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DATRI CONNECT

**VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER
- AUGUST 2023**



MANAGEMENT DESK

Dear Volunteers

Greetings from DATRI!

We are thrilled to reconnect with you once again and share the incredible journey of the past few months at DATRI. Your unwavering support and dedication have made a significant impact, and we are delighted to witness a surge in interest from volunteers like you, willing to be a part of this lifesaving mission.

In this edition, we have some inspiring stories to share. Divya, a volunteer with DATRI, opens up about her enriching experience and how being a part of this organization has been a tremendous learning trajectory. Her contribution has not only brought personal satisfaction and joy but has also played a crucial role in saving lives.

We also have a heartwarming blog written by a father who emphasizes the urgent need for more donors to register. As a parent he tragically lost his son to blood cancer due to the inability to find a matching donor. He speaks from the depths of his heart, urging more people to step forward and become potential lifesavers.

At DATRI, we firmly believe that volunteers like you are the backbone of our lifesaving work. We are excited to reveal our plans to recognize and appreciate volunteers for their invaluable contributions to the mission.

Your role as volunteers is paramount in connecting us with people from all walks of life across the country, enabling us to carry forward our lifesaving work. Your unwavering enthusiasm and dedication give us the motivation to work with even greater passion and commitment. Thank you for being an integral part of this wonderful journey.

Claudia Rutt
Chief Financial Officer

Farzana Nasreen Ahmed
Manager- Volunteer Management



DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS AT DATRI: CREATING AWARENESS AND SAVING LIVES TOGETHER

Dear Volunteers,

I am very happy to connect with you once again. A lot has happened in the past few months and many of you have helped in enriching our work. Let me spell out how we are evolving and what activities we have lined up for you and how you can contribute in the best possible way to DATRI's work.

Volunteers at DATRI have been the driving force behind the organization's mission to create awareness and save lives. Their unwavering dedication has made them an integral part of DATRI, playing significant roles in various activities that support this lifesaving cause.



Farzana Nasreen Ahmed
Manager- Volunteer Management

A Growing Volunteer Community

Currently, DATRI has about 240 active volunteers and a total of 680 enthusiasts who have volunteered with DATRI throughout its journey. These volunteers hail from 28 states and 6 union territories within India, with an international presence in the United States and Dubai. The diverse group comprises students, doctors, engineers, lawyers, businessmen, corporate professionals, and social development experts. Many of these volunteers are not only donors themselves but also patients' family members deeply connected to the cause, striving to build a better world for future generations.

Enthusiastic Contributions in the Last 8 Months

Over the last 8 months, DATRI has witnessed more than 80 new volunteers join the ranks, showing immense empathy and interest in the mission. These new volunteers have actively participated in registration drives across the country, raising awareness about the importance of stem cell donation and its impact on saving lives. They have been instrumental in assisting the DATRI team in various initiatives, including donor recruitment camps, lead generation for campaigns, patient and donor counseling, product collections, and international transfers.

Eight Major Platforms for Volunteering

We offer 8 diverse and dynamic platforms for volunteers to choose and contribute to DATRI's lifesaving mission:



A Vision for the Future

In the upcoming quarter, DATRI is planning to elevate some of these platforms into full-fledged projects, initiated and led by passionate volunteers. The primary focus will be on driving awareness campaigns and generating leads for donor and volunteer recruitment drives. Shared goals and targets will be established to maintain the enthusiasm and motivation of the volunteers. Achievements and accolades will be recognized through titles such as Volunteer of the Month, 5 Star Volunteer, and Super Volunteer, celebrated on digital and social media (with volunteers' consent).

Rewards and Appreciations

Volunteers will receive various rewards and appreciation, including DATRI participation certificates, DATRI Special Certificates, and souvenirs as tokens of appreciation for their commendable work and dedication.

Expanding Outreach and Delivering Awareness

One of the key objectives of DATRI's Volunteering Department is to expand outreach and educate as many people as possible about stem cell donation and the life-saving process it entails.

Welcoming More Volunteers

DATRI invites individuals from all walks of life to explore the exciting volunteering opportunities it offers and contribute to the cause of saving lives. Regular induction and training sessions are conducted to ensure volunteers are well-informed and confident in their involvement.

Your Recommendations and Suggestions

DATRI welcomes your valuable recommendations and suggestions to further improve and strengthen its volunteering initiatives.

Working Together for Safer and Healthier Spaces

DATRI is committed to collaborating with volunteers to create safer and healthier living spaces, united by the common goal of making a positive impact in the world. We are confident that when you join as a Volunteer you will have a rewarding and fruitful experience.



ENRICHING VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE WITH DATRI-SPREADING HOPE AND SAVING LIVES

Divya Srivastav, Associate Consultant - Analytics

I am delighted to share my enriching volunteering experience with all of you. As a dedicated volunteer of DATRI, I have had the privilege of contributing to various workshops, drives, awareness campaigns, and more, aimed at making a significant difference in the lives of those in battling blood cancer and blood disorders.

My involvement with DATRI began in the first quarter of 2018. Since then, it has been a tremendous learning opportunity that has allowed me to experience the transformative power of volunteering. The passion and commitment displayed by DATRI team and fellow volunteers have been nothing short of inspirational. One campaign, in



particular, stands out in my memory - the one that took place at Nair Dental Hospital in Mumbai. I was volunteering there with a senior volunteer, conducting an awareness campaign. We experienced an overwhelming response, but suddenly, we found ourselves short of kits. In just seconds, we received a solution to our kit shortage issue through the WhatsApp group, with five members from the group were ready to come and deliver the needed kits. That moment encapsulated the spirit of our crew, and I couldn't have been more thrilled to be part of such a dedicated team.

Together, we have made a significant impact in the lives of individuals in need, providing them with help, hope, and the promise of a brighter tomorrow.

During our workshops, we passionately empowered individuals with knowledge about the importance of blood stem cell donation, creating a positive impact in their lives. From awareness sessions to education initiatives, we worked hard to equip our participants with the tools they needed to bring about a meaningful change.

Our drives were a testament to the power of unity and compassion. Together, we organized blood stem cell donor registration drives, encouraging people from diverse backgrounds to join the life-saving movement. Witnessing the overwhelming response and willingness of donors to save lives has been truly inspiring. You can experience the joy of these moments by watching videos from DATRI which are available online. Additionally, I was humbled to receive an appreciation certificate from the organization during one of the felicitation ceremonies in Mumbai.

To broaden awareness, we launched a campaign that utilized both online and offline strategies. Through the power of social media, we reached out to many people, igniting their desire to support our cause. Our offline initiatives were equally effective in spreading awareness about the significance of blood stem cell donation, as we interacted with communities, colleges, and organizations. I particularly remember participating in an online awareness campaign where we had to portray a phrase from the slogan using a drawing or painting. Sharing our images with the group, we created a distinctive and striking collage photo. Additionally, we produced a chat between friends discussing the significance of DATRI's cause, addressing common queries people might have. It was a fascinating learning experience for me, as I had never read a screenplay dialogue before. The video was eventually posted on YouTube, reaching even more people.

Being part of this remarkable organization has been an immensely gratifying experience. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity, and I eagerly look forward to continuing our collective efforts in creating a healthier and more compassionate world. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those in need and spread the message of hope and support.



“A VOLUNTEER’S PERSONAL JOURNEY- THE NEED FOR BONE MARROW DONORS ”

Mohit Bhadada, Volunteer Rajasthan.

I have registered myself as a bone marrow donor, fully aware of the potential impact it can have on someone's life. When my own son, a promising engineering student, was diagnosed with blood cancer, our world turned upside down. We sought treatment at various esteemed medical centers, from Apollo Medics in Lucknow to CMC Vellore, Tata Memorial in Mumbai, and Rajiv Gandhi Hospital in Delhi. Despite trying every possible avenue, it became evident that a Bone Marrow Transplant was the only chance for my son's survival.



We were directed to DATRI, the largest registry of bone marrow donors in Vellore, with the hope of finding a 10/10 match for my son. Although we registered with the registry, we struggled to find a proper match due to the limited awareness about bone marrow donation in India. In desperation, we proceeded with a 7/10 match from my younger son, as we couldn't find a perfect match in time.

Tragically, my son's life couldn't be saved, and he passed away on 31 May 2020.

This painful experience has made me acutely aware of the lack of awareness and donors for bone marrow transplantation in India. The shortage of donors often results in compromised treatment for patients suffering from various types of cancer and thalassemia.

