



Sparsh  Hospice

# SPARSH HOSPICE

## QUARTERLY REPORT

### JULY-SEPTEMBER 2021

# Ghazal

Will get free from chores,  
Boat of life will reach its shore

Peaceful heart, eternal lifetime, and substance  
Got so much from your presence

Heard that he will remove the veil  
With this wish I am pinning hope

Your spirit is in flowers,  
Your beauty is seen in the desert, river and sea

Remembering you in my tough times  
Gives the strength to deal with them

Even during tough times your name provides relief  
I will happily reach my destination

Don't leave the song of life, let me be quiet  
I am a traveler, I have been thrown far away from my destination

Standing still as Faiz's poems  
Life is like 'Jugnu', always in rhythm

**This Ghazal was written by our beloved homecare patient 'Jugnu' in Urdu and translated in Hindi and English. She was an independent and strong women and a Urdu poet, teacher whose heart is filled with love and kindness. For us, she will remain in our memories forever.**







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## FROM TRUSTEE'S DESK



**VIKAS RANKA**

**- PRESIDENT, ROTARY BANJARA HILLS**

Second wave of Covid-19 had a devastating impact on the entire country and many amongst us have lost their loved ones to the pandemic. Let's pray to give strength to the families who have lost their near and dear ones. During the pandemic, Sparsh Hospice faced many challenges in terms of funding but with hope and determination, we have served terminal ill patients.

As it is said, there is always "light at the end of the tunnel," Rotary Club of Banjara Hills was fortunate to conduct the 'Pooja' of our new state-of-the-art Sparsh hospice facility at Khajaguda, Hyderabad with all joy and fervour. And we are happy to share with all of you that our new facility is now operational and got a new address at Khajaguda, Hyderabad location.

The 82-bedded facility will cater more terminally ill patients and serve towards the humanity. The facility was inaugurated on September 4, 2021 by Hon'ble State Minister KT Rama Rao, Minister for IT, Industries & MA&UD in the presence of Rotary International Director, Dr Mahesh Kotbagi and Padma Bhushan Shri Vara Prasad Reddy (Founder-President Shantha Biotechnics).

On this occasion we are pleased to inform you that our trust has received Platinum Certificate for consecutive 6 Years from GuideStar India and have recently been awarded with "The Sakshi Excellence Award for Excellence in Healthcare for the year 2019-20."

Let's join hands and continue to support this cause and provide a Healing Touch (Sparsh) to the needy.



## FROM CEO'S DESK



**RAM MOHAN RAO YARRAPOTHU**  
- CEO, SPARSH HOSPICE

I am very pleased to share July to September, 2021 quarter's progress with you. A quarter filled with new beginnings, challenges and we at Sparsh learned new lessons to thrive. I am thankful to all the patients and their families who put their trust in us. The family members and connects of our past patients are our greatest advocates and the current patients are testimonies to this fact. This also shows the fact that our team is our greatest strength through which we are extending palliative care to more and more patients.

I am also very pleased to share that our state-of-the-art-building has been inaugurated on September 4 by Hon'ble Minister, Shri KT Rama Rao, Minister for IT, Industries, MA & UD in the presence of Dr Mahesh Kotbagi, Rotary International Director.

I must take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd and other individual donors, philanthropies who have been supporting us during the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to SBI Card's continuous support from last three years, Sparsh Hospice home care team is able to successfully run 4 vans and reaching all the corners of Hyderabad and its outskirts. Now Sparsh Hospice is extending palliative care to around 300 patients in any given day.

We have continued to follow COVID-19 appropriate healthcare protocols across all areas of our service, prioritising both our patients, their families, and the wellbeing of the Sparsh team members. At this junction I also thank the countless volunteers and patrons who have continued to contribute to our cause, despite challenging personal circumstances.

I am extremely thankful to all the Trustees of Rotary Club of Banjara Hills Charitable Trust and Governing Board members for their valuable counsel and support throughout the quarter to thrive and extend our 'signature care' to the patients.

As we have moved to our 82-bedded palliative care centre in Khajaguda, Hyderabad, we wish to extend our services to more needy patients and families in the coming quarter and dedicate our service to the needy.

