



ABLETREE FOUNDATION



# ANNUAL REPORT

2019 - 2020



**ABLETREE FOUNDATION**



**INDIA 500  
STARTUP  
AWARDS**

*for Quality excellence*

**WINNER  
2019**



Cushion cases designed by our 21 years old student Shane D'Mello who has autism.

## Our Vision

Using education as a leverage to build better futures for everyone.

### Our Four Core Principles...

#### ● CUSTOMISED LEARNING

Providing education that is constructed around the abilities of the learner.

#### ● INCLUSIVITY

Using education to create an inclusive learning environment for all people - youngsters and adults.

#### ● SKILL ACQUISITION

Creating self-directed learning so new skills can be acquired independently.

#### ● SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Developing alternative and vocational skills that are based on the interest of the learner, sometimes even varying from conventional methods.



## Director's Note

### Looking back at our journey... one milestone at a time.

I still remember the day we officially launched Abletree. It was the day we started our very first project that we now call The Owl House. To be welcoming so many parents and community members who showed up to support us was extremely exciting and humbling at the same time.

I knew that we had started something important that day. It was a new beginning in so many ways. It was a never-been-tried approach that challenged the 'vocational centre' training model and offered not just personalised education but also individualised career paths to youngsters with neurological differences. What made it even more novel was the idea that our services could be availed for free.

In the days and months that followed, the number of families that visited our premises kept growing. From cyclic events, we started a full time programme for young adults with neurological differences. Community members and local businesses started getting involved in training and creating employment opportunities for our students.

We were felicitated by India's Human Resources Development Minister for our contribution in creating jobs for the neurologically different communities. Our students personally met with the minister and even made a stirring speech at this event organised by a global auditing body for educational institutions.

Things got even more exciting when our students were presented with the opportunity to serve guests at an award-winning restaurant. Days before this milestone came to fruition, COVID-19 happened. We were at a point where all paid and voluntary services had come screeching halt. But our team of young and resilient educators was not going to give in so easily.

From the confines of our homes, we took our services to the families that needed us. Within days of the lockdown, we started helpline so families could reach us for any kind of support during those difficult times. Our educators worked tirelessly to make a seamless transition to engaging with students via online channels.

We approached the Education Department to establish our services as 'essential' and were permitted to re-open our premises, amid strict social distancing norms. We remain the only educational institution in Goa to continually provide services to individuals with special needs during the lockdown.

As we prepare to take on what comes next, I am taken back to that first day, when we officially launched Abletree. I realise now that we have come a long way. But despite what we have achieved so far, we are only just starting out. We continue to have the support of parents and community members behind us. Only this time, their numbers are far greater.

In my recent conversations with the families we have worked with, I realised that we are part of their lives in more important ways than we fully understand. And it is a matter of immense pride for us to be of service to each and everyone of these families.

We will always stay true to our commitment of finding ways to build better futures for our students, no matter what the challenges may be. We are in it together. And we are honoured to be a part of their lives.





## Director's Note

### A future full of possibilities.

I have always been an ardent critic of archaic educational methods, a lot like so many others I've encountered at social gatherings. After a point however, I realised that simply criticizing an existing problem could only help so much. Abletree Foundation was my way of being part of the solution.

When Pria & I started Abletree, we knew we wanted to offer a fresh, new perspective to education. We've been so fortunate to find the right talent that not only believes in what we do, but also adds tremendous value to what we offer. They possess grit and curiosity in equal measure which helps us cater to learners from varied demographics.

Our alliances with the various local communities - from hospitality to retail to independent professionals - have helped us forge tremendous opportunities for our students. To have businesses meet the neurodiverse community halfway has been one of our greatest victories as an organisation.

Today however, our biggest challenge comes from the uncertainty around the coronavirus. The disruptions it has caused have been responsible for the closure of so many well meaning organisations. Fortunately, we have stayed afloat with the help of generous donations from a loving community. But the need to create more channels of revenue is fast becoming apparent.

Adaptability has always been a strength for us at Abletree Foundation. Because we know that every student has a different learning curve, we adapt our curriculum to suit a student's needs. Similarly, we also understand that every obstacle we face must have its own unique solution. All we have to do is take a closer look at where we are today and adapt accordingly.

We are constantly looking at newer and more sensible ways to expand our operations in the near future. Though the current restrictions have presented us with interesting challenges, they have also opened up a world of possibilities. And every one of those possibilities leads to one place... a better future for everyone.

Recently, we were informed that Abletree was one of India's Top 500 start-up companies. It was an award that celebrated our quality of service and commitment to our students. It feels good to have our collective efforts recognised. But our true reward really lies in the difference we make in the lives of the students we encounter.





## Shareholder' s Note

### Changing perspectives... starting from myself.

As a clinical psychologist my education centered around cures, prevention and ultimate elimination of various mental health disorders, including developmental conditions like autism, ADHD and other genetic syndromes that we encounter at The Owl House.

In the 2. 5 years I have worked with The AbleTree Foundation my perspective on neurodiversity has changed immensely. At The Owl House we aim to change the focus from eliminating/curing various forms of neurodiversity and focus instead on coping, acceptance and acknowledgement of the distinctive strengths of each individual.

We integrate therapeutic practices like unconditional positive regard, and behavioral management with personalized and experiential educative practices to help each of our students learn skills that will allow them to be engaged in productive work and lead meaningful lives.

The community in Goa is a huge part of our story - their support and love for us is immeasurable and they give us hope and solace in knowing that our students can go out into a world that will accept and celebrate them. We've had numerous restaurants and cafés, stores and businesses offer us consistent support, to employ and train our students and spread our message.

Our educators at The Owl House are an exceptional team of empowered young women who must battle stereotypes, biases and misplaced narratives on a near daily basis. They do this tirelessly and the results are very apparent - we have had students who were purely echolalic develop speech and express emotion, students who learn to count at the age of 40 and students work at restaurants for standard wages.

We have come such a long way and with each passing day I am more and more convinced of our vision to create Better Futures for Everyone. I am honored and thrilled to be part of this adventure led by the beautiful individuals who are at the core of this initiative.



## Our Team

### Priya Kataria *Instruction and Learning Design Manager*

"I am very proud of my engagement with AbleTree Foundation. I started my journey in February 2020, leading the instruction design at their initiative - The Owl house. Since then every individual at the organization has contributed to my collection of 'aha' moments.

Through my interactions with our students I have developed a brand new perspective. From witnessing their success, to having a deep connection with parents, the experience has been truly fulfilling. Abletree Foundation has profoundly contributed to my growth, professionally and personally.

I walk into The Owl house every day with a will to practice compassionate empathy and make an impact and raise awareness about the importance of an inclusive society. AbleTree Foundation will always be my first home in Goa."



### Charlene Pereira *Learning Facilitator*

"Working with Abletree Foundation for the past year has been a remarkable experience. On various occasions, I have had the chance to grow and embrace new challenges that have led me on a path of self discovery of my own capabilities.

Abletree Foundation's first initiative, The Owl House has added immense meaning to the life I live and resonates with the passion I have to reach out to individuals, their families and the community."



## Our Team

### Vivien Vaz *Learning Facilitator - Early Intervention and Pre- Learning Skills*

"My experience working with The Abletree Foundation for the past two years has been enriching. It has given me the opportunity to step out of my comfort zone and explore new avenues of teaching and learning.

This has led me to think outside the box and adapt to changes especially in the face of the recent and challenging times of the pandemic. To me, The Abletree Foundation embraces change and is always striving to find innovative ways to have a positive impact on the community."



### Priya Babu *Adult Learning Facilitator*

"As a learning facilitator at The Owl House, which is the brain-child of The Able Tree Foundation, I've had the opportunity of working closely alongside an inspirational team of humans. It is one of the most wholesome spaces I've been a part of, where teaching and learning are enjoyable activities curated based on the interests and skills of the students and teachers.

The ethos of the organisation is something that I align with on a personal level, to foster inclusivity and acceptance of neuro-divergence, with a large part of the focus on community integration, and engagement. Proud to be associated with the organisation and the people that make it so. More power to us."



# Our Team

## Sidney Fernandes *Administrator*

"It has been an amazing journey with the Abletree Foundation starting in 2019. I had zero experience of working in an organization like this before, however my colleagues and mentors have really helped me in this journey.

Abletree Foundation has a year full of events and curriculum that makes working here even more exciting. There's never a dull day here at the Abletree Foundation on site (except during the lockdown). There's always something happening on site/virtually that gets us all involved, even while we are away.

I have seen the Abletree Foundation team overcome many challenges/tasks given. I have learnt so much from my directors, colleagues and even the kids/individuals who come at The Owl House. It's a place with abundant knowledge and experience to gain.

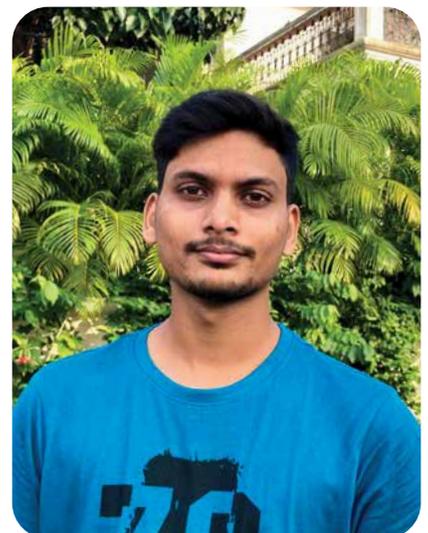
It's really amazing to be a part of such an awesome team."



## Pantheo Tavares *Communications Design*

"Ever since I can remember, I have been passionate about everything I get myself into. Because I love what I do, I have a steady source of motivation that drives me to do my best.

Abletree has provided me this platform to understand how an individual can make a difference at a community level. I feel content knowing that I can contribute in my own way towards this cause and will continue to do the same."



# Our Primary Project



## The Owl House

A unique community service initiative that helps individuals with neurological differences integrate into society.

The Owl House works with young adults with special needs to develop new and existing skill sets and find a place in the world. Launched in April 2018, The Owl House is changing the way people with special needs are understood. The initiative relies on the strengths of each individual to chart ways to integrate them into society.



## Testimonials



The positive changes I have witnessed in my son in such a short while speaks volumes about the dedication and love that the team at The Owl House feels for our children.

- Robin Dsouza, Parent



Click or scan the QR code to view the video.



The Owl House is an extension of our home. The teachers, therapists and staff are the most caring, most loving group of professionals. And I consider them part of my family

- Sharon D'Mello, Parent



Click or scan the QR code to view the video.

# Who we work with



FAMILIES AVAILED OF OUR SERVICES



INDIVIDUALS CURRENTLY ENROLLED

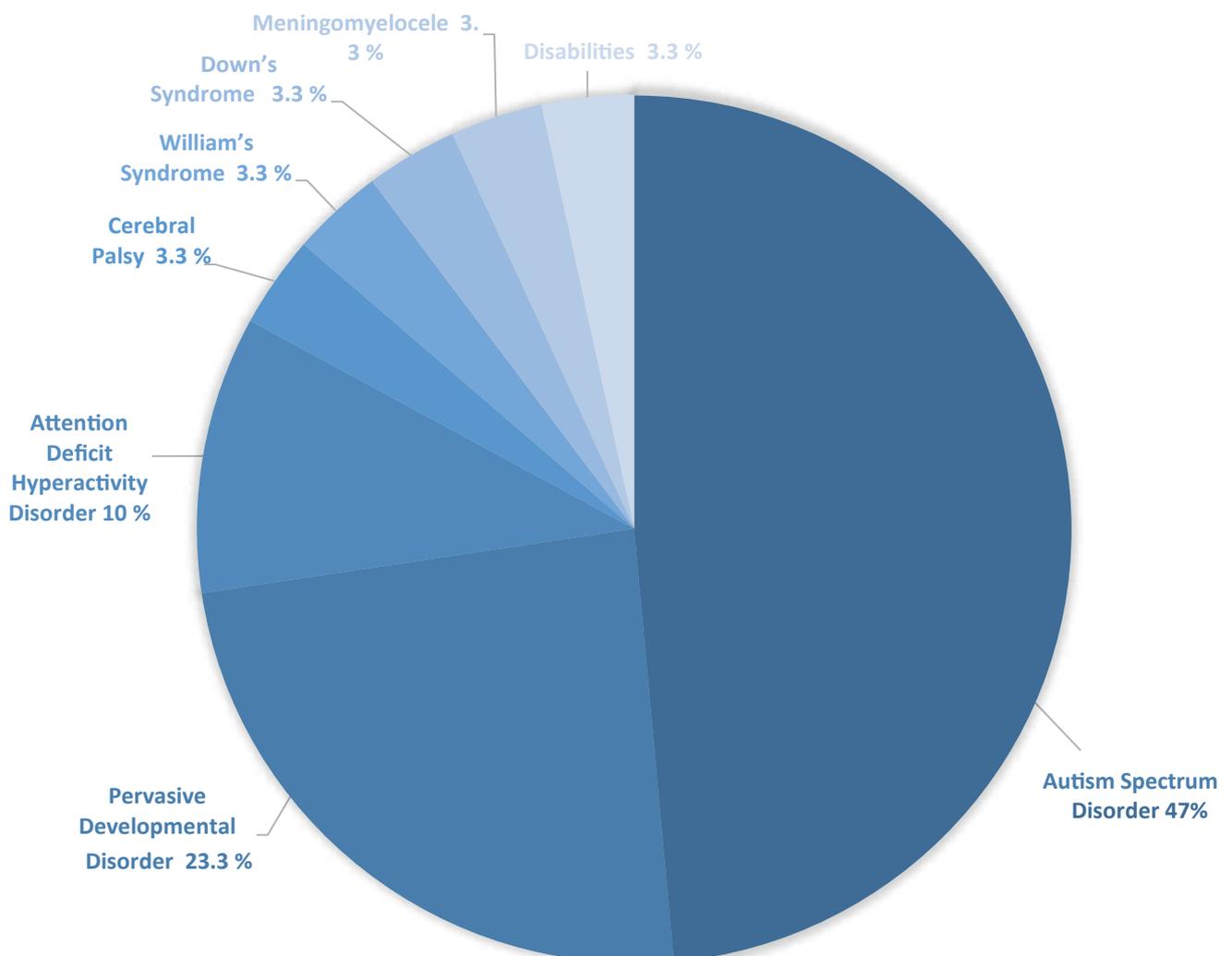


STUDENT SESSIONS A MONTH

The Owl House currently works with individuals between the ages of 3 years to 40 years.