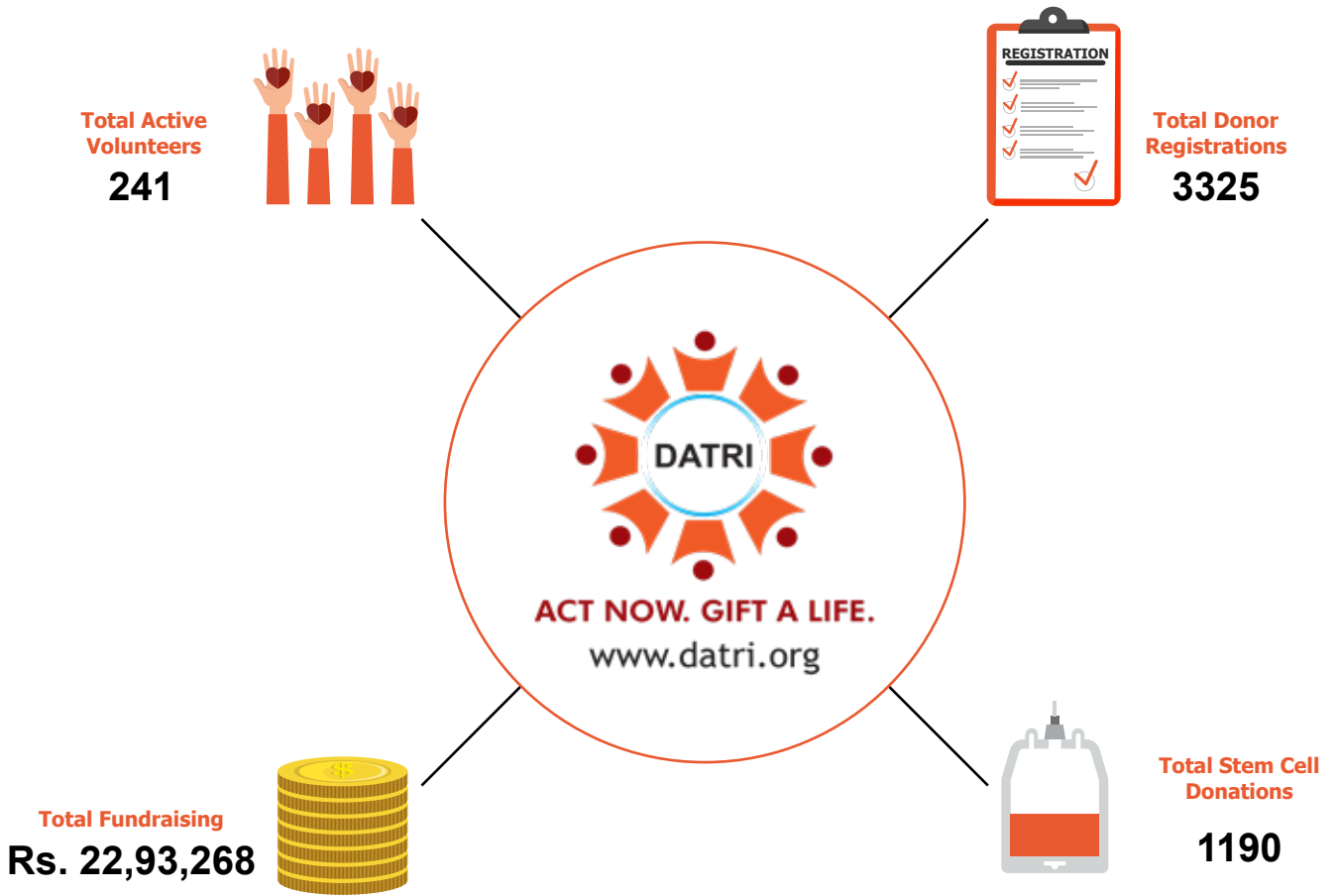
Had we found a full 10/10 match for my son, his chances of survival would have been significantly higher. I now believe that increasing awareness about bone marrow donation is crucial to improving the odds for patients in need. As someone who has personally experienced the devastating impact of insufficient donors, I strongly advocate for more people to get registered with bone marrow registries. Together, we can bring hope to those facing similar situations, increasing their chances of finding the right match and receiving a new lease on life.

Let us join hands and spread the word about bone marrow donation, saving lives and bringing hope to countless families facing the challenges of cancer and other life-threatening conditions.



NUMBERS THAT MATTER

(From April 2023 to July 2023)



“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”

by Elizabeth Andrew.

We are happy to inform you all that we have launched an exclusive DATRI Volunteer Webpage to support our volunteers and their activities. **Follow the link to the page: <https://datri.org/volunteering-with-datri>** and we have also launched a new and exclusive hashtag #DATRIvolunteers. This hashtag will be used in promoting everything related to our DATRI volunteers online.

