



ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024





Founders

Girish Nair
Ankeet Dave

Registration No.

47455

CIN

Access Life Assistance Foundation
Registered As A Section 8 Company Under
The New Companies Act, 2013
VIDE CIN: U74900MH2014NPL258629

PAN

AAMCA97058

Address

Jolly Land CHS, Banglow No.6, Ghatla Village Road,
Chembur East, Mumbai 400071, Maharashtra, India

Phone

+91 80802 22377

Email

contact@accesslife.org

Website

www.accesslife.org

LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/accesslifeindia/>

X

<https://x.com/accesslifeindia>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/accesslifeindia>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/accesslifeindia/>

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/user/accesslifeindia>



Table of Contents

Message from the Founder **1**

About us **2**

Management Team **3**

A peek in to 2023-24 **4**

What we provide **5 - 8**

Our journey so far **9**

Strength in numbers **10**

Gallery **11-16**

Financial Overview **17**

Our Donors **18**

Case studies **19-22**



MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER



When we started Access Life, 10 years ago, we had envisioned that every needy child who comes to Mumbai to undergo treatment for cancer would have access to a clean, safe, comfortable, caring and a cost-free accommodation - a home away from home, for both the child and his family. In such a nurturing environment, these little ones would have another opportunity to experience childhood, the way they ought to.

Keeping this in mind, we developed a model at one location, the successful framework of which could then be replicated elsewhere. Thus, we set up the first Access Life Center for Childhood Cancer Care at Chembur, in Mumbai, Maharashtra, in June 2014. The donation of a mini-van by a generous contributor has ensured a stress-free transport to and fro from hospitals for our children.

Along with meeting their physical needs, we have also addressed the psychological and social effects of cancer. Counselling, yoga, music, recreation, education and nutritional supplementation programs, have helped in giving the parents and children, the holistic support they need to tackle this challenging disease. As we grew over the years, we added four more centres for accommodating the children and their families and have received four vehicles that help us provide transportation for the children at our Centres. At present we have 8 centres - taking our occupancy capacity to 140 accommodation units that serve the needs of over 420 individuals. Our 8 centres are operating at full capacity and we are looking forward to opening more units. The driving force(s) behind all this are our volunteers; and our committed staff, who work selflessly.

But in this journey of trying to spread happiness, we have also faced a major challenge in the form of people unwilling to let out their properties for housing young, poor cancer patients. Creating more awareness on cancer should hopefully motivate more people to open their hearts and homes to these children.



Before the end of Financial Year 2019-20, the entire world was severely challenged by COVID-19 pandemic, which led to a deep impact. We are yet to see the wild consequences of this deadly pandemic. We continue to strive towards our goal, ensuring a healthy & hygienic atmosphere for our brave hearts and their care takers as well as our team members.

and so our Mission continues

Girish Nair





ABOUT US

We are.... **A Home away from Home**

Access Life Assistance Foundation (ALAF) is a not-for profit organization setup in June 2014 and is registered as a section 8 company under the New Companies Act 2013.

Research indicates 70 -90% of childhood cancers are curable, but the treatment can often be a long drawn one, lasting from anywhere between 5-12 months or sometimes even extending to 24 months. While Hospitals provide quality medical services, these treatments are often offered as day care visits where the patient has to periodically visit the hospital on a regular basis.

Many families who come from remote places across India to metropolitan cities for their child's cancer treatment have no place to stay during the course of the treatment. Some families end up living on footpaths or in unhygienic conditions due to lack of proper accommodation. When living in such an unhygienic environment without having proper nourishment, these kids start losing their battle against cancer very early on. Many poor families find themselves at crossroads for the want of a good, affordable and hygienic place to stay and have to often abandon treatment and return to their hometown.

Access Life was thus born to provide a loving and temporary home for the outstation children undergoing treatment for cancer and their parents or caretakers. Besides providing a comfortable shelter for these families, Access Life also addresses the psycho-social impact of cancer by providing nutritional support, safe transportation to hospitals, practical support services, counselling services, educational services, and recreational facilities like music, dance, art and craft and many more.