# Board of Trustees

Rotary Club of Banjara Hills Charitable Trust (Sparsh Hospice)

**JAGADISH  
RAMADUGU**

Long-Term Trustee  
& Treasurer



**VIKAS  
RANKA**

President &  
Trustee



**DR. M  
SUBHRAHMANYAM**

Long term Trustee



**MEREDDY  
SURESH REDDY**

Long-Term Trustee



**DR. ANITHA  
PATILBANDLA**

Secretary &  
Trustee



**PRABHAKAR  
DHULIPUDI**

Trustee



**DR. M  
PRANATHI REDDY**

Trustee



**R SRINIVAS  
RAJU**

Trustee





# Overview

To render differential palliative care services to add value and provide comfort in the end-of-life days of terminally ill patients

## Our Mission

## Our Vision

Our vision is to be able to continue to provide exceptional palliative care services, free of cost, to terminally ill patients hailing from all sections of society.

- To encourage and facilitate practical training in palliative care among healthcare professionals
- To help facilitate study and research on palliative care and hospice centres
- To provide care and compassion by holding hands and addressing patients with utmost dignity
- To respect and offer them 'a serene and dignified departure' from this world

## Our Goals



"Together we achieve more"



Figure1: The figure reflects relationship between disease-modifying therapy and palliative care in a patient with an incurable progressive condition. - Source: IPC 5 Introducing Palliative Care



## Pillars of Holistic Palliative Care at Sparsh

### Physical Care

- Pain Management
- Symptom Management
- Necessary medicines and clinical assistance
- Personal Hygiene & grooming
- Wound dressing
- Clinical assisted nutrition and hydration
- Patient mobilisation



### Psychological Care

- Patient & family counselling
- Care at calm & comfort place
- Taking care of emotional wellbeing
- Fatigue, burnout management
- Managing fear of pain & death



### Social Care

- Free food and stay for patients and their attenders
- Need-based transport & ambulance facility
- Laundry & hygiene support
- Free oxygen support for homecare patients & outpatients
- Need-based social support such as groceries, medical equipments and others
- Bereavement support such as:
  1. Alternate livelihood
  2. Continuous interactions

### Spiritual Care

- Assessing multi-dimensional spiritual needs
- Assessing existential crisis
- Value-based attitude management such as culture, ethics, moral values, religion etc.
- Religious consideration





# Statistics

## A closer look at our impact

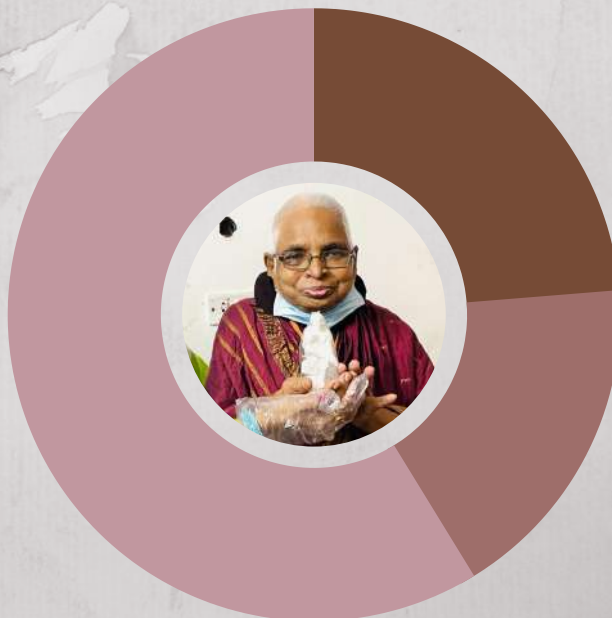
We at Sparsh Hospice are firm believers of evidence-based service and transparency. Perhaps there is no better measure of our impact than our growing numbers. Our care team provides palliative care across three major areas, and they are:

- In-patient Hospice Care
- Out-patient consultations
- Home-based Care

# 371

## Total new patients served

**183**  
New  
homecare  
patients



**99**  
New  
out-patients

**89**  
New  
in-patients



# IN-PATIENTS





# Extending 'signature care'



## Signature Care

Over a decade-long journey, we have consistently worked towards building a culture of 'signature care'. As palliative care workers catering to terminally ill patients, this means that we take holistic, or "total" care of the person and their caregivers. Medical, psychological and spiritual counselling, pain and symptom management, caregiver/family sessions, conflict-resolution, and mobilizing social support for needy families, are some of the things we do as part and parcel of "palliative care".

