

Rakta Kranti Schools Revived: After a brief lull for a few months, Rakta Kranti Schools is back on the move again educating and motivating young school kids. (Read More on Page 3)



Training Sessions For New Volunteers: Many new volunteers have joined Sankalp. As a Sankalp volunteer they will need to know all about blood. Training sessions for newcomers (More on Page 2)



Bombay Blood Group Saga: A patient in Davangere needs a unit of Bombay Blood Group. The Emergency Wing of Sankalp are experts at solving blood requests. How did they tackle this case. Read on. (More on Page 2)



HIGHLIGHTS OF NOV 2010

- Blood donation drives organized at ITPL, Huawei and Education First with over 500 units collected
- Awareness programs on blood donation organized for 300+ school children
- 36 new hospitals visited where message about blood helpline was publicized
- 2 blood donation drives held in colleges under MSR institutions

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

"It's not just number of people who come to donate, but also the number of deferrals which counts towards the success of a drive."



File photo of Sankalp volunteers thanking all blood donors on the occasion of World Blood Donor day in 2009.

Looking For Blood?

9480044444

ರಕ್ತಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಹುಡುಕಾಟವೇ?



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It is 10 and counting @ ITPL

Hundreds of software companies, thousands of people—that's ITPL for you in numbers. But if you think a little more you get to realize a little more. These numbers also mean a huge base of blood donors. So huge that probably one would think that well planned blood donation drives there can become a tri annual affair. Back in July 2007, Sankalp India Foundation converted this probability into a reality.



Sankalp started the culture of organizing large blood donation drives at the ITPL campus on 5 July 2007. What followed since then was like a dream come true. And now, for the 10th time in 40 months, Sankalp India Foundation organized another safe and quality focused blood donation drive, with able support being provided by Applied Materials and Ascendas, 2 organizations based @ ITPL

The collaboration between the stakeholders for the events has only grown stronger with time. Ascendas manages space and resources before and during the day of the blood donation drive. Applied Materials volunteers help out during the drive and also in publicity campaign before the drive to intimate as many number of people about the drive. Sankalp volunteers interact with all

Over the course of these 10 drives more than 4000 units of blood have been collected which has gone on to make a difference in the lives more than 5000 patients

companies and blood banks and ensure that the donors have the best blood donation experience by ensuring all the standard measures to be taken during the blood donation drive. Over this period, each blood donation drive has seen a decent re-

sponse with a high of 591 units of blood collected in the 2nd drive and a low of 229 units collected in the 9th drive.

The tenth drive has in itself been an occasion of joyous celebration where special efforts were put in to educate and motivate more people. "Ascendas is pleased to partner with Sankalp India Foundation in conducting the 10th blood donation drive at ITPL. Through these camps we intend to maximize participation from the employees working at our park and also benefit the community we operate in through this noble cause." said Mr Chidambar from Ascendas group.

Applied Materials whose employees are regular donors have this to say "Since the very first drive we arranged in July 2007, employees from Applied Materials and other companies located in International Tech Park, Bangalore have donated more than 3400 units of blood. Our association with Ascendas and Sankalp India Foundation on this noble cause has ensured that there is more



Donors donating blood in one of the ITPL blood donation drives

awareness on the need to donate blood and has met the constant needs of the blood banks in Bangalore. We encourage more and more businesses to come out and sponsor blood drives in their organizations on a regular basis."

History has now been made @ ITPL with 10 drives in 40 months. Major blood banks of the city have benefitted immensely from this regular event. As time rolls by numbers will keep shooting up and in a few years it will be time to celebrate the Silver Jubilee :).

Be a first rate version of yourself, not a second rate version of someone else - Judy Garland

Newbies @ Sankalp Understand 'Blood Emergencies'

Sankalp India Foundation has is an organization with a volunteer base of 25-30 people. Every year some of them move out based on life's other priorities and new ones come in. These new volunteers are mainly the ones who are in their first year of professional courses. This year too there were 6-8 new volunteers who joined in.



