

CHRONICLES

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER || Jul - Sept 2023

Contents

Leadership Insight

Recognition

Cover Story

Education and Health

Environment

Rural Rising

Volunteering

Team & More

About Us



Dear Readers,

As United Way Bengaluru marked 15 years of its journey on June 30, 2023, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for your support that helped us reach this significant milestone. This celebration also is a reminder of the responsibility that comes with this milestone.

Throughout the journey, we have been very clear about our mission to create a lasting impact on society, particularly for those at the furthest end of the line. But as an insider, it's often challenging to articulate the difference we make within the communities we serve. But during our field visits and discussions with communities, we realise what may seem nothing out of the ordinary to us are often 'life-changing' opportunities for them.



Rajesh Krishnan
CEO

This quarter, we're excited to share some of our contributions in critical areas - Education, Environment, Rural Development and Corporate Volunteering. Under education, our STEM initiatives have been able to do more than provide hands-on learning experiences to young minds. It is our approach that stands out in the development space because we prioritise teacher support, ensuring their skills are upgraded first and they can nurture lifelong learners.

Our initiatives towards the environment are not only able to transform ecosystems but also ensure a shift in the mindsets and behaviours of the community members. Similarly, our rural development programs do not just bridge gaps but empower the potential of the local community, ensuring sustainability.

We have also shared some examples of the many corporate volunteering events we have organised this quarter that testify to the teamwork, commitment, and collective power of action.

This newsletter is not just an update of what we are doing but an effort towards presenting stories of courage, empowerment, and transformation from the community. We hope you enjoy reading it.

With Gratitude,
Rajesh Krishnan

BW Social Impact Award 2023



We are thrilled that our CEO, Rajesh Krishnan, has received the 2nd BW Disrupt Social Impact Award. This acknowledgment serves as a testament to Rajesh Krishnan's strong belief in the motto "Be the change you wish to see." We are delighted that his leadership, visionary outlook, passion, and commitment have received the recognition they deserve. This achievement has provided a significant morale boost to our entire team.

Acknowledgement from the Government of Karnataka

United Way Bengaluru has been honoured with a Certificate of Appreciation for our work towards Integrated School Development in Karnataka by the Govt. of Karnataka. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka, **Sri S. Siddaramaiah**, graced the occasion with his presence.

This recognition is a powerful catalyst, further fueling our ongoing endeavour in critical areas, including Education, Environment, Rural Development, Health & Corporate Volunteering. It is a testament to our organization's unwavering commitment to creating a lasting and positive impact on society.



India Responsible Leaders Award 2023



We are delighted that our CEO, Rajesh Krishnan, has been honoured with the **India Responsible Leaders Award 2023**. This remarkable achievement underscores his exceptional dedication and contributions to the development sector.



Junoon Award 2023



United Way Bengaluru received the "Junoon Awards" from Goonj. This peer-to-peer recognition is a testament to the relentless commitment and efforts of our team, valued partners, dedicated frontline health workers, passionate volunteers and partners who selflessly and fearlessly served the community during the pandemic, prioritizing their mission over personal health and safety.

Plan India Social Impact Award 2023



Grassroot champion Ratnamma A V and her team 'Sri Vaibhava Siridanyagala Swasahaya Sanga' have been recognized as the "**Best Women's Self-Help Group**" by Plan India. An award well deserved for the outstanding dedication of this SHG towards uplifting the lives of numerous women.

We are gratified to be able to do our bit in the journey of Vaibhava SHG, which is only possible with the support and partnership provided by our CSR partner, **Applied Materials India**.

