



FOCUS ON

EHA Disability Ministries

Dear Friend,

When you think of people with disabilities, what comes to mind? For our staff who serve in disability programs, it can encompass patients with hearing or vision loss, spinal cord injury, cerebral palsy and spina bifida, loss of a limb, intellectual disabilities, and much more. Needless to say, our doctors, nurses, and therapists have their work cut out for them in caring for so many different issues!

This area of service has grown within EHA, and now 11 of the 19 hospitals run a disability program; 4 of those 11 also operate a disability center where children and adults can receive therapy.

Some of our hospitals make custom braces and other therapeutic devices. A few even make simple limb replacements.

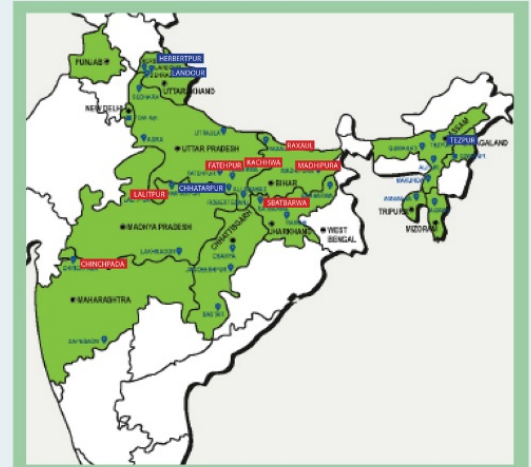
We hope you will find the information and stories in this issue informative and moving. The development of EHA's disability services requires investment in myriad equipment and training. May I ask that if you are moved by what you read, that you consider a donation toward our disability ministries? Any gift will change patients' lives in a mighty way.

In Christ,

Robb Hansen

Robb Hansen
Executive Director, EHA USA

DISABILITY SERVICE LOCATIONS



Hospitals with disability learning centers in blue.

- Empowering people with disabilities
- Improving quality of life
- Serving individuals, families, and communities



ON HER FEET WITH *Gratitude*

Etma had spent the last three years bedridden after a fall from a tree broke her spine. She was just 24 when she was brought to Chinchpada Christian Hospital to deal with an issue with her catheter. As they worked to teach Etma how to shift from her bed to a wheelchair, **one physical therapist thought that she might be able to learn to stand with support, granting her more independence.**

The Chinchpada staff contacted the Anugrah Project staff at Herbertpur Christian Hospital and asked if they could send her there for treatment. It would be an 800-mile journey by train, complicated by traveling with a wheelchair, but Etma's husband was willing.

As Etma spent eight weeks in physical therapy and rehabilitation at Anugrah, she began to smile more as her joy grew. She realized she didn't have to spend her life stuck in her bed, unable to help her family. The therapists worked hard to train her to walk with leg braces on, and during rest times she learned to crochet to create beautiful items to sell.

EHA staff told Etma that even though she had a terrible accident, there was a way ahead. It was a delight for EHA staff from sister hospitals to work in cooperation to change the life of this young woman.

Get Involved!



Therapy BRINGS STRENGTH AND FRIENDSHIP

At six years old, Roji spoke very little and could not sit up on her own. Born with cerebral palsy, she spent four days in the NICU while her parents were told her health would not improve.

Six years later, staff from Chhatarpur Christian Hospital were made aware of Roji, visited her home, and identified her as a child with a disability. **Her parents said that they were the first people to come to help Roji.**

Enrolled for regular therapy at Chhatarpur's Prerana Learning Center, Roji began growing stronger and making friends. After six months, she was able to sit up on her own and stand with support. Her parents are thrilled with her development and motivated to bring her to the learning center. Her therapists are encouraged by her progress and excited to see what the future will bring for Roji.

Joy IN BROKENNESS

Parents and siblings of people with disabilities are impacted in unique and significant ways. Many feel unsupported and alone, unsure how to best care for their loved one. The Anugrah Project staff at Herbertpur Christian Hospital run an annual family retreat to address these issues and more. This time is often the only opportunity these families have to go outside their home for a social engagement.

Families used to being rejected by society are welcomed to the retreat, and there they find others in similar situations.

Small groups provide a platform for experiencing fellowship and forming lasting friendships that enrich both the relational and spiritual needs of the attendees. Together, they find joy in

brokenness. The days are filled with devotions, songs, and messages along a theme provided by Joni and Friends.

Anugrah staff encourage local church members to come alongside these families to provide respite care at the retreat. As these villagers become engaged in disability ministry, the churches become a place of belonging for people with disabilities and their families. Over time, these churches provide care for the families, and refer them back to the Anugrah center if they need disability services. Everyone involved loves seeing the beauty of several parts of the Church supporting the least of these.

Get Involved!



The annual disability retreat provides encouragement and fellowship.



Showing RESPECT

In India, people with disabilities are often seen to be weak and incapable of being independent. A woman named Tila wanted to change that perception in her village. Tila's legs are paralyzed due to having polio as a child, and her primary way of getting around is crawling. Nonetheless, she is an independent woman and realized that the women in her community were not treated well. **She mobilized all the women and arranged a program to celebrate International Women's Day**

with the help of the community team from Baptist Christian Hospital in Tezpur. The ladies were overwhelmed by the gesture as most organizations celebrate this day only in cities, and they thought no one would remember them.

This celebration also became a platform where the women opened up about ill-treatment, gender inequality, and abuse. One woman's desire to show respect to her fellow villagers brought about encouragement and admiration for all.



Urgent Needs!

- EHA is looking for more staff to join their disability ministries. They need doctors, therapists, educators, technicians, curriculum writers, and media professionals.
- EHA needs funding for facility development and the purchase of equipment.



Get Involved!

Numbers That Matter

EHA PROVIDES CRITICAL DISABILITY SERVICES

11

EHA hospitals
have disability
services

4

of those
hospitals also
have disability
learning
centers

146

Disabled
People's
Organizations
supported

300

children
attend
disability
learning
centers each
year

1,040

people helped
to access
government
disability
benefits each
year

1,160

children and
adults received
at-home
disability
therapy each
year

2,260

members of
DPO's
organized for
advocacy

31,200 PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH EHA
DISABILITY SERVICES EACH YEAR

Thank you FOR YOUR SUPPORT

EHA's disability programs touch thousands of lives every year. **As a culture, India neglects and rejects those with disabilities. EHA is working to change this mindset.** Thank you for your prayer and financial support helping us do more to care for the forgotten disabled in India. **Go to ehausa.org/donate to support EHA's disability ministries or scan the QR code.**



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