

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Pallium India USA
Newsletter for July!

INVITING PRACTICING
PROFESSIONALS FOR
HANDS ON
EXPERIENCE

CONTENTS

Asia Pacific Regional
Conference 2025

Volunteers training
program

Ganolsavam 2025

Bay Area Events

Introducing Our
Volunteers

Upcoming Events

About Pallium

Make a Difference

Are you a **palliative care clinician, trainee, or someone passionate about global healthcare?**

Pallium India warmly invites palliative care professionals from around the world to visit the Trivandrum Institute of Palliative Sciences (TIPS) which is a WHO Collaborating Centre.

Visitors to TIPS will have the chance to:

- Learn from a team deeply **committed** to improving access to palliative care.
- Experience **hands-on training** and observe clinical best practices.
- Engage with **ongoing research** aimed at advancing palliative medicine.
- Be part of a **community** that's shaping the future of compassionate healthcare.

Pallium India
Aisha Memorial Hospital Building,
Paruthikkuzhy,
Thiruvananthapuram – 695009
Kerala, India.

Apply with your CV to
PalliumInternationalVisitors@gmail.com

ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2025



The **Asia Pacific Hospice Network (APHN)** hosted the **Asia Pacific Regional Conference** between 23rd and 26th April in Sarawak, Malaysia with the theme 'Embracing Diversity, Empowering Communities'.



Smriti Rana

Head of Strategic Programs and Partnerships at Pallium India, delivered a plenary titled "**It Takes a Village**", highlighting the crucial role of community in providing care. She emphasized that while community participation is essential, it does not absolve the formal healthcare system of its responsibility, which must continue to be strengthened. She also underscored the need for medical professionals to recognize and embrace their roles within the community.

VOLUNTEERS

TRAINING PROGRAM

Volunteers are an **INTEGRAL** part
of palliative care!



This is not a **task-oriented** or **one-time engagement**; it is a **deeper**, more **compassionate involvement**—walking alongside a fellow human being through their journey with serious health-related suffering. To support someone in this way requires sensitivity, understanding, and specific training.

Recognizing this, Pallium India **organizes** regular **volunteer training programs**. The most recent one happened on the **24th and 25th of May, 2025**, at its facility in Trivandrum.

A detailed blog is available at:
<https://palliumindia.org/2025/05/volunteer-training-program-may2025>

