



Annual Report

2024



Saamarthya

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Note from the Founder

Dear Saamarthya Family,

As I reflect on this past year, I'm overwhelmed with gratitude for everything we've achieved together. When Saamarthya was just an idea, I dreamed of a space where families of children with ASD and IDD could feel empowered and supported. Today, that dream has grown into something truly special, thanks to each one of you.

One of our biggest milestones this year was the opening of the Saamarthya Family Resource Center. This center is designed to be a one-stop hub for families, offering guidance, workshops, and resources tailored to their needs. From connecting parents to the right therapies and services to hosting community events and support groups, the Resource Center has become a space where families find not just help but also a sense of belonging.

Through our scholarship programs, we've helped children access therapies, special education, and enrichment activities. But what stands out to me most are the stories—of a parent navigating their child's diagnosis with newfound confidence, of a sibling finding their voice, and of children reaching milestones we've all celebrated together. These moments are the heartbeat of Saamarthya, and they remind me why we do what we do.

As we move into the new year, I'm filled with hope and excitement for the road ahead. Thank you for being part of this journey—whether as a parent, volunteer, donor, or friend. Together, we're building a stronger, more inclusive community for every family we serve.

Here's to another year of growth, connection, and possibility!

With love and gratitude,
Shivani Pandit



Our Story So Far

OUR MISSION

At Saamarthya Foundation, we are driven by the belief that every child, regardless of their abilities, deserves to thrive in an environment that celebrates their individuality. Our mission is to provide neurodivergent children and their families with the tools, resources, and support they need to navigate life's challenges and achieve their fullest potential.

We embrace a family-centric approach, understanding that the well-being of a child is deeply interconnected with the well-being of their family. By offering a comprehensive range of therapies, training programs, and educational support, we aim to empower not just the child but also their parents, siblings, and caregivers.

Through our programs, we strive to:

- Facilitate early assessments and interventions that lay the foundation for lifelong growth.
- Equip families with knowledge and skills to foster a nurturing home environment.
- Promote inclusion and awareness in the broader community, paving the way for a society that values diversity.

OUR VISION

Our vision is a world where every child is celebrated for who they are and given equal opportunities to succeed. We aspire to create an inclusive society where neurodivergent children and their families feel supported, valued, and empowered.

Saamarthya Foundation envisions a future where:

- Early intervention is accessible to all families, regardless of socioeconomic barriers.
- Neurodivergent individuals can participate fully in education, employment, and community life.
- Stigma around neurodiversity is replaced with understanding, compassion, and acceptance.

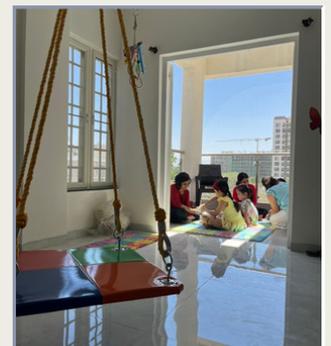
**“Empowering
neurodivergent
children, one family
at a time”**



Family Resource Center

The opening of our Family Resource Center in Baner, Pune, marked a significant milestone. Equipped with a library of inclusive books, therapy rooms, and a welcoming environment, the center became a hub for families seeking guidance and support.

Key Highlights



Sensory Splash

Held monthly sessions, benefiting over 40 parents, fostering emotional resilience and self-care.

Sensory Splash sessions offered children sensory-rich activities designed to enhance motor skills, self-regulation, and social interactions.

Summer Camp

Hosted 5 children, creating a space for fun, learning, and meaningful engagement.

This year, Saamarthya Foundation introduced its first Summer Camp at the Family Resource Center. Children engaged in diverse activities, including art, music, reading, and gardening, fostering creativity and social skills.

Key Highlights

Sukoon Saturdays

Expressive Arts Therapy for Parents of Neurodivergent Children

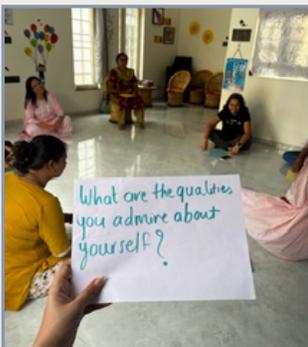
Our expressive arts therapy sessions, Sukoon Saturdays, provided parents with a safe space to reconnect with themselves and share their journeys. From crafting free verse poetry to exploring therapeutic art, these sessions nurtured emotional well-being.

Held 6 sessions, benefiting over 10 parents, fostering emotional resilience and self-care.

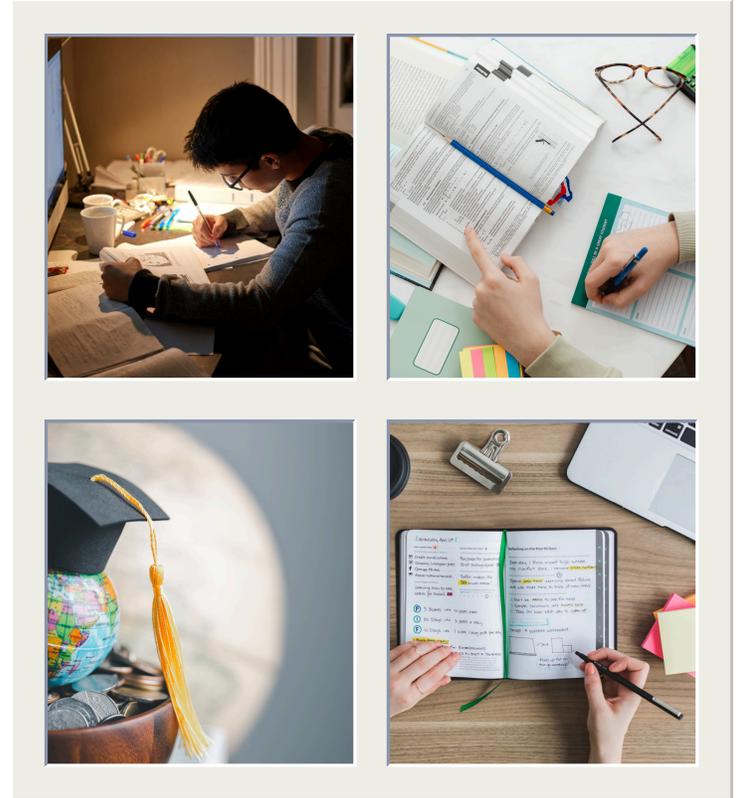
Beats of Inclusion

Over 25 participants engaged in this unique initiative, building bonds through music and rhythm in a supportive space.

Launched Beats of Inclusion, a group music therapy initiative starting with a vibrant drum circle. It brought neurodivergent families together, fostering connection, expression, and joy through rhythm and sound.



Key Highlights



Wall of Inspiration

A Saamarthya initiative to support neurodivergent artists

We proudly launched the Wall of Inspiration, showcasing vibrant artwork by neurodivergent artists. This initiative highlighted the immense creative potential of neurodivergent individuals, encouraging their talents to be celebrated.

NIOS Udaan

Hosted 5 children, creating a space for fun, learning, and meaningful engagement.

This year, Saamarthya Foundation introduced its first Summer Camp at the Family Resource Center. Children engaged in diverse activities, including art, music, reading, and gardening, fostering creativity and social skills.

300

Families Supported

1000

Therapy Sessions
Conducted

150

Event Participation

20

Webinars Hosted

Data-Driven Outcomes



880

Whatsapp Community

9000

Instagram Community

11k

LinkedIn Community

459

YouTube Community

Community

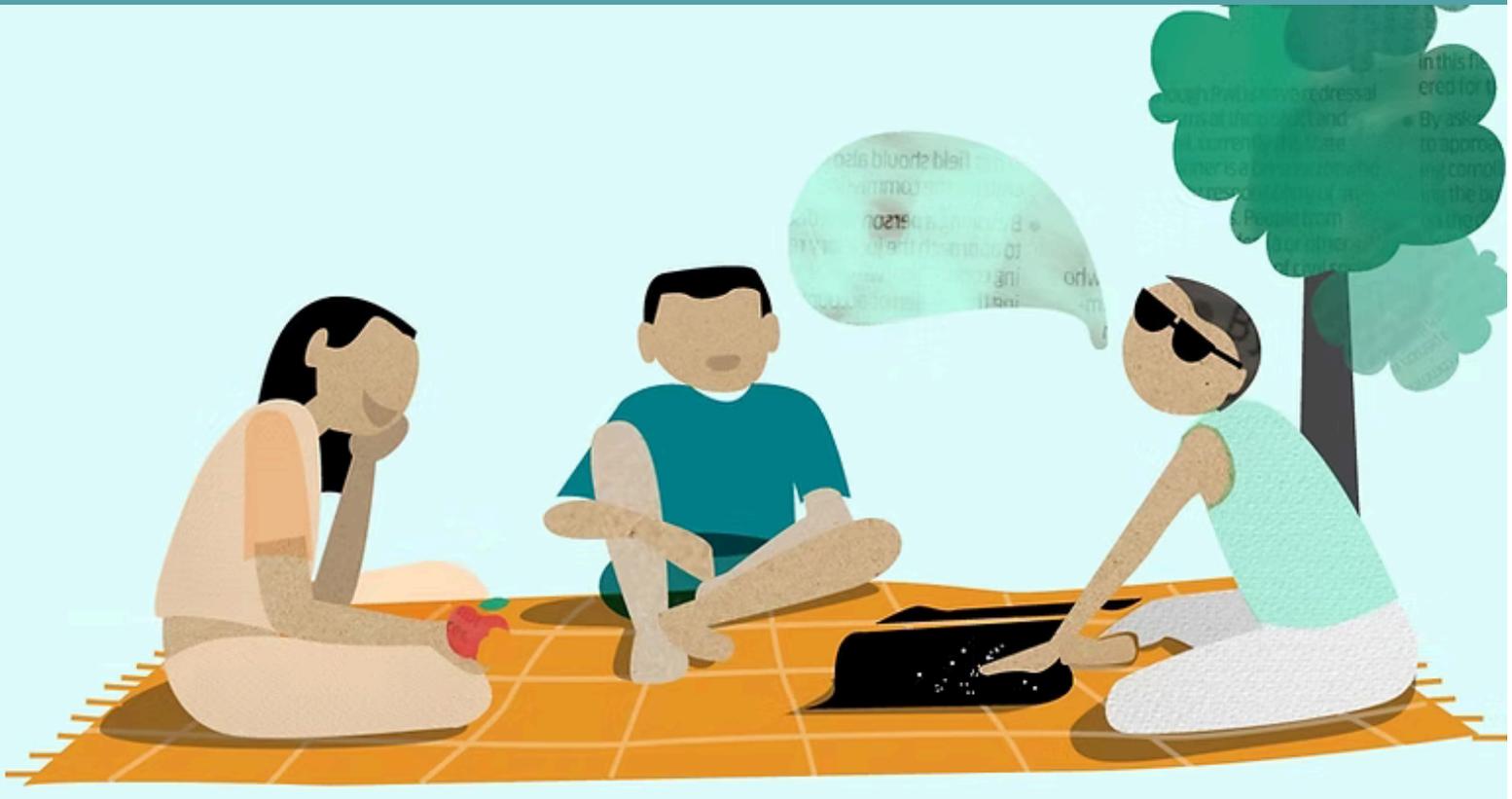


Stories Of Impact

Aarav, a spirited 3-year-old, has been attending Occupational Therapy (OT) and Behavioral Therapy sessions at the Family Resource Center (FRC). When he first began, Aarav faced challenges in social skills, problem-solving, and assertiveness.

Under the dedicated guidance of his therapist, tailored interventions were introduced to help him develop these critical skills. Over time, his progress has been remarkable. Both his parents and the school's principal have shared glowing feedback about Aarav's transformation. His communication abilities have significantly improved, and he is now more confident and engaged in social interactions.

Aarav's progress highlights the impact of early intervention and a supportive, collaborative approach to therapy.



Parent Feedback

"We have been doing online classes for our son for the past 10 months. We can see lot of improvements in our son, and your therapist is patiently handling it and is very supportive during the sessions. She is a well-trained special educator and used to give suggestions on what can be done with him."

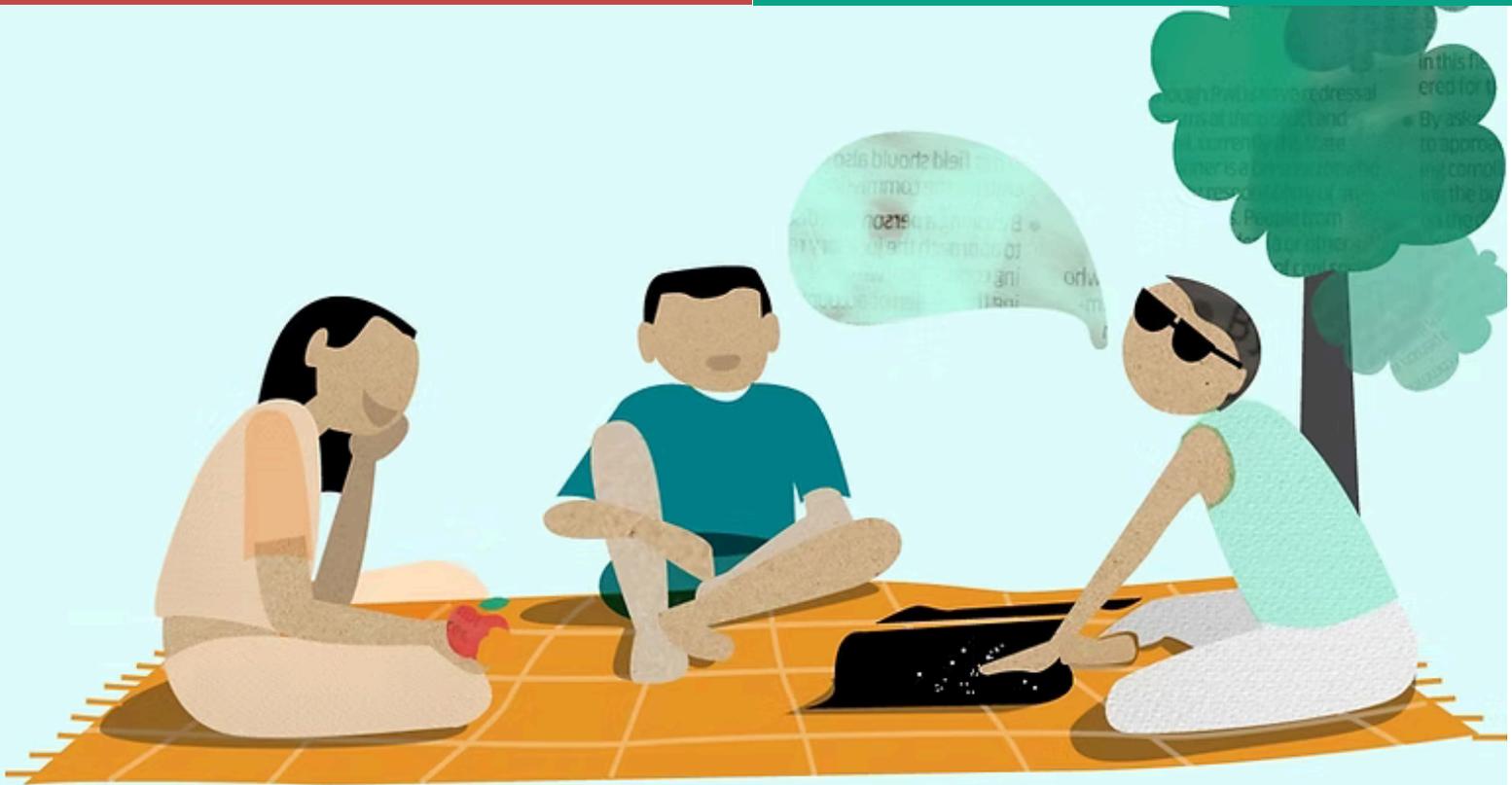
"Sameer's resistance to communicate in English has decreased. He now listens to sentences I model."

"I have observed a change in my child. Now he is able to independently handle daily life money matters."

"A big thanks to Saamarthya for doing something for the parents. We often don't get the time to sit and reflect and do something for ourselves. I look forward to the Sukoon sessions every month!"

"Thanks, team Saamarthya, for arranging these informative webinars"

"My child is now trying to be independent, and his eye contact has improved."



Programs In The Pipeline

1. Samruddhi: Financial Planning Seminars for Parents & Adult Siblings

These seminars are designed to provide families of neurodivergent individuals with critical financial literacy and planning tools.

2. Sibling Squad

Sibling Squad will offer a safe space and peer support for siblings of neurodivergent children. This group will focus on addressing the unique challenges and emotions faced by siblings, providing them with emotional support, connection, and a sense of community.

3. Speech Therapy

This comprehensive speech therapy program will cater to neurodivergent children facing speech and communication challenges. By blending online and in-person sessions, we aim to improve language skills, articulation, and effective communication in a way that best suits each child's needs.

4. Aatmanirbhar: Vocational Training Program

Aatmanirbhar is designed to empower neurodivergent individuals with practical skills for independent living and job readiness. This vocational training program will provide hands-on learning experiences, fostering self-confidence, independence, and the skills required for a sustainable career in various fields.

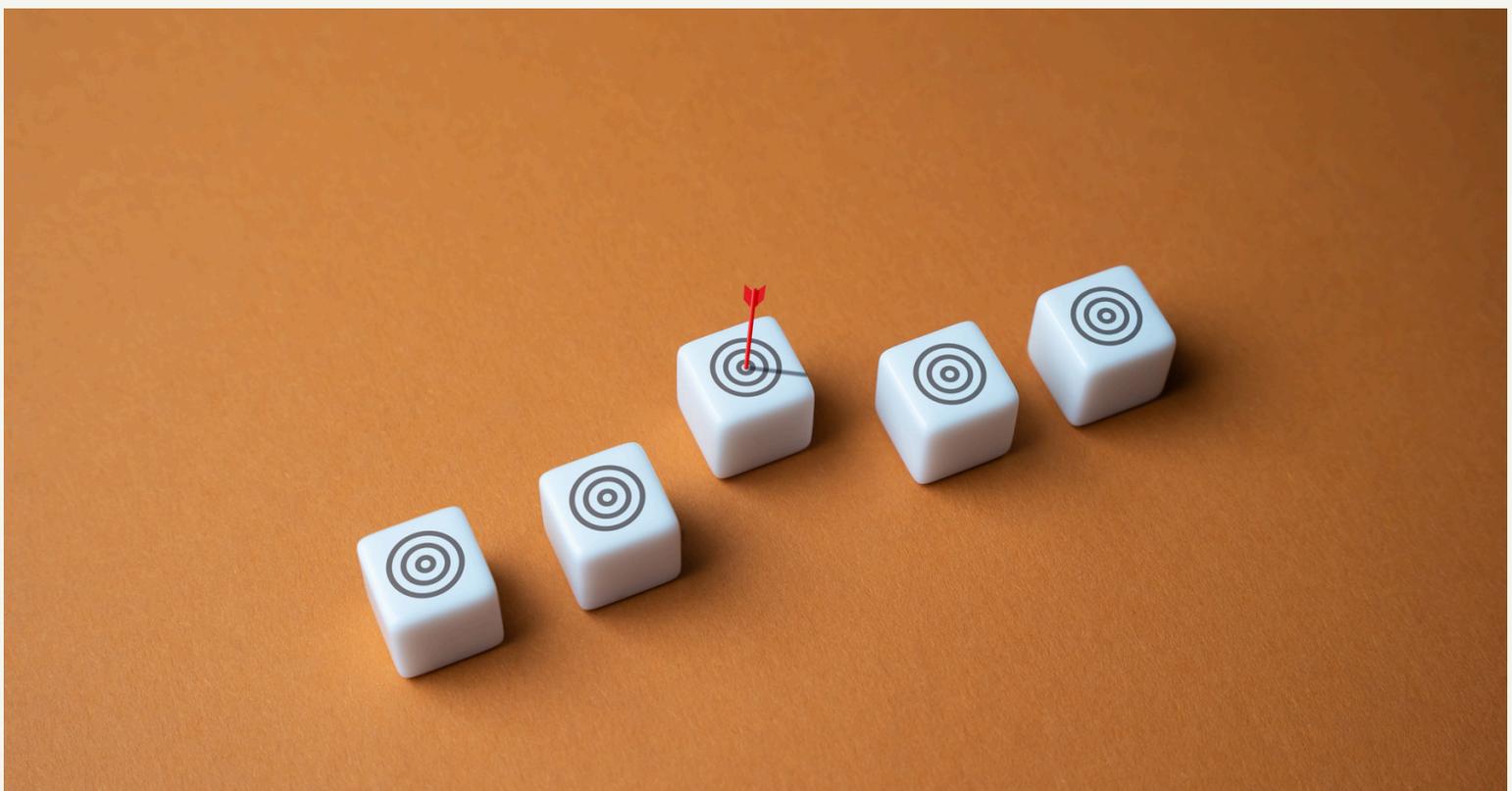
5. Social Skills Training

This program will focus on building essential social and emotional skills for neurotypical children aged 10-14. Using structured activities and Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), it aims to foster empathy, teamwork, communication, and confidence, while improving play and social interaction skills.



Future Goals

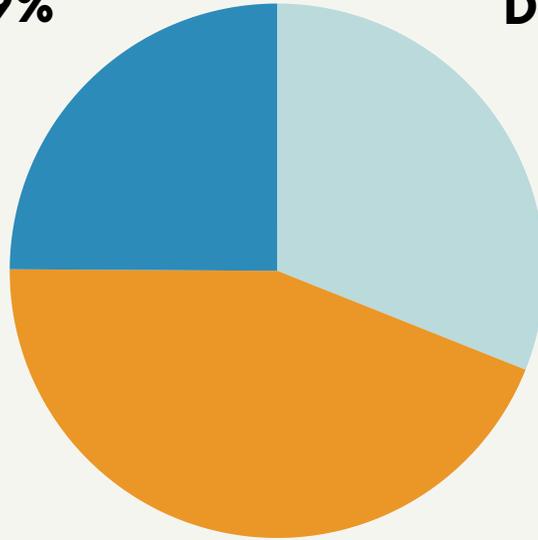
PROJECTS	DETAILS	OUTCOME
Outreach Team Development	Build a robust outreach team comprising social workers to extend Saamarthya's programs to underprivileged and rural areas.	Increased program access in underserved areas, bridging the gap in service delivery for neurodivergent families.
Equal Exposure Activities	Introduce activities like pottery, theatre, drama clubs, book clubs, dancing, and sports to ensure neurodivergent children have equal exposure.	Enhanced participation in enriching experiences, fostering inclusion, creativity, and skill development in children.
Collaborations	Collaborate with NGOs and organizations aligned with Saamarthya's mission to amplify collective impact.	Expanded network, greater resource sharing, and amplified support for neurodivergent individuals and families.



Financial Overview

Fundraisers
24.9%

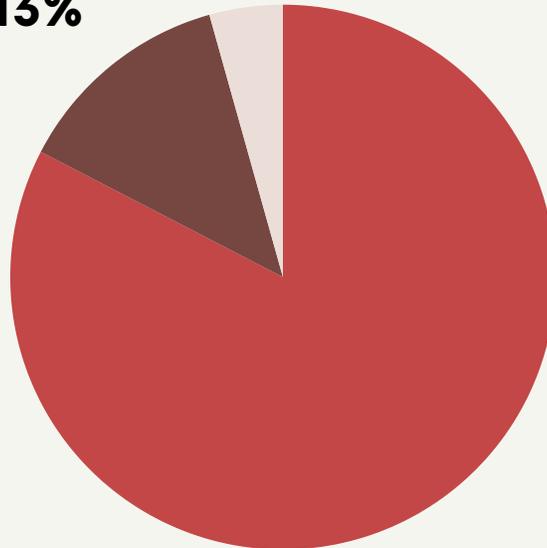
Donations
31%



Grants
44.1%

Admin **13%**

Outreach **4.3%**



Programs
82.6%

Saamarthya Foundation is committed to financial transparency, ensuring that every contribution directly supports neurodivergent families.

Collaborations: Building Partnerships for Impact

Tickle Your Art

Supported their social enterprise by procuring bags and printed t-shirts for our launch and hosting a pop-up stall to showcase their work.

Prematurity Awareness Month with Dr. Puja Padbidri

Collaborated to create an informative video on the long-term impact of prematurity on families.

UDID Helpdesk with Ummeed

Partnered with Ummeed to set up a UDID Helpdesk during the Family Resource Center launch, assisting families with disability identification.

BSE & SEBI

Officials from BSE and SEBI delivered a financial literacy session for parents, providing critical guidance and tools for financial planning during the Family Resource Center launch event.

Supporting Neurodivergent Artists

Pranav Aggarwal

Pranav, 11 years old, loves painting with unconventional tools like hands, sponges, and thread. Diagnosed with Down Syndrome early, his family has always focused on his abilities. He has participated in multiple National and International Art Exhibitions, won prizes, and sold paintings. Apart from art, he excels in sports, winning a gold medal in the Down Syndrome National Games. Recently, Pranav received an Excellence Award in Art from the Down Syndrome Federation of India. His artwork is full of life and positivity.

Joanne Rodrigues

Joanne is passionate about painting, expressing her emotions creatively. Her artwork has helped her gain financial independence. She holds a Guinness World Record for skating and is an open deep-sea swimmer. Joanne represents Maharashtra in Special Olympics Bharat and has won 1st place as Super Special Chef three times in a row. She was honored by the Government of India for excellence in multi-disciplinary achievements and received gold medals at the State and National Skating Championships.

