

# ANNUAL REPORT

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MONTFORT CARE  
EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRE



A program by The Stephen High School  
for the Deaf and Aphasic



MontfortCare

# CONTENTS

1

OUR  
JOURNEY

2

OUR  
TEAM

3

OUR  
VISION

4

OUR  
IDEA

5

OUR  
PROGRAM

7

WHAT WE  
DO

8

OUR  
PAST YEAR

10

OUR  
PROGRESS

11

OUR  
STORIES

12

OUR  
SUPPORTERS

# OUR JOURNEY

## BR. RANJITH

“Those whom the world rejects must move you the most” – Father Marie De Montfort

I am proud to say I am, like many proud Monfortians, inspired by the Montfort vision. I was motivated to start Montfort Care Early Intervention Centre through my work with the Stephen School for the Deaf and Aphasic. While teaching at Stephen School, I found very few children joined the school at an early enough stage in their life (0-6 years). I witnessed the huge consequences this had for their learning, such as learning and language difficulties and access to education opportunities. It was in these situations I realised how early intervention would have made all the difference. Montfort Care was started to address these consequences and has now completed one year of service to special needs children.

There is a lot of talk of the need for awareness programs on hearing impairments, their symptoms and prevention, and the effect, however, it does not seem to have touched the real world. This disability cannot be “seen” and therefore the said issue has been virtually left unnoticed and kept at a very low profile in terms of priority for redressal and intervention. Montfort Care has not only spread awareness on hearing health and hearing loss to the general public but also created significant awareness amongst NGOs, educational institutions, Anganwadi workers, and in hospitals. In just about a year we have conducted several activities towards our vision statement. Over 1000 people have been directly touched through our awareness on hearing health and hearing loss activities, with the scope to reach many more.

Through early identification and intervention, we have reached out to children below 6 years and have screened more than 350 children. In the first year of our operation, we have 12 children who are attending regular therapy at our Early Intervention centre. In the coming year, we aim to triple the above numbers and reach out to as many people possible.

One of our studies on early intervention has been published in Newzhook, which is an online newspaper, and in Tata Institute of Social Studies magazine this year. We are also delighted that our study was quoted in the UNESCO report, “State of the Education Report for India 2019, Children with Disabilities”.

We take pride in our small successes and accept challenges and obstacles as stepping stones to greater achievements. We strive to reach our target without compromising on quality. The above numbers may seem small in comparison to our population, but it is a start as we are taking baby steps towards the big dream of no child being left behind.

As St. Marie de Montfort said, “If you don’t take a risk for God, you do nothing for him”.

Ranjith Moovarasu SG  
Montfort Care

# OUR TEAM



## Brother Ranjith Moovarasu

### Masters in Special Education

Program Coordinator, Ranjith Moovarasu SG is a Special Educator and administrator who has devoted his career to supporting students with disabilities. He is passionate about Early Childhood Education as he strongly believes early intervention and identification are the key to a better future for special needs children.



## Ms. Prajakta Prafulla Patil

### Certified Audiologist and Speech-Language Pathologist

Prajakta is motivated to use her knowledge and skills to their maximum potential. She strives to do innovative work, and wishes to revolutionise the field to set a new innovative and accessible ground for audiology and speech pathology. Prajakta ultimately wants to work with experienced doctors involved in the management of patients, in a structured and professional team approach.



## Ms. Therese George

### Masters in Social Work

Therese is driven to help others and to make a positive, lasting impact on the wellbeing of others. She is very receptive and has great self-awareness. Therese is passionate about working within the community with patience and compassion.



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# OUR VISION

All children with hearing loss live to their full potential.

## OUR MISSION

To enable early detection of and intervention for hearing loss among children through conducting sensitisation activities, screenings and rehabilitation services.



## OUR OBJECTIVES

To create awareness among the communities and medical fraternity about hearing impairment and the need for timely screening and intervention.

To provide needy children with hearing impairment, access to timely and proper screenings, as well as diagnosis within the earliest possible time frame.

To equip them with necessary therapy, education support and linkages to needed resources, in order to help them overcome hearing impairment and get integrated into the mainstream / special education system, as desired.