Fostering STEM learning through tinkering environments



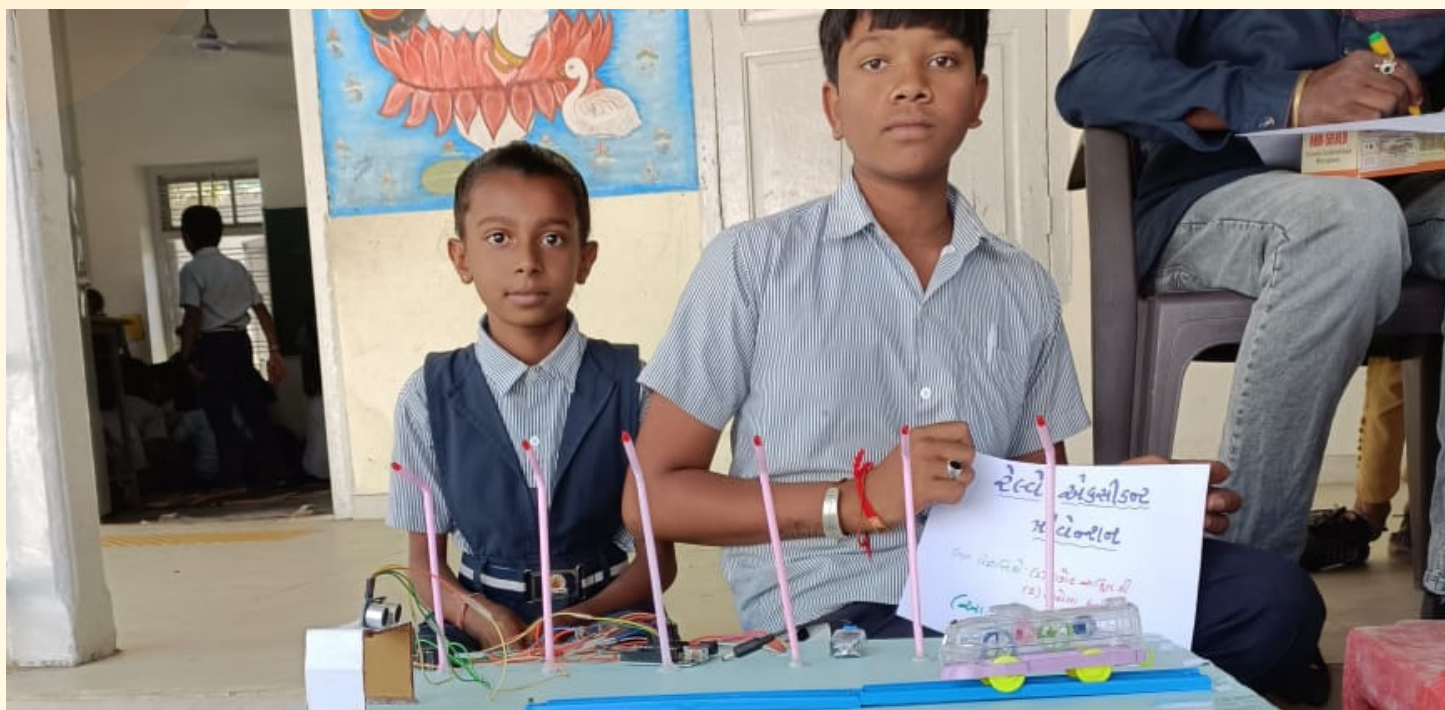
For most students, science subjects are not intuitive and easy. This was Sahil's story also.

Sahil Dashrathbhai Thakor, a seventh-grade student at Adarsh Primary School in Bavla, Gujarat, hails from a financially disadvantaged family. Sahil's father works as an auto-rickshaw driver, while his mother is employed in a factory.

Since childhood, Sahil has shown a keen interest in performing arts, drawing, theatre, and arts and crafts. But when asked about science and maths, Sahil underestimated himself and thought science was complex and was not for students like him! In his own eyes, he was not a 'smart' kid who could logically understand concepts and solve problems. This perception about himself stood in his way and resulted in a lack of confidence, consequently affecting his performance in school.

United Way Bengaluru (UWBe) has been promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) learning in government schools to broaden opportunities for underprivileged students and foster 21st-century skills, including problem-solving and critical thinking.

In 2022, with the support of a CSR partner, UWBe set up a Science lab at Sahil's school. The Science lab was the first of its kind experience for students in the school, and it revolutionised how science was taught to and understood by them. The Science lab, which was equipped with resources, gave an immersive experience to students who got a hands-on experience of the scientific concepts they had learnt only through books until then. Surprisingly, Sahil and many students like him who considered these subjects challenging started showing an inclination towards understanding the disciplines, according to the science teacher at the school.



In Feb 2023, Sahil presented an innovative model based on a technology that could help prevent railway accidents due to train collisions. His model was appreciated, and he bagged the **first prize** at a Science fair. Sahil also secured the third position at a district-level rangoli competition with a Science-based theme, organised by the Gujarat State Council for Science and Technology in Ahmedabad.

The STEM lab became a gateway to a world of fascination for him. When exposed to the lab's engaging environment, Sahil's interest in science was kindled. Sahil openly admits that subjects that used to intimidate him, and he struggled to grasp concepts, became easy and exciting.