	July	August	September	Total
New Admissions	24	20	45	89
Deaths	17	17	27	61
Discharges	4	3	7	14



Total no. of new admissions



Total no. of deaths



Total no. of discharges



# HEMOCARE





# Care at comfort



## Miles to go

### before we sleep

Over a decade-long journey, we have consistently worked towards building a culture of "signature care". As palliative care workers catering to terminally ill patients, this means that we take holistic, or "total" care of the person and their caregivers. Medical, psychological and spiritual counselling, pain and symptom management, caregiver/family sessions, conflict-resolution, and mobilizing social support for needy families are some of the things we do as a part and parcel of "palliative care".

	July	August	September	Total
New Visit	57	37	89	183
Re-visits	244	300	252	796
Bereavement Visits	8	11	8	27



Total no. of new visits



Total no. of re-visits



Total no. of bereavement visits



# OUT-PATIENTS





# Connecting Dots



## Customised Support

Outpatient consultations can often be a neglected area in palliative care. Sparsh Hospice is committed to providing high-quality care to our service-users who choose to come in occasionally for pain management, wound dressings, counselling, and a sense of community at the hospice.

New Outpatients

Re-outpatients

	July	August	September	Total
New Outpatients	7	8	84	99
Re-outpatients	33	20	58	111

99

Total no. of new visits

111

Total no. of re-visits



# Care at the comfort of home

4 vans are operated daily along with multidisciplinary team



**DR VUJJINI KAMALAKAR**  
**- PALLIATIVE CARE PHYSICIAN**

*"I am waiting for the day when I don't have to travel long distance to get my medicines at my comfort place of my home. I will be eternally grateful to anyone who can help me in this regard."* shares a homecare patient with bone cancer during our homecare visit.

That is where it shows how vital home-based palliative care is. And at Sparsh, we are committed to provide all aspects of palliative care either through in-patients, homecare or out-patients. Sparsh homecare patients base is larger than the in-patients and out-patients. Sparsh operates four fully equipped vans for home-based palliative care, around the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad and the outskirts. The team includes multidisciplinary teams, consisting of a physician, nurse, and a counselor. Each team covers around 35-45 km radius from the center. The team strictly follows the home visits' routine according to a follow-up schedule of their assigned patients. Most homecare teams on an average are following up to 50-60 patients at any given time.

Based on symptoms, state of disease, changes in symptoms and disease progression, the frequency of home visits are changed, sometimes patients may be seen up to 2 to 4 times per week if needed. During home visits, caregivers are taught to provide simple nursing tasks, such as wound care, for the patient for any emergency purposes.

Where there are refractory symptoms noticed in patients towards end of life, or there are no caregivers to take care of patient home or families with distress unable to handle the care at home are coordinated and shifted to the centre (Sparsh Hospice) as a part of transition care. Social support is other aspect of holistic palliative care, and is routinely incorporated in our practice. Patients have been helped by no cost medicines and families in need have been receiving social support as a helping hand.

We also face challenges during the visit as family often asks the doctors to collude and not to divulge information to patient about diagnosis and prognosis. This creates a barrier in care process. Families are counseled about the need for the patient to have information about the illness as it would help the patient to cope with illness better, understand symptomatology and complete unfinished procedures.



# From the eye of volunteers

## Psychosocial care: An imperative approach for end-of-life care



**PRATHYUSHA Y.V & DEAN GEORGE**  
- VOLUNTEERS

Within the medical world, the care of the dying patient has evolved into a dedicated discipline called hospice care. Organization like Sparsh Hospice extends its free support and care to terminally ill people irrespective of their gender, age, race and socioeconomic status. Like life, death is a matter of individuality and therefore it is considered as the team's responsibility to respect the patients' autonomy.