# OUR IDEA

## PROBLEM

60 children are born with deafness in India every day. Hearing impairment is common throughout the world; however, many cases in India go undetected until long after normal language acquisition is possible. While primary healthcare has been charged by the Government of India to address this concern, screening is still not carried out for the majority of children in India. This is concerning considering an estimated 50% of all deafness and hearing impediment is preventable, while others could be rehabilitated.

Lack of awareness among parents and the community, overburdened medical professionals and the stigma attached to hearing aids have all been cited as hurdles to universal screening in India. Although it is not fatal, the implications of hearing impairment at the individual, family and community level and the disruption that it causes to the lives of the people is considerable. A lack of early identification and intervention of a hearing impediment, combined with a lack of appropriate facilities has consequences on language ability, access to education opportunities and integration, as well as having significant economic consequences.

## SOLUTION

Montfort Care Early Intervention Center is working to ensure that all children get identified before the age of 3 years, so that they can learn a language, study in regular schools and lead a normal life. In doing this, Montfort Care aims to eventually ensure 'effective integration' to the society within both academic and social fronts. The program has a direct role in creating awareness among the medical profession and the public, conducting early screening of children, enhancing access to therapy, medical treatment and training parents for what to expect.



# OUR PROGRAM

## MONTFORT CARE FOCUSES ON SIX ELEMENTS:

### AWARENESS AND SENSITISATION CAMPS

Montfort Care conducts sensitisation camps in residential communities, hospitals and schools to create awareness of the importance of early hearing screening, best practices around infant and early child care, signs of hearing loss and to address stigma and misconceptions.



### SCREENING

A trained team of specialists conducts auditory screening for children in the age group 0 – 6 years to check for hearing ability. The main tests used are: Pure Tone Audiometry, Speech Audiometry, Immittance Audiometry, Otoacoustic Emission Test (OAE), Auditory Brainstem Response Audiometry (ABR)

If a child has hearing impairment, information obtained from the hearing screening is used to plan for the necessary medical and audiological intervention to help improve functioning in daily life and at school.

### PARENT COUNSELLING AND THE PARENT INFANT PROGRAM

Parents are provided with counselling. This help parents accept the diagnosis, recognise their child's potential and support the child through therapy and education. The parent infant programme helps parents communicate orally with the children and increases their exposure to and acquisition of oral language. Training parents to interact and encourage the child's use of language maximises their child's progress.

# OUR PROGRAM

## AUDITORY VERBAL THERAPY AND SPEECH THERAPY SESSIONS

A trained speech therapist / audiologist / special educator provides children with one to one Auditory Verbal Therapy (AVT) and Speech Therapy.

The focus is to expose children to the environmental and speech sounds. Children will learn to imitate and produce recognisable sounds that are precursors of speech. Eventually, the children will be able to communicate orally.



## MEDICAL LINKAGES

Montfort Care facilitates referrals and links to para professions to enable children to get best suitable hearing aids at affordable price and cochlear implants.

## SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM

A special educator works closely with a child with hearing impairment to build foundational literacy and numeracy skills as well as school readiness behaviour so that the child can join a regular school.