PHILOSOPHY

High quality and holistic healthcare facilities should be available for all, regardless of their economic status.

MISSION

To create an environment where children and adolescents have access to quality health care and holistic support and which allows families to face the weight of illness together.

VISION

To offer free clean and safe accommodation, hygienic environment, nutritional food, safe local travel, counselling, recreational and educational support to outstation children challenged with cancer and their parents, during the entire duration of treatment.



MANAGEMENT TEAM



Girish Nair

Founder & Chairman

Girish has over 15 years of experience in Finance management across industries like Aviation, Public Relations, and Travel. He has worked with Ethiopian Airlines, Malaysian Airlines, Neucom Consulting, SGS Enterprises, and Nexus Travel Solutions. In 2016, he received the Asia-Pacific Cancer Society's Training Grant (APCASOT) for a program in Australia.



Ankeet Dave

Co-Founder & Executive Director

Ankeet has over a decade of experience in PR and Communications. He has worked for agencies like Hanmer MS&L and Vaishnavi Communications, handling clients in media and entertainment, and managing PR for celebrities.



Preethi Mutta

Director

Preethi holds a Master's Degree in Social Work and comes with ten years of professional experience with organizations like the Family Planning Association of India.

Advisory Board Members



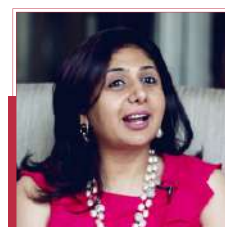
Nikunj Jhaveri



Sapan Choksi



Sanjiv Mehta



Karishma Parekh



Sneha Jaisingh



R N Mukhija



Kala Sundarvedha



Neha Huddar



A PEEK INTO 2023-2024



1981

Children saved till date

8

Centres across Mumbai (3),
Pune, Manipal, Chandigarh,
Ahmedabad & Bengaluru

5943

Lives Changed
(1 Child & 2 Caregivers)

3579

Stress free nights

5789

Activities under emotional and
psycho-social support



WHAT WE PROVIDE



ACCOMODATION

Access Life engages in serving through its 8 childhood cancer care centres - 3 in Mumbai, 1 in Pune, 2 in Karnataka, 1 in Chandigarh and 1 in Ahmedabad . Our 8 centres are located as below:

Access Life (Chembur-HO), Jolly Land CHS, Bungalow No 6, Ghatla Village, **Chembur**

In 2014, Access Life launched its first center in Chembur, Mumbai, to help kids and their families. Due to expansion & increased staff, we converted this center into an office.

Access Life (Chembur), 2nd Floor, Plot 403.J, Suswagatam 2, Sion Trombey Road, **Chembur**

In 2018, we started AL centre in Chembur, Mumbai which serves 12 kids and their families.

Access Life (Manipal), Bunglow no. 30, 31, near, BQ Rd, Madhav Nagar, **Manipal**

In 2022, Our centre started in the Manipal campus, Manipal which serves 12 kids and their families

Access Life (Bengaluru), 66/4 , 4th B Cross Rd, 36th Main, Dollar Scheme Road, BTM 1st Stage, **Bengaluru**

In June 2023, our centre in Bengaluru started which serves 22 kids and their families.

Access Life (Sandu Garden), Plot No 372 D, Deep Ashish, Road No 9, Near Sandu Garden, **Chembur (East)**

In 2024 Jan, we started our centre in Sandu Garden, Chembur which serves 14 kids and their families.

Access Life (Chembur), Plot 5B, Gurunanak Niwas, Near Wasan Motors, Sion Trombay, **Chembur**

In 2017, we began our centre in Chembur, Mumbai & in 2020 renovated this place which serves 30 kids and their families

Access Life (Pune) Nirmal Bunglow , D/3 Hindustan Estates, Jupiter Society, Kalyani Nagar, **Pune**

In 2021, we started our centre in Kalyani Nagar, Pune which serves 10 kids and their families.