-Story contributed by Rajeshwari, United Way Bengaluru

STEM education paves the way for our future



In a significant stride towards fostering a brighter future, United Way Bengaluru, in collaboration with CSR partner **Sabre India** and with support from local authorities, has made an invaluable contribution to six government schools in Chikkaballapur District, by setting up state-of-the-art **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) laboratories equipped with cutting-edge digital learning devices. These labs are helping to revolutionize the educational landscape by offering hands-on experiential learning opportunities, nurturing problem-solving and critical thinking skills among students and playing a crucial role in closing the gender gaps within **STEM** fields.



This strategic move aims to bridge the gap in **STEM** education in rural areas, empowering over **1600** students annually.

A month of awareness on breastfeeding

In September 2023, a month-long campaign was dedicated to celebrating Breastfeeding Week. The Born Learning Campaign program planned a series of initiatives to raise awareness among pregnant and lactating mothers.

Reach



1000 Mothers



367 Pregnant Women



57 Anganwadi Centres

Session Focus



- Engaging with the local community to spread awareness about the benefits of breastfeeding
- Emphasizing the importance of a mother's milk on Day 1
- Creating awareness of the benefits of maternal milk and its value on the mother and child's development
- Promoting healthy feeding practices when transitioning to solid foods

Did You

Know?



The milk mothers produce just after birth is considered to be the baby's first vaccine

👁️ UNICEF data suggests that only 1 in 5 babies get their mother's milk within 1 hour.

National nutrition month

Imagine a world where every woman is empowered to prioritize her health and well-being, where every child has the opportunity to not only nourish their bodies but also their minds through education. It's a vision we are passionate about, and during this Nutrition Month, we were determined to turn this vision into a reality.

As we celebrated **National Nutrition Month** in September, we set our sights on two vital pillars: 'Women & Health' and 'Children & Education' under the engaging banner of **#PoshanBhiPadhaiBhi**. This effort seamlessly aligns with India's **Poshan Abhiyan** Initiative.

- *Poshan*, the essence of nutrition, was nurtured through engaging activities and enlightening the importance of health, hygiene and nutrition.
- Meanwhile, *Padhai*, the pathway to education, involved empowering Anganwadi workers with Early Childhood Education (ECE) training to guide children in their learning, and development journey.



Nurturing balanced diet in early childhood

Hey, I've been reading a lot on balanced diet during early childhood. What does it really mean?

It means that a child's diet should include a variety of food from different food groups to ensure all necessary nutrients are included.



So, a mix of fruits, vegetables, lean protein, dairy, and grains, right?

Yes, and it's important to choose whole grains and limit processed food, which can be high in added sugars and unhealthy fats.



They have to be age appropriate. For toddlers, small, frequent meals and snacks work well. And always pay attention to hunger and fullness cues.

What about portion sizes?



Lets also not forget about the importance of setting a good example. Children are most likely to pick up habits by seeing their parents. Its important to foster a healthy relationship with their food.



Great points! The best nutrition options for early childhood are a foundation for a lifetime of healthy eating habits.



- by UWBe Marcomm

Revitalizing Mulluru lake



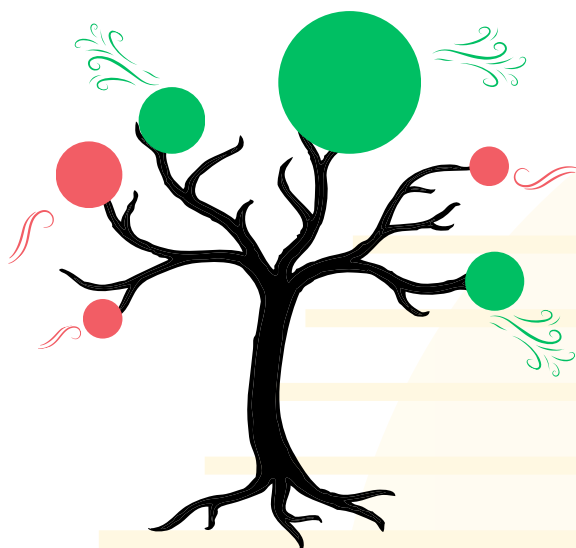
Mulluru Lake in East Bengaluru, spanning an expansive 500 acres, has undergone a remarkable transformation. A vital component of the tributaries feeding into the Dakshin Pinakini River, this lake found itself on the priority list of the Karnataka State Remote Sensing Applications Centre (KSRSAC)

Before United Way Bengaluru's (UWBe) intervention, Mulluru Lake faced a dire situation. Silted with debris and burdened with sewage wastage, it was neglected by the community. Social interference was notably absent.

