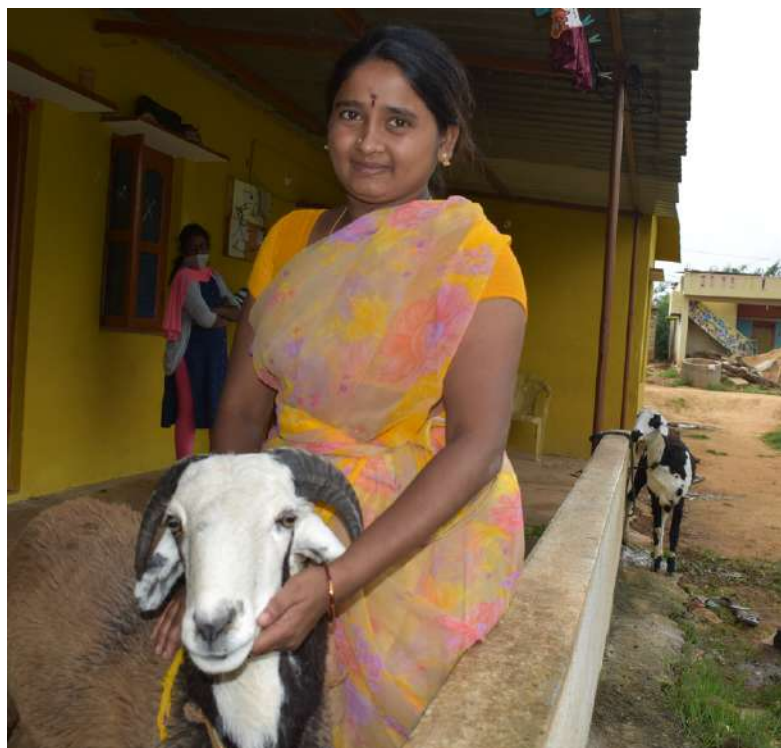
Early Childhood Care & Development (ECCD)

Responding to environmental crisis

Rural Rising

Health Interventions

Work, Team and More..



[Download our E-newsletter](#)



United Way Bengaluru

Address: #5, Crimson Court, 3rd Floor, HAL
3rd Stage, Jeevanbhima Nagar Main Road,
Bengaluru 560075 | Phone: 080 - 40906345

marcomm@uwbengaluru.org

www.uwbengaluru.org

Dear Readers,

Two years ago we initiated work-from-home after finishing our team meeting in the morning. Uncertainty, anxiety, and more questions than answers were rattling us. Little did we know what was in store for days to come.

In March 2022, as we got back to our physical workspaces, our minds were filled with emotions with the thought of what mankind went through. Many lost their loved ones, jobs, and above all hope. A silent prayer goes out to all of them.

As they say "when the going gets tough, the tough get going"; our team rose to the occasion demonstrating resilience, adaptability, flexibility, agility, and a go-getter approach. As WFH was initiated, we became conversant with G-Meet, Zoom, and MS Teams. Our board and partners were empathetic and supported us in all possible ways.

A response team was formed at United Way of Bengaluru for fieldwork and e-passes were organized. We reached out to Govt officials and networked with them; relationships with hospitals were built. We did whatever little we could to support communities - hygiene kits, ration kits, distribution of medical equipment, set up Covid Response Centres, and additional beds; initiated vaccination drives. Health as a new vertical emerged.

Most importantly we stepped up, re-worked our domestic schedules, and worked 18 + hours for many continuous days. We have shared some of our efforts and interventions during this difficult phase through our quarterly newsletters. This edition captures our developments during January - March 2022, as we strengthened schools and Anganwadi Centres to welcome back students; upgraded Primary Health Centres, empowered frontline workers to prepare them for future adversities, and provided livelihood opportunities to several families to help them recover from their economic crises.

Today, as I share our impactful work with you, my heart is filled with nothing but gratitude. A very big shout out to all of you and your families, who stood by us. Thank you and God Bless.