# WHAT WE DO

## WHO WE SUPPORT:



**Expectant  
parents**



**Parents of  
newborn babies  
or children up  
to 6-years-old**



**Children  
between 0 - 6**



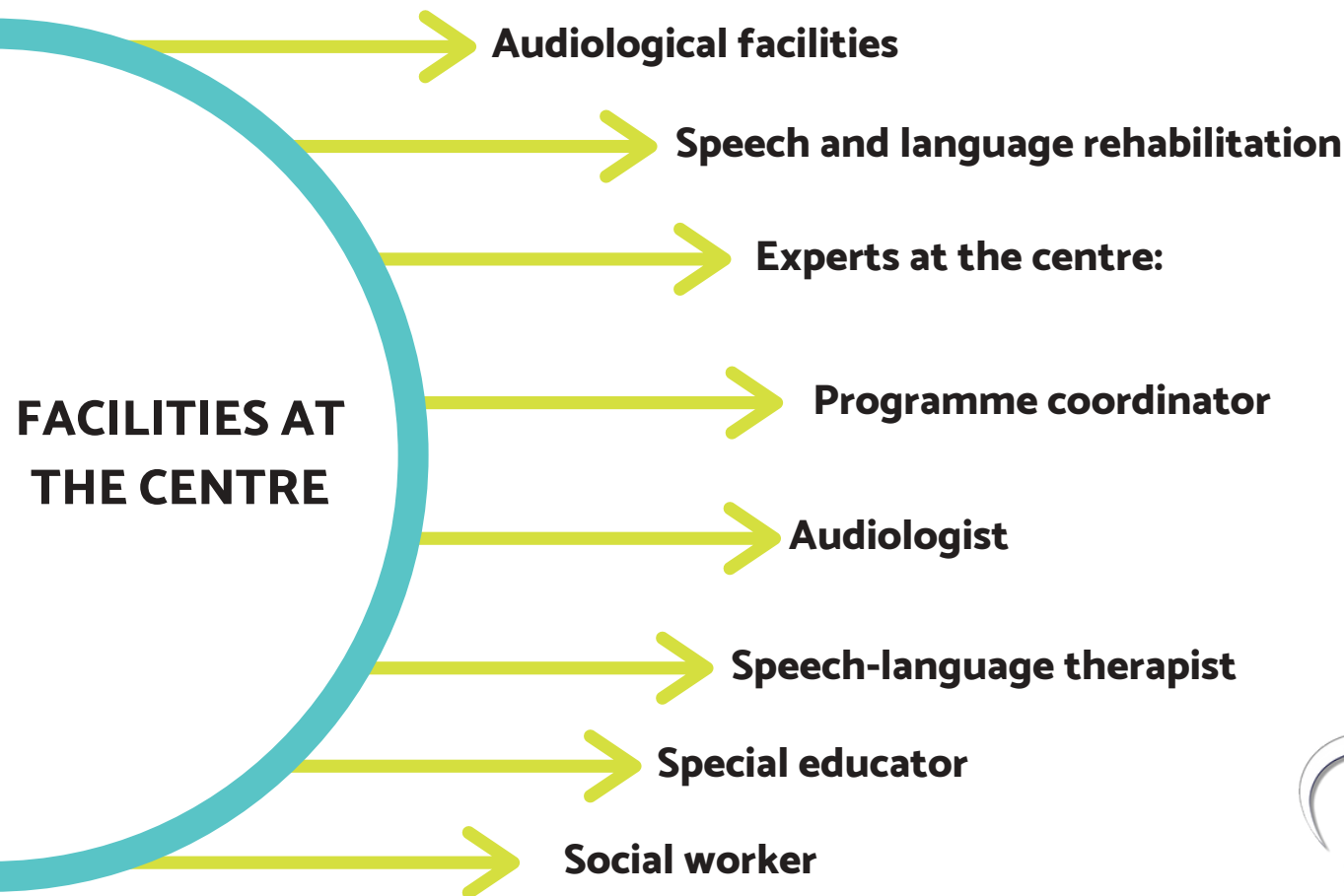
**Caregivers of  
children with  
hearing  
impairment**



**Nursery and  
primary school  
going children**



**Service providers of  
education and health  
systems for children  
with hearing  
impairment**



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# OUR PAST YEAR

## AWARENESS AND SENSITISATION CAMPS

### Doctors and paediatricians:

Montfort Care has worked to ensure those in the medical profession are aware of their services. Firstly there was an awareness program for doctors aimed at highlighting the link between tuberculosis and hearing loss. Secondly, Montfort Care met with paediatricians and ENTs at hospitals around Mumbai to ensure they knew to refer patients to our services, responding to a lack of resources and a need for more specialised care.



### Toybank:

Montfort Care held an awareness program at Toybank to emphasise the importance of early identification and intervention of hearing loss. Toybank work directly with schools and indirectly with parents, and the team vowed to spread awareness about hearing loss - its causes, signs and management.

### Students:

As part of our awareness program, Montfort Care welcomed students from both the MGR Institute Chennai and AYJNISHD(D) to visit the facilities and introduce them to the program. Montfort Care also held sessions to help them understand the importance of early intervention and how special education can help children with hearing disabilities.

### Mumbai Police:

As part of the Mumbai Police's one-month health program, Montfort Care conducted an awareness session and hearing screening. The presentation explained noise related hearing loss, its effect on health, its prevention and management. The session increased overall awareness of these issues, with many police personnel being screened and any impairment identified.

### Navjeet Community Centre:

We conducted an awareness program in collaboration with Navjeet Community Centre. Around 30 parents of Bandra Balwadi School participated in the program. Since the program scheduled during holiday time, the children couldn't come for auditory screening. We promised to conduct screening program for the children once the school reopens.