Amogh Wagh

Amogh, a 24-year-old autistic artist, communicates through vibrant colors and bold, free-flowing brushstrokes. Though non-verbal, his expressive artistry has earned recognition in exhibitions over the past five years, with one piece featured as cover art for a school almanac and calendar.

Now a resident of ALAP's pioneering group home, Amogh is developing essential life skills and thriving in a supportive community. His journey highlights the transformative power of art and the value of inclusive support systems.

Celebrating Global Compassion Day

We had the privilege of joining the **Appfire Town Social Impact Event** in partnership with **Pledge 1% & Atlassian Community** in New York, marking Global Compassion Day and the **Pledge 1%** anniversary. We are also supported by **Impact 4 Good** at this event. This inspiring event showcased the power of collaboration in fostering inclusivity and empathy.

Dr. Shivani Pandit, Ed.D., led a workshop where participants created handwritten storybooks addressing social-emotional challenges faced by children. These stories offered understanding and resilience, showing how small creative acts can uplift and heal.



Donors & Corporate Supporters



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our valued sponsor, Appfire Town, for their unwavering support and commitment to our mission. Their generous contributions have played a pivotal role in making Saamarthya scale up and ensuring that we continue to provide valuable services to children with disabilities and their families.

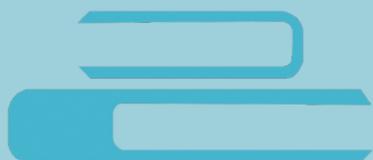
(<https://appfire.com/>)

FLEISHHACKER FOUNDATION

We are grateful to the Fleishhacker Foundation for their support and generous gift to Saamarthya Foundation's intervention programming for children with Autism and Intellectual disabilities in India.

(<https://www.fleishhackerfoundation.org/>)

Donors & Corporate Supporters



BOOKFORD



HIDDEN GEMS



भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनिमय बोर्ड
Securities and Exchange Board of India

A Heartfelt Thank You

As a small foundation with big dreams, we are continually amazed by the generosity and support we've received. Though we are still in the early stages of our journey, every contribution — in time, effort, expertise, and kindness — has been a vital part of our growth and the impact we are making.

We are deeply grateful for the many ways people have helped us — whether it was by sharing knowledge, connecting us with valuable resources, spreading the word, or simply believing in our mission. Every conversation, every introduction, and every piece of advice has helped us build a stronger foundation. Your support has made it possible for us to create meaningful programs, forge important partnerships, and reach more families in need. These acts, sometimes quiet and often unseen, have been the pillars of our progress.

It is your unwavering belief in our cause, your commitment to helping us navigate challenges, and your willingness to invest in this journey that fuels our passion and determination. Each step forward has been made possible because of the many hands and hearts that have joined ours. Together, we are not just working toward a dream — we are building a movement grounded in compassion, inclusion, and opportunity for all.

As we move into the future, we do so with immense gratitude and excitement for what lies ahead. There is much more to accomplish, but with your continued support, we are confident that we will continue making a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.

With heartfelt thanks,
The Saamarthya Foundation Team

Our Partners



We extend our deepest gratitude to our invaluable partners at Saamarthya Foundation. Their unwavering support fuels our mission, allowing us to make a meaningful impact in the lives of children with ASD and IDD. We thank them for standing with us in creating a more inclusive and compassionate world.

Our Team



Dr. Shivani Pandit



Riddhi Dedhia



Mayura Samal



Sanika Kelkar



Kanchi Goswami



Bhawna Pandey



Sayali Khanapurkar



Sakshi Spara



Heer Dedhia

Our Board of Directors



Vivian Milroy Martin



Shiv Nath Tandon



Andy Cwik



Vidyotham Reddi



Tammy Pierce



Dr. Prriyam Gunjal



Kajal Zaveri



Akriti Asthana

We wish to thank our Board of Directors for their unwavering commitment and tireless dedication to the mission of Saamarthya Foundation. Their leadership has been the guiding force behind our collective efforts to serve children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD).

Our Strategic Advisors



Jessie Lee



Ed Greene



Chandani Punia



Erwin de Leone, Ph.D.



