MALATHI RAJA

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A physically challenged person, a state and national level wheelchair basketball player and swimmer, who truly believes in making a difference and giving back to the community.



Malathi is a wheelchair user who is paralyzed below the waist. She is a zonal level wheelchair basketball player, a state and national level swimmer, who truly believes in making a difference and giving back to the community. They say A Thousand Miles journey begins with a small step — and Malathi's started in a Child Home where she was supported, till X Standard.

At the age of 14, in a manner of speaking, ironically, she was reintroduced to her parents. Unfortunately, fate had other ideas, with a Father who suffered a severe memory loss condition, it fell upon her young

shoulders to support her family financially and pursue her Higher Secondary Education from a hostel, the circumstances only see me tougher more towards a life she had dared to dream for herself. Miles fell by as she graduated out of Madras University in the year 2006, ready to take on the world.

In a world full of opportunities and challenges in equal measure she built her confidence brick by brick—Working her way through jobs with Call Center sand for a short period of time ran her own shop — A Consultancy firm where she engaged and produced opportunities to over 650 candidates. An eventful meeting with well-wishers translated to her



joining Barclays in the year 2016, which finally set her on course to a higher arc of performance. A window to a new world of Values and Vision beckoned, one that encouraged her to Dream— and Dream BIG. And dream big she did, focusing on her passion for Wheel Chair Basketball and swimming over the years she strung up a chain of achievements in these fields.



She has raised ₹.5 lakhs for co-players to purchase wheelchairs, funding from Actor Mr. KAMALA HAASAN. She has supported financially and materially many people across South India during this COVID-19 Pandemic.

In 2021 she has started Yathumagi Tours and Travels that aims to provide job opportunities for women and physically challenged people, budget friendly tour packages for lower and middle class income groups and to enable elderly and physically challenged people to travel with ease and see places making their dream come true.



Video References:

https://youtu.be/0kCw2xmmgmc https://youtu.be/climzsMkC7w https://youtu.be/W iHmJrYk7g https://youtu.be/tN kutWkddQ

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2012	2 nd Oct Big Chennai Award (Excellence in social Development and Entrepreneurship)
2016	17th–18 th Sep, Tamilnadu State Wheelchair Basketball Championship in Erode – Winner
2016	26 – 30 Dec 3 rd . National Wheelchair Basketball Championship in Kilpauk
2017	18 Feb, 16 th State Level Sports Meet in Nehru Park-Winner
2017	16-21 April, Women Wheelchair Basketball Development (IWBF) Champion, Thailand
2017	9–10 Sep, South Zone Wheelchair Basketball Championship Nehru Stadium in Central –Winner
2017	23–24 th , 2 nd Sep South Zone Wheelchair Basketball Championship Nehru Stadium in Erode –Winner
2017	5-9 Nov, 4 th National Wheelchair Basketball Women's Champion in Hyderabad-Winner
2017	3 rd Dec, 1 st State Level Para Sports in Nungambakkam–Winner
2018	May, TamilNadu Wheelchair Basketball State Meet in Sