
Project Arunima:

Annual Report

2022-23

A big Arunima Hello to everyone! Like all other years, this has been a busy year as well! Trying out something new is always daunting, but fun, and we have had a lot of fun this year, doing exactly that! Read on to find out what the Arunima Gang has been up to this year gone by

WAAD 2022 and a Birthday

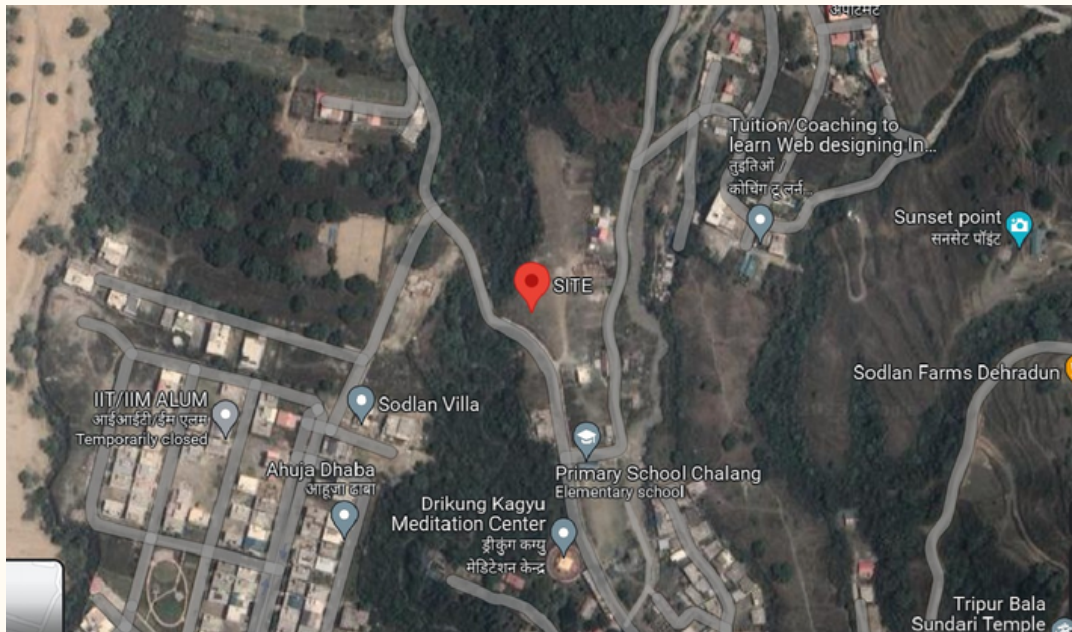
The year began with a celebration of Autism Awareness Day 2022 as well as Arunima's 11th birthday., The café workers got to serve a larger group as friends of Arunima were invited for an evening of fun, games, and great food! Tug of war, bocchi, zumba, and many food options made it a real Arunima party.

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Our own building

A 6 YEAR SEARCH COMES TO AN END!

The highlight of this year was the purchase of land for our residential project. We have procured a little over 3 bighas of land in Chalang Village, and hope to have our center up and running by 2024-2025. The building will accommodate 32 differently abled adults, and be open to trainees coming for the day as well. We plan to have work spaces like a café set up in the premises, providing opportunities for jobs, as well as for community integration, by employing neurotypical people to work alongside.

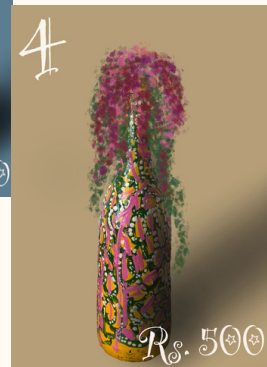


TYPICAL RESIDENCE FLOOR PLAN

While families will pay for enrollment in the residential program, we will need significant funding for the **skilling center**. Looking forward to work one enjoys, and the opportunity to be with friends and colleagues everyday, certainly keeps each one of us going. And it is no different for us at Project Arunima! We look forward to connecting with people who will support our dream of our very own skilling center too!

Enterprise

Arukriti, our handmade store, and the in-house Café have kept our friends busy almost all year. They are learning to work, earn, save, and spend. Our handicraft store is a big hit, with regular old customers as well as new customers. It is exciting when our friends see their hand made products being sold, and get paid for them. New items added this year are hand decorated cloth bags, as well as beautifully dot painted bottles, which have both gone as far as the USA. Much more than just a source of revenue, it is being built as a small business that fulfills multiple purposes – (1) focusing on the abilities of our differently abled friends to create high quality and attractive products (2) Real work and earning for many of our friends who are employees here (3) Future opportunities for integrated employment



We have always believed that our friends at Arunima should live life as well as anyone else. Arunima calls itself a home away from home. We try to create opportunities for people to go out into the community as often as possible. Hikes, movies, shopping, picnics, movies – the Arunima gang experiences all of it. We want to keep learning, and for this reason, connected with the Keystone Institute of India to get an assessment of our residential program in September 2022. It was an intense, yet enjoyable, and valuable experience, and the feedback given by the team has motivated us as well as given us a clearer direction for the coming years. Here are their suggestions:

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- **Move from WE to ME: Despite how different Arunima is from the regular group home, we are still both seen and act as a group of persons with special needs. Look at developing the lives of each individual here so that each person is living the best life possible.**
- **•Look for deep individualized roles: It is important for every person to see themselves as having a valued role in the community, and we have to work on creating these opportunities for each person here**
- **•Become Dehradun Information Experts to be able to match people to their interests and abilities. There is a lot out there that people can participate in**
- **•Develop a Networking Focus , again, so that people can participate in typical life. Look outwards rather than inwards**

The Tiffin Service

The most exciting development of the year has been the startup of our tiffin service thanks to support from the Dalmia Bharat Foundation. People most passionate about cooking have now been employed at the Arukriti tiffin service. This little business prepares and supplies healthy, wholesome, home like meals to people in Dehradun.



More employment news

In addition to employment for 8 friends, Neha continues to work with Cynet Systems as a data entry specialist, while two of our young men, Uddhav and Shivam, completed a 3 month internship at Café Commune, a popular eating joint on the Dehradun-Mussoorie road

Rubi, the program coordinator, and Aparna Das, have been working with the Keystone Institute and are being trained to enable customised employment for persons who are differently abled, and we hope that this will help us find more jobs in the community for other friends at Arunima.

Human Resource Services

The Director, Accounts Coordinator and Program Coordinator were managing HR related pieces, like onboarding, pay, benefits and offboarding, to list a few. Succession and talent planning, a huge need in any organization received barely any attention. We have now signed a consultation contract with Core Ops Genie, a Mumbai based HR Consultancy Company. We have had a good start, streamlining many of these processes by working closely together

Project Arunima's

FUNDRAISING DINNER



This December of 2022, we had the opportunity to host our first ever fundraising dinner!

With our 11th year of Project Arunima, we ventured on our journey to host our first ever fundraising dinner at Antara. Antara is an Assisted Living Center for Seniors. Our entire dinner was kindly sponsored by Cynet Systems, an IT staffing and engineering consulting company with whom one of our residents at Arunima is working. As a thank you to our wonderful staff, we raised enough money to sponsor their tickets completely. We were able to host twenty-five friends, thirty-two staff members, eighteen parents, six guests and one trustee. We were also lucky enough to have a live band made up of ten members from the Indian army come and perform great music for us!

Our night started with the announcement of our silent auction and a time for all our guests to mingle. Our auction featured pieces from one of our friends, Radhika Chand, and two of the parents, Sanjay Tiwari and Shikha Pandey. Radhika is a resident at Antara and has had her art featured in many places before. She creates beautiful dot paintings inspired by Australian aboriginal art.

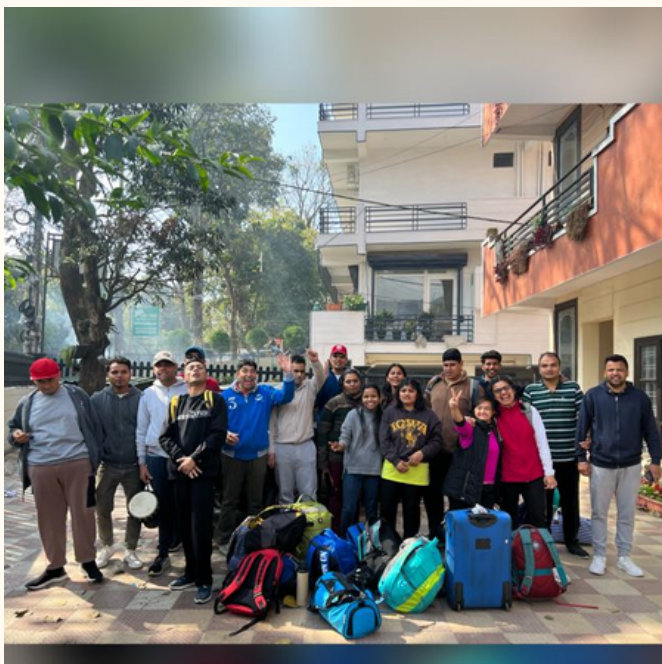
Our second artist, Sanjay Tiwari, started his projects during the 2020 lockdown. He uses close up photography and soap bubbles to create beautiful and colorful images. Our final artist, Shikha Pandey uses mixed media to paint flora, portraits, and architecture. We thank our artists for donating their pieces to Arunima for the auction, and to be sold on behalf of Arunima in the future.



Ending the year with a SPLASH!

We ventured on our first ever camp to Rishikesh. The pictures speak louder than words, but here is a reflection from the experience

Going for this trip was a choice that our friends made for themselves. We asked their parents AFTER they said they wanted to go. And now it is time for us to think of how we can step back as family members and encourage our sons , daughters, siblings .. to take more such decisions for themselves ♥



Thank you to our donors!

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Vinay and Shikha Pandey

Thank you to our donors!

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