Being a volunteer in a blood donor organization requires volunteers to understand blood and blood emergencies. Started on 23 May 2003, the emergency wing has taken thousands

of blood request so far and each time it handles a blood request it ensures that safe blood reaches the patient on time. The experience and learnings of the past 7-8 years are passed on to newcomers through detailed training sessions.

In these trainings, all the technical aspects regarding blood are not just explained through talks but also through live demonstrations in the blood banks. Important concepts are explained through different activities so that they learn better and have a good understanding. They are taken to blood banks where they are shown the ideal blood donation, at the same time they are taken through situations where all conditions may not be ideal for blood donation, so that they have a proper understanding of the real world outside.

Not just the blood banks but the new volunteers are also made to

“Whenever we handle a blood request we use our experience from the past learnings, but each blood request is different from the other and there is always something new to learn. As such when ever freshers’ join this team it is a challenging task to train them in a manner that they can handle any blood request from anywhere independently. Hence we focus on rigorous training techniques to build their skill levels” says Shyam, an experienced Emergency Wing volunteer

Visit hospitals to ensure that they learn how difficult it may be for the patient side to search for a unit of blood.

Initially all the new volunteers work along with experienced volunteers and learn the mechanism of searching blood and donors when required. Frequent quizzes and tests are conducted to check the awareness among the volunteers.

To ensure the preparedness of new volunteers to handle emergency blood requests, they are given dummy cases depending upon which the gaps and shortcomings are analyzed and addressed. The Sankalp Emergency team has a very strong documentation and information gathering policy where all volunteers post their learnings. Hence necessary inputs are available with everyone the next time they handle a blood request. After these sessions the number of blood search experts @ Sankalp just goes up!

Another Life Saved ... Another Story To Tell ...

In April 2010, volunteers of Sankalp had to go through an arduous experience in trying to find blood at the right time for a patient in Davangere. A volunteer who worked on this blood request expressed some feelings in the following manner.

One more blood request was catered! One more life was saved! The volunteers of Sankalp had one more story to tell!

It was only yesterday, that a lady from Davanagere needed blood of the Bombay negative group. Nature acts in strange ways! Remove the Rh and H antigens from O positive blood- the most common group, and you'll have Bombay negative group blood- the rarest blood group possible! The possibility of finding this group donor is one out of twenty five thousand, biologically! Practically, most don't know their blood groups- so finding a donor was no less than locating a pin in a football ground! The volunteers took it up as a fresh new challenge- something they had never faced before!

A Sankalp volunteer recollects a strange tale where blood that was needed in Davangere was finally available in Udupi and volunteers in search of blood were in Bangalore.

The volunteers collected the necessary details from the patient's husband, Ravi. The patient, Veeramma, had complexities with her fallopian tube and was bleeding continuously. Ravi had come to Bangalore in search of a donor when a doctor had suggested them to contact Sankalp India Foundation- a voluntary youth organization that works for the cause of blood. The volunteers were set to work immediately. They were scanning age-old databases, consulting doctors and blood bank officers. The best possible option was to find a donor in or around Davanagere and ask him to donate. Finally the volunteers were able to locate three donors in Bangalore. Two of them were unavailable. The third lady, Pramilla, was out of station!

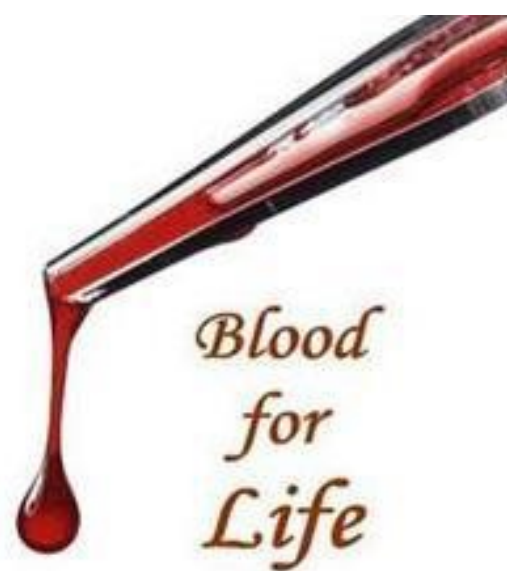
Interestingly, once upon a time, Pramilla had complications during her pregnancy- that is when she realized how rare her blood was! Since then, years had passed, and she had been helping people around her by donating blood. Her husband had created an exhaustive database of these patients who obviously belonged to the Bombay negative blood group! Thankfully, he agreed to share the database with these young volunteers. Each person from the database was ap-