An essential component of palliative care at the end of life is assisting patients and their families in understanding the nature of their disease and prognosis. When patients move from curative treatment to end life care, they face multiple physical as well as psychosocial issues. It is so common for patients and their caregivers to think that addressing medical issues is the solution to end the suffering. But there is a need to address psychological (fear, anxiety, depression, lack of control), social (familial issues, financial concerns, social stigma) and spiritual (existential and religious issues) concerns that service users face which sometimes receive negligible introspection and attention.

When a family member is required to give more care, he or she must be appropriately supported. Such as Home Care which provides more alternatives for patients and their families by providing a flexible service tailored to individual requirements and delivered by trained staff. Taking care of patients at their homes is challenging for the team but it is made possible in order to satisfy the need of the patient to be in their comfort zone.

Sometimes, the team has to go beyond medical and psychosocial interventions in order to celebrate small moments in patients' lives as they create beautiful memories by celebrating birthdays, anniversaries. Furthermore, palliative and hospice care organize entertainment activities based on the patients' preferences and capacities.

Providing entertainment programs for service users allow them to divert their attention from their symptoms and worries about their illnesses.

By being compassionate, sensitive, and non-judgmental, the team makes every attempt to make the patients' final chapter of life as serene as possible. After all, everyone wants to be cared for, loved and respected.



# 'It is about spiritual discipline'

## To die peacefully, one has to accept the fact of death



**ABHIRAM KOTTA**

**- VOLUNTEER**

Palliative care is a special type of medical care given to people with complex chronic illnesses such as cancer. It seeks to improve the quality of life for both patients and their families while managing pain and other symptoms effectively. It is also about celebration and healing, and it isn't just procedures: it's conversations, kindness, empowerment, restorative moments with loved ones. It's all about the spiritual side of palliative care that offers hope while we're facing our own mortality. Palliative care is spiritual.

For me it is about discovering who we are after being sick, dying of cancer, having terminal cancer, being in the middle of treatment, being finished with treatment, or managing a long-term illness. Palliative care is about awareness and consciousness. We have to know that we are dying physically in order to discover who we are spiritual.

But how do we determine what's spiritual?

Spirituality is something that makes us feel good, not guilty necessarily. When it comes to spirituality, some think of religion - they don't necessarily have to be religious - and others think of philosophy and values or other chronic conditions.

I like to think that palliative care is a spiritual discipline, which helps us to have peace with our family members, friends, and ourselves. It helps us to be more aware. Sparsh helps patients to discover what constitutes their own personal spirituality.

We need to know our goals, and we should be very clear and precise about them. It's important for us to determine what we want spiritually after we've finished treatment. If we don't, we may regret it later on in life.

It's rare that patients die peacefully - to die peacefully, they have to accept that the end of their life is here. Physically, they need to understand that they can no longer fight the disease. Spiritually, they need to be ready for what's next. Emotionally, they have to be able to say goodbye. As patients are departing, they need someone to guide them so they don't get lost along the way. Some find this early in their illness, some later.



# Giving back to the world

## Social work is not just a job it's all about life lessons



**JANAKI RAM**  
- SOCIAL WORKER

Sometimes, all the bedtime stories from childhood and lessons from parents get so well imbibed that people follow them for life. The same imbibed in me and I started working in the humanitarian sector and made it my career. As I am inclined interest towards humanitarian sector, I am developing my career, which is outside the box and ready to take all the challenges in our society.

We all must give back to society at some point, and I have decided to take it as a option for my livelihood.

As a social worker in palliative care, it's not just a job, for us it's about life lessons. Human emotions are complex and we try to bridge the gap as best as we can. I have been moving around cities with homecare van and met hundreds of terminal ill people and in the process I have become better human and lot of credit goes to the team and the family members who give hope to thrive even in difficult times.

# 'Smiles of patients give us hope'

## In conversation with Sparsh Nursing Aid Soumya



**SOUMYA**  
- HEAD, NURSING AIDS

### a) How nursing aid is an important part of palliative care?

**Soumya:** One of the most important components of Palliative care is giving comfort and as nursing aid, we try our best to provide personal care, hygiene, bedmaking, time to time medication. I think as frontline workers we as nursing aides play a crucial role in comfort care of patients.

