



The graduation ceremony on December 14, 2024



kanthari Quarterly Newsletter 4-2024

"Peace is not something you wish for; it's something you make, something you do, something you are, and something you give away."

- John Lennon -

"And to give you an idea of what my project is all about, we have organized a fashion show: Mandrill Alert!" Suddenly, a warning call from a mandrill echoed through the hall, and the screen lit up with the image of an African monkey flashing vibrant shades of blue, red, and white. A rhythmic rap beat followed, setting the tone. Then, one by one, the models burst onto the stage, dancing with energy and flair. The audience erupted with excitement, only to hold its breath in awe when Timothy, from a standing position performed a flawless backflip.

The kanthari TALKS concluded with a spectacular finale, featuring 23 powerful speeches on a diverse range of topics. These included alternative education, mental health, environmental issues, women's empowerment, support for people with disabili-

ties, young people in conflict with the law, and, most notably, peacebuilding—a subject that resonated deeply with everyone this year.

Dear friends and supporters, We're excited to share with you the 4th quarterly newsletter of 2024. A lot has happened since our last update, and we're eager to bring you up to speed. As the new year begins, take a moment to relax, and if you're seeking a dose of hope, this newsletter might just provide it.

Spread the spice

Last September, the group grew to 29 participants as we conducted our Business and Social Change (BASCH) course. We welcomed 6 alumni who hadn't yet had the opportunity to join, as this program was newly intro-



Above: Tudu Prashant from Jharkhand, India, belongs to the Santhal tribe. He advocates for the rights of minorities.

Left: Blaise Ngwanoh Ngwana, from Cameroon, founder of Mandrill Alert, is hearing impaired. He advocates for hearing-impaired people in conflict zones and uses fashion design for this purpose. In his TALK, he incorporated a fashion show.





Maria Opolot Aminat, from Uganda, advocates for youth who have come into conflict with the law.



Solange Ndip (Cameroon) during the certification with Balagopal Chandrasekhar.



Dr. Grace & Vijay Browning—founders of Krupa & kanthari 2024 awardees.

duced in 2021. Through the Inani program, this year's participants developed environmentally friendly products, and during the BASCH course, they learned how to market, finance, and sell these products. All participants then had the task of organizing the "SPREAD THE SPICE" fair together which took place in the heart of Trivandrum. Due to its very central location, this exhibition reached several thousand visitors.

kanthari TALKS

The kanthari TALKS are the highlight of the kanthari program, where participants showcase their life stories and their project ideas through dynamic ten-minute performances. These presentations often incorporate multimedia, dance, and music, making them as engaging as they are inspiring. This year, a lot of creative ideas brought even more energy and vibrancy to the stage. Our moderators, Charlotte (2022 kanthari) and Anand (2023 kanthari), created a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere. If you haven't seen the TALKS yet, it's definitely worth a look! You can check them out here: www.kantharitalks.org

Certification

This year's guest of honor was our long-time friend Balagopal Chandrasekhar, the founder of Terumo Penpol, the world's largest producer of blood bags. He gave a short speech in which he urged the participants to take responsibility in creating a more positive world. "The world is not in a good shape, so we need people like you!" He spoke about how he had witnessed the development of kanthari from the beginning and is now happy that the institute has become so strong. ([Linkedin post](#))

kanthari Award

Each year, our participants nominate

outstanding social changemakers to receive the kanthari Award. This year, the honour was bestowed upon Dr. Grace and Vijay Browning, founders of the organization Krupa. Their NGO is dedicated to fostering inclusion for leprosy patients, their children, nomadic families, and the most marginalized communities in Chennai.

kanthari Alumni: Sherleen Tunai - Anaantami, Kenya - www.anaantami.org (2023)

Sherleen Tunai is the founder of Ana Antami, an organization that advocates for the rights and inclusion of people with albinism in Kenya's Western Region. Through art and fashion, Sherleen strives to create social and economic opportunities for people with albinism. Since graduating from kanthari, she has provided skin cancer treatment to 12 beneficiaries, provided legal assistance for sexual harassment cases and supported 52 families with members affected by albinism. Their Hatua Mpya initiative provides 15 beneficiaries with nine months of fashion and design training focused on self-acceptance, confidence building and social integration.

