Nani congratulates the HelpAge family

Mr. Shyam P Kumar, Advocacy Officer, AP & Telangana, HelpAge India, receives the award for ‘Best Elder Services in Youth Category’ from the Govt. of Telangana. Looking on are (from left): Shri. Naini Narasimha Reddy, Hon’ble Home Minister, Shri. Tummala Nageswararao, Hon’ble Minister – Dept. of Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens, Mr. Mohd. Raza Mohammed, State Head, AP & Telangana, HelpAge India, and other dignitaries, along with Senior Citizens State Federation leaders at the IDOP celebrations marked by the state Government in Ravindra Bharati, Hyderabad.

Mr. Biju Mathew, State Head, Kerala, on behalf of HelpAge India, receives the ‘NGO Leadership Award’ at a function held in Kochi, Kerala. The award recognizes the exemplary work done by an NGO towards bringing about social change in society.

CRISIL has assigned a grading of ‘VO 1A’ to HelpAge India. This grading indicates that an organization has a ‘Very Strong Delivery Capability and High Financial Proficiency’ and is adjusted in relation to other Voluntary Organizations (VOs). The organization’s grading is based on its relative capability to achieve its stated objectives in a sustained manner.

Price Rs. 12.50/- per issue. Annual subscription Rs. 50/-
Dear Readers,

We begin this year with a review of the last quarter of 2017. We also, look at how the Union Budget 2018 impacted senior citizens by providing them tax benefits in healthcare and giving higher income from interest. The Budget empowered the country’s senior citizens with more power to invest. Though there are some beneficial sops for the middle class elder, there is still much left desired vis a vis the poor elder, particularly in the area of old age pension.

HelpAge India also marked the ‘International Day of Older Persons’ across the country, through signature campaigns, walkathons theatre performances and forums addressing the issue of Ageism, which is discrimination based on age. We strengthened our fight against it through campaigns throughout the country.

We are very happy to share that HelpAge was assigned a CRISIL rating of ‘VO 1A’, indicating we have a ‘Very Strong Delivery Capability and High Financial Proficiency’ as a voluntary organization.

A special thanks goes out to our corporate supporters such as - REC Foundation, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Deutsche Bank, State Bank of India Capital Markets Limited, Oracle, Hi-Tech Arai Pvt. Ltd. and many others, for their incredible support to our work throughout the year.

We are deeply thankful to all our individual donors, volunteers from schools, colleges, and corporates across the country who stand with us shoulder to shoulder, keeping faith in our work and helping us provide dignity and a life of quality, to thousands of elderly each day.

On behalf of the HelpAge family, wish you a very happy & prosperous 2018!

Sonali Sharma
Director
Communications
HelpAge Vol.16 No.3 October – December 2017

Creating an impact at the grassroot level

Marking World Physiotherapy Day

An elderly woman gets screened and treated for her back problems at the Kula Selvi Karunamayee Old Age Home, in Chennai (TN). Marking World Physiotherapy Day, besides screening elders in need for Physiotherapy, a talk on ‘Prevention of Falls and Osteoporosis’ was given by Ms. S. Anitha Priyadharshini, Consultant Physiotherapist. She taught the residents, exercises, how to look after themselves better and be self-reliant. Dr. S. M. Vasanth, Geriatrician, also addressed the gathering about the importance of nutrition & a balanced diet for elderly.

Helping Cyclone victims rebuild their lives

HelpAge India Kerala team organized a special volunteer training program on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) counseling requirements for the survivors of the Ockhi cyclone which hit the coastal districts of Trivandrum, Kerala. Mr. K. P. Prakashan, from Kerala Mental Health Authority addressed the gathering of professionals and volunteers on how to help victims who lost their homes and livelihood, and how to overcome the trauma that was caused by the devastating natural disaster. Trainings like these, help build empathy within volunteers and makes them equipped with life skills needed during times of emergencies in disaster hit communities.

Highlights of the Union Budget (2018-19) for Seniors

Here is a quick recap of what this years Budget has in store for our Seniors:

- Interest of up to ₹150,000 earned on fixed deposits by senior citizens will be exempted from taxation as against ₹1,10,000 earlier. TDS will not be required to be deducted under section 194A and it has been extended to all fixed deposit schemes and recurring deposit schemes.
- Income tax deduction limit on health insurance premium and medical expenditures incurred by senior citizens and senior citizens aged 80 and above, has been increased to ₹1,50,000 under Section 80D.
- Expenses incurred on critical illness by senior citizens will be exempted up to ₹11 lakh. Earlier it was ₹10,00,000 for senior citizens and ₹18,00,000 for the Oldest Old.
- Extension of the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana up to March 2020 under which an assured return of 8 per cent is given by Life Insurance Corporation of India. The existing exit option of investment of ₹7.5 lakh per senior citizen under this scheme is also being doubled to ₹15 lakh.