### b) Why understanding each emotion of the patient is important?

**Soumya:** Patients go through a lot of emotional imbalance while diagnosis and it leaves them with no hope when the news is broken to them that they are terminal. 70% of palliative care is about counselling and listening, so we have to be a 'Good Listeners' in palliative care.

### c) How does being in palliative care play a role in your personal life?

**Soumya:** Understanding pain and suffering has made me a good human, I think. Sparsh has been giving a quality of life to terminal patients for 10 years and I am associated with Sparsh for a long time. Understanding what makes life meaningful at Sparsh has given me purpose for life.



# BEREAVEMENT VISITS

Social workers team from Sparsh Hospice attend funerals and also visit to the patients' families at their respective home to extend emotional support to enable family members to cope with the loss of their dear ones.



# COUNSELLING & CARE

Caring for a terminally ill is not only physically taxing but emotionally difficult too for the family. Sparsh is happy to provide short-term service for the benefit of the family caregivers (attenders) as well as for the patients. It is delivered with the help of our active volunteers who take the place of the family member needing a break to go home and attend to other urgent and important tasks. Sometimes attenders need counselling and want to talk about their grief, for which our counselling team are ever ready. Sparsh also try to engage caregivers into different activities such as entertainment programme, reading time and others. Similarly this time we organised Abburi Chaya Devi Smaraka Sancharah Grandhalayam (Abburi Chaya Devi Mobile Library), being run by Bhumika Women's Collective.





# CELEBRATING TOGETHER

What sets us apart as a palliative care team is our continued efforts towards providing multi-dimensional comfort to the patient and their family. To us, this not only means addressing the medical angle but also the socioemotional area of their lives. Therefore, we take the extra step to acknowledge the importance of the human being behind the illness. This quarter witnessed the celebrations of several birthdays, Telugu new year, festival celebrations and other events which are closer to patient's heart.

## Entertainment Programme



## Birthday Celebrations





## Festival Celebrations





## Independence Day Celebrations



## Other celebrations



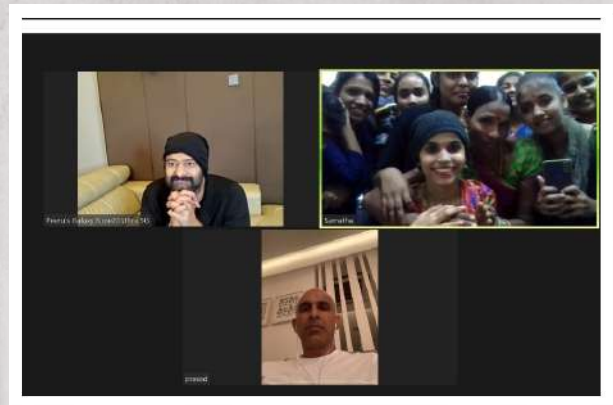
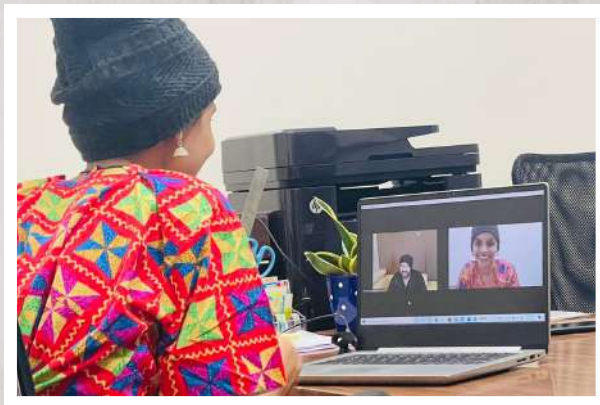


# Making wishes come true!

## Smiles, which matters the most

Sparsh always try their best to make the wishes of our patients come true and strive is for their smiles, which matters the most. We are also grateful that we have for the continuous moral support that eminent personalities have shown towards us. It has a major impact on the work we are doing. This quarter we were honoured that our inpatient was able to interact with her favourite actor Prabhas. And we also have similar kind of many moments that made the patients and teh family members smile.