Access Life (Chandigarh), House No - 103, Sector 23A, **Chandigarh**

In Aug 2022, Our centre started in Chandigarh which serves 20 kids and their families

Access Life (Ahmedabad), Plot no. 586/17, 7B, I P Mission Compound, Santosh Bag, Ellisbridge, **Ahmedabad**

In 2023 Sep, we started our centre in Ahmedabad which serves 20 kids and their families.

Keeping our vision in mind since we started Access Life in the Year 2014, at present, 140 underprivileged cancer afflicted children reside along with their guardians in the above 8 centres.



Nutrition

A well-balanced nutrition is very crucial for the optimum development of children. This requirement is further exaggerated in cases where children are being treated for cancer.

Cancer itself can be debilitating. Furthermore, treatments like chemotherapy and radiation can cause loss of appetite, inability to eat food because of various side effects like nausea, vomiting, mouth ulcers, change of taste, and inability to retain nutrients from food.

If the children are malnourished during the course of their treatments, they will be unable to respond well. Moreover, the impoverished state of the families of these brave hearts and their inability to afford nourishment during the treatment process made it necessary for Access Life to step in to provide nutrition and accommodation.

We at Access Life ensure that the children staying at our centres get appropriate nutrition through the provision of food grains and nutritional supplements required by the children. Additionally, considering the multi-diversity of families staying at Access Life, each family is given a separate gas stove, groceries and other cooking facilities at their accommodation.



Transportation

Each family undertakes on an average, 3-4 trips a week to the hospitals, for tests and treatment, in our 14 donated cars & a 26-seater bus. Due to the weak immune system of the children, public transport exposes them to further risk of infections. Easily accessible and stress-free transportation forms an essential part of a supportive care system that is provided by Access Life.



Counselling

The act of venting out has proved itself to be very helpful and therapeutic.

Counselling services have been an integral part of Access Life. The impact observed in the lives of children and parents is high. Counselling can help one to cope with Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and with many issues faced during and after the cancer diagnosis and treatment. Different counseling therapies and interventions help heal and put across a clear vision of the purpose of living with motivation and encouragement.



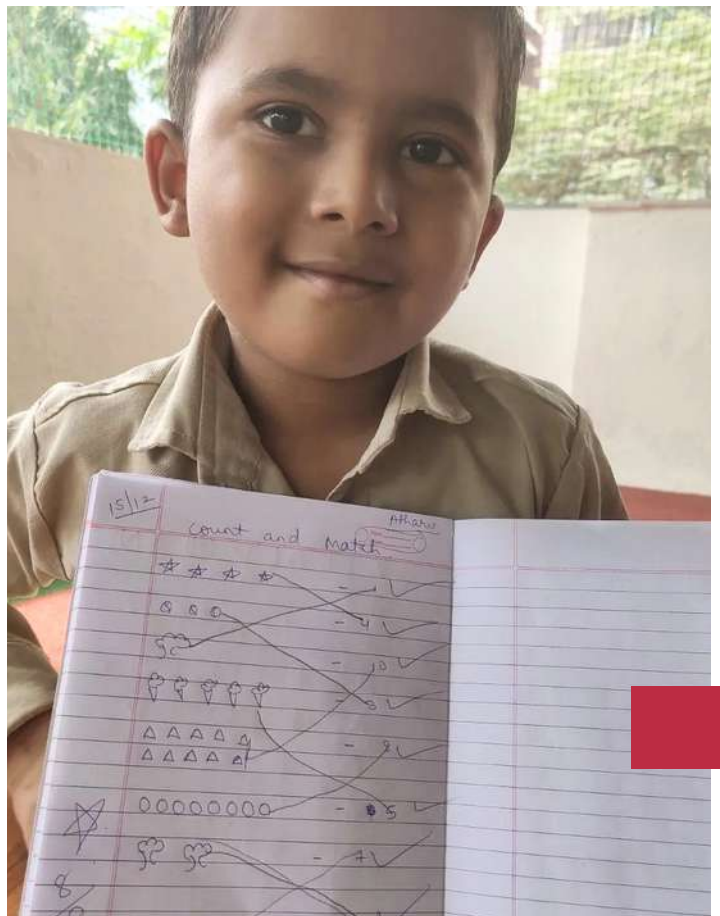
In the latter part of Year 2019-20, a professional In-house counsellor joined us on board, and she supported the kids, parents and occasionally the staff with sessions related to:

