



## UGAM ---- VICTORS of Childhood Cancers

Childhood Cancer Survivors from ACT clinic of Tata Memorial Hospital, inspired primarily by Shobhit & survivors from across the globe with whom they interacted during the International Pediatric Oncology Society Meeting in October 2007, came together on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2009, first Sunday in June, celebrated as Cancer Survivors Day. They formed a voluntary support group, which they christened as **UGAM**, under the esteemed guidance of Dr. Purna Kurkure, In charge, Pediatric Oncology Division & ACT Clinic, at Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai. **UGAM** means “**To Rise**” underscoring their determination to rise above all obstacles in life & be **VICTORS**.

The dream of such a support group was seen by a childhood cancer patient, Shobhit Kaushal who was a budding & very talented painter & poet. He had held his first & only art exhibition in March 2009 while fighting a lost battle with cancer & succumbed a month later. Shobhit, through his courage and indomitable spirit, touched the lives of so many people during his own short life. He fought cancer on his terms, never giving up and was full of Hope and a feisty spirit right till the end. He left behind his fighting spirit, strength and vision to start the support group that will help millions of childhood cancer survivors. He dreamt of providing the best possible helping hand to the survivors, to build up their life from ground zero & live life like normal human beings. He left behind his passion to carry his dream to a new high.

UGAM is the youngest unit of the oldest & most prominent NGO, The Indian Cancer Society( ICS) under its survivorship programme. ICS has been involved in the crusade against cancer for more than 55 years and is recognized by the Indian Government as the premier not for profit organisation for cancer in the country.

### Vision

- To ensure that every childhood cancer survivor finds his/ her way to celebrate life after winning battle with cancer.
- To facilitate their life’s journey on the correct path & in the right direction.

### Mission

#### 1) Self-empowerment of the young survivors:

- Fulfilling their dreams that were put on hold while they were battling this tormenting disease and the hardships of the treatments.
- Helping in overcoming social fears and hindrances.
- Overcoming their physical and mental disabilities and moving ahead despite them.
- Educational and career related assistance and guidance.



- Reestablishment and moving ahead in the desired direction in the future life and pursuing their careers.
- Recreation and fun in their present life.
- Creating awareness regarding the late effects of the treatment and spreading needed awareness.
- Making the survivors reinstate the confidence and power in themselves.
- Uniting with other such survivors and organizations from around the world and working with them.
- Facilitating assistance from the government and other local and regional bodies.

## 2) Helping Children with Cancer undergoing treatment:

- Young patients undergoing treatment can be helped in overcoming their fear, anxiety and uncertainty by bringing them in touch with those who have survived.
- Helping them to understand and accept the sudden changes happening around them.
- Building up their confidence and faith.
- Educating them about the disease and the treatment from the non-medical point of view.
- Arranging therapeutic and recreational activities for them.

## 3) Social awareness and re-bonding with society:

- Involving the survivors with society and helping them re-establish themselves.
- Spreading information and knowledge about the survivor group and emphasising the survival rate of childhood cancer.
- Growth of the group and getting affiliated and collaborating with other such national and international groups.
- Creating awareness programmes for youngsters and involving them with the group

UGAM has been set up with an aim of providing a helping hand to the survivors of childhood cancers & become ambassador of the message “**Childhood Cancer is Curable**” in society.

Since its birth, six months ago, Ugam has been a trail blazer and a pioneer with a few firsts to its credit.

- It has started a one of its kind counselling sessions for the survivors of childhood cancer, to help them understand how they can start their life a fresh by defeating their limits and exploring new opportunities in which they are capable of making a difference. These sessions are conducted at Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai on every Tuesday at the ACT (After Completion of Therapy) Clinic for long term survivors of childhood cancers.



- Ugam members will soon start counselling session with family of children cancer patients undergoing treatment at Tata Memorial Hospital to enhance their courage & conviction to go through difficult time in treatment.

## Our plans for the future

As the strength of Ugam increases in the form of survivors as volunteers, we plan to organize social activities like blood donation camps, fund raising events, organizing interactive competitions (brain storms, group dances) in association with premier entertainment television channels, for cancer patients & survivors.

The organization is entirely dependent on whole hearted public & voluntary support for its various activities of providing financial aid and rehabilitation of childhood cancer survivors. The extent of help required is phenomenal. Most of the patients come to TATA Memorial Hospital from across the country but do not have proper guidance or vision in their life after they are cured from cancer. Ugam relies on your generosity to help these poor and underprivileged cancer survivors.

We appeal to your organization/ trust for financial aid. Please consider donating generously towards the care & rehabilitation of cancer survivors.

Donations are exempted from the Income Tax under Section 80(G) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

**Cheques/ DD should be drawn in favour of Indian Cancer Society payable at Mumbai, with a covering letter stating that the donation is for Ugam & sent to:**

Indian cancer Society, 74, Jerbai Wadia Road  
Parel, Mumbai, 400012  
Phone No 022-24161875  
Please visit Website: (<http://www.indiancancersociety.org>)

## Whom to contact for further details

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