Secretary's Message:

I am glad that we are releasing the first issue of Karuna, our official newsletter on the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day), the 69th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. We intend to make it a regular quarterly publication, to share our success and experiences with all our partners and well-wishers, who have been our greatest support. I am further excited to inform that our website has been upgraded to https://www.karunatrust.org/

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Introduction:

“They alone live who live for others, the rest are more dead than alive”, these inspiring words of Swami Vivekananda moved me, as a sixteen-year-old boy to do my rightful duties for the welfare of the society. The loss of my father at an early age, opened my eyes to a panorama of social problems and the aspiration to become a doctor began then. After graduating as a physician, I started treating the Soliga tribes in a modest hut at BR Hills, where hot water epilepsy and Leprosy were widespread. Later, the Karuna Trust was founded in 1986 with a vision to eliminate leprosy in Yelandur Taluk. Despite initial struggles in community engagement, we were successful in eliminating leprosy and curbing epilepsy. In appreciation of our efforts, in 1996, the Government of Karnataka engaged in a Public-private partnership with Karuna Trust to manage the Gumballi PHC and provide comprehensive primary health care. Today, it is a model PHC to the entire nation, providing comprehensive health care to a population of about 25,000. Karuna Trust currently manages 71 Health Care Centres in 7 states of India: Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya and Tamil Nadu covering a population of 1.5 million. We envisage affordable and accessible health care to all as a fundamental right of all Indians, such access is a true testimony to the usefulness of all the economic and technological progress India has made.

Dr H Sudarshan
Khati, Uttarakhand - Khati is a small remote village in the Bageshwar district of Uttarakhand with a population of 314, according to 2011 census. The region's geographical terrain poses a challenge to service delivery across all sectors such as health, education, transportation and communication likewise. The only health centre in the village was non-functional and under-staffed. After being entrusted to Karuna Trust to be managed under Public-Private partnership along with the Hans Foundation, 12 staff including a medical officer, staff nurse, lab technician, pharmacist have been appointed. More than 500 OPD visits, 12 Minor OT cases and 4 ANC visits have been conducted so far since 28th June 2019.

"Reaching the Un-reached".. The story of Khati..
Continuum of care - During the 2019 floods

Quality of care

Karuna Trust and 17 PHCs managed by the trust are now ISO Certified (ISO: 9001:2015). All our centres are empanelled under Ayushman Bharath and we are also aiming for NABH and NQA accreditations in the future.

Manasadhama, A Case Study....

On the 27th of November 2018 our helpline team found a middle-aged man, wandering on the outer ring road, Mysore near Bandipalya in a vulnerable state. He was found hiding in the bushes with a knife for self-defence. Our team rescued him with the help of the local public and police and drove him to our Manasadhama centre, Chikkahalli. He was provided food and shelter. Psychiatric treatment was provided at K.R. Hospital. He responded well to the treatment and was able to recollect the whereabouts of his family, whom he had lost eight years ago.
Our team traced his family in Tirupur, Tamil Nadu and successfully reunited him after treatment. The smile on their faces was our greatest reward and motivation. We wish to bring smiles to more such families in the future.

**RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS**

1. **Ashden Award**
   Established in 2001, the Ashden Awards are globally recognized as a mark of excellence in the field of green energy that identifies the most exciting climate action around the world. We were honored with the award under the health- sustainable energy category for the year 2019, for supporting and promoting sustainable energy innovations in our Health Centers

2. **Tribecon**
   Dr H Sudarshan was honored for our inspiring work on Tribal Health at the National conference on Tribal Health Research held at Pravara Institute of Medical Science, Loni, Maharastra on 19th September 2019

**Beyond Boundaries... Karuna America**

Karuna America is a registered **US Federal Tax Exempt 501c3** Charitable Organization, dedicated to improving health and literacy in impoverished communities in India by raising funds through cultural and charity events.

**UPCOMING PROJECTS**

- **HWCs** - Upgrading selected health centres to Health and Wellness Centres to assure Comprehensive Primary Healthcare Services in partnership with National Health Systems Resource Centres, Delhi and Institute of Public Health, Bengaluru.

- **Innovative learning centre** - In Partnership with the NHSRC and Institute of Public Bengaluru, Karuna Trust is establishing a center for training and capacity building of program management and service delivery staff in technical competencies, ICT innovations, reporting and analyzing information using IT tools.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our donors, implementing partners and health workers without whom our success would not have been possible.