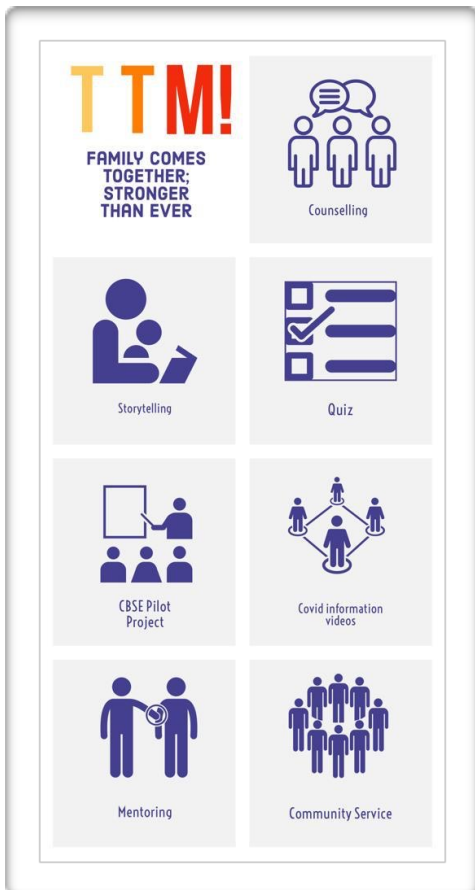




Let's Talk About It

We Not Only Talk But Make Things Happen



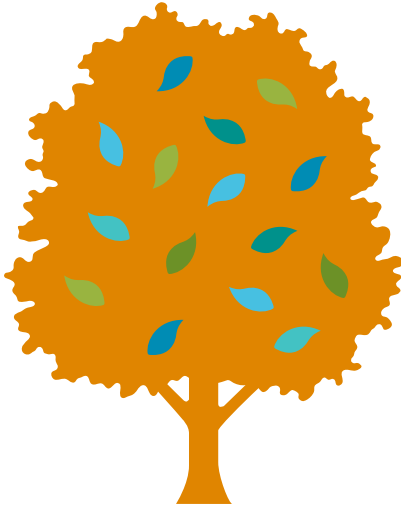
It's been over forty days since the lock-down was declared. The alarming situation that took the entire world by surprise, not only reminded us of our own vulnerability and mortality, but the need to look beyond our comfort zones. And we are still taking baby steps. Although we don't quite see the light at the end of the tunnel, we will strengthen our resolve with HOPE. Hope for a new – albeit different – tomorrow.

For us at TTM! it was heartwarming to see how the “Family” rose to the occasion. From developing our CBSE pilot project for class 9 students, to creating topical videos, to story-telling, to quizzing, counseling and music. What really brought a smile to all our faces was when two of our Mentees, Atul and Rafi, felt the pulse in their locality in Begumpur, and organized food distribution for those in distress. This is what they said to their Mentor: “Thank you so much Ma’am, totally inspired by you!” So we thought - Let's Talk About It! – let's share our joy!



Once Upon A Time.....

Growing up, we have sat with our parents and listened with rapt attention to stories of Goldilocks, Red Riding Hood, Amar Chitra Katha, Panchtantra, etc. Over the years, not only has reading been challenged due to lifestyle changes, but story telling has been too.



As we know, stories are effective educational tools since they engage the listener, and hones both memory and writing skills. Storytelling can be seen as a foundation for learning and teaching. While the listener is engaged, they are able to imagine new perspectives, inviting a transformative and empathetic experience. It also helps with diction and hence conversational English.

To this end, we were delighted when **Tara Kripalani**, who wears many hats with Talk to Me!, offered to do some story telling sessions for our mentees, as part of the additional resources being offered by TTM! during the Covid 19 shutdown. Some of the stories she told were from “I Shrunk My Best Friend” by Ruskin Bond, A Temporary Matter by Jhumpa Lahiri, and Roald Dahl’s Short Stories. Tara has to say this of her experience..

“I live my life in a fantasy world - whether with books, theatre or movies. So story telling has been a superb outlet for me. I have been wanting to read stories to children for so long, hence, I’m very grateful to TTM! for giving me this opportunity!”

Tara certainly proved that she has a good tale to tell and has a special gift of telling stories! She also has the ability to multi task and add to her smorgasbord of activities. Check her out on Youtube please type in :https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9xZdBU6A_bvpv-342p6pQ - doing the narrative for Moments and Beehive for our CBSE Mentees.