With Gratitude,
Rajesh Krishnan

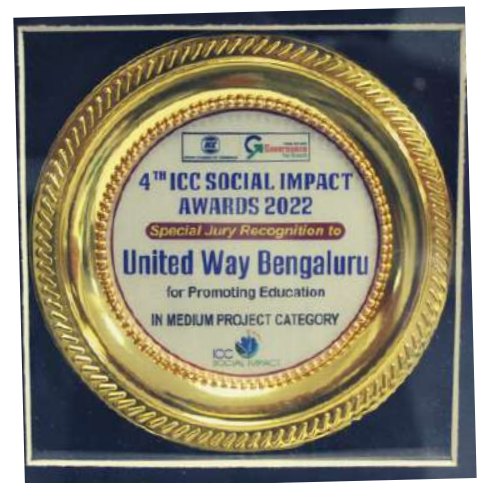
Leader's Insight



RAJESH KRISHNAN
CEO



Awards and Recognitions



We got our FCRA License renewed for the next five years, with effect from January 1, 2022. Amidst changing FCRA rules, meeting compliances in the right spirit of the law to avoid any scrutiny and operational challenges has been a herculean task for many NGOs. Proud that we could make it!

Our 'Born Learning Campaign' initiative, an early childhood care, and development (ECCD) program has been appreciated with the 'Special Jury Recognition Award' by the Indian Chamber of Commerce Social Impact Awards 2022 .

Lives powered by solar lights

This story from Gangavara village, speaks at length about the benefits of solar lights which were installed during 2020-2021 and 2021-22 by United Way of Bengaluru in collaboration with CSR partner Collins Aerospace, under 'Rural Rising' – an integrated rural development program. As many as 400 solar lights have been installed in two phases across 18 villages in Devanahalli taluk with the objective to provide clean and affordable renewable energy to the villages. Though many households in the villages had access to electricity, the focus of the project was to provide lights in locations where there were no street lights or areas with many SC/ST houses but insufficient street lights.

Nargis'* family has greatly benefitted from the installation of solar lights. Nargis who helps her husband with tailoring work and also rolls 'beedi' for a secondary income, spends her evenings working near the solar street light, which is just outside her house. The solar light helps her to work for extended hours uninterrupted without having to think about the electricity consumption or even when there is no power for hours. She has been able to save Rs 300 annually from the current electricity bill.

The primary aim of the solar lights has been to provide illumination at night time which has especially helped students who return from their tuition classes in the evenings and women who go to work or return from work in the late evenings or early mornings. They felt unsafe commuting at odd hours when there were no lights in the neighbourhood. Villagers have started spending more time socializing in the evenings and Self Help Group meetings are conducted under the solar lights confirmed, Sridevi*, Nargis' neighbour.

The project coordinator confirmed that each solar panel has a unique number and GPS coordinates. At any point in time when he gets calls from the villagers regarding any issue related to the solar lights, he goes to the site, understands the problem, connects with the vendor in charge, and addresses the issue.

These lights are serviced every three months. The solar lights have proved to be an environmentally viable solution to the social, and economic challenges in the lives of people in Gangavara village.

**Names changed to protect privacy*



Solar lights ensures safety for women & children after dark

Improving the livelihood of women SHG members through sheep rearing



Under Rural Rising – an integrated rural development program of United Way of Bengaluru (UWBe), sheep rearing activities have been started as a source of income generation and self-employment for women in the Gangavara village at Devanahalli, Bengaluru rural district of Karnataka. With the support from UWBe's CSR partner Collins Aerospace, as many as 28 sheep have been distributed among 14 women beneficiaries during 2020-2021.

Sheep rearing is a sustainable livelihood option for rural communities as its maintenance is easy and there is the availability of a ready-made market round the year. Shashikala*, one of the beneficiaries shares the benefits of this intervention that has benefitted her and others members of the SHG she is associated with. Though Shashikala is a tailor and supports her family primarily from her tailoring business, livestock rearing provides a constant flow of additional income for her and reduces her vulnerability during the less profitable seasons.

"United Way of Bengaluru's support has been beyond just giving sheep to the beneficiaries. UWBe organized training for beneficiaries who learned about productivity enhancement activities such as better feeds, vaccinations, de-worming, hygienic shelters, and marketing from veterinarians and experts. The training helped us provide preventive veterinarian services and take charge of sheep rearing by being more informed from day one.", said Shashikala.