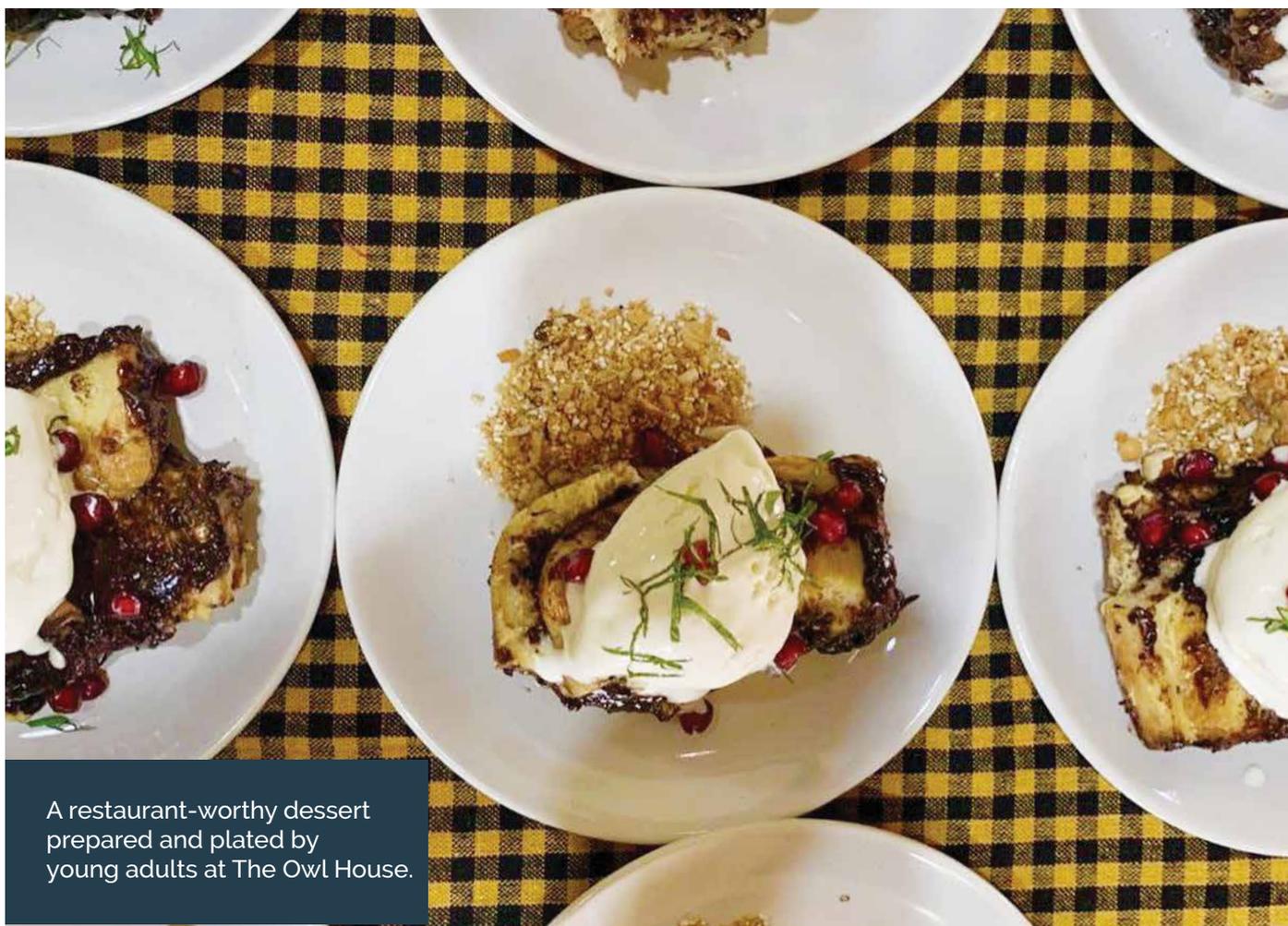
We started out trying to customise learning experiences for youngsters with Autism, but soon realised our scope of work was relevant to families dealing with varied neurological conditions.

The diagnoses we work with include...





## Our Services



A restaurant-worthy dessert prepared and plated by young adults at The Owl House.

### Full-time Professional Skills Training Programme for Young Adults

The full time program for young adults was launched in June 2019. This program involves spending a significant part of the student's day at The Owl House - usually from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM - 5 days a week. This mimics a college environment with a mix of different classes, skill development sessions and events that offer internship and field experience.

The full time program currently has 12 young adults who are either coming in 5 days a week or transitioning into doing so. Our onboarding process follows the '2 - 3 - 5' principle. Given that many students with special needs experience considerable anxiety in new environments they are gradually transitioned into coming in for a 8 hour day.



## Full-Time Student Profiles

### Srutesh Kerkar

Srutesh is 24 years old. He joined The Owl House in November 2018. Srutesh is patient, kind and communicates effectively in 3 languages. His colleagues absolutely love him and are able to easily learn from him when a skill is explained and modelled. Srutesh is certainly a pioneer in peer to peer cooperative learning at The Owl House.

If you ask Srutesh what he would like to do in his life - he always said he wanted to be a journalist and so a large part of his individual classes, when he first came in were centred around introducing him to journalism, through blogging and an online course. Srutesh was trained to use various assistive technologies on the computer to combat his visual challenges that are progressive in nature.



When we started our Full Time Learning Program in June 2019, Srutesh was one of our first students. Aside from pursuing his personal interest of writing, Srutesh trained to manage the zero waste store at The Owl House. This involved various skills like communicating with customers, making bills, packaging and even troubleshooting, all of which Srutesh now does with minimal assistance.

He has also worked as a maître d' at all our pop up lunches announcing courses and orchestrating customer service. In Fact he recently bagged a paid internship with a local restaurant after a night of excellent customer service - during a fundraising dinner. Srutesh has pretty significant physical and visual challenges. He was diagnosed with William's Syndrome and has had several heart surgeries and related complications over the years. His vision is deteriorating as well which makes maneuvering the physical world rather challenging for him.

To help with this, Srutesh has a mentor Sanjeev Sharma who teaches him various martial art forms that help with enhancing his physical fitness and interaction with the physical world. He recently held his first class as a martial arts instructor and taught four students some basic martial arts techniques.

Srutesh shows immense resilience and motivation to learn and overcome his challenges and is a great source of inspiration to everyone he meets. He has expressed interest in starting a support group for people with William's Syndrome to help them understand their condition and overcome challenges they might face.

In the next year we hope to create more industrial training opportunities to enable Srutesh to practice the various skills learned so far and help him decide what he might like to do as a job. In line with this, his goals for the next year are to complete an internship with two local restaurants, go live with his blog and start a support group for people living with disabilities.



## Full-Time Student Profiles

### Shane D'Mello

Shane is a young man with Autism and has been a participant at The Owl House since August 2018. Shane has taught us so many things during his journey at the Owl house.

He is a fantastic artist who loves exploring colors and geometric shapes in his expression through art. His favorite shape, if you ask us, is definitely triangles and to build on that, we focused on his skill set and interest.

His art has now been transformed into merchandise that people can access and his expression through art and can be a part of everyone's lives. What strikes us most about this amazing young man is how he is consistently motivated by the process of creating his art and not as much by the outcome of it.

Shane has worked tirelessly over nearly a year with his mentor and it is his effort coupled with unconditional love support and acceptance from his family at home and the community at large that has made this incredible journey possible.

Aside from Art - Shane also shows an affinity for cooking and percussion. He spends his culinary classes fully engaged kitchen prep. His goals at The Owl House focus around building life skills like writing his name and building communication around his art.

Shane works with his art mentor every week to learn new techniques to create his prints. So far he has explored, block printing, texturing and tie & dye. Our long term goal with Shane is to help him set-up an online business to showcase and sell his artwork.

In the near future we aim to support Shane in developing more prints and products to sell and build a network around him to sell his prints online so that he can continue to make money off them.





## Full-Time Student Profiles

### Eusebio Menezes

Eusebio Menezes joined The Owl House in 2018, and at 40 years of age, is our oldest full-time student. Anyone who has met Eusebio knows just how loving and thoughtful he is, always full of smiles and curiosity, ready for every task and challenge. Eusebio has many interests including food, dance, sports, art, and music, and is always the first one to volunteer activity suggestions, whether it is for our culinary sessions or handicrafts. He is very observant, with an amazing memory for faces, and his enthusiasm is larger than life itself.



Eusebio was one of the first few students in our Full-time Program, and has come a really long way in his learning journey with us at The Owl House. Eusebio is an excellent example of just how much purpose and fulfilment someone with special needs can achieve when given a chance.

Eusebio was diagnosed with Global Development Delay when he was 3 years old, and while he is able to independently perform all his activities of daily living, he had some significant challenges when it came to verbal communication, and before he joined us, was not involved in or practicing any vocation other than helping out with some house-hold chores.

By being a part of our Professional Skills Training Program, Eusebio is now training to be a salesperson in the zero-waste store at The Owl House. This involves practicing skills like welcoming customers, assisting them with what they are looking for, and packaging items, along with the skills required to maintain a clean and well-stocked store, and assisting the manager. He earns a stipend for his services, which he saves and uses to buy 'tiatr' tickets and other goodies for himself and his family. As part of our cafe-management program, Eusebio has also trained to be a server in cafes or other spaces that host food events, learning how to interact with customers, and set, wait and clear-up tables. Recently, he even got offered a paid-internship opportunity by a local restaurateur who was a guest at one of our pop-up lunches, and very impressed with how good he was at his job. Eusebio is also known for titles conferred on him in the kitchen such as "master-chopper" and "master-cleaner".

Eusebio Menezes is our in-house "yes-man", always ready to lend a helping hand where needed, whether it is to his peers, mentors, or facilitators. He is the one who makes sure everyone gets their share of treats cooked up in our kitchen, and is ready to take on every day as if it were his first. It is heart-warming to see all the progress he has made, and we are all excited to see what life has in store for this lovely young man.



## Full-Time Student Profiles

### Sitali Hede

Sitali joined us at The Owl House in 2018 when she was 21 years old. She was pursuing a Bachelors in Commerce at the time, which she has since successfully completed and now holds a graduate degree in. Sitali is creative, observant and a quick learner. Some of her interests include baking, making intricate figurines and story writing. Sitali was diagnosed with Autism when she was 2 years old. When she first joined The Owl House, it took her some time to warm up to everyone, but she has come a long way since then. She now feels comfortable to approach her mentors for help and even voluntarily offers a helping hand to her peers.



Over the past year and a half, Sitali's relationship with The Owl House has grown by leaps and bounds. Initially, her individual sessions centered around building social communication skills, an area that was most challenging for her. She is now part of the adult program and joins us every Friday where she gets a chance to work with different mentors. As she grew more comfortable with coming to the center we began to explore her interests.

We started out with baking, we practiced techniques together and independently until she was ready to put her baked goods up for sale at our store located within the center. She took the initiative to make her own branding sign board called 'Sitali Bakes' and began to research recipes that she wanted to experiment with. Sitali religiously kept track of the ingredients, costing and sales for that week by maintaining an excel sheet which she updated with minimal supervision, thus working on her entrepreneurial skills simultaneously.

Sitali is a girl of many talents, when asked what she would like to pick as a career she says that she has not decided yet but continues to dabble in arts, culinary skills and data entry. She recently completed a six month internship program with a child development centre where she helped update their system by inputting data from years gone by.

She is very keen to help and does so at The Owl House with similar data entry tasks such as inputting data from logs maintained and keeping track of stock from our zero waste store. She has even stepped out of her comfort zone by addressing guests at a recent pop up lunch - narrating the menu for them, doing it with a smile and confidence that shone through in her delivery.

Having a supportive and encouraging family both at home and at The Owl House has definitely helped Sitali in more ways than one and we are very proud of how far she has come and continues to explore opportunities with a keen sense of interest and dedication.



## Full-Time Student Profiles

### Richard Dsouza

Richard D'souza joined the Owl House in 2018. He is currently 20 years old and is enrolled in the adult program. His personal interests include listening to music, dancing, going on walks, swimming, watching movies and helping out in the kitchen at home.

Richard was diagnosed with Autism at the age of 3. When Richard first came to the Owl House he had a few significant behavioural and communication challenges. Since then, he has come quite a long way.

Richard is able to express his preferences and is most often motivated by music and food. He attempts to socialise commonly with individuals his age and tries to initiate conversation by making eye contact, smiling, saying 'hello' or reaching out for a handshake.

Richard loves spending time at the centre. As of now, he is training in many different areas. His skill set includes setting the table for cafe prep, wiping down and stacking shelves as well as restocking items in the store management session, chopping vegetables and measuring ingredients during the culinary sessions and so on.

He enjoys working with and around his friends, in fact he is a lot more willing to comply with instructions when they come from his peers. In his individual sessions, his goals currently focus on communication, life skills and identification and discrimination. Not only does he exhibit a keen interest to learn and practice new skills but he is also a quick learner.

His father is his biggest supporter and his dedication towards Richard's all round development is commendable.





Three students engaging in a heated conversation. For young adults with neurological differences, The Owl House is a lot like an alternative to college.



# Our Services

## Session-based Professional Skills Training Programme for Young Adults

This program offers young adults training in professional skills on a weekly sessions basis. The students have individualized learning plans and work with mentors to develop skills that increase their chances for employability. In addition to their one-on-one learning sessions to achieve individual goals, they are also exposed to a number of other real world professional skills.



Type of Session	Monthly Frequency (per student)
Adult Learning Skills (1-1)	8
Store Management	8
Culinary Skills	28
Cafe Service Skills	12
Art & Handicrafts	16
Gardening	4
Ceramics	4
Drama / Theatre	4
Ecology - The World Around Us	2
Fashion Design	4
Music & Percussion	4
Sports & Physical Ed	4
Book Reading	4
Martial Arts	4



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## Our Services

### PROFESSIONAL ALLIANCES



Meet our mentors.

Click or scan the QR code to view the video.



#### Culinary Skills with Chris

This program offers young adults training in professional skills on a weekly sessions basis. The students have individualized learning plans and work with mentors to develop skills that increase their chances for employability. In addition to their one-on-one learning sessions to achieve individual goals, they are also exposed to a number of other real world professional skills.

**Session Frequency: Twice a week**



#### Fashion Design with Deepika

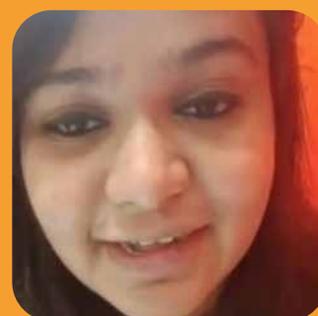
Deepika Korgaonkar owns a fashion boutique in Porvorim and brings in loads of creativity to The Owl House. She has formed a very close bond with two of our students who she is currently mentoring.

**Session Frequency: Weekly**

#### Art with Ambreen

Ambreen Sheikh is an artist, interior designer and nature lover. She introduces our students to interesting and novel techniques and then helps them develop their own styles.

**Session Frequency: Weekly**





## Our Services

### Martial Arts with Sanjeev

Sanjeev Sharma is a martial arts trainer with students across the country. Through martial arts training, he introduces concepts like self-awareness and self-care to our students with special needs.

Session Frequency: Weekly



### Pottery with Nimmi

Nimmy Joshi is an independent artist. She uses the tactile experience of pottery and breaks it down into simple steps that help our students create their own utility based items like diyas and soap trays.

Session Frequency: Weekly



### Marine Biology with Karen

Karen Gregory is a lifelong diving enthusiast and has been training people professionally for years. She puts safety first and shares the wonders of the deep with our students in a safe environment.

Session Frequency: Weekly



### Book Reading with Flavia

Flavia is a community champion who has supported The Owl House from the very beginning. She uses stories to break down information and makes it palatable for our students.

Session Frequency: Weekly





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## Our Services

### ORGANISATIONAL ALLIANCES



Click or scan the QR code to view the video.



#### Força Goa Foundation

The kids erupt in a joyous celebration each time they see their Força Goa trainers arrive on campus. These sessions don't simply focus on fitness, they also ensure that each student's personal goals are met through time spent playing sports.

Session Frequency: Weekly



#### Wild Otters

Individuals with special needs are never exposed to concepts like nature or conservation. Wild Otters, a research group from Goa, creates information and enjoyable experiences that help our students learn about the natural world around us.

Session Frequency: Fortnightly

#### Ecoposro

Ecoposro partnered with us to create a unique training opportunity for our students. They set up a simulation of their grocery store, with real products on display. This store was then opened up to real customers who shopped for their groceries. This helped our students pick up real world shop management skills in the safe environment of our premises.

Frequency: Daily





## Our Services



### After School Support

Our after school program focuses on building Life skills with our students. These include activities of daily living as well as social interaction and communication in order to facilitate an independent and meaningful life for each of our students.

As part of this program a student might come in anywhere between 1 and 4 times a week. Consistency and practice is key to picking up these skills and therefore frequencies below once a week are not recommended.

The life skill program currently provides support to 14 students and their families with an average of 40 monthly sessions.



## Our Services



### Pre-Learning Skills

Pre - learning skills involve building various pre-requisite skills for learning. These include attention, communication, imitation, self regulation and leisure skills. Our educators trained in early intervention work one on one with students in this section. The long term objective is always to help them transition into the sections above.

Academic and life skills are preceded by recognizing, understanding and connecting. Play is a young child's occupation and more importantly an effective method of learning. Through play a child learns to concentrate, develop imaginative skills, trial and error techniques, imitation and coming to terms with the world at large.

The pre - learning skills program currently provides support to 8 children and their families with an average of 30 monthly sessions.



## Our Services



### Occupational Therapy

Occupational Therapy is a type of treatment that concentrates on helping a student achieve independence in all areas of his life--cognitive, physical, and motor skills, while building self-esteem. OT providers also address psychological, environmental and social factors that may interfere with a child's ability to perform important learning and school related activities.

The Owl House consults with an external occupational therapist who conducts weekly appointments for some of our students. We have seen very beneficial results in several cases in sitting tolerance, toilet training and sensory integration.



## Our Workshops



## Social Saturdays

The Owl House hosts a series of workshops every Saturday that are open to all children and aim to foster inclusivity and build empathy and understanding in those who participate. The workshops are centered around a theme and aim to - teach our students various life skills, recreational skills and provide opportunity for social interaction and communication with peers in a safe space. Some themes that drive these workshops include Music and Movement, Little Chefs, Sports Mania, Gardening Club, Arts and Crafts.



## Our Workshops



## Parent Support Programme

Inside Out was a Creative Arts program specially designed for parents and caregivers of children with special needs. The 6 month immersive program was designed to provide a space for Parents and children to come together once a week to play, to create, to learn from each other and to be themselves through the mediums of Visual Art, Storytelling, Play, Music, Movement and loads more.



## Our Events



## Pop-Up Lunches

As of January 2020 The Owl House hosts bi-monthly lunches on our premises in order to raise funds for our various services as well as create opportunities for industrial experience for our students. The students are involved as kitchen assistants to prepare food for the lunches and moreover manage service of all customers. The lunches are hosted on our quaint premises and consist of four course meals created under the guidance of our culinary mentor Chris from Sublime Goa.



## Our Events



## Fundraising Dinner

A highlight this year for The Owl House was getting to co- host a fundraiser dinner at a local restaurant 7 Short 1 Long. Four of our full time students joined the restaurant's service team and assisted as servers for the evening. It was a fantastic experience for all those involved. The evening was supported by members of the community who ensured that no table went unreserved.



## Our Events



Click or scan the QR code to view the video.



### Diwali Mela

The Diwali Mela at The Owl House is slated to be an annual event in the village of Aldona. In its second installment, the 'mela' or fair was a celebration of creative expression through community engagement.

For our students, the Mela is an opportunity to plan and organize an event, work alongside other entrepreneurs and showcase their own artistic work.

The event gave artists and small business owners from all across Goa a platform to showcase their unique trinkets and handiworks. Sold alongside the works of these professionals were items designed and made by our students.



## Our Off-Campus Visits



### Training at Sublime

Our young adults got the opportunity to train off-campus with the staff at Sublime Goa, an exquisite fine dining restaurant in Assagao. They were greeted by the restaurant staff and made to feel welcome right away.

For the first time in their lives, they got an all access tour of a fine dining restaurant and understood the work that went behind it. They practiced a 'cleaning and set-up' routine with the service staff there.

Learnings from Sublime were then practiced and honed at The Owl House during culinary sessions.



## Our Off-Campus Visits



### An Afternoon at the Museum

The Museum of Goa held a Children's Art Festival in February 2020. The Owl House was thrilled at the opportunity of taking our owlets on a field trip to the museum for an afternoon of creative engagement and fun. From the moment we arrived, we were met with the hospitable and enthusiastic staff of MOG who took us on a well-guided tour of the museum.

Following the tour, a workshop was organized wherein each individual was given a piece of canvas along with paints and tools like stamps, bubble wrap, and brushes, and encouraged to get creative. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the art activity, using their imagination to explore the effects of different colours and textures. And the results were simply spectacular.



## Highlights



### Felicitations at the QS India Summit

A major highlight for The Owl House this year was being felicitated by Quacquarelli Symonds UK, a leading global higher education company offering a range of auditing solutions. The proceeds from their Summit titled 'The Future of Philanthropy in Education – Empowering Lives and Inspiring Change in India' were donated to The Owl House.

Our students were invited on stage to accept the generous cheque handed to them by India's Human Resources Development Minister, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal. A student of ours even made a speech that was appreciated unanimously with a standing ovation.

Following the event, the delegates from the QS India Summit spent a few hours with us, enjoying a first-hand experience in working with young adults with special needs. An experience that they were deeply inspired by.



Click or scan the QR code to view the video.



# Highlights



## Launching the 'Better Futures For Everyone' initiative

The first step in chalking out career paths for neurodiverse is to introduce the idea of inclusive hiring at workplaces. We reached out to local businesses and asked them if they'd like to partner with us to create training and hiring opportunities for our students. And we found a natural partner in Ecososro - Goa's first zero waste grocery store.

We introduced the Better Futures for Everyone initiative by setting up a controlled simulation of a Ecososro's grocery store where real customers would shop for real products. The idea was to give our students the exposure to shop management skills. The experience equipped our students to become well versed with a wide range of store-management skills like greeting, cleaning, sorting, stocking, packing and transacting.



[#BetterFuturesForEveryone](#)



Click or scan the QR code to view the video.



## Highlights



Srutesh Kerkar displays his friend's merchandise for a photo shoot.

### Shane's success story

Shane is a young man with Autism. He is also a fantastic artist who explores geometric shapes in his works. His fascinating use of triangles has always been fascinating to us. So we digitised Shane's art and designed a range of merchandise.

In less than a month, Shane had sold 20 umbrellas, 30 t-shirts and 25 clocks with his signature triangles and his name on them. All proceeds from this exercise were handed over to Shane who then shared the money with his colleagues who helped him set up his shop at a leading supermarket in Goa.



## Highlights



### Lemonade Stand for Força Goa Foundation

As part of our skill development programme, The Owl House set up a lemonade stand at the weekend football events organised by the Força Goa Foundation. This was a fantastic opportunity to practice buying and selling skills, interacting with customers and money management skills.

A separate set of students were also involved in preparing the lemonade in the hours preceding the event. Thirsty, young footballers lapped up bottles at a time during their breaks. Our students had several successful experiences selling up to a 100 servings of lemonade at each event.



ABLETREE FOUNDATION

# Highlights



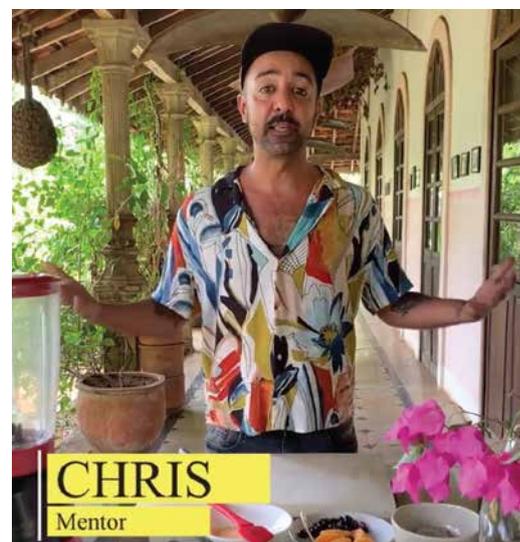
## Launching the 'Ambassadors for Autism' initiative

Over the past year, The Owl House has partnered with several brands in order to create opportunities for training and practice for our students. Brands that supported us and our students consistently over the last year were felicitated with an 'Ambassador For Autism' plaque to recognize their efforts towards inclusive and neurodiverse friendly workplaces.