- Behavioural issues
- Eating habits
- Psycho-education
- Motivation & Self-esteem
- Team building
- Palliative Care Counselling
- Bereavement counselling
- Counselling for Anxiety, Depression & Fear



Non Formal Education

When the children are in Mumbai during the course of their prolonged treatment, they tend to miss out on regular school. Hence, efforts are made to keep them mentally engaged through non-formal educational sessions in order to create a bridge for them when they go back to their hometown and rejoin school. Informal education activities continue to mentally stimulate the curious minds of our bravehearts.



Art & Craft

Art empowers in finding the inner talents in one's own self. Art based therapy is an expressive form of therapy that uses the creative medium of Music, Dance Movement, Painting and Craft to improve a person's physical, mental and emotional well-being. We have experts in these fields offering their voluntary services at our centers, for the children and their families.



OUR JOURNEY SO FAR...



2014 JUNE

Access Life Ghatla Village Centre Set-up at Chembur



2015 SEP

Commence transportation services

2017 JULY

Access Life Gurunanak Niwas Centre set-up at Chembur



2018 MAY

Commence of Clean & Care hygienic kit program



2018 NOV

Access Life Bandra Centre started



2021 JUNE

Access Life Pune centre set-up



2021 FEB

Introduced Education as a core activity



2020 FEB

Introduced Counselling as a core activity



2022 APR

Access Life Manipal Centre set-up



2022 AUG

Access Life Chandigarh Centre Set-up



2023 JUNE

Access Life Bengaluru Centre Set-up



2024 JAN

Access Life Sandu Garden Centre Set-up



2023 SEP

Access Life Ahmedabad Centre Set-up