### Celebrity Interaction



*Sobha, our inpatient, during her interaction with her favourite Telugu actor Prabhas. Our nurse team also interacted with him and his presence left all in smiles with lot memories.*

### Night Out



*Our homecare patient wanted to have food outside and enjoy with her family members. Our nurse Rohith took the patient and her family members for a food outing.*



# Sparsh Impact

## Making dignified departure

### Comprehensive approach towards elderly



When Sparsh Hospice started its free services in 2011, there were very few who were aware about palliative care services. Initially, volunteers of Sparsh used to go to private and public hospital, terminally ill cancer patients' home to make them aware of the same and extend services to the needy. There were situations that volunteers were not even allowed to create awareness on palliative care. Despite this the team maintained the focus and explored other avenues like reaching remote and urban areas of Hyderabad agglomeration limits to spread awareness on palliative care services. Our patients and their family members, they are the biggest advocate for our palliative care services, who also refer other patients to us. This started attracting different NGOs and institutions to work with us to serve the humanity, for which one example is CR Foundation, Hyderabad.

CR Foundation is not-for-profit organisation established in 1994 which runs a Home for Aged, Research centre, health centre, women-welfare centre, vocational trainings.

With mutual interest to serve the elderly population, Sparsh Hospice signed a MOU with CR Foundation in providing palliative care services to terminally ill patients of the latter. The kind of services Sparsh will be extending to CR Foundation are as follows:

- Dedicated beds for CR Foundation residents
- Homecare services for end-of-life care
- Visit of doctor on need
- Necessary manpower to six-bed medical facility for extending our signature care to bed-ridden inmates
- Conducting awareness program on hospice and palliative care services
- Extending counselling services



## One-of-a-kind Graduation Ceremony



‘Education has given me the strength to deal with the pain I am going through’, says Shobha, a student of Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad and our inpatient, at her Graduation Ceremony.

With all the determination and love for Nenavath Shobha, Sparsh Hospice Team, her professors, dear ones made the ceremony possible at her comfort space in the hospice and brought all her dear ones to one platform.

With her sparkling and smiling faces she thanked Sparsh, her faculties, friends and others who made the day memorable.

The 19-year-old is a first-generation graduate that too from prestigious institute, Tata Institute of Social Sciences. She completed her B.A (Social Sciences) and recently her Graduation Ceremony was held at Sparsh Hospice with all joys in the presence of her family members, village members, friends, teachers, mentors and others.

During her graduation speech she advocated the education rights of women and the marginalised sections of the society. It is her dream that girls from her village get college education and be able to complete their higher studies.





# Professional Development

Our monthly schedule of meetings, review hours, and topic presentations continued as usual in this quarter, with the intent to facilitate continuous learning among the care team members. These delegated times provide an important space for discussion and reflection as a palliative care team, which ultimately reflects on the quality of care we provide to our patients and their families. The nursing team also conducted training programme for newly inducted nurses and the existing team members.



## Workshop

Golden Butterflies Children's Palliative Care Foundation conducted a workshop on 'paediatric palliative care' at Sparsh Hospice with the aim of building capacity of the team. They visited Sparsh hospice and conducted a compassionate session where in they explained the importance of communication along with the role of social social worker, counsellor, caregiver and role in paediatric palliative care.





# Employee Wellbeing

Each and every employee at Sparsh Hospice is a family member of Sparsh. We believe in making every moment for its team members memorable. Sharing some the snapshots from the special occasion which matter for our employee.



## Employee Highlight

Palliative nursing is a subspecialty of nursing practice that continues to evolve as the art and science of nursing, and palliative care evolves. The person has to be a blend of a good communicator, compassionate, good listener, understand human vulnerability, and Sparsh nurse, Maheshwari, is one of the best nurses we have. Kind-hearted, soft-spoken, and very compassionate towards the patient. She has been working with Sparsh since 2015 and is a dear one amongst patients, their family members, and ofcourse the team.

On asking about the work culture at Sparsh, she said "Sparsh Team is my second family and I have learned a lot from the team. Sharing my professional life to personal each team member has shown strength to me in my difficulties. "When I go home and my *chinna pappa* asks me *amma* why you work as nurse, and I say to everyone nursing gives me satisfaction and it's the way how I can contribute to the terminal people."