### Kalina Anganwadi 194 &196:

We conducted a hearing awareness program for parents of Kalina Anganwadi School 194 &196. Around 25 women participated in the camp. The session was interactive and they had many questions. Since the sound system was not working, the participants requested the awareness video to be sent on their Whatsapp number. It was the first time they had attended such a program.

# OUR PAST YEAR

## SCREENING

### Chimnipakhra School Camp:

A hearing screening camp was conducted for 101 students between 3 and 6 years. Hearing and speech impairments which were identified were then referred on for consultation. Some of the children among these are now attending speech therapy at Montfort Care. The aim of the camp was to identify hearing loss issues and to then inform the school and parents of these to further awareness.

### Chhatrapati Shivaji Vidyalaya, Dharavi:

The hearing screening camp was conducted for 64 students between the ages of 3 to 6 years. Of the students tested, 57% had impacted wax in both ears and were referred on for further consultation. The test reports were given to the school authority and parents were informed of the results.

### Open Camp:

An open hearing health camp was conducted at Montfort Care, where the local community and doctors were informed. Patients from the vicinity and those referred by the doctors attended the camp. Awareness brochures were distributed to patients and appropriate referrals were made.



# OUR PROGRESS



**189 CHILDREN  
SCREENED**



**12 CHILDREN IN  
REGULAR  
THERAPY**



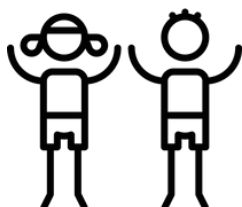
**FEATURE  
ARTICLE IN  
NEWZHOOK**



**OVER 400 PEOPLE  
DIRECTLY REACHED  
BY AWARENESS  
CAMPS**



**COMMUNICATIONS  
SESSION WITH MR.  
ROSHAN FROM UNLTD  
INDIA**



**CHILD  
SAFEGUARDING  
POLICY FINALISED**



**ENROLMENT IN  
ADIP SCHEME**



**FEATURED IN  
UNESCO REPORT\***



**CONDUCTED  
RESEARCH ON  
HEARING  
IMPAIRMENTS**



**EMPANELMENT  
WITH TISS**

\*UNESCO State of the Education Report for India 2019  
Children with Disabilities

# OUR STORIES

“Montfort Care recently conducted a screening camp in a public school in Dadar, where my daughter is studying. While undergoing screening the audiologist of Montfort Care suggested speech therapy for my daughter as I know she is having speech problems. We have now completed a few sessions at Montfort Care, and my daughter is really enjoying the speech therapy”

- Neeti's mother.



“My family doctor recommended me to Montfort Care as my daughter was facing a delay in her speech and language development along with behavioural issues. I have been regularly attending speech therapy sessions with my daughter since April 2019, and have already seen an improvement in her speech and language skills”

- Meera's mother.



“Montfort Care organised a hearing awareness program at our Navjeet community centre at Holy Family Hospital in May 2019. The camp was organised for young and/or expectant mothers. The purpose of the program was to spread awareness about hearing health. Most of the attendees were from an underprivileged group in society, living in slums in Bandra. I believe the program was a success as the interactive nature meant attendees showed huge interest by asking questions”

- Mr. Kamble, Navjeet Community Centre



# OUR SUPPORTERS



**DR. CHANDUR SOBHRAJ  
CHANGRANI**

## RECOGNITION

I very heartily thank our Lead Consultant from Atma Ms. Elena D'sousa for assisting us with volunteers and being an excellent consultant for all our activities and programs.

Ms. Cara Arellano from the USA for helping us to prepare our project proposal.

Ms. Reeva Kulkarni and Ms. Shilpi Malhotra for working with website and social media.

Mr. Arjun Vaidya and Ms. Nancy Fernandez for helping us during the camp.

Ms. Sunaina Mehrotra for working with one-pager content and design.

Ms. Pratibha Upadhyaya from LFS Hyderabad for assisting with Hindi translation.

Ms. Krisstina Rao for working on content for publications.

Ms. Rakhee Poojari and Ms. Asha Madhavan for brochure content and design.

Ms. Lucy Redwood from New Zealand for work on the annual report design and layout.



# MontfortCare

*“Blindness cuts us off from things, but deafness cuts us off from people”*

*- Helen Keller*