Bosedede Nwachi - Akinkanju, Nigeria - www.akinkanju.org (2023)

Akinkanju focuses on two transformative projects: 1. EcoBuild-Her: This program trains single mothers, widows, and vulnerable women in sustainable building techniques using environmentally friendly and energy-efficient materials. It empowers women to construct their own homes while equipping them with valuable skills for employment and independence. 2. Empower-Her: This initiative provides entrepreneurial and vocational training for marginalized women, teaching income-generating skills



Sherleen Tunai in Kenya



Bosedede (Middle) with her beneficiaries

and financial literacy. A core component is the self-help group model, which fosters mutual aid, resource sharing, and economic stability. Together, these projects embody A-kinkaju's mission of holistic empowerment, enabling women to achieve self-reliance and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

Karan Singh - Oda Foundation, Nepal - www.odafoundation.org (2023)

Karan's mission to create accessible healthcare in Nepal's remote Karnali region is a very personal one, as he lost his father due to the lack of primary healthcare in his village. The Oda Foundation, which he founded in 2013, began humbly with a small maternity ward converted from a cowshed. Today, it has evolved into a fully equipped hospital, providing round-the-clock care to over 10,000 patients annually. The facility also offers emergency services and a birthing center. In 2017, the foundation expanded its impact by including education and livelihood programs, empowering single and widowed women to earn a sustainable income. Now, with support from kanthari, Karan is taking his vision further building a school in a greenhouse to provide year-round alternative education and introducing a free ambulance service for marginalized communities.

Sara Tandel - Mukhlasi, India - www.mukhlasi.org

(kanthari 2023) Mukhlasi was founded in 2024 by Sara Tandel, a survivor of child sexual abuse, who advocates for a world free from such trauma. Sara's personal experience drives her mission to empower children and caregivers with knowledge to protect themselves from abuse.

In India, where nearly every second child is at risk, Mukhlasi breaks the silence around abuse by educating

children on safe and unsafe touch, boundary-setting, identifying private body parts, and how to report abuse. The organization also trains parents to create protective, open dialogues at home. Since its founding, Mukhlasi has impacted over 135 children and 200 adults, striving to create a community shift towards safeguarding children's futures.

kanthari Around the World

- **25th Anniversary of the German kanthari association:** Helen Schwake, Simon Schroers, and Daniela Schmitz organized a special 25th anniversary celebration in Morenhoven. The event saw many friends of our projects, long-standing supporters, and new guests who had never heard of kanthari. It included speeches, an interactive scavenger hunt, and even a lively dance workshop led by Sristi, a Nepalese kanthari from 2012. We thank everyone who has made this event possible.

- **Dr. Batra Positive Health Award:** On 20-11-2024, Sabriye received the Dr. Batra Positive Health Award at a ceremony held in front of 1,500 attendees at the Tata Conference Center in Mumbai.

*Dear friends and supporters,
We hope your year is off to a great start.*

*Let us all contribute to a more peaceful and just world, every day!
We are grateful if you could forward this letter with your family members, friends, and anyone who might be interested.*

Once again, many thanks for your great ongoing support.

*With very best regards,
Paul and Sabriye*

To make a donation, please scan the QR code, or [click here](#). Thank you



Sara Tandel, 2023 kanthari alumna with some of her students.



Sabriye receives the Dr. Batra Positive Health Awards

With your donation, you support the training of marginalized persons that enables them to run their own impact making organisations. Your donation has an impact over many years and reaches countless people in need around the world.

You can donate [here](#)

Thank you!