



# Monthly Newsletter

Saarthi

November 2024



## Your Window into the World of CareLeavers



"When care leavers are empowered with the knowledge they need, they unlock the potential to thrive—finding stable housing, securing meaningful work, and building strong relationships. Equipped with information and support from key duty bearers, they gain the strength to advocate for themselves and others like them, assert their rights, and shape the future they deserve." - **Mr. Prabhat Kumar, UNICEF**

We are excited to launch the first edition of the Saarthi's- Association of Indian Careleavers newsletter.



## Here's what has happened till now!

The Association of Indian Careleavers (AICL), launched in August 2021, stands as a testament to collective action and empowerment. Born out of a collaboration between UNICEF and Yuwaah, AICL was established as a platform to bridge care leavers with representatives from the government and private sectors. Its foundation was marked by the launch of the AICL Charter, addressing critical issues like housing, health, education, and legal identity. In 2023, this initiative gained new momentum with a partnership between UNICEF and Aide et Action, fostering its mission to support care leavers across the country.

AICL is a platform for care leavers, by care leavers. It functions as a support system and safety net, managed by care-

experienced youth themselves with guidance from an external advisory committee.

AICL provides a space where care leavers can share experiences, exchange knowledge, and offer peer support. For those transitioning out of institutional care, particularly those without family to rely on, the network becomes a "heart family," offering social connections, solidarity, and opportunities to reflect, celebrate, and grow together.

This year, AICL has continued to evolve, striving to build a national database and provide services and referrals to aid the rehabilitation of care-experienced youth. The focus remains on creating a secure space for sharing best practices and navigating the complexities of aftercare.

This initiative is a significant step towards building a strong and supportive community for careleavers across India. By connecting with fellow careleavers, accessing valuable resources, and advocating for their rights, we aim to empower and uplift this often overlooked community.

It is an invitation to all careleavers across India to contribute towards enriching the content and outreach of this newsletter. Please share widely and contribute your writings/experiences/ambitions to share with wider family. Soon, we will bring out a Hindi version of same.

**Pranab.J.Panging,**  
**Regional Manager,**  
**GRO, Aide-et-Action**



## Community News- A Gathering of Hope and Action

Saarthi- Association of Indian Careleavers , in partnership with UNICEF, organized a two-day "Capacitating and Networking Workshop" on September 29-30, 2024, in New Delhi. This workshop brought together 35 care-experienced youth from 14 states, aiming to amplify their voices and strengthen their transition to independent living.

Participants engaged in dynamic sessions on self-identity, formal network building, and the importance of unity among care leavers facilitated by Dr. Aditya Charegaonkar



The workshop featured interactive activities, including logo design for AICL by Mr. Hiten Noonwal, vocational training insights by Mr. Akash Sharma , and discussions on supporting care leavers with disabilities led by Ms. Sangeeta from CAFT India . Key speakers, including Mr. Prabhat Kumar from UNICEF and Mr. Deepak Alok from M2i Consulting, provided valuable guidance on network sustainability and advocacy for care leavers at national and state levels.

The AICL is committed to empowering care leavers and building a self-sustaining network. By working together, the network aims to influence policy decisions, advocate for the rights of care leavers, and create a better future for all.



### Spotlight

#### CLiC Celebrates Diwali with Care Leavers

On October 27th, CLiC organized a vibrant Diwali celebration for over 45 care leavers. The day was filled with engaging activities, including a Diya decoration competition that ignited creativity and teamwork. A quiz competition tested knowledge about CLiC, aftercare schemes, and the history of Diwali. In a heartwarming gesture, care leavers exchanged contact information with friends in need, demonstrating their commitment to support and uplift each other. The day was filled with joy, camaraderie, and the spirit of Diwali



### Opportunities

Haldiram Educational Society, through its Gyanshree Skill Hub Initiative, offers job-linked training programs designed for individuals between 17 and 35 years of age

#### Courses available:

- Multi-Cuisine Chef
- F & B Service Assistant
- Food Delivery Associate
- Front Office Trainee
- Fashion Technology (ATDC)

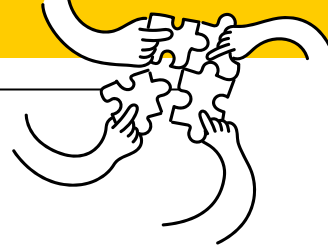
#### Upcoming Courses:

- Beauty & Wellness
- Travel & Tourism
- Information Technology.

Classes are conducted from 9 AM to 1 PM, six days a week, with free pick-up and drop-off services. The programs offer 100% job placement and are affiliated with CBSE.



## Event Highlights



### AICL Meeting in Chhattisgarh

On July 8, 2024, the AICL team visited Chhattisgarh to introduce the Care Leavers Network to state representatives and WCD officials. The meeting led to a plan for establishing a care leavers network in the state, with potential support from state authorities and collaboration with UNICEF to strengthen support for care leavers transitioning out of Child Care Institutions.



### AICL Meet-up with CLAN-Delhi

AICL hosted a significant meet-up for care leavers in Delhi, uniting diverse groups to strengthen bonds and collaboration at the state level. The event highlighted AICL's vision and plans, with CLAN sharing its achievements. The meet-up set the stage for future collaborations, focusing on mental well-being, capacity building, and advocacy.

### AICL with ACLA, Assam

We had the opportunity to meet with members of the Assam Care Leavers Association (ACLA) for a focus group discussion. The conversation centered around the challenges, issues, and success stories of the network. It was an insightful session, providing a deeper understanding of how ACLA keeps its members engaged and continues to support care leavers in meaningful ways. This meet-up highlighted the strength of the network and its commitment to empowering care leavers in Assam.



### AICL in Rajasthan

In late July 2024, the AICL team visited Rajasthan to build connections and explore collaboration opportunities. Key meetings included discussions with Mr. Dharmendra from UNICEF Rajasthan, CLiC, and the Positive Yuwa Network. These engagements provided valuable insights into care leaver support in the state and potential joint efforts in module development, advocacy, and support for HIV-positive care leavers. The visit laid the groundwork for future partnerships aimed at strengthening care leaver networks in Rajasthan and beyond.



BETTER  
TOGETHER



## Stories of impact: ACLA's Empowerment Journey

The Assam Care Leavers Association (ACLA) is an inspiring example of a community-driven initiative committed to empowering care leavers by addressing their unique challenges. Focused on creating a platform where the voices of care leavers are heard, respected, and included, ACLA works tirelessly to support care leavers' transition to independent adulthood.

One of ACLA's recent achievements is the facilitation of 46 voter IDs for care leavers, a significant step in enabling them to exercise their democratic rights. Voting is a powerful tool for participation, and this milestone ensures that care leavers are not only represented in the electoral process but can actively contribute to decisions that shape their futures. Through this initiative, ACLA is championing care leavers' inclusion in civic life, reinforcing that every care leaver's voice matters.

This achievement reflects ACLA's broader mission of empowering care leavers by securing their rights and helping them build a more inclusive future. As ACLA continues to advocate for care leavers across Assam and beyond, it stands as a beacon of hope and progress, proving that collective action can make a real difference in the lives of vulnerable youth.

*Thank you for reading!*



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