## Highlights



### Launching the 'Learn-At-Home' programme

During the March 2020 lockdown, The Owl House launched an online learning program that used videos and other apps to help families continue learning from home. In addition to providing educational support to our students, the program also involves offering emotional support to the parents and caregivers when needed.

Although this program was initiated in response to the COVID-19 crisis, we have found that it is a great way to reach more people even in other parts of the country and plan to continue video logging and online sessions in the upcoming year.



ABLETREE FOUNDATION

# Highlights

**Newz Hook**  
Changing Attitudes towards Disability

STORIES VIDEOS INCLUSIVE IN MY VOICE LOGIN

COVID-19 Newsletters by Government in Karnataka, India

Home / [Coastalnews](#) / The Owl House has online sessions for disabled youth & their families

## 'The Owl House' has online sessions for disabled youth & their families

Connect with us: [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Instagram](#) [YouTube](#)

Goa based 'The Owl House' is a center that provides therapy, special education and vocational training to youngsters with disabilities. The many activities at the center aims to empower and make disabled people independent to face the outside world. Currently, they are running online sessions to reach out to youngsters with disabilities and their families during the COVID-19 times.

The lockdown has been hard on people across the world. It has definitely been harder for youngsters with disabilities and their families too. Many NGOs and organizations from across India have come forward to reach out to such people in need during these hard times. One amongst them is Goa based **The Owl House**. A center that empowers youngsters with all kinds of disabilities as well as their families. 'The Owl House' has a handful of initiatives for disabled children and their families to engage in during this lockdown period.

### What is 'The Owl House'?

Situated in the midst of Goa, amongst the serene beaches and greens, 'The Owl House' was started by Priya Sukh, Akash Prasad and Clayton D' Sa in April 2018. The initiative was created under the Abletree Foundation. The center was started for youngsters with all kinds of disabilities with the sole intention of empowering them to face the big wide world outside.

The team at 'The Owl House' claims that all their projects are focused on making youngsters with disabilities an integral part of the society in some way or the other. From therapies to vocational training, everything is provided under one roof. People from the age of 16-38 years and above are part of the venture.

Currently, 54 students are undergoing sessions at 'The Owl House'. Their team of professionals and special educators ensure that all of them gets nothing lesser than the best at the center.

### Reaching out to disabled people and their families during COVID-19 times

The Owl House had shut down their center due to the lockdown. But that has not stopped them from doing various activities for reaching out to people with disabilities.

"As soon as the lockdown was announced, we started sanitization of the center. All our staffs were shifted to online services. We also started a helpline number so that people with disabilities and their families from across India could reach out to us. We believe that more than youngsters with disabilities, their families need support now. So we talk to them to support their mental health. We also talk to them about how to deal with kids who have behavioral issues", says Priya Kataria, Instruction and Design Manager, 'The Owl House'.

All the services at the center are free of cost and it runs on generous donations from kind-hearted people. Priya says that their center has been successful in creating awareness about disabilities in and around Goa to a large extent. They plan to expand the venture as well.

### Reactions on social media

Their social media is flooded with positive reviews and comments about the center and the services that they offer.

"Such and every activities which is done in Owl House is with lot of dedication and hard work. Highly recommend owl house as they do wonders with our kids", says Sachin Sharma.

"I visited The Owl House in February this year and was impressed with the specially trained team members providing support and guidance to kids with autism and their parents. And that every child with autism has unique strength and challenges which is very well attended to at The Owl House", says Lorraine Alexander.

The online services of 'The Owl House' are available to everyone. You can also call the center at +91 72649-38800.




**The Owl House Helpline**  
+91 7264 938 800

**What can you call us for?**

Advice and resources for dealing with challenging behaviour at home  
Tools and programmes to keep your child engaged at home  
Self-care and emotional support for caregivers  
Food and medication related support

**STAY HOME. STAY SAFE.**

[www.theowlhousegoa.org](http://www.theowlhousegoa.org)

## The Owl House Helpline

With the announcement of a national lockdown, families of our students were suddenly isolated from their various support systems. We decided to open a dedicated channel of communication with the families by setting up The Owl House Helpline.

Before we knew it, we were flooded by calls from across the country. The helpline was also featured in an article on a leading national newspaper.



## Other Projects



### Taking education to children in a forest fringe community

Situated deep in the forests of North Goa, lies the village of Kodal that is home to innumerable species of flora and fauna. Living amidst this wonderful landscape is a forest-fringe community that has been overlooked for years. AbleTree Foundation started working with this community two years ago. However, to really engage with the adults within the community, we realised it was important to first start engaging with their children.

We started conducting guest classes to help develop the children's skills. During the classes we curated, we introduced new learning tools that fascinated the school teacher as well as the students. We started conducting guest classes to help develop the children's skills in three specific areas...

- Spoken English
- Functional Maths
- Knowing what's around us





## Other Projects

We noticed that the school was in need of serious renovations. Classes from standard 1 to 4 were held in the same classroom and the children didn't have functioning toilets. We reached out to the Directorate of Education to collaborate on renovating the school and shared our plan with them. After a few discussions, we were granted the permissions to go ahead with the renovation.

We worked with local masons to renovate the school over the winter holidays, while the children were away. We added more seating, rebuilt the roof, built brand new toilets and a spacious outdoor classroom.





ABLETREE FOUNDATION

# Financial Statements

**ABLETREE FOUNDATION**  
CIN: U80101GA2019NPL013915

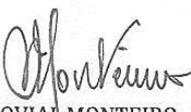
## Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2020

Particulars	Note No	Figures For The Reporting Period (19-20)
<b>I. EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>(1) Shareholder's Funds</b>		
(a) Share Capital	1	1,00,000.00
(b) Reserves and Surplus	2	(18,099.37)
<b>(2) Non-Current Liabilities</b>		
(a) Long-term borrowings		-
(b) Deferred tax liabilities (Net)		-
(c) Other Long term liabilities		-
(d) Long term provisions		-
<b>(3) Current Liabilities</b>		
(a) Short-term borrowings	5	11,000.00
(b) Trade payables		-
(c) Other current liabilities		-
(d) Short-term provisions	3	23,000.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,15,900.63</b>
<b>II. Assets</b>		
<b>(1) Non-current assets</b>		
<b>(a) Fixed assets</b>		
(i) Tangible assets	11	6,551.71
(b) Non-current investments		-
(c) Deferred tax assets (net)	4	262.12
(d) Long term loans and advances		-
(e) Other non-current assets		-
<b>(2) Current assets</b>		
(a) Current investments		-
(b) Inventories		-
(c) Trade receivables		-
(d) Cash and cash equivalents	6	1,09,086.80
(e) Short-term loans and advances		-
(f) Other current assets		-
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,15,900.63</b>

Notes to Account

12

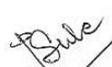
AS PER OUR REPORT OF EVEN DATE  
FOR M/s. JOVIAL MONTEIRO & ASSOCIATES  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
(Firm No:133244W)

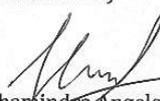
  
JOVIAL MONTEIRO  
PROPRIETOR  
M.No:139047

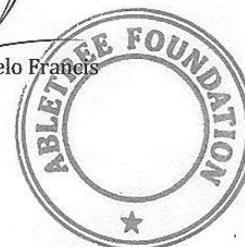


Place: Panaji - Goa  
Date: 07/09/2020

FOR ABLETREE FOUNDATION

  
Ms. Priyadarshini Prashant Sule  
(DIN: 08408015)

  
Mr. Shamindra Angelo Francis  
(DIN: 08408016)