Unlike many other income generation activities, sheep rearing does not require capital investment, or resources and does not demand very specialized skills. It requires only the part-time involvement of beneficiaries and provides a very stable additional income source. As per the intervention, two pregnant sheep are given to the beneficiaries. As per the project terms and conditions, beneficiaries cannot sell the offspring until they turn two. On average a beneficiary can earn up to Rs 10, 000 -12, 000 by selling a sheep.

"This engagement has kept other ladies and me away from wasting time. Women in the village often spend their leisure hours visiting houses and engaging in unnecessary gossip. There is now no time for it and we are busy looking after our ruminants, preparing their feed, and feeding them.", said Shashikala.

Like Shashikala, other women beneficiaries shared feeling empowered and self-worthy, as they see this as an opportunity to make significant financial contributions to their family needs. The potential of livestock rearing to empower poor communities, especially women beneficiaries is tremendous. Women from Gangavara are happy to be able to support their families financially when in crisis, with the income from sheep rearing.

**Name changed to protect privacy*

Early Childhood Care and Development



Empower, educate and equip children against child abuse

109 children in India face some form of child sexual abuse every day (National Crime Record Bureau). To ensure the safety of the children, we conducted role-plays and picture demonstration sessions across 20 Anganwadi Centres to initiate conversation around inappropriate touches and to create vigilance and awareness among children in the age group of 3 and 6 years and their parents.

USP of the Sessions:

- Conducted by Anganwadi workers who were trained by ChildLine
- Built a network among Anganwadi workers, parents, and Childline to ensure every single instance of child abuse gets handled appropriately
- Created awareness among children with age-appropriate tools
- Trained parents to identify signs that indicate abuse and how to address the issue



Through a series of training conducted by our Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) program supported by GE Healthcare India, Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) were equipped with the right skills and knowledge to use tools and equipment to monitor the growth status of children. AWWs were trained to set up appropriate play areas that played a critical role in ensuring children's development.

Responding to the Environment Crisis



Another step closer to making Bengaluru a water-secure city

Did you know that United Way of Bengaluru is committed to conserving 100 crore litres of rainwater and thus saving it from surface runoff and evaporation? As a part of the “One Billion Drops” campaign, United Way of Bengaluru in collaboration with ALSTOM recently constructed 25 percolation pits in the Anekal taluk of Bengaluru.

We also inaugurated 75 percolation wells at the Mental Health Education, NIMHANS campus which is spread across 124 acres in the heart of the city. This project is supported by our CSR partner Zebra Technologies.

- Each pit can hold 1,28,000 litres of rainwater annually
- It will absorb and store rainwater, increase groundwater level and enhance the biodiversity of the region

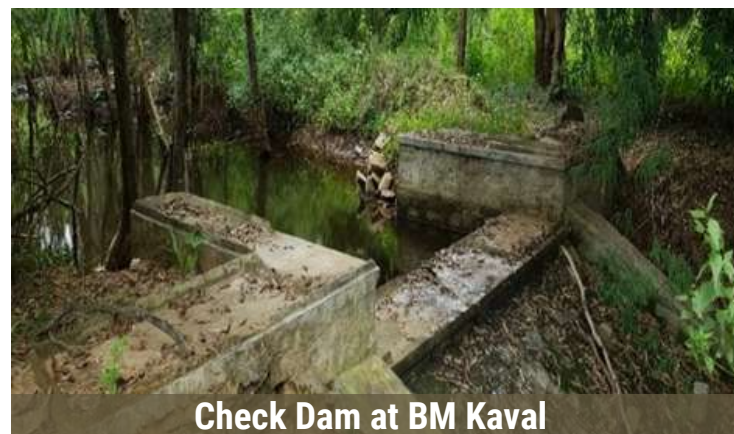
Forests for the Future

Karnataka has lost 64 square kilometres of moderately dense forest which accounts for 54% of the overall forest area in the state, according to the 2021 India State of Forests Report (ISFR). Forests play a critical role in addressing key Sustainable Development Goals related to health, well-being, ecology, economy, and climate.