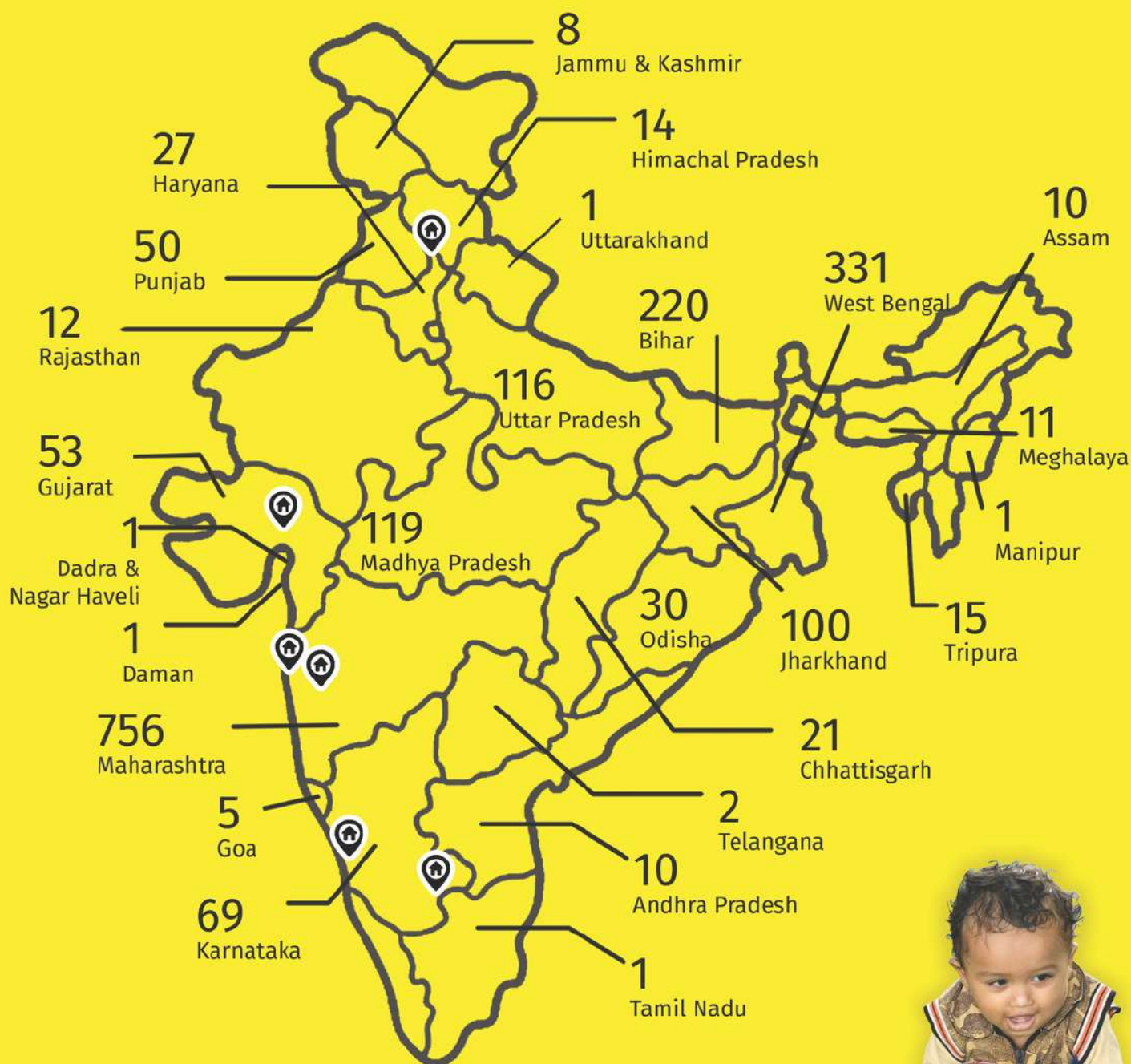


FACING CANCER **TOGETHER**

NATIONWIDE IMPACT



State Wise Distribution of **1981 Bravehearts Kids**
in a Span of 10 years



 Accesslife India Centers: Mumbai, Pune, Manipal, Chandigarh, Ahmedabad & Bengaluru



Lighting Event - Sep 2023



Ahmedabad Centre



Bengaluru Centre



Sandu Garden Centre



Main Gate



Children & family rooms



CSR Donor Activities



Volunteering Activities



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

THREE YEAR FINANCIALS

	21-22	22-23	23-24
EXPENDITURE	643.24	835.46	1473.26
OPEX	445.20	582.97	868.70
HAH Setup	198.04	252.49	604.55
Donation	592.80	817.14	1057.21
Retail	278.56	176.73	265.37
CSR	287.79	606.22	680.90
FCRA	26.45	34.19	110.94
Difference (Donation-Expenditure)	(50.44)	(18.32)	(416.03)

Figures in lakhs

Note: Since FY 21-22 we have reserves and the deficit is covered through these reserves.



OUR DONORS



Azim Premji
Foundation



commTEL
FOUNDATION
SUPPORTING LIFE



Fluorolined
Equipment Pvt.Ltd.™



HDFC
CREDILA
The Education Loan Specialist



kotak
Securities



HARISH & BINA SHAH
FOUNDATION



LTIMindtree



LARSEN & TOUBRO



POLYCAB
Connection Zindagi Ka



safari



United Way Mumbai



CASE STUDY

BRAVEHEART **AARADHNA DABHI,** **AHMEDABAD CENTRE**

Name	Aaradhna Dabhi
Age	03 years
Gender	Female
City/State	Bhavnagar, Gujarat
Diagnosis	Leukaemia
Hospital	Gujarat Cancer & Research centre



Aaradhna, a vivacious 3-year-old, finds herself at the heart of a Bhavnagar District, where her father toils as a laborer to provide for their family. a child who effortlessly absorbs the wonders of her surroundings. Accompanied by her mother and grandmother, Aaradhna arrives at the center, a place that holds the hope of healing.