proached. Most contacts were unavailable. One of them, Yusuf, was in Chennai.

Meanwhile, Veeramma's condition was worsening and Ravi was getting restless. It was getting exponentially difficult for these volunteers to control the situation, especially when so much of trust was laid on them! The volunteers had come in touch with other organizations as well - but nothing helped. Finally, their 24 hours of continuous effort boiled down to two options- firstly, Yusuf had been convinced to donate in Chennai. Secondly, Pramilla had come to Kundapur (near Udupi) and agreed to come to a nearby blood bank to donate. The latter option seemed more feasible. The volunteers set off to make traveling arrangements for Ravi.

Within an hour, Ravi left in a bus, leaving behind the proud and smiling volunteers who shook hands and hugged each other as they walked back! One more blood request was catered! One more life was saved! The volunteers of Sankalp had one more story to tell!

Note- Considering the interest of the patient and concerned people, the names of the characters have been changed.



Your life is not a coincidence, but a mirror of your own doings.

Experience of a NewComer – Srinivas Raju

I once heard a talk by an eminent civil servant about the fact that "Our world is not flat". He clearly highlighted the social and economical inequalities prevalent in our country and how this prevents the unprivileged ones from living a life of dignity and self respect. Until that day, little did I realize that many in this country did not have the opportunities that I was privileged to have. For millions, elementary education and basic health care for example, are luxuries which they cannot afford (forget about these being of good quality). So, we the "privileged ones" might want to do something to make this world a little more flat. Before I write about my experience with Sankalp I wish to



First thing that struck me when I met them was the age group of the members. Majority of them are undergraduates doing their B. Tech. Putting myself in their shoes, I could not imagine myself managing the hectic schedule of classes, labs, exams and still find time to work for Sankalp. For example, one young guy is predominantly responsible for the publicity of the statewide blood availability helpline. After sitting through the boring classes in the morning this guy finds time and most importantly the energy to go to several hospitals in Bangalore, talk to the medical superintendents and make them aware of the life saving helpline. He is one. There are many more...

share another simple thought. From dawn till dusk, all the activities that we get into, are predominantly aimed at satisfying our personal needs. From brushing our teeth to watching a late night movie...we can hardly

think of anything that we deliberately do for others. In my opinion those who can willingly spare some time for the well-being of others are true **Heroes**. I consider myself extremely privileged to be able to work with a small bunch of such heroes.

The founder of a Bangalore based NGO, working for urban reforms has this to say..."In India, the total number of employees in all the NGOs put together is larger than that in the Indian Railways." Obviously there are many people trying to do many good things. Looking at the way I was drifting away from academics my boss (read mentor) once gave me a long lecture about staying away from spurious NGOs. I am clear that by working with Sankalp I am with the best set of men and women. Rea-

son?...their efficiency!!! I once got associated with a disaster relief activity organized by students of a prestigious academic institution. We pooled in good amount of money and did a reasonably good job. But, at the end of this adventure I was a little dissatisfied with the way we went about doing things. Without giving many details, I should say that we seriously lacked planning, organization and most importantly leadership. In my opinion, Sankalp's biggest asset is their leadership. Every single activity is well planned by the leader of the group and then extensively scrutinized by the rest of us for any possible loopholes. After we complete the planned activity we have a feedback session where, we critically look at the work we did and suggest possible improvements. Members of Sankalp are very open to criticism because we believe this helps us personally and also the organization. This way, Sankalp is moving towards perfection at a very good pace.