United Way of Bengaluru, with the support of Karnataka Forest Department, CSR partners - Bosch India, Flowserve, Kennametal Inc, and Genpact is working towards sustainable development and management of BM Kaval Forest in the areas of Forest Protection, Conservation of water bodies, Biodiversity, Volunteers Engagement, and Public Awareness. The interventions will contribute to better forest conservation steps, protection of wildlife, afforestation activities, and an increase in the water table levels in and around the forest vicinity.



Barren land to a moderate forest at BM Kaval



Check Dam at BM Kaval

Women's Empowerment and Livelihood Initiative



For women living in rural areas, becoming entrepreneurs is like a fantasy. But in the case of a few low-income group women from Dabaspeta, their dreams have come true. United Way of Bengaluru's 'Rural Rising' program, provided tailoring training and encouraged a few women in Dabaspeta, located in Nelamangala Taluk of Bangalore Rural District, to come together and set up a tailoring business centre. This cooperative model ensures that these women work collaboratively, take big work orders and earn more. These budding entrepreneurs have been provided with advanced-level tailoring and entrepreneurial training, sophisticated tailoring machinery, and guidance to run their business centre. Thanks to LM Wind Power Blades India Private Limited, for their support.

These women are not only providing for their families but are also training other women and helping them stand on their own feet.



Handing over of SWM vehicle to the Gram Panchayat

Rural Rising projects implemented in Coimbatore

In collaboration with ALSTOM, UWBe kick-started 'Rural Rising' - an integrated rural development program at Selakarichal Gram Panchayat, Sultanpet Block in Coimbatore. At the inaugural event, a waste collection vehicle was handed over to the gram panchayat to strengthen the Solid Waste Management (SWM) system. Sanitation initiatives such as the construction of a community toilet, creating awareness around toilet usage as well as strengthening Anganwadi Centres in the gram panchayat are in progress.

The second project has been undertaken at Myleripalayam Gram Panchayat in Coimbatore, with the support from Flowserve Cares India. The initiative flagged out with a tractor-trailer that was handed over to the gram panchayat to strengthen the Solid Waste Management (SWM) system and an overhead water storage tank with a capacity to store 200,000 litres of water has been constructed to solve the drinking water problems for 12,000 people in the gram panchayat. Further the project will also address other issues such as education, livelihood, water conservation, and afforestation. Additionally, Flowserve also supported a Govt. School in Othakkalmandapam with essential teaching and learning materials.

Strengthening Healthcare

Mobile Health Clinic

The Mobile Health Clinic which was initiated in 2015 -2016, with the support of our CSR partner Cargill, has reached out to more than 1.8 lakh community members, operating six days a week, visiting 30 villages in Doddaballapura, Bengaluru Rural District.

Today elderly patients suffering from chronic health conditions to youth, pregnant and lactating women, and children are being catered to by the Mobile Health Clinic at their doorstep in Doddaballapur. Indeed, we have come a long way in serving communities for whom accessing health services is often costly and difficult.



Mobile clinic at work in Doddaballapura

Capacity Building of Frontline Health Workers

In partnership with Provimi Animal Nutrition India Pvt. Ltd., we have successfully trained over 300 frontline health workers in four days on managing communicable and non-communicable diseases. We are happy that these training sessions have helped the frontline workers feel more confident in using medical equipment and catering to patients in the best possible way.

Training of frontline workers



Inauguration of Oxygen Generation Plant

Strengthening Healthcare Systems

In partnership with ANZ Bengaluru Service Centre, we have set up a 500 LPM capacity oxygen generation plant at the Government General Hospital in Tiptur, and donated dialysis machines, bed cots and other medical consumables. This support will help the hospital to support 3 lakhs patients.

Subscribe to stay updated with all our actions. Sign Up Today!

Teammates and Partners



Felicitation Ceremony

Our Covid - 19 Warrior

It is a pleasure to announce that our colleague Thanuja AP has been felicitated by the BBMP as a "3rd Wave Covid - 19 Warrior" for her contribution to fighting the pandemic and working at the grassroots level in the Bommanahalli Zone of Bengaluru. We are very proud of her achievement and wish Thanuja the very best for her good work.