Donning different hats at a time she has been working very hard to extend comfort to patients coming at hospice. She has been also engaged in homecare and outpatients and confidently managing different roles at a time. Confident and inspiring Maheshwari on talking about her journey as a palliative care nurse says with a broad smile, "I love my job".

Of course, Akula Maheshwari is an asset to the team.



**AKULA MAHESHWARI**  
- NURSE, SPARSH HOSPICE



# Testimonials

## Real life words for our services

“

Services of Sparsh are very good. Highly recommended for terminally ill cancer patients.

We are very Satisfied with services they are offering to my mother who is critically ill. Life would have been very difficult without Sparsh to be honest as she was going through so much pain due to Cancer. Sparsh doctors visit her every week At home and recommend medicines to ease her pain.

We are very thankful to Sparsh team for your great& good & best services!

**- Ravi Teja Alladi**

“

Services provided by Sparsh are really very good. All the staff are very kind and supportive. They helped us very well, and main thing is they offer services free of cost. We are very satisfied with your humble care provided for my mother. Thank you all the staff of Sparsh Hospice.

**- Sneha Panse**

“

Thanks to all doctors, nurses & all staff of Sparsh Hospice for keeping my grandmother happy in her last times and made her feel comfortable. Very satisfied Service and humble care of her.

**- Amol Modi**

“

I am very satisfied with the excellent care and support that my mother was given by the Sparsh Hospice team. Personally, being an doctor and having regular experience of working with Palliative Care team and Hospice Services in the U.K., I was pleasantly surprised by high standard of end of life care received by my mother. Most heartening was high level of empathy, commitment and availability. They have the skills to identify end of life requirements and the means to address it. They are precious. I wish the team all the very best in their mission of helping people in need. We are very thankful to Sparsh team for your great& good & best services!

**- Milind Sinha**



“

Services of Sparsh are very good. Highly recommended for terminally ill cancer patients. We are very Satisfied with services they are offering to my mother who is critically ill. Life would have been very difficult without Sparsh to be honest as she was going through so much pain due to Cancer. Sparsh doctors visit her every week At home and recommend medicines to ease her pain.

We are very thankful to Sparsh team for your great services !

**- Lavanya Sudha Somayajula**

“

Sparsh hospice is an excellent center for palliative care. The staff is very polite and dedicated. Cancer is a debilitating condition which requires at most care and emotional support for both patients and their families and Sparsh makes sure to provide that.

Thank you Sparsh and Sarada ma'am for all the help.

**- Maria Wajid**

“

Hats off to the Sparsh Hospice team. Valuable services and no words to express them. The staff is very polite and the team is providing great services for terminally ill cancer patients. Thank you Sparsh for your services and totally satisfied

**- Vishali Pillutla**

“

I don't have any physical experience over there, but what I have heard about Sparsh Hospice is very great. I give them my heartfelt wishes to the team, they are really gods on the Earth.

**- Kiran Kumar Gunda**



# Achievements

## Recognition of our services

### GuideStar India Platinum Seal



Sparsh Hospice has been awarded Champion Level GuideStar India Platinum for the year 2021-2022. We have been awarded for continuous six years including 2021 and joined the largest group of credible organisation.

### Fellowship in Palliative Care



Ms Sarada Lingaraju, Hospice Administrator, was certified Fellowship in Palliative Care offered by Institute of Palliative Medicine.

### Sakshi Excellence Award



Sparsh Hospice has been conferred with the 'Excellence in Healthcare Award' at the 6th & 7th edition of Sakshi Excellence Awards. The award was received by the members of Board of Trustees, Mr Suresh Reddy, Dr Subrahmanyam Maddirala, at the ceremony organised by Sakshi Media Group. Sakshi Excellence Award is a prestigious award by Sakshi Media Group conferred to the inspiring NGOs, youth, entrepreneurs, individuals who are serving and impacting the society in the areas of non-profit organisation, education, agriculture, sports and health.