Four months ago, the steady rhythm of their lives was disrupted when Aaradhna succumbed to a severe fever. Her family rushed her to a local private hospital, where the initial blood report cast a shadow over their world. The doctor's advice was clear - a move to Ahmedabad Civil Hospital was necessary. The weight of this decision bore heavily on Aaradhna's family, who grappled with the dual challenges of her tender age and the severity of the diagnosis.

Undeterred by the daunting circumstances, the family diligently adhered to the doctor's counsel. The journey to Ahmedabad unfolded, and within the comforting walls of Access Life Ahmedabad Centre, they found respite. Each day brought with it a blend of hope and resolve as they faced the surrounding Aaradhna's health.

Residing at the center became a testament to their unwavering commitment to following the doctor's suggestions. During challenges, Aaradhna's family discovered a supportive community within these walls. Her laughter, though momentarily subdued by the trials of illness, resonated as a symbol of resilience.

As the days turned into weeks, Aaradhna's story continued to unfold - a narrative of strength, familial love, and the profound impact of a community rallying together during testing times. Accesslife Ahmedabad Centre became not just a temporary residence but a haven where hope thrived, and the spirit of unity prevailed against the backdrop of uncertainty

CASE STUDY

BRAVEHEART **KAVYA KUMARI,** **BENGALURU CENTRE**

Name	Kavya Kumari
Age	10 Months
Gender	Female
City/State	Hazaribagh, Jharkhand
Diagnosis	Neuroblastoma
Hospital	Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health Hospital.



In July 2023, little Kavya Kumari, a 10-month-old from Jharkhand, got sick with a high fever. Her parents took her to a nearby hospital where the doctor gave her medicine for the fever. However, Kavya continued crying, so her parents took her to another clinic. There, the doctor did an X-ray and diagnosed her with a cough, prescribing medicine for five days. But Kavya still wasn't doing well - she cried a lot and had trouble feeding. Worried, her parents took her to Rani Children Hospital in Ranchi.

At Rani Children Hospital, doctors discovered issues on both sides of Kavya's stomach and noticed problems with her right leg movements. After a CT scan, they found a tumor in her backbone. Kavya was admitted for four days and then referred to Nimhans Hospital in Bangalore. In September, Kavya and her parents visited Nimhans Hospital, where doctors examined her and reviewed all the past hospital reports. They suggested the Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health Hospital in Bangalore.

At Indira Gandhi Institute, doctors conducted a thorough health checkup, including an ultrasound that revealed a tumor in her backbone. The diagnosis was neuroblastoma. The doctors initiated treatment, performed a biopsy, and sent the report to Kidwai Hospital in Bangalore. After checking the report Kidwai recommended further tests, including an IHC test, which turned out negative. An MRI scan followed at Nimhans Hospital and a PET scan at New Medd Diagnosis Hospital. Kavya also underwent heart testing at Jayadeva Hospital, kidney testing at Kidwai Hospital, and ear testing at Indira Gandhi Hospital.

The doctors at Indira Gandhi Hospital started chemotherapy for Kavya. Later, the hospital's doctor and MSW counselor informed the family about Access Life, a foundation supporting children with cancer. The family decided to seek assistance from Access Life Center in Bangalore.

CASE STUDY

BRAVEHEART **ROHIT SAHA,** **BANDRA CENTRE**

Name	Rohit Saha
Age	09 years
Gender	Male
City/State	Jalpaiguri, West Bengal
Diagnosis	Ewings Sarcoma
Hospital	Sion Hospital



Meet Rohit Saha, a bright and intelligent young boy from West Bengal, whose dreams of becoming a doctor are as vast as his ambitions. His journey through the trials of life began in 2019 when a seemingly innocuous fever led to a series of unfortunate events.