We protect the community, and protect our people who make that possible

Team members have been given COVID 19 protective and health kit consisting of first-aid items and essential consumables such as masks, sanitizers, multivitamins, antigen self-test kits, thermometers, etc. to ensure their safety as they continue with their fieldwork and project visits. Care indeed begins at home and cascades to the community.



COVID Care Kit for Teammates



NGO Partner's Story

It was a delight to see the program participants of the 'Disha' livelihood initiative showcase and sell a range of products including exclusive stitched bags, handicrafts, lifestyle décor products, and other merchandise at the 'TaRang' exhibition organized at Chandigarh Kala Bhawan.



'TaRang' Exhibition

These local women from the villages in Chandigarh had no idea that they could utilize their skills and chase their dreams. We saw great potential in this initiative and collaborated with Chhoti Si Asha, an NGO that empowers local women to embrace their skills as artisans and help them to take charge of their lives. With the support of our CSR partner Parexel, we are supporting 100 women beneficiaries.

Special Observance Days

National Girl Child Day Celebration

Across different Anganwadi Centres supported by the Born Learning Campaign initiative, events were organized to sensitize communities on gender inclusivity. Thanks to our CSR partners - HCL Foundation, Cargill, and GE Healthcare India for supporting these events. Key activities conducted included:

Skits which were organized to initiate dialogues with parents and to make them cognizant of the rights of a girl child in accessing education, health, and nutrition; about available government schemes for the welfare of girl children

Virtual programs were conducted for parents to speak about the importance of having a girl child and the need for promoting gender equality

Live programs were organized at the Anganwadi Centres where little girls enrolled in these centres were felicitated



Celebrating the Girl Child

National Polio Immunization Drive 2022



Vaccination Drive for Children

Our Born Learning Campaign initiative successfully immunized children by end of March in support of the National Polio Immunization Drive 2022 launched on February 27. Frontline workers were supported to administer polio drops by organizing polio booths across 20 Anganwadi Centres and were also provided community volunteers.

National Vaccination Day

United Way of Bengaluru celebrated one year of delivering COVID-19 vaccines to vulnerable and high-risk communities. As of date, we have successfully vaccinated 1.4 crore people, especially the marginalized communities, across different states.



Accelerating COVID 19 Vaccination



**MEET
#UWBeChamp**

AHEIBAM SWARNAMAYEE DAS

Swarna, as we call her, is a problem solver, who does not get deterred by challenges. Her go-getter attitude, sincerity, perseverance, and diligence make her a proficient professional. Her detailed approach in delivering work to its perfection sets a benchmark. Her laughter is infectious, which adds cheer to the office environment. We love the way she gracefully carries herself and holds her cultural background.

We wish her all the best so that she can keep shining and inspiring us.

PHOTO CORNER



Women's Day Celebration at Our Office and in Communities



Birthday Celebrations @UWBe



HOLI Celebration



Subscribe to stay updated with all our actions. Sign Up Today!

United Way of Bengaluru

Every community has a plethora of serious, unique, and multifaceted issues – from environment and health to income and education. To truly overcome these challenges and make a worthwhile difference, we must bring together everyone involved – everyone with a common interest and purpose, to work on a solution for a better Bengaluru. And we do just that.

Started in 2008, we are a registered (FCRA, 12A and 80G compliant) not-for-profit organization that works with communities to take local action for global impact. We partner with stakeholders from the Govt., civic bodies and local communities, listen to their concerns, identify the problems, and empower them to tackle these challenges head on. But we don't stop there – we ensure our efforts reap long-term returns by staying connected with the communities.

And that's how we bring visible, lasting change.

BRAND IDEA

In order to live better, we must LIVE UNITED

BRAND CREDO

United way fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in every community.

BRAND PROMISE

We win when we LIVE UNITED. By forging unlikely partnerships. By finding new solutions to old problems. By mobilizing the best resources. And by inspiring individuals to join the fight against their community's most daunting social crises.

LIVE UNITED

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

United Way Bengaluru

Building No. 5, 3rd Floor, Crimson Court,
Jeevan Bima Nagar Main Road, HAL 3rd Stage,
DOS Colony, Jeevan Bima Nagar,
Bengaluru, Karnataka 560075

Find us on

