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This has been a huge step for the Hospice and a big increase in workload for the staff, with Tania taking a management role.   *Some words from Tania;*  "Here, we are running successful our project at Chandannagar. Everyone is so overwhelmed by treatment, behaviour, nursing, communication. Yesterday, one patient started crying while Priyanka was giving massage on her leg as she couldn't get this kind of treatment from anyone even not from their family members. So many patients do not want to go back home or their family as they are so much neglected." | | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A person holding a baby  Description automatically generated with medium confidence | |      |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This is Priyanka (photo above). Ruma Hospice cared for her Father as he passed from a terminal cancer and then continued to support Priyanka and her mother. Priyanka now works full time with RAH and has a beautiful nurturing ability with the patients. She spent time trimming this patient's (pictured above) nails and pampering her out in the sunshine on the verandah. The patient died the day after this photo was taken. The patient's brother and sister came back after their sister died and donated Rps. 1,000 to Chandannagar. They told staff that their sister had never had such care and attention in her life – they were amazed! | | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A picture containing person, sky, outdoor, standing  Description automatically generated | |      |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Pampa**  The staff team have grown, this is Pampa (pictured above), a 32 year old Christian lady. Her mother and father were both patients of Ruma Hospice many years ago; she nursed both of them. Pampa runs a small Sunday school at her home and loves to talk to patients about how Christ served the needy and widows.  *Meheli says;*  "Most of the time I see patients reading gospel and they say Pampa gave them to read. Pampa has a lovely heart for our patients. She also has a passion for cooking. Each and every patient loves her cooked food." | | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A group of people posing for a photo  Description automatically generated | |      |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **The very first patient at Chandannargar**  As you know, it has been Santanu’s desire for over 20 years, to have a live-in Palliative Care Facility for people in their final days. The photo above is the very first patient arriving - Karuma. This lady lived for three days at Chandannagar, receiving expert, compassionate, loving care for her final days – along with her husband and family. She is resting in a bed such as she would never have rested in before in her life.    *Meheli writes;*   "Two days before she died the patient asked Pampa ( The new lady) to share God's story. I asked Pampa if she insisted on telling the patient or the opposite. Pampa said the patient assumed her a Muslim or a Christian as she doesn’t put vermilion at her head. When Pampa said she is a Christian then the dear lady asked her to share the Gospel. The way Pampa shares Gospel is just wonderful. She just shares (in a way) which attracts people. Karuma passed away very peacefully.’’ | | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |      |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Jesus' love in action**  One last heart touching story has come through from Chandannagar recently and was too good not to share:   A criminal was brought in from prison with numerous policeman – he was a mass murderer.  He was handcuffed and had fulltime police vigilance. His advanced facial ulcer was full of maggots – it was putrid and smelt so bad that people left the room (except the policeman of course).   Meheli stayed to care for the man and did not wear a mask – the staff choose not to as they want the patients to be able to see their faces and connect with them well.  Meheli called the man ‘’Pappa’’ which is respectful and honoring in Bengal. She talked quietly to him as she picked out over 100 big maggots from the ulcer.  The policeman was shocked at what Meheli said and did. He said to her (in front of the prisoner) “Don’t you realize he is a mass murderer?’  Meheli replied “That is none of my business – this man is a person who I am giving respect to". Of course you can imagine the prisoner is pleading to stay! His wound is so much better, though it will never be cured.  Although it is confronting we have decided to include the picture of the facial ulcer to help gain a little perspective on the extent of the advanced cancer the RAH team has to deal with. The picture below is of the ulcer cleaned and looking significantly better than when the man first arrived. What an opportunity to show compassion and care beyond cure. | | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A person on a scooter  Description automatically generated with medium confidence | |      |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Motorbikes**  We want to say a huge thankyou to those of you who helped supply the needed funds for two motorbikes (photo above). These motorbikes will be used daily, increasing efficiency in running errands; particularly in transporting food supplies between facilities and food packages to people the Hospice cares for. The team are so grateful! | | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |      |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Fundraisers!** Thanks to Raj Walia, an amazing member of the Ruma Abedona Australia community -  we have an event coming up soon! The Walk for Palliative Care event is planned for the 23rd of April. See details below. Also the annual Entertainment book fundraiser is up and running again, thanks to our lovely fundraising board member, Cindy. Please see link below. | | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Diagram  Description automatically generated | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Text  Description automatically generated with low confidence | |      |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Click on this link to order your entertainment book in support of Ruma Abedona Hospice:  <https://www.entertainment.com.au/orderbooks/8780y7> | | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |      |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **In closing**  We're so thrilled to be able to show you the photo of one of the two motor bikes the hospice was able to purchase due to your generosity and prayers. This was also as a result of relationship Santanu developed over time with the owner of the business.   This time we're asking for your partnership in purchasing two oxygenators for Chandannagar. The oxygen cylinders we purchased last year are portable. The oxygenators are a permanent fixture for a patient who needs oxygen 24/7 at the new facility.   Again due to relationship (Meheli's brother works for the supply company) these units are able to be purchased much more cheaply.  The cost is $AUD1300 each or $AUD2600 in total.   Would you consider a gift of $100 towards these units? If you're not able to give at present would you pray with us that others will? If you are able remember your gift is tax deductible.   On behalf of the team in Kolkata thank you for your ongoing prayers and partnership. | | | | | |
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