Sankalp is a relatively small group of volunteers. I thought I will have to fill some forms before I become a member of Sankalp. Surprisingly, all I had to do was attend the Sunday meeting...look at various activities of Sankalp, choose the area that suited my interests and then get started. That's it!!! It was a great feeling to have worked with these heroes. I look forward to many more such experiences in the future.

Rakta Kranti Schools Revived!

Practices and theories developed as a young kid tend to be with us even as we grow older. This is specially true for myths and misconceptions. It becomes a little too hard to overwrite some fear developed early on.

Now think of voluntary blood donation. It is in the range of 55-60% in Karnataka. What if as young kids we all were told about blood donation. What if we

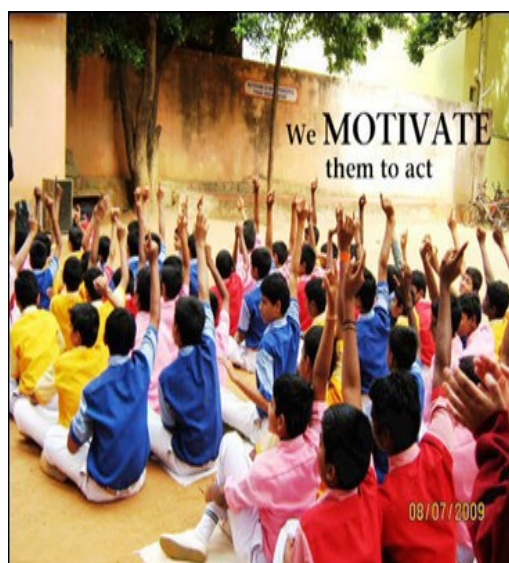


were told that it is our responsibility once we turn 18. That's what Rakta Kranti schools is all about. Started off in 2008, this

Sankalp team visits schools to educate and high school students about the real facts related to blood donation. These students are made aware of the need and how their contribution as an adult will make a big difference. Sankalp came up a creative program consisting of skit/video, talks, and creative activities to make the young students aware and motivated donors. Till now more than 7000 students have been educated in around 40 schools in Bangalore. The major part of the program had a team performance till now. Over a few months a certain degree of slackness had come into the team. But in the last 3 months the team has developed to a level where a single volunteer performs program in schools. New flipcharts are used during the program. Students find it easy to understand the concepts with the help of these charts and their response is seen in the amount of doubts which they ask related to blood donation. Even other volunteers who

are not a part of RKS team are now trained to perform program in schools. In last three months, 1000 students have been educated in 7 schools in Bangalore. The list is continuously growing with more and more schools showing interest in the program.

Apart from the students, the teachers also benefitted from this program in most of these schools. Teachers showed keen interest in the program and



asked various doubts in the program.

"It was a great feeling telling children about blood donation and need of blood. I think that it'll certainly make an impact. Today Principal came and told the students that he is wasting his time and money to give you this message. But I think that my efforts would not go waste if even one from the 32 young students becomes a regular donor. If my message can motivate them to be good citizens, all my money and time would be paid back!" says Arpit, a RKS volunteer

The sessions were held at Air Force School, Sisa School, St Thomas, Kuvempu Vidya Kendra, Holy Cross School, Ujwal Vidyalaya and RGS School in Bangalore in the last 3 months

"None of us will ever accomplish anything excellent or commanding except when he listens to this whisper which is heard by him alone - Ralph Waldo Emerson

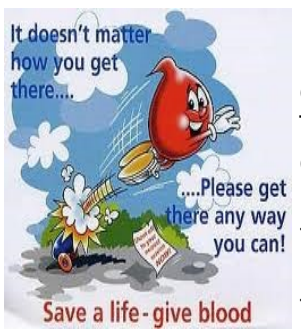
Sankalp Events in November 2010



30 Nov: 10th ITPL blood donation drive successfully completed with more than 600 donors turning up for registrations and a total of 488 donors donating blood to St Johns Blood bank, Rashthrothana Blood Bank, RL Jalappa Blood Bank and Nimhans Blood Bank. Kudos to the entire team @ ITPL. This event marks a new era in blood donation drives @ ITPL.