CBSE Class IX English Syllabus Work During the Time of Covid-19

It was Minakshi and Usha's commitment to help their mentees studying in Class XII, that prompted the idea of starting this work. We decided to support Class IX mentees with the challenging CBSE English syllabus. An intrepid bunch of mentors volunteered to prepare sample answers to questions in each of the chapters in the two CBSE English textbooks, Beehive, and Moments. Minakshi, Monica, Neelam, Neerja, Nilima, Preeti, Shruti, Surita and Amita got back to their school days! The teamwork between the mentors, Poonam the editor, Rajni, who shared her teaching experience and helped me produce the final documents, me was extraordinary! The icing on the cake was to have Tara record each of the chapters from both text books.

All of our work is now on a google drive. Invitations to view the drive have gone out to all our group heads and to the mentors working on the CBSE syllabus. We have our own Youtube channel. All the chapters from Moments have been recorded and uploaded. Beehive is almost done. Please type in:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9xZdBU6A_bvpv-342p6pQ/videos to get into our channel. Do subscribe, so that you are kept informed of all new uploads.

The Covid lockdown really tested us; most of us were juggling extra housework with the enormous amount of work on the CBSE lessons. The dedication of our team was remarkable. We completed the enormous project in record time. We were able to offer this material to our mentees just as schools went online. I am so proud of all that we have accomplished!

And the saga continues as we put finishing touches to the Class IX work and embark on the Class X syllabus. Looking out for more mentors to keep us company on this journey.....**(Amrita Biswas)**





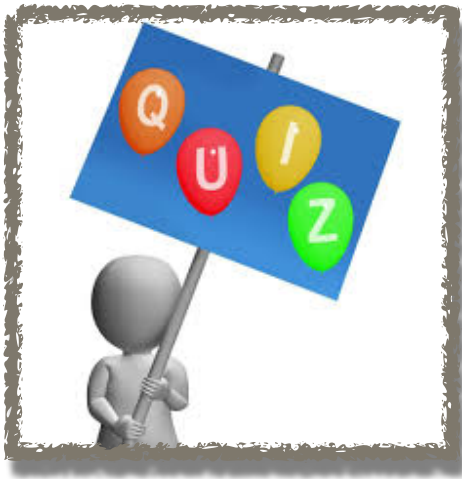
Informative Videos



With social media seeing a surge of videos and information on Covid19, the sifting of fact from fiction became imperative. To tackle this information over dose, Krishna Bantia undertook the Herculean task of going through the videos in circulation to ensure the information was appropriate for our mentees. The selected videos mainly focus on awareness, hygiene, social distancing and practical steps to deal with the pandemic. The end result is a beautifully packaged “gift of love” to the mentees from TTM! When asked how she felt about providing this very valuable service, *Krishna* had this to say: “Don’t let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do! The struggle you’re in today is developing the strength you need for tomorrow”.

Quizzing

To me personally being able to participate as a volunteer at TTM! during the COVID 19 lockdown has been an amazing experience. To be able to keep the TTM! mentees safe, mentally stimulated and practice the #stay@home COVID19 protocol in their challenging environments by conducting online quizzes and telling stories over Zoom sessions have an enriching and fulfilling time for me.



Community service has been my passion for a very long time. I have been involved in the areas of music teaching and Environment as a high school student.

My interaction with the mentees has been amazing. I have never come across a group of students so eager, curious and enthusiastic to learn new things. Asking questions about their interests and habits has made me grow closer to them. Special mention to Krishna, Shruti, Muskaan and Asif for always attending my sessions and being participative and asking for more sessions!

Thank you TTM! for giving me this amazing opportunity - **Anouk Sarma**

The Quiz sessions with Anouk Ma'am have been really enjoyable. This has given us the platform to know something else other than our books. It has also introduced us to the concept of thinking outside the box. I feel the sessions enhance our knowledge, and if at times there are questions we know, she explains the concept to us as to how and why a situation occurs. Because of this, even what we know gets further etched in our minds. Most importantly, the way she explains is really awesome. Sometimes she shows us pictures about the topic as well. I thoroughly enjoy my Quiz sessions. - **Shruti Path Mentee**



The Joy Of Mentoring

In spite of my long and intimate association with Talk to Me! I think I can honestly say that the day I became a mentor changed my relationship with TTM!

