

A Satisfying Experience

Since the age of ten, I have been involved in planning and implementation of several philanthropic activities with my family. At the age of 15, I became the president of Global Pragathi Youth Council.

During my summer vacation in 2015, I decided to volunteer at Gandhi Hospital, my parent's alma mater. Our planning started about 4-5 months prior to the trip. As I was deciding on various projects, things started falling in place. I grabbed the opportunities that presented along the way. There was need for two ventilators in the pediatric intensive care unit, trolleys and wheelchairs in the emergency room, and reagents for hemoglobin electrophoresis at Gandhi Hospital. I raised funds from 1983 batch of physicians, my mother's classmates, for this project. For summer of 2015, I inspired two other volunteers and did the following:



Kriti Agrawal

- Every morning, we worked at the help desk in the outpatient block and helped patients find their way to different departments.
- Our team worked on preparing signs for the entire eight floors of the inpatient block of the hospital. This will help hundreds of patients and their family members find their way more easily.
- Every afternoon, we organized play time for kids in the pediatrics ward. We also collected some toys and donated to the unit.
- Implemented the above mentioned projects from 1983 GMC batch.
- Implemented the shelter home lunch program for indigent family members of the patients.
- Currently, I am developing a volunteering program for other youth from the US in both patient and non patient care areas after having gained a first hand experience of local conditions.

The over crowded hospital, hot and humid weather and the language barrier presented us with challenges which taught us a lot. Overall, it was a great learning and satisfying experience. The local newspapers covered our activities. We received support and encouragement from the faculty, principal and the superintendent of the hospital. The director of medical education truly appreciated our efforts. Finally, we are really thankful to Mr. Gunaranjan and his team for making it all happen. I look forward to a long term involvement in volunteer activities at Gandhi Hospital.