Mr. Tirupuram, 63 years, was found wandering on the streets of M.G.R. Nagar area in Chennai (TN). Suffering from Dementia, she was unable to speak or recollect anything about her life or where she came from. Noticing her condition, the local residents alerted the Police Station and the Sub-Inspector, who contacted the HelpAge Elder Helpline. The Helpline team rushed to her aid and found her very under-nourished and weak. She was then admitted in Gyanvani Old Age Home in Red Hills. But destiny had other plans, on the same day the Helpline received a call from the Sub-Inspector informing that someone lodged a Missing Person’s complaint regarding his mother, who had been missing since the last 15 days. The details furnished, matched with that of Mr. Tirupuram. The Helpline team immediately took Mr. Tirupuram to the Police Station where her son was waiting. On seeing Tirupuram, her son and daughter-in-law got emotional and called the HelpAge Helpline team immediately. Today, Tirupuram is back home surrounded by her loved ones.

Mr. Matthew Cherian, CEO, HelpAge India, inaugurates a Active Ageing Centre at Fort Kochi, Kerala, supported by the Kochi Municipal Corporation which has provided a fully furnished building with running cost for three years. The Centre is now regularly organizes various activities such as awareness camps on health & financial awareness, digital literacy workshops, yoga classes and other recreational activities for elders. The elders also have access to a fully stocked Library, assistive devices like wheelchairs, walking sticks and a full time Counselor. This is a major step forward by the govt. and a boost to HelpAge-Agecare initiatives in Kerala.

Empowering Elder Voices

In a first-of-its-kind initiative, a Health Card was launched for Senior Citizens, which gives them access to priority treatment at AIIMS, Patna (Bihar). In the picture, officials from AIIMS hold up the card along with Mr. Girish (second from left), State Head, Bihar & Jharkhand, HelpAge India.

Mr. Nishu Saini, Helpline Counselor, HelpAge India, Chandigarh, assists an elder in getting his details corrected in his Aadhaar card and fill his Pension form, during an awareness camp in collaboration with the Dept. of Social Welfare.

A platform for elder Voices - Jan Sunvai

In Kolkata, nearly 1000 elder representatives from 300 Elder Self Help Groups (ESHGs) participate in a dialogue on livelihood through ESHGs, discussing the positives, areas of concern and measures to rectify them. The elderly also gave feedback on Gram Vikas Centres, usage for seed money for livelihood projects, and a future plan of action on how to make their respective ESHGs self-sustained.

HelpAge staff members help assist disadvantaged & destitute elders in filing up forms at a Pension camp organized at Tolkopuri, Delhi. The aim was to help elders access their much needed pension.
HelpAge continuously strives to inculcate empathy in young children in schools towards the elderly through various advocacy initiatives. Children, teachers and principals across schools in India are working with us hand-in-hand to develop sensitivity towards elders. Here are some institutions that have shown their support towards the elder cause.

School donated Rs. 3.4 Lakh as contribution towards the elder cause. The school has

Mr. Nilesh Nalvaya (centre), State Head, Rajasthan, along with Ms. Vaishali Sharm, Sr. Executive - Resource Mobilization, from HelpAge India, receive a donation of Rs.72,000 towards the elder cause, from the teachers of DPS World School, Ajmer, Rajasthan. Looking on is Mr. Michael D’Souza (left), Principal of the school.

Mrs. Sharmila Nandi, Director, Dr. Virendra Swarup Education Centre, Kanpur (UP), hands over a cheque of Rs. 7 Lakh towards the welfare of senior citizens to Mr. Panday (left), Community Officer, HelpAge India.

Mrs. Tirumala (left), School Co-ordinator, Techno India Group Public School, Chinchura, Hooghly (WB), hands over the School trophy to Ms. Vishali Sharma, Sr. Executive - Resource Mobilization, from HelpAge India. The school has contributed to the cause.

HelpAge India has been fortunate that many corporates across the years, have shown their sensitivity towards the cause of the elderly, especially in the area of healthcare for elders. We thank them for their generosity and support in helping provide much needed healthcare to our destitute elders and their community.

HelpAge India and Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) launched a new e-Health Centre in Vishokanand Vridhshram Society in Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh. This Centre will give elders access to extensive healthcare services supported by electronic prescriptions. All medical data will be recorded into Electronic Health Records and stored in the computers at these Centres.

SBI Capital Markets Ltd. officials - Mr. R.K. Dhingra (left) and Mrs. Neera Vig (centre) hand over the keys of the Mobile Healthcare Unit for Udaipur, to Mr. Nilesh Nalvaya (right), State Head, Rajasthan, HelpAge India, along with the HelpAge team. SBI Capital Markets Ltd. has donated Rs. 21.4 Lakh as capex for the Udaipur Mobile Healthcare Unit.

Dr. Virendra Swarup Education Centre, Kanpur (UP) has worked on the Udaipur Mobile Healthcare Unit.

Oracle continues to partner with HelpAge India to support two Mobile Health care Units, at Delhi NCR and Coimbatore (TN), providing over 20,000 treatments annually to disadvantaged elders and the communities they live in.

**LEH-LADAKH – Jammu & Kashmir**

Mr. Mathew Cherian (left), CEO, HelpAge India, and Mr. PV Ramesh, CMO, REC Foundation sign the Memorandum of Association, which extends the Foundation’s support of Rs. 3.50 crore to HelpAge India, for the construction and operation of a shelter home with wellness facilities for elders at Shey village in Leh-Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir.

Deutsche Bank has once again partnered with HelpAge India to provide extensive and invaluable support to HelpAge’s vision to eradicate preventable blindness in India, by supporting 20,000 cataract surgeries with intra-ocular lens implants in 12 Indian states.