With the dedicated efforts of the team from UWBe and our CSR partner Western Digital, grounded in comprehensive biophysical activities and strategic planting, we have successfully restored Mulluru Lake to its former glory. The ecological health of the lake has witnessed a significant improvement.

One of the key achievements of our intervention is the augmentation of the lake's water storage capacity by an impressive 14.13 crore litres. This was accomplished by meticulously removing 11,775 truckloads of silt and debris from the lake, a testament to our commitment to environmental sustainability.

FACT BOX



This green initiative is expected to contribute to **environmental benefits annually**

Absorbing 21,000 kg of **carbon dioxide**

Producing 1,18,000 kg of **Oxygen**

Electric bikes - bridging gaps and saving lives

In Shivagange Gram Panchayat, situated in the Nelmangala Taluk of Bengaluru Rural District, Primary Health Centers (PHCs) and health workers have been supported with electric bikes to address the healthcare needs. These electric bikes have proven instrumental in facilitating health workers, including ASHA workers and ANMs, to extend their services to a population exceeding one lakh. Three electric bikes have been provided to PHCs in Maragondanahalli and Tharsigatta, ensuring accessibility, availability and last-mile connectivity of health services among marginalized populations. Health workers can now cover 21 villages in a single day, providing timely vaccination of children, addressing malnutrition among children, adolescent girls and women, and reaching out to pregnant women, the elderly and Anganwadi Centres.



This achievement was previously not possible, as healthcare workers had to cover vast distances on foot.

Pioneering mangrove initiative



For the first time, **United Way Bengaluru**, in collaboration with CSR partners **Alstom** and **Flowserve**, launched a mangrove planting project in the Pulicat Lake area of Chennai. A 12-acre of land will be covered with mangroves. Mangrove plantations saw their numbers decline over the years due to deforestation and other factors. Planting mangroves is a sustainable solution that brings many environmental benefits. These mangroves are a natural defence against soil erosion, disrupt wind patterns, act as a buffer against cyclones, and create a safe ecosystem for aquatic life. While the afforestation project is underway, a campaign has been organized to spread awareness about the importance of mangrove planting.

Three girls' journey of giving back

Three dedicated girls tutoring 18 students take turns daily. In a small room donated by one of them, they teach from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. They embrace diverse learners from kindergarten to tenth grade, fostering unity among all, even those with special needs.

This is a heartwarming story of three young girls from Kolar who were once supported with scholarships under the Rural Rising program of United Way Bengaluru. Realising the significance of paying it back to the community, they decided to make a difference by giving classes to the children of their community at a nominal fee of around 100 rupees per month, making education accessible to those who would otherwise struggle to afford the much higher tuition fee in their area.



Uniting for a better tomorrow

In the spirit of environmental stewardship and community care, we partnered with **Enfusion** with a mission to nurture an eco-friendly and sustainable future.

The unwavering commitment of Enfusion's volunteers is inspiring and serves a testament to their commitment to creating a sustainable world. The moment for taking action is upon us!! Together, we're shaping an eco-conscious future for the benefit of future generations.



Enfusion is proud to collaborate with United Way of Bengaluru for our Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives in India. We have held multiple successful events throughout 2023, and plan to continue our partnership with UWB to serve our communities in an impactful way. We have enjoyed working closely with the team and appreciate their expertise. Thank you to UWBe for your support and guidance!"

- Manish Ailani

Executive Director, Managed Services, Enfusion

Small steps, bigger impact



Each choice we make leaves a carbon footprint. By reducing waste, conserving energy, and supporting sustainability, we can shrink our footprint and protect the planet for future generations. Let's take responsibility for a greener and cleaner Earth.

We witnessed the power of teamwork when 26 volunteers from **Synopsys** engaged in activities like plantation, de-weeding, and plogging with the objective to grow and nurture 220 saplings in Billapura, Bengaluru. The effort is a step towards improving the area's air quality and creating a healthier environment for the community.

This is just the start! Synopsys has committed to planting 8000 saplings in 2023-24, symbolizing their dedication to a greener society and a sustainable tomorrow.



Welcome home initiative



We are proud to partner with **Wells Fargo** for their global volunteering campaign '**Welcome Home**' this September, with volunteering opportunities focused on creating more accessible, affordable, and sustainable homes and communities.

The volunteers from Wells Fargo across the three locations - Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chennai immersed themselves in beautifying and enhancing learning spaces to infuse and rekindle the interest and joy of learning. Between September and October, this vibrant rendezvous of **1900+ passionate volunteers** will reach **22 schools** and **4 Anganwadi Centres** to create a holistic and conducive learning environment for govt school students.

The colourful walls are not just a visual delight but a symbol of hope, creativity, and a brighter future for our students. Thank you, **Wells Fargo**, for your unwavering support and dedication to our mission. Together, we are painting a brighter tomorrow.



Give... Grow... Change...



7,396
Volunteers



22,188
Hours
(avg 3hrs/Volunteer)



Corporate Partners

LM Wind Power
Collins Aerospace
Wells Fargo
Amazon
CSGI
Applied Materials
ANZ
JPMC
Alstom
Enfusion
Synopsis Inc
Pratt and Whitney

GEBE
Continental
Western Digital
Flowserve
Avality
Apotex
Epsilon
Bazaar Voice
PWC
Swiss Re
Micron
Zebra

Mercedes Benz
Tata AIG
Telstra
Cytiva
Empower
Ingersoll Rand
Delta
Arceusm
EY
3M





UWBe Champion



Gouri Yallavattimath

Sr. Executive - Education Projects

Gouri stands out for her unique ideas and creativity, infusing innovations into every project she takes on. Her sense of responsibility and accountability towards each task is particularly impressive, making her a true asset to any project.

Gouri's exceptional listening skills and readiness to adapt are truly commendable. She has demonstrated outstanding project management skills by successfully handling two major education initiatives - the STEM and Born Learning Campaign programs. Currently, Gouri manages a team of eight members in Raichur, one of the first aspirational districts where United Way Bengaluru has stepped in.

Raichur is a new geography with new challenges, but this does not deter Gouri from leading it from the front, mobilizing communities, liaising with government officials and other stakeholders. What sets Gouri apart is her belief in actions speaking louder than words. She's a doer, consistently proving her credibility through her actions. On a personal and professional level, she has a calm and composed personality with a blend of creativity, responsibility and adaptability.

Embracing diversity - Onam celebration in office

In our workplace, we cherish the rich tapestry of cultures that make up our team. Without fail, every year, we seize the opportunity to celebrate this diversity, and this year's Onam festivities were nothing short of spectacular.

Our celebration commenced with a graceful *Chavittukali* dance, setting the stage for a day filled with camaraderie and laughter. We delved into various traditional games, from the intricate art of *pookalam* creation and fierce competition of tug of war to experiencing the sumptuous *Onmay Sadhya*. But beyond the fun and dances, the spirit of togetherness truly defined the day. We came together as a work family, uniting in celebration, and these moments of shared joy will forever hold a special place in our hearts.



Beyond office walls

Our team retreat to Mysore reminded us that the best results come from a close-knit team. We had over 100 team members from different places, and we spent a day and a half having fun, getting to know each other, doing team-building activities, enjoying cultural events, and going on a trek to Chamundeshwari Temple. The retreat was an opportunity for us to come together and create memories.



Birthday celebrations



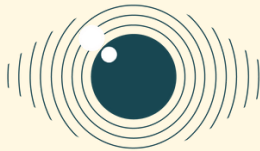
About Us

United Way
Bengaluru



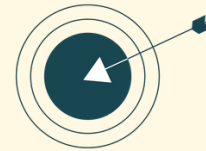
United Way Bengaluru (UWBe) is a part of United Way Worldwide, the largest NGO network of over 1,100 chapters in 37 countries. Since 2008, UWBe has been dedicatedly working in underserved locations and marginalized communities. UWBe marked a significant milestone this year as it completed its 15-year journey. Over 15 years, the organization's reach extended beyond Karnataka to eight other states, with a special focus on remote areas and aspirational districts. United Way Bengaluru works in a few key areas: Education, Health, Rural Development and Environment. Aligned with its mission, the organization brings together unified efforts from CSR partners, civic bodies and local communities to work collaboratively towards solutions. The organization carries a global image with a 'local heart' committed to creating meaningful change in the lives of the local communities.

VISION



United Way envisions a world where all individuals and families achieve their human potential through education, income stability, and healthy lives.

MISSION



United Way seeks to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities around the world to advance the common good.

Our Flagship Campaigns



We are
Great Place To Work® Certified

Recognized by Great Place To Work® India

United Way of Bengaluru

Building No. 5, 3rd Floor, Crimson Court,
Jeevan Bima Nagar Main Road, HAL 3rd Stage,
DOS Colony, Jeevan Bima Nagar,
Bengaluru, Karnataka 560075

www.uwbengaluru.org

Follow us on

