

# Sparsh Hospice Center for Palliative Care

An Initiative of Rotary Club of Banjara Hills Charitable Trust



## Project Brief

# Background

Palliative care was originally an integral part of Indian society, wherein a terminally ill patient was taken care of by their family, but their access to pain management resources was limited. With extensive developments in the medical field and a boom in corporate hospitals, although the pain is being remedied, a terminal patient is now spending their last days in ICUs - isolated from their family, dying amidst machines and strangers. An impersonal death is the norm nowadays, not an exception. Medical advancements may have prolonged life, but at the steep cost of the patient's quality of living.

The founders of the palliative care and hospice movement were faced with a difficult question: Is this truly a dignified death?

The thought of Sparsh Hospice took birth in this environment, where there was a total lack of support to the patient and their families in terms of medical, emotional, social, and spiritual care. Sparsh came into existence to strike a balance between the two extremes of deprivation; where the patient either has no access to remedial measures or on the other hand the comforting presence of their family. By addressing the patient and their family as a unit, the intent of Sparsh was to not only facilitate acceptance in the families but also ensure a respectful demise for their loved ones.

With a severe lack of awareness of palliative care in the Telugu states and the unwillingness of private hospitals to meet this need (due to low profitability), it was left to the voluntary sector to champion this cause. Despite the strong societal stigma against illness, death, and taking "charity services", the aim of Sparsh was to fulfil the essential physical and emotional needs of the patients and their families. As pain does not discriminate based on factors like economic status, creed, caste, and religion, it was a unanimous decision that a profit-making model would be avoided at all costs.

# Our Journey

Since pioneering this charitable and non-profit project, Sparsh has seen the growth of palliative care from the stage of very minimal patients in 2011 to a point where a waiting list is maintained for admissions. From humble beginnings, it has evolved to offering home care to terminally ill patients in the comfort of their houses. Breaking the stereotype that palliative care is only meant for cancer patients, Sparsh is now proudly catering to people with life-limiting conditions like dementia, paralysis, neurological conditions, acute kidney failure, liver cirrhosis and so on.

Over the last decade, Sparsh has been at the forefront of an invisible transformation that has been happening in healthcare. With eminent government dignitaries noticing our humanitarian work, our impact is becoming more widely recognized. Taking inspiration from the Sparsh model, the health department also rolled out a few palliative care units in several regions of the state.

Recently Sparsh has shifted from 14-bedded premise to 82-bedded facility at Khajguda, Hyderabad. The multidisciplinary team comprising of doctors, nurses, social workers, volunteers and counsellors who offer the necessary medical, emotional, and moral support in preparing for the inevitable. Our services include inpatient, outpatient, and home care (including night home care and Sunday home care).



# Our Impact

*Our philosophy is simple: to give our service users a "serene and dignified departure".*

Sparsh has tended to more than 5,050 patients free-of-cost in the 10 years since its inception and most of them have breathed their last peacefully here. Every month, around 150 new patients are being added to our umbrella of care. Today, we are reaching 2,000 direct beneficiaries (patients) and 3,000 indirect beneficiaries (families) annually - with 70% of them coming from below-poverty-line status. We are also providing support for last rites and ambulances, and other essentials to families in need.

We are serving about 250-270 patients at any given point under the Sparsh banner.

These numbers are a reflection not only of the word-of-mouth influence and the goodwill of the community, but also our constant efforts to spread awareness in all sections of society through awareness programmes.

Sparsh Hospice - Center for Palliative Care



# New 82-bedded facility



Looking at the need of the hour for palliative care and the limitations of our hospice in bridging that gap, the Government of Telangana generously leased a portion of land to the trust. Their support and intent to take palliative care to the grassroots of the Telugu-speaking states has now put into motion a state-of-the-art 82-bedded Sparsh facility and now is operational.