It all started with a persistent fever that prompted his family to seek medical advice. The doctor's visit revealed kidney stones. However, a subsequent checkup unveiled a tumour nestled in his back. Initially, the family sought medical advice in Maida, West Bengal. The local doctor recommended immediate attention and suggested they head to Kolkata for further evaluation. However, the family decided to take Rohit to St. John's Hospital in Bangalore. It was here the family found the bitter truth that Rohit had cancer. The arduous battle against cancer spanned a gruelling 16 months, filled with rounds of chemotherapy and radiation treatment. Rohit's indomitable spirit and the unwavering support of his family brought him back from the brink of despair. He triumphed over cancer and returned home, a beacon of hope.

In 2021, however, the relentless adversary reared its ugly head once more during a routine follow-up where they discovered that the tumour had come back. This time, the family faced another difficult decision - the expenses of Rohit's treatment. Determined to provide the best care for their beloved son, they set their sights on Mumbai and sought treatment at Sion Hospital. Rohit, accompanied by his mother and sister, made the journey. Meanwhile, Rohit's father, the sole breadwinner of the family had to remain in their village to support the family. Upon their arrival in Mumbai, a glimmer of hope emerged when a social worker introduced them to Access Life. Access Life played a pivotal role in their ongoing battle against cancer, offering support and assistance during their challenging times.

Rohit Saha's story is about resilience, family unity, and the unwavering pursuit of a brighter future. As he confronts the resurgence of cancer, his determination to overcome the odds remains undiminished, supported by a loving family and the kindness of organisations like Access Life.

CASE STUDY

BRAVEHEART **AMAN KUMAR,** **CHANDIGARH CENTRE**

Name	Aman Kumar
Age	04 years
Gender	Male
City/State	Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand
Diagnosis	BLL
Hospital	PGI Chandigarh



Aman endured notable pain in his leg and exhibited symptoms of a fever. Alarmed, the parents sought medical attention at the local hospital for an evaluation. Subsequent tests disclosed that the child was diagnosed with blood cancer, and regrettably, the required treatment was not available locally. They received advice to pursue treatment in either Lucknow or Chandigarh. Choosing Chandigarh, they initiated treatment at PGI Hospital a month ago, with their temporary residence being in Dharamsala. Confronting financial difficulties during their stay in Dharamsala, they sought assistance from the Access Life Foundation, facilitated by the MSW.

Aman's journey to recovery began at Access Life - Chandigarh. At the time of admission, he was quite serious - had a bulging stomach, a shrunken body and blood in his stool. Aman was unable to walk, and the family was under immense stress. With the support of Access Life and the medical treatment at PGI Hospital, his condition began to improve. Two months into the treatment, Aman showed remarkable progress. This was a momentous relief for the family, as they began to see hope for their child's recovery. During his time at PGI, Aman underwent 4 chemotherapy cycles to combat his cancer.

The parents of Aman expressed profound gratitude to Access Life for their unwavering support throughout this challenging period. The organisation not only provided accommodation but also emotional and psychological support, helping the family cope with the difficulties they faced. After 7 months of rigorous treatment and care, Aman was declared cancer-free. The family was joyfully discharged from PGI and Access Life - Chandigarh Centre, and they returned home to Uttarakhand with smiles on their faces. Aman's recovery was a testament to the power of timely medical intervention and the support organisations like Access Life provided.



As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the unwavering support of our donors, volunteers, and partners. Together, we have made a significant impact on the lives of children with cancer and their families.

As we look forward to the coming year, we remain committed to expanding our reach, enhancing our services, and continuing to provide a nurturing and supportive environment for those in need. Thank you for being a vital part of our journey and for helping us bring hope and healing to so many.

**Phone**

+91 8080 222 377

**Email**

contact@accesslife.org

**Website**

www.accesslife.org

**Office Address**

6, Jolly land CHS,
Ghotla Village Road, Chembur (E),
Mumbai 400071. Maharashtra. India