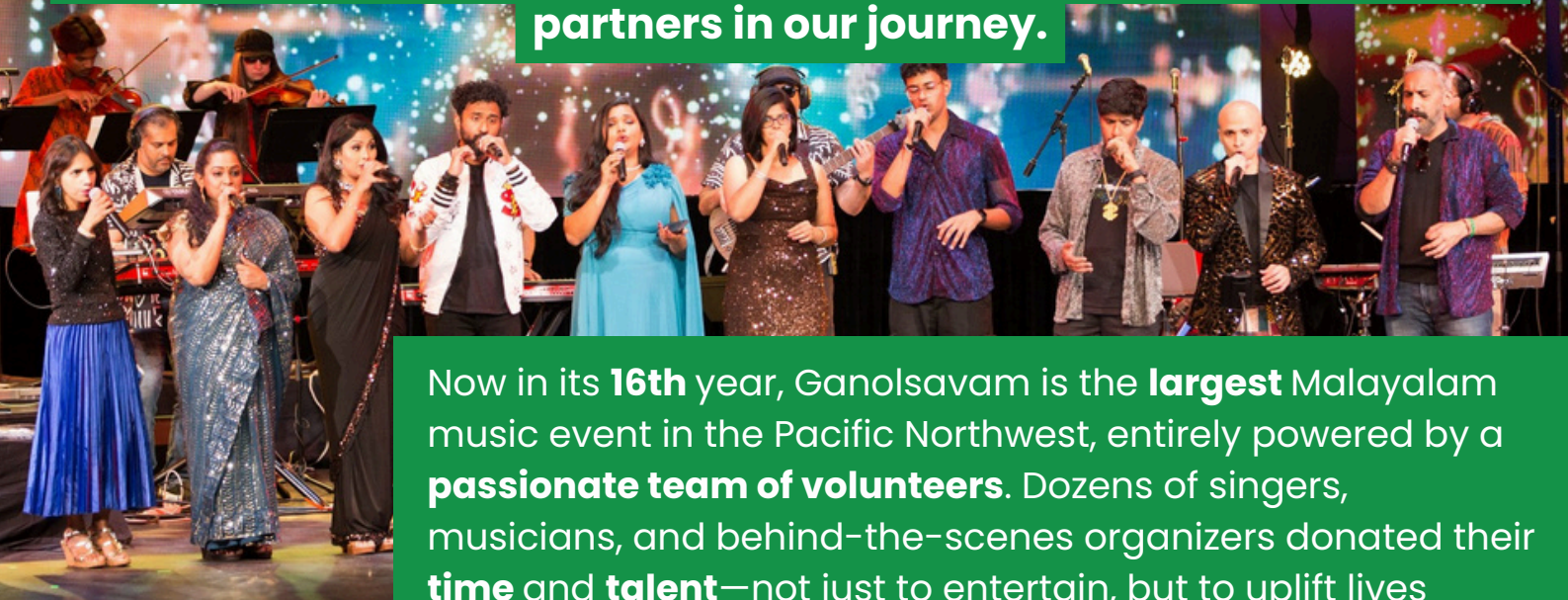


GANOLSAVAM 2025



This year's Ganolsavam, hosted by **Seattle Saptaswara** in partnership with **Care & Share and Disha**, was more than an evening of music—it was a moving expression of **solidarity** with the mission of Pallium India. As part of Pallium USA's broader commitment to supporting palliative care efforts in India, Ganolsavam has become a shining example of how art, community, and compassion can converge to create lasting impact

Thank you Seattle Saptaswara, Disha and Care & Share for being partners in our journey.



Now in its **16th** year, Ganolsavam is the **largest** Malayalam music event in the Pacific Northwest, entirely powered by a **passionate team of volunteers**. Dozens of singers, musicians, and behind-the-scenes organizers donated their **time** and **talent**—not just to entertain, but to uplift lives across the globe.

Since its inception in 2009, **Seattle**

Saptaswara has been a **steadfast** partner to Pallium India, raising critical funds to support the delivery of **compassionate** palliative care. Thanks to the generous contributions of Ganolsavam attendees, volunteers, and sponsors, this year's event will fund Pallium India's **educational initiative** for the children of patients—empowering them with access to quality education and a **brighter** future. In addition, donations will help **sponsor** a doctor's or nurse's room in Pallium India's upcoming permanent 'Home,' a facility dedicated to delivering **dignified, comprehensive** palliative care.

BAY AREA



Pallium India Connects with Bay Area Medical Community at AAPIO Annual Gala

On June 7th, Pallium India Bay Area volunteers participated in the **AAPIO (American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin) Annual Gala and Fundraiser**, held in Fremont, California. Volunteers hosted an information booth to **raise awareness** about palliative care and share Pallium India's mission with members of the **Bay Area medical community**.

A **proud** and **meaningful** moment came during the evening's formal program, when AAPIO spotlighted its collaboration with Pallium India and **Dr. M.R. Rajagopal** through a **dedicated on-stage mention**. This public recognition reflected a shared vision for expanding compassionate healthcare and lent powerful visibility to the cause.

The evening also offered opportunities to reconnect with long-time supporters including Dr. Jerina Kapoor, Aruna Chinnakotla, Dr. Shashwati Kale, and Dr. Prasanna Menon, and to engage in thoughtful conversations with fellow members and national AAPI leadership, including Dr. Amit Chakrabarty.



KindKart Charity Walk Participation

On June 21 in Cupertino, Pallium India Bay Area Volunteers also participated as a team in a local charity walk, **raising awareness** about Pallium India, and **earning** approximately **\$300** to support charity organizations in India. Their presence **highlighted** Pallium India's work and invited meaningful conversations with fellow participants.

INTRODUCING OUR VOLUNTEERS

We are pleased to launch a new series to acknowledging the invaluable contributions of our volunteers. All our activities in the United States are made possible through their selfless dedication, time, and commitment.

We extend our sincere gratitude to each of them for their support. Featured below are a few of them. We look forward to introducing more in the coming months.



Dr. John Ely is a palliative medicine physician who has been managing the international visitors program since 2016. He ensures that both visitors and the Pallium India team learn and benefit from the visit.