I was enjoying teaching a group of children in person at the NIIT centre in Begumpur but the entire experience was enhanced a hundred-fold when at the start of the lockdown I decided to become a mentor to a student there.

The day I stepped into a mentor's shoes was the day I realised what it was *actually* like to be mentor. It is empowering and extremely gratifying to know that you can make a difference in someone's life, that *you* can make a difference that counts.

As a mentor, if I've genuinely appreciated a child, if I've made him feel wanted and cared for, if I've helped him to make a difficult choice, if I've held his hand while he climbed one tiny rung in the ladder of a fulfilling life, I would consider it a job well done.

(Debika Lahiri)



Like Mother Like Daughter

I saw my mother doing her Talk To Me lessons, and thought that maybe image association could help people learn the language quicker, especially if they are more inclined to visual learning rather than auditory. So, I went through the level 1 lessons, picked out some keywords, and found images online that best matched the content in terms of context and the quality of the image itself. I used those images to create a visual narrative, which I then did a voiceover for, thus creating a short 2 minute clip of the lesson.

(Ananya Nadgauda)



Community Service

Two of our earliest mentees, **Atul Maurya** and **Mohammed Rafi**, are currently being mentored by **Purnima Daulet Singh**. They have done us proud!

Atul and Rafi both live in Indira Camp, Begumpur, Malviya Nagar. Atul is a B.Com Graduate from Bhagat Singh College - Delhi University, and a Post Graduate in Commerce from Jamia Milia Islamia. He runs a coaching institute, The Study Cube Academy, where they teach students from Class 1-12 and also coach B.com students.

Rafi is a qualified CA, and has been working with one of India's leading Consulting Firms, S. S Kothari, Mehta and Company. Currently he is a Senior Audit Executive with the firm.

Both of them help run a community kitchen in Begumpur with the help of local leaders and philanthropists. "We bring goods from market, pack and load the food, and wash dishes. Besides this, we keep records and ensure proper management. We prepare dinner for 2500+ people every day since lockdown started, and till now we have provided food for almost 97,000+ people".





“I am doing this work because I love doing social work and I believe in giving back to society. When I cleared school I started teaching poor students without taking fees because at that time I was only able to give my knowledge.”



“During lockdown society needs people who can take care of them so we came forward to help to the best of our ability. My team works behind the curtain so no one knows us, but we believe that we are doing it for our own society and we are very proud for it.”

TTM! has encouraged them by giving them financial support. And of course our wishes are always with them, particularly when they are putting their own health at risk to help their community.





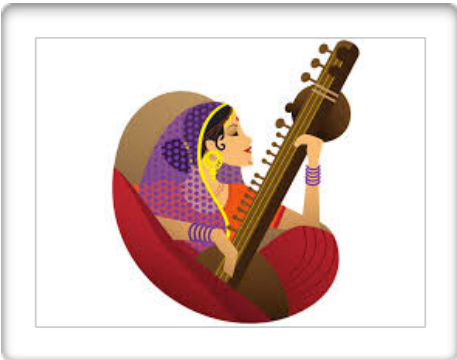
Counseling

With the disruption in normal day-to-day life, we knew that some of our Mentees might be in need of connecting with an empathetic adult to talk to and share their concerns with. We were delighted when two Counsellors, **Dr. Krishna Saraf** and **Mrs. Anita Kobli**, offered their services. Both ladies are professionals who have been working with youth for several years. Subsequently, a few of our Mentees availed of this opportunity, and consulted with the Counsellors. The sessions were conducted in a professional manner, with follow-up sessions as well. Following is a message that one of the Mentees sent her Counsellor: “I am feeling very energetic and healthy. Thank you Ma’am.”



Indian Classical Music

Jyotika Dayal Praust, is an accomplished North Indian classical vocalist and kathak dancer, having performed for over twenty years in various concerts in India and abroad. The intent of online vocal classes by her for 'Talk to Me ' is to spread awareness of the tradition of Indian classical music amongst the younger generation. Jyotika feels it is important for all aspiring singers to learn classical music as it enables them to sing any kind of song effortlessly and with perfection. Indian classical music also brings peace and joy and enables the student to concentrate better and enhances the ability to unite with our inner selves.





MOTHER EARTH IS HEALING!

Look at the sky

It is clearer day by day

Months passed are March, April and May

Birds are chirping,

Squirrels are jumping

Moon and stars are shining bright

But no scorching sunlight

It's a great feeling

Mother Earth is healing.

(Palak Mehra - Mentee)