About Asha Ek Hope Foundation

Asha Ek Hope foundation is a non-profit organization supporting people with motor neuron disease (MND) and their families. We are committed to stand by every step of the journey of people with this devastating disease. We strive to infuse hope and positivity in their life, which will empower them to overcome the illness.

The foundation is the first registered NGO for MND/ALS in India. This NGO is registered with charity commissioner, Mumbai and has been granted 80G tax exemption. Founded with the help of family and friends of a doctor, who is living with MND/ALS since 2004, the foundation aims to provide medical and psychosocial support to the patients of MND/ALS.

The foundation is an associate member of the international alliance for MND/ALS. International alliance is a group of representative foundations of different countries. The alliance is an international forum to share information about different aspects of management of MND.

Get involved, stay involved and make the most of your membership by joining a chapter near you at Bangalore & Kolkata.
What is Motor Neuron Disease / Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis?

Motor neuron disease is a disease of unknown cause and no cure where motor nerves (nerves responsible for muscle action) in the brain and spinal cord slowly degenerate causing progressive muscle weakness in various parts of the body. As there is no cure the average life expectancy may be shortened.

The symptoms may start in arms, legs, respiratory and swallowing muscles and then spread to other regions. Common early symptoms are difficulty to perform fine tasks like buttoning, writing, closing the jar lid, slipping of the footwear, frequent falls on uneven surfaces, frequent coughing and choking while eating and drinking, nasal speech. Slowly these symptoms progress. As the weakness of the muscles increases, patients become dependent for their daily activities. This disease not cripples the patients but also their families.
What is the medical treatment of MND / ALS?

The medical treatment for MND/ALS is only palliative and symptomatic. There is no cure for the disease. The only available medication is Rilutor which helps to slow the progression of the disease and increase the lifespan by a couple of months.

Other palliative treatments involve use of supportive devices to aid breathing and swallowing like Bi-Pap machine, artificial ventilators and percutaneous gastrostomy.

One of the key components of management of MND/ALS is rehabilitation services like physiotherapy, occupation therapy speech therapy and psychological counselling. Rehabilitation helps to maintain the functional independence of the patients.

*Rilutor* - *Asha Ek Hope provides rilutor.*
Vision
To make MND / ALS a completely reversible and curable condition.

Mission
To build hope and positivity in the lives of people with MND / ALS and their families, helping them to cope with confidence and dignity, supporting them to live a complete life and also spread awareness of the disease. To support research on MND / ALS and find a cure.
Objectives

1) To provide physical, psychological and social support and rehabilitation services with compassion to improve the quality of life of people with MND / ALS and their families.

2) To assist people with MND / ALS continue their daily activities by providing advanced mechanical aids.

3) Provide every person with MND / ALS and their families access to high quality, consistent and modern technology support services.

4) Arrange social activities for people with MND / ALS and their families, along with a holistic approach to boost their moral and spiritual health.

5) Raise awareness about MND / ALS and impart proper knowledge about it in the community and keep them update about recent advances in treatment of MND / ALS.

6) To maintain registry of people with MND / ALS and collect statistical data for epidemiology survey.

7) To promote laboratory and clinical research on MND / ALS to increase understanding of the disease and find treatment to control and ultimately cure the disease.

8) To provide education and guidance to the patients families.
Programs offered by Asha Ek Hope Foundation

**MND Clinic**
MND Clinic is a program that will provide all the medical and rehabilitative care to the patients at one place. Patients can take benefit of consultations from medical professionals like neurologists, chest physicians, gastro-enterologists and physicians. There will be rehabilitation services provided for the patients at a concessional rate. Donors are welcome to sponsor this endeavor.

**Financial Support**
Financial support will be provided to the needy patients for various medical expenses. Regular donations are required to sustain this initiative.

**Buddy Program**
Patients will be paired with the healthy volunteers of the foundation. These volunteers will provide support in taking care of the patients during their day to day activities.

**Real Gifts**
Donors can support the patients through real gifts of various medical and rehabilitative equipments required by needy patients. Asha Ek Hope Foundation will co-ordinate this activity and find donors for the needy patients.

**Gift of time**
Volunteers can donate their time as we feel that time is money. This time spent with patients can give them immense moral and emotional support. Volunteers can also give their valuable time to support various activities and programs conducted for the patients.
Get together and outing every 6 months
Donors can support short picnics, sight-seeing trips, trips to movie theatres or get together activities conducted by the foundation for the patients and their families.

Birthday and anniversary celebrations
Donors can support greeting cards, birthday / anniversay celebrations or gifts for the patients.

Chotisi Asha (Make a wish)
Donors can support the foundation to fulfill small wishes expressed by the patients.

Research
Research requires a huge amount of funding. The foundation supports the research in the field of finding a cure for MND / ALS. Donors who are keen on finding a cure for MND / ALS, can support the foundation with funds or research.

Epidemiology statistics
The foundation in collaboration with the hospitals and neurologists will maintain the epidemiological records of the patients with MND / ALS. This will help to compute health statistics about the disease. Donations are welcome in support of this initiative.

Assistive devices services
Assessment of patients for the need of any assistive devices is done by an expert. The type of the device and usability is taken into consideration. Guidance and financial support is provided for the assistive devices.
For example: writing device, communication device.
Awareness activities

Lighting of Lamp on ALS / MND day event on 21st June 2015 by Hon. Mayor of Mumbai Mrs. Snehal Ambekar

Awareness Marathon Run at IIT Bombay by Dr. Sanket & Team

Shabd Sohala - Awareness program by Dr. Amruta

ALS - Alliance Visit

Stem Cell research

ALS/MND Guide Book
For Patients & Families

Book Publications
How can you support Asha Ek Hope Foundation?

Become a member
Download the membership form from our website ashaekhope.com and send a completely filled application form to us either by email or post to the address mentioned below.

Become a volunteer
Download the volunteer form from our website and help us during various fund raising and awareness programs.

Donate to the charity (Registered charity with 80G tax exemption)
Donations can be done as one time payment or regularly in installments of monthly, quarterly, six monthly or yearly. Donations can be done for specific reason as given in the donation packages. Equipments, medicines that are used for MND/ALS patients can also be donated.
Donation Packages

- Rs.2000/- for Walker.
- Rs.5000/- for medicines or investigation.
- Rs.10,000/- for manual wheelchair.
- Rs.25,000/- for multidisciplinary, rehab therapies for one month which may include physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy or counseling.
- Rs.50,000/- for 6 months supply of medicines or rehab therapy or nursing care or home care.
- Rs.75,000/- for motorized wheelchair.
- Rs.1 lakh/- for Bi-pap machine which helps the patient in breathing or electronic propped-up bed or home care or oxygen cylinder or portable ventilator.

- Any amount towards donation for research to find cure of ALS/MND will be greatly appreciable.

Please make the cheque payable to:
Asha Ek Hope Foundation
And please mail the cheque to below address
402, Guruprabha Apts, Senapati Bapat Road, Dadar (West), Mumbai 400 028, India
For any query please contact

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