# Dream Come True!

## 82-bedded new facility centre was inaugurated on September 4



State of the art 82-bedded palliative care centre of Sparsh Hospice was inaugurated by MA&UD Minister K.T. Rama Rao on September 4, 2021, to extend services to more needy patients. The 60,000 square feet facility is constructed at 1.1 acres of land leased out by the government of Telangana. The facility is built at Rs 15 crore and is funded by donations from corporates, individuals, philanthropists willing to provide free care to terminally ill patients.

"When I first visited Sparsh Hospice in 2014, I was not aware about palliative care. Later through Sparsh and others I came to know about it so much and I acknowledge that it is a great service to humanity. The Government of Telangana is considering to enter palliative care with partnership from private institutions" the state Minister said. Padma Bhushan K Varaprasad Reddy, Founder-President, Shantha Biotechnics, said "I am really proud to be part of Sparsh, Rotary Banjara Hills, who are providing terminally ill people to get dignified departure. It gives me immense pleasure to be a part where humanity is the most priority." Leading the conversation further Mahesh Kotbagi, Director Rotary International said "When I see circular walls of Sparsh Hospice, it echoes warmth and love to me and as a Rotarian we are glad to be part of such as big humanitarian project."

Dr Subrahmanyam Maddirala, Long-Term Trustee, Sparsh Hospice said "Burden of cancer and life-limiting illness is growing and only 2% of them receive palliative care. And we are fortunate to Government of Telangana, all donors to support us in filling the gap of palliative care."

"Sparsh's strength is in their generous donors and our some of the donors are those who have given their life savings to us in serving this society and I salute all of them along with donors such as Phoenix Foundation and others," said our Long-Term Trustee Suresh Reddy. Talking about the sustainability of the hospice centre Jagadish Ramadugu, Treasurer and Long-Term Trustee, Sparsh Hospice said "To run the 82-bed facility we need a sustainable approach and we are working towards it and our vision is to make this facility into one of best training institute in the palliative care, which will train large number of healthcare professionals who can go out and serve in the hospice care."

The inauguration was also graced by eminent personalities such as Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secreatary, Mahender Redydy, former DGP, Krishna Yedula, SCSC Secretary. Sparsh Hospice Trustees Jagadish Ramadugu, Suresh Reddy, Dr Subrahmanyam Maddirala, Vikas Ranka, Dr Anitha Patibandla, Dr Pranathi Reddy, Prabhakar Dhulipudi and Srinivas Raju were also present in the event.

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In 2014, when I visited Sparsh, I was not aware about palliative care. Later through Sparsh I came to know about it so much and I must acknowledge that it is a great service to humanity.

- Minister KT Rama Rao

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I am really glad to be part of Sparsh, Rotary Banjara Hills, who are providing terminally ill people to get dignified departure. It gives me immense pleasure to be a part where humanity is the most priority.

- Padma Bhushan Varaprasad Reddy

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When I see circular walls of Sparsh Hospice, it echoes warmth and love to me and as a Rotarian I am proud to be part of such as big humanitarian project.

- Mahesh Kotbagi, Director, Rotary International

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Our vision is to turn Sparsh into one of the best hospice care training centre and leverage healthcare professionals to go out and serve others.

- Jagadish Ramadugu, Long-Term Trustee & Treasurer



## Sneak-peak into inauguration ceremony



## KTR joins fight against cancer, launches 82-bed palliative unit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
@ Hyderabad

ADDING to the healthcare facilities in Hyderabad, Minister for IT and MAUD inaugurated an 82-bed palliative care centre, Sparsh Hospice, in Khajaguda on Saturday. The

palliative centre will provide free-of-cost treatment to terminally ill cancer patients and is an initiative by the Rotary Club.

Speaking at the inauguration, Rama Rao reminisced about his

visit to the same campus in 2016 and how he was moved by their service to terminally ill patients. "There are very few inaugural programs that give us gratification. This is one such program. I had vis-

ited Sparsh Hospice, a palliative care facility operating out of a small premises in Banjara Hills in 2016 Oct. I was so moved by their service to the terminally ill that I donated ₹5 lakh and assured all support from the government. Within 10 months, I got the land allot-

ted and laid the foundation stone in 2017, he said.

The government allocated around 1.1 acres of land on lease for 33 years to the centre that will have 30 specialised nursing staff and 10 beds reserved for children with cancer.





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