26 Nov: 66 blood units collected at Education First Pvt Ltd by Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health hospital. This ensures at least 66 small children get new hope to live :) Thanks to the employees of EF pvt ltd for donating blood. May this blood donation drive be the first of many to come @ EF



25 Nov: Kiran, 13 yrs old boy from a village in Davangere needs at least 2 units of this group every month for lifetime as he is suffering from Thalassemia. His blood group is Bombay blood group, the rarest group with frequency as 1 in 17500 individuals. Every month it a challenge for us to arrange the units. But with donors like Mr Senthil and Mr Ramaraju things are still better. Thank u for donating blood Sir:)

25 Nov: Sankalp joins CDRN (Corporate Disaster Resource Network) in order to make use of the platform for faster and better relief operations in all parts of the country. **Corporate Disaster Resource Network (CDRN)** is a web based supply chain management system that helps Relief agencies, Response agencies and Local governments access and feed in real time information on products and services required for emergency humanitarian relief.



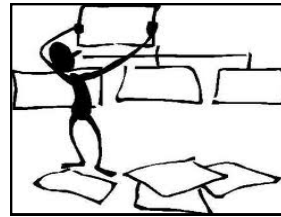
24 Nov: Next time a patient needs blood in any one of the 26 more hospitals in Bangalore, they will find the information about the blood helpline right in front of them. the first year volunteers of Sankalp have swung into action by spreading the word.



20 Nov: It was a amazing site to see 300 young children participate in a program that removes all the misconceptions they have and promise to donate blood voluntarily once they are 18. The School awareness program at Sisa School, Marathalli was rocking successful.



19 Nov: 40 students donated blood from MSR Pharmacy college yesterday just to ensure availability of sufficient blood units in one blood bank for a day and thus also ensured that Patients' relatives who are new to this city are not asked to get replacement units at least one day :)



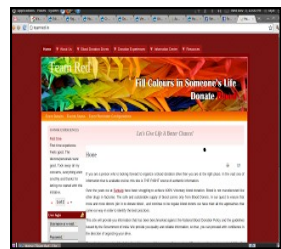
14 Nov: Sankalp announces a major organizational restructuring in order to get ready for the future. More responsibilities for some, new teams for some and a chance to explore the unknown for the others. We wish all the volunteers all the success in their new roles.



12 Nov: Sankalp is happy to start conducting blood donation drive @ Huawei Telecommunications Bangalore. 1st blood donation drive had good response so hope to see the company having its 2nd drive after 6 months.



10 Nov: After a brief lull the awareness program in schools for blood donation takes off once again. The program was conducted in Air Force School Hebbal.



03 Nov: The next in the series of innovations that Sankalp has brought into blood banking is a comprehensive blood donation drive management platform for blood banks. This is an extension to the already existing TeamRed. In which Sankalp has been using for several years to ensure high quality blood donation .

Test Your Blood Skills!

- Which of the following is the statewide blood helpline in Karnataka?
A) 9480044444 B) 9840044444 C) 9844044444 D) 998044444
- Which is the rarest blood group?
A) O-ve B) AB-ve C) Bombay Group D) A2-ve
- Which of the following is not a component of blood?
A) Cryoprecipitate B) Plasma C) Bone Marrow D) Platelet
- Rh in Blood Grouping stands for?
A) Rhinus B) Rhesus C) Rhodentus D) Rhelum
- If one is suffering from Dengue which component of blood is needed?
A) Platelet B) Red Cells C) Plasma D) Whole Blood

Check Your Scores : 1. A | 2. C | 3. C | 4. B | 5. A

Participate

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