# Financial Statements

**ABLETREE FOUNDATION**SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2020

<u>PARTICULARS</u>	<u>2019-20</u>
<b>NOTE:2</b>	
<b>RESERVES &amp; SURPLUS</b>	
Profit & Loss Account	
Opening Balance	-
Add:Addition during the year	(18,099.37)
Closing Balance	<u>(18,099.37)</u>
<b>NOTE:3</b>	
<b>Short term Provisions</b>	
Accounting Fees Payable	15,000.00
Audit Fees Payable	8,000.00
	<u>23,000.00</u>
<b>NOTE:5</b>	
<b>Short term Borrowings</b>	
<b>Loan From director</b>	
Priyadarshani Prashant Sule	11,000.00
	<u>11,000.00</u>
<b>NOTE:6</b>	
<b>CASH &amp; CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	
Cash in Hand	951.00
<b>Cash at Bank</b>	
Axis Bank	1,08,135.80
	<u>1,09,086.80</u>
<b>NOTE:7</b>	
<b>Revenue From Operations</b>	
Donations Received	33,77,956.97
	<u>33,77,956.97</u>
<b>NOTE:8</b>	
<b>Employee Benefit Expenses</b>	
Salaries & Wages	19,20,200.00
	<u>19,20,200.00</u>
<b>NOTE:9</b>	
<b>Financial Costs</b>	
Bank charges	11,995.17
	<u>11,995.17</u>



# Financial Statements

**NOTE:10****Other Expenses**

Repairs & Maintainance	8,89,089.00
Consumables Expense	81,159.00
Courier & Other Charges	470.00
Mid-Day Meal Expense	86,681.00
Miscellaneous Expense	28,939.00
Petrol & Diesel Expense	1,09,678.00
Printing & Stationery	40,039.00
Professional & Consultancy Fees	1,22,670.00
Professional Fees - Counsellor	27,000.00
Refreshment Expense	6,940.00
Telephone & Internet Expense	6,548.00
Transport & Conveyance Expense	5,710.00
Water & Electricity Expense	30,752.00
TDS Paid	4,000.00
Accounting Fees	15,000.00
Audit charges	8,000.00
	<u>14,62,675.00</u>

# Financial Statements

## ABLETREE FOUNDATION

### Notes forming part of the Financial Statement for the year ended 31st March 2020

#### Note 12

##### 12.1 Company Overview

Abletree Foundation is a Section 8 Company as per the Companies Act 2013. The Company was incorporated as Section 8 Company on 01/04/2019.

##### 12.2 Significant accounting policies

###### 2.1 Basis of Accounting and preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of Abletree Foundation have been prepared in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in India (Indian GAAP) to comply with the Accounting Standards notified under the Companies (Accounting Standards) Rules, 2016 (as amended) and the relevant provisions of the Companies Act, 2013. The financial statements have been prepared on accrual basis under the historical cost convention. The accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are consistent with those followed in the previous year.

###### 2.2 Use of estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with Indian GAAP requires the Management to make estimates and assumptions considered in the reported amounts of assets and liabilities (including contingent liabilities) and the reported income and expenses during the year. The Management believes that the estimates used in preparation of the financial statements are prudent and reasonable. Future results could differ due to these estimates and the differences between the actual results and the estimates are recognised in the periods in which the results are known / materialise.

###### 2.3 Depreciation

Depreciation on fixed assets is provided on Reducing Balance method at the rates and in the manner prescribed in schedule II of the Companies Act 2013. The company follows the practice of providing depreciation on additions to fixed assets during the year on prorata basis from the date of purchase in which the additions are made.

###### 2.4 Revenue recognition

- (a) Revenue is recognized to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Company and the revenue can be reliably measured.
- (b) Bank interest is recognised on cash basis as and when credited by the bank.
- (c) Other interest income is recognized on time proportion basis except those with significant uncertainty are recognized on realization basis.

###### 2.5 Employee Benefits

No provision is made for liability that may arise due to encashment of earned leave at the time of retirement or resignation from services as the management will account the same at the time of actual payment.

###### 2.6 Tangible fixed assets

Fixed assets are carried at cost of acquisition or construction less accumulated depreciation. The cost of fixed assets includes purchase price, non-refundable taxes, duties, freight and other incidental expenses related to the acquisition or installation of the respective assets.



# Financial Statements

## 2.7 Earnings per share

Basic and Diluted earnings per share are calculated by dividing the net profit for the year attributable to equity shareholders by the weighted average number of equity shares. The company does not have any outstanding dilutive potential equity shares. Consequently the basic and diluted earnings per share remain the same.

## 2.8 Provisions and contingencies

A provision is recognised when the Company has a present obligation as a result of past events and it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation in respect of which a reliable estimate can be made. Provisions (excluding retirement benefits) are not discounted to their present value and are determined based on the best estimate required to settle the obligation at the Balance Sheet date. These are reviewed at each Balance Sheet date and adjusted to reflect the current best estimates. Contingent liabilities are disclosed in the Notes.

## 2.9 Taxes on income

(a) Current tax is the amount of tax payable on the taxable income for the year as determined in accordance with the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

(b) Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) paid in accordance with the tax laws, which gives future economic benefits in the form of adjustment to future income tax liability, is considered as an asset if there is convincing evidence that the Company will pay normal income tax. Accordingly, MAT is recognised as an asset in the Balance Sheet when it is probable that future economic benefit associated with it will flow to the Company.



# Financial Statements

## ABLETREE FOUNDATION

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2020

### Note Particulars

#### 12.3 Disclosures required under Section 22 of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has issued an Office Memorandum dated 26 August 2008 which recommends that the Micro and Small Enterprises should mention in their correspondence with its customers the Entrepreneurs Memorandum Number as allocated after filing of the Memorandum. Accordingly, the disclosure in respect of the amounts payable to such enterprises as at 31 March 2020 has been made in the financial statements based on information received and available with the Company. Further in view of the Management, the impact of interest, if any, that may be payable in accordance with the provisions of the Act is not expected to be material. The Company has not received any claim for interest from any supplier under the said Act.

Particulars	As at 31st March, 2020 Rs.
(i) The Principal amount and interest due thereon remaining unpaid to any supplier as at the end of each accounting year;	Nil
(ii) The amount of interest paid by the Company along with the amounts of the payment made to the supplier beyond the appointed day during the year;	Nil
(iii) The amount of interest due and payable for the year;	Nil
(iv) The amount of interest accrued and remaining unpaid at the end of the accounting year;	Nil
(v) The amount of further interest due and payable even in the succeeding years, until such date when the interest dues as above are actually paid;	Nil

#### Note:

#### 12.4 Disclosure under Accounting Standard (AS 20) - Earnings per share: As at 31 March, 2020

Earnings Per Share:	Rs
<u>Continuing operations</u>	
Net Profit for the year	(18,361)
Less: tax expense	-
Net Profit for the year attributable to the equity shareholders	<b>(18,361)</b>
weighted number of shares	10,000
<b>Earnings per share</b>	<b>(1.84)</b>

#### 12.5 Balance Confirmations

Balances of advances and sundry creditors are subject to confirmation and subsequent reconciliation, if any

#### 12.6 Disclosure in respect of Impairment of assets (AS 28)

There was no impairment Loss on Assets during period under report.