Our liaising efforts within the community (especially with healthcare centers and corporate hospitals) have increased our referrals in magnitudes because of the quality of care we provide. We continue to receive funding from corporates through their CSR activities and individual philanthropists; yet another measure of our success and impact in humanitarian service over the years. We are currently being supported by esteemed organizations such as SBI Foundation (support home-care services). Our earlier CSR supporters are Virtusa Consulting Services Pvt. Ltd., SBI Cards, Deloitte India, and APT Online Pvt. Ltd., among many others.

As we move towards new horizons and reflect on our journey, earning the trust of our beneficiaries and stakeholders in the signature care of Sparsh has been the most rewarding experience. That we have now become a paragon of excellence in palliative care and a benchmark model for future institutions is a humbling realization.

# Compliances, Certifications & Awards

## Statutory Compliances

- Registered Trust Deed
- Has 12A and 80G exemptions from Indian Income Tax
- Has valid FCRA (We are registered as "Sparsh Palliative Care Services" under 501 (c) (3) in the USA. The registration enables US citizens and entitles them to claim tax benefits in the US).
- Has PAN number
- Up-to-date financial statements available duly signed by the auditor
- IT Returns up-to-date

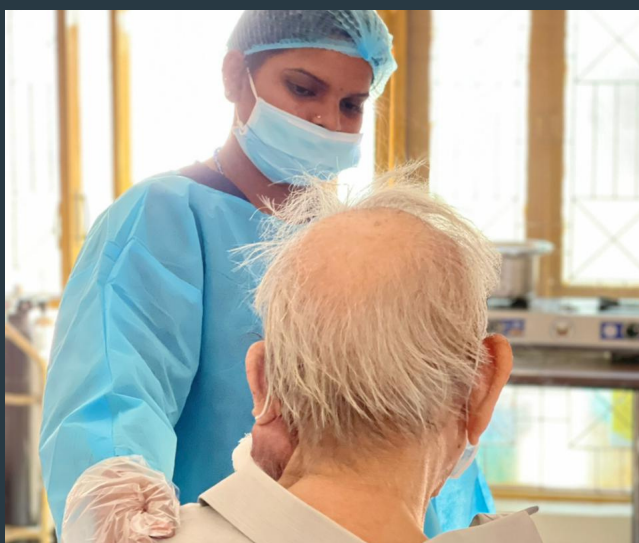
## Certifications

- Certified by CAF (Charities Aid Foundation)
- Platinum Certification by GuideStar India for Transparency & Public Accountability under renewal
- Lifetime membership with IAPC (Indian Association of Palliative Care)
- Lifetime membership with IAHPCC (International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care)

## Awards

- Sakshi Excellence Award in Healthcare by Sakshi Group; '21.
- Regional Winner of Spirit of Humanity Award by Americares Foundation.
- Telangana NGO Leadership Award 2020 by World CSR Day and Dr. R.L. Bhatia.
- Twice awarded the Sevaa Dharmik Award by Latha Raja Foundation in recognition of our service to society.
- LASSIB Society 2013 Special Jury Award for delivering outstanding outcomes in the field of National Service.

# Our Signature Care



# Follow us.

**Where cure ends, care begins.**



#SparshHospice is taking the palliative care movement forward by using social media platforms to educate, empower, and engage people.

We are presently active on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter where we regularly post our true stories with patients, family experiences, critical concepts in palliative care, and other tidbits from the daily ongoings at our hospice.

To read more about palliative and hospice care, visit our website:  
[sparshhospice.org](http://sparshhospice.org).

Follow our social media pages:

[instagram.com/sparshhospice](https://www.instagram.com/sparshhospice)  
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[linkedin.com/company/sparsh-hospice](https://www.linkedin.com/company/sparsh-hospice)  
[https://twitter.com/sparsh\\_hospice](https://twitter.com/sparsh_hospice)

Contact: +91 7995027878 /9  
email: [info@sparshhospice.org](mailto:info@sparshhospice.org).

Like our pages, follow our posts and stay updated with the Sparsh mission.  
Talk to your friends, family and loved ones about palliative care.  
Engage with us.

Remember, your support is only a click away.