Ms. Amrutham Babu is part of the Seattle chapter of Pallium India USA from the very beginning. She has been instrumental in organizing the Annual Walkathon in the past 3 years. She is passionate about the cause and is a leader.



Mr. Cijo Thomas, an engineer with Microsoft, has always been there for Pallium India USA's efforts in Seattle. He has been volunteering with us for more than 3 years and provides all logistical support for the events that we organize.



Rani Sunil is a distinguished dancer, choreographer, and community leader actively involved in various Malayali organizations in the SF Bay Area. For several years, she has been a dedicated supporter of Pallium India, organizing fundraisers and rallying community support from Malayali and Indian organizations.



Sandip Jariwala, a real estate investor and advisor by profession, is also deeply committed to philanthropy, embodying his dedication to the community. Over the past several years, his active role in organizing fundraising events has been instrumental in increasing awareness and support for Pallium India's efforts in the SF Bay Area.



Pramod Karuthedathumana's involvement with Pallium India began through a series of happy accidents involving Dr. Rajagopal's book "Walk with the Weary" and his daughter. Since then, he has been a dedicated supporter, actively organizing community fundraising and awareness events for Pallium India.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A portrait of Dame Cicely Saunders, an elderly woman with short, wavy white hair and glasses, smiling warmly. She is wearing a dark blazer over a light-colored collared shirt. The background is a bookshelf filled with numerous books of various colors and sizes.

St Christopher's is hosting a specially curated conference and masterclass in July 2025, to commemorate the life and work of **Dame Cicely Saunders**, founder of the modern hospice movement, twenty years after her death.

"What is to become of me?"

Exploring contemporary responses to total pain and suffering

This conference will explore the enduring impact of Cicely Saunders' pioneering work and reflect on how her ideas continue to shape **palliative and end-of-life care** today.

Healthcare professionals, social care practitioners, academics, policy makers, and anyone with an interest in palliative care to be part of these important conversations.

For more details, visit <https://www.stchristophers.org.uk/course/what-is-to-become-of-me>.



INDIA

PALLIUM

A PERMANENT HOME FOR COMPASSIONATE CARE

For the past 20 years, Pallium India has been a beacon of hope, offering palliative care to those in need. Over this time, the organization has moved nine times, adapting and persevering despite challenges. Now, a new chapter begins—one of stability, growth, and an enduring commitment to compassionate care.

A Home to Call Our Own

In a significant milestone, Pallium India has acquired 1.62 acres of land to establish a permanent home. This dedicated space will not only provide a stable base for operations but also enhance the organization's ability to serve the community with greater efficiency and reach.

The Road Ahead:

Since our new Home is classified as a Hospital for approval purposes, we are in the process of obtaining these clearances:

- Town Planning and Corporation Approval
- Pollution Control Board Clearance
- Fire Safety Department Approval
- Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) Certification

Construction can begin after we receive all these approvals. Watch this space for future updates.

A Future of Hope and Healing

This permanent home will be more than just a building—it will be a sanctuary for patients, caregivers, and everyone dedicated to palliative care. It represents the unwavering dedication of Pallium India to ensure dignity, comfort, and relief for those facing life-limiting illnesses.

As we embark on this transformative journey, we invite supporters, well-wishers, and the community to join hands in making this vision a reality. Stay connected for updates as we take each step toward creating a lasting impact in palliative care.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE Today

Whether you choose to volunteer your time or make a donation, every action you take helps bring compassionate care to those who need it most. Together, we can create lasting, meaningful change—starting with **YOU**.

👉 Interested in volunteering?

Email us at **info@palliumindiausa.org**. Let us know your interests or skills—there's a place for everyone to make an impact.

❤️ Ready to donate?

Visit **<https://palliumindiausa.org/donate-now/>**.

No contribution is too small—every gift helps transform lives. Let's build a more compassionate world, together.



\$100

Sponsor medicines for patients in home care and IP (In-Patient) for 1 Year



\$300

Monthly Food Kit for 12 months for home care patient



\$500

Sponsor a Home Visit from doctors and nurses for 10 months



\$750

Education support for 10 children for 1 year whose parents cannot work



\$1,000

Physical Therapy for one year OR Salary for a Regional Facilitator