#### 12.7 Related Party disclosure as per AS 18

a) <u>Key Management Personnel</u>	
Ms. Priyadarshani Prashant Sule	Director
Mr. Shamindra Angelo Francis	Director
b) Transactions	NIL



ABLETREE FOUNDATION

# Financial Statements

**ABLETREE FOUNDATION**  
CIN: U80101GA2019NPL013915

**Profit and Loss statement for the year ended 31st March, 2020**

Particulars	Note No	Figures For The Reporting Period (19-20)
I. Revenue from operations	7	33,77,957
II. Other Income		-
<b>III. Total Revenue (I + II)</b>		<b>33,77,957</b>
<b>IV. Expenses:</b>		
Employee benefit expense	8	19,20,200
Financial costs	9	11,995
Depreciation and amortization expense	11	1,448
Other expenses	10	14,62,675
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>33,96,318</b>
V. Profit before exceptional and extraordinary items and tax	(III - IV)	(18,361)
VI. Exceptional Items		-
VII. Profit before extraordinary items and tax (V - VI)		(18,361)
VIII. Extraordinary Items		-
IX. Profit before tax (VII - VIII)		(18,361)
X. Tax expense:		
(1) Current tax		-
(2) Deferred tax		(262)
XI. Profit(Loss) from the period from continuing operations	(IX-X)	(18,099)
XII. Profit/(Loss) from discontinuing operations		-
XIII. Tax expense of discounting operations		-
XIV. Profit/(Loss) from Discontinuing operations (XII - XIII)		-
XV. Profit/(Loss) for the period (XI + XIV)		(18,099)
XVI. Earning per equity share:		
(1) Basic		(1.81)
(2) Diluted		(1.81)

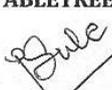
AS PER OUR REPORT OF EVEN DATE  
FOR M/s. JOVIAL MONTEIRO & ASSOCIATES  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
(Firm No:133244W)

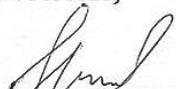
  
JOVIAL MONTEIRO  
PROPRIETOR  
M.No:139047



Place: Panaji - Goa  
Date: 07/09/2020

FOR ABLETREE FOUNDATION

  
Ms. Priyaarshini Prashant Sule  
(DIN: 08408015)

  
Mr. Shamindra Angelo Francis  
(DIN: 08408016)





# Financial Statements

## ABLETREE FOUNDATION

SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2020

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>2019 -20</u>
--------------------	-----------------

### NOTE:1

#### SHARE CAPITAL

##### Authorised capital

10,000 Equity Shares of Rs.10/- each	1,00,000
	<u>1,00,000</u>

##### Issued,Subscribed & Paid up

10,000 Equity Shares of Rs.10/- each	1,00,000
	<u>1,00,000</u>

#### Equity Shares:

##### a) Reconciliation of the shares outstanding at the beginning and at the end of the reporting period

###### Equity Shares

At the beginning of the period	-	-
Issued during the period	10,000	1,00,000
Outstanding at the end of the period	<u>10,000</u>	<u>1,00,000</u>

##### b) Names of shareholder holding more than 5% Shares

	Number	
1. Mr Clayton Dsouza	3,000	30.00%
2. Ms Priyadarshani Prashant Sule	4,000	40.00%
3. Mr. Shamindra Angelo Francis	3,000	30.00%
	<u>10,000</u>	<u>100.00%</u>



## Special Thanks

Being a not-for-profit community service initiative has its own set of challenges. From raising funds to equipping our staff and students with important educational tools, we depend solely on the donations we receive from members of the community.

The love and support that our donors have showered on us has been extremely humbling. To know that there are people and organisations out there who believe in the work we do, means the world to us. And we would like to thank each and every one of you for your kindness. We'd like you to know that you are an important part of our Abletree story.

**Anil Sripad Rao**

**Mathew Kaye**

**Allen (Thermacell)**

**Altonn Alvarez**

**Aneesh Malankar**

**Aditi Khurana**

**Ankur Tripathi**

**Arun Raj P R**

**Ashwin QS**

**Brett Cardoz**

**Clarinda**

**Constant Design LLP**

**Divya**

**Dwayne Das**

**Edsel Goveia**

**Eleanor Dsouza**

**Emmy Vaz**

**Jamshed Banaji**

**Janice Dias**

**Jason Newman**

**Jyotika Khilnani**

**Kim Menezes**

**Malaika Dsouza**

**Marc Francis**

**Mike and Pauline**

**Myra**

**Anu**

**Priya Vishwanath**

**Rohit Hede**

**S. Muralidharan**

**Samit Lotlikar (QS)**

**Sanjay Suresh Rao**

**Shivanand Kamat**

**Siddhi Dalal**

**Sridevi Karuthedath**

**Subhayou Nayak (QS)**

**Susan T**

**Sushma Khandeparkar**

**Vaijayanti Francis**

**Venecia Fernandes**

**Vikas Sharma**

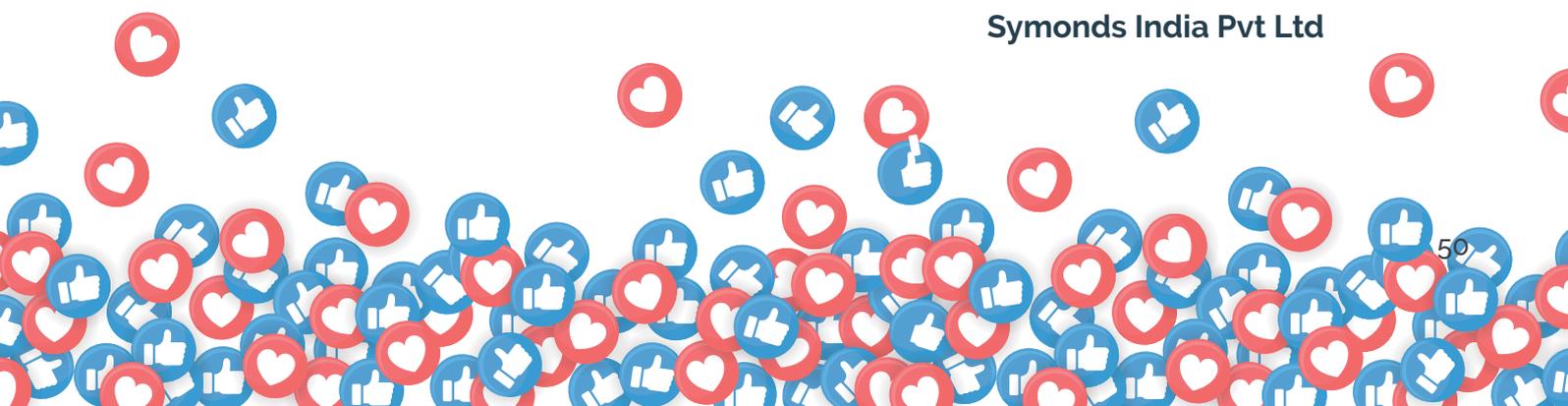
**Delina Figueiredo**

**Ruel Fernandes**

**Sabrina Khurana**

**QS Quacquarelli**

**Symonds India Pvt Ltd**



# A Note from Our Primary Donor

## Marianne Rao

Tucked away in one of the by lanes of the quaint village of Aldona, a once dilapidated cottage was transformed into a fairy tale home called 'The Owl House'. It opened its doors to a forgotten but immensely important group of children in society! The 21st of April 2018, marked the official opening, a day that is ever etched in my mind!

The Owl House began as an initiative to encourage and afford a space for special needs children! There are not many like it! It offers a variety of programmes to bring out the best in these children who, by virtue of their challenging condition, often live out their lives in the shadows.



It started off with a handful of students and despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of students has risen considerably since. Through the excellent training imparted to them, the children have exhibited talents they never imagined they had! Artists, salespersons, dancers, athletes and chefs, to mention a few!

Some students who would not communicate with anyone in the past, began to interact comfortably with their parents and siblings and people around them. That is an achievement! The Owl House also offers interactive programmes for parents of the special needs children, where they learn more about autism and are shown ways to manage and improve their relationships with them.

On occasion when I have visited the Owl House, I have been overwhelmed by the interaction between parent and child... it's a sheer joy to watch and inevitably brings tears to my eyes. The teachers and staff at The Owl House dedicate their time, love and patience to make certain the students are treated in the best possible way. All credit goes to them! They have chosen a path that is not an easy one... one that is full of surprises but has rewards that are inexplicable. It takes a lot to choose this vocation.

I wish only the best for the future of the students and teachers and sincerely hope it continues to grow, to make place for the innumerable special needs children in Goa and elsewhere too!

In conclusion, it would be a grave injustice on my part not to mention the countless people who have contributed their time and expertise wholeheartedly towards many of the programmes and initiatives that The Owl House has undertaken. They're all an intrinsic part of the amazing community The Owl House is made of!



# Gallery





# Gallery





# Gallery





**ABLETREE FOUNDATION**



**Abletree Foundation**  
[www.abletreefoundation.org](http://www.abletreefoundation.org)

**The Owl House**  
[www.theowlhousegoa.org](http://www.theowlhousegoa.org)