Camille Catlett



G.V.S Prasad



Michele Bedor



Dr. Nisha Deshpande



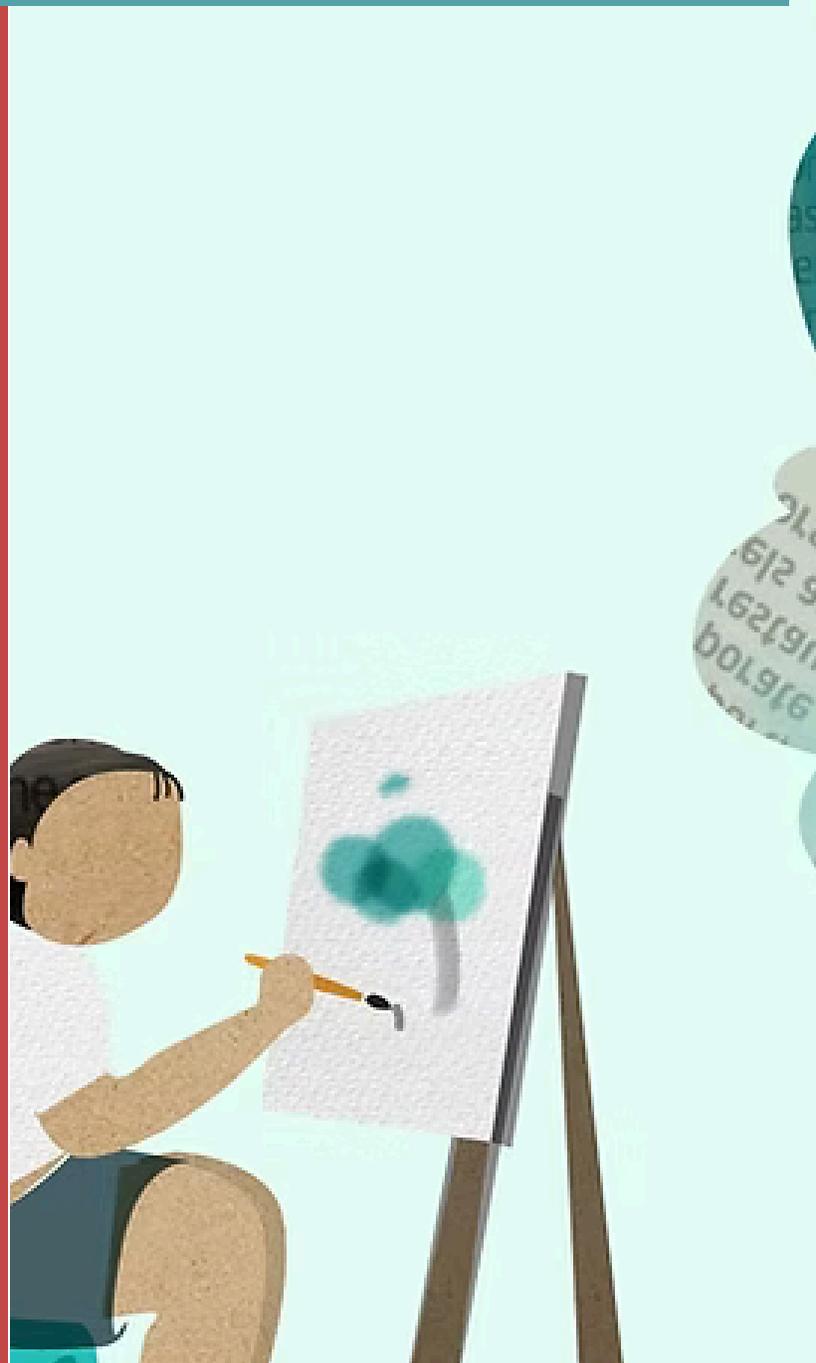
Christopher Johnstone

In the tapestry of compassion and service that defines Saamarthya, their roles as stewards of our mission have been pivotal. Their strategic insights, compassionate understanding, and unwavering support have not only shaped the trajectory of our foundation but have also touched the lives of countless children and their families.

Get Involved!

Join us in creating a more inclusive world:

- **Donate:** Support our programs and initiatives.
- **Volunteer:** Be a part of our events and outreach activities.
- **Collaborate:** Partner with us to make a lasting impact.



We thank you for your continued support in our programs.

To learn more or partner with us, reach out at:



www.saamarthya.org



[@saamarthya_foundation](https://www.instagram.com/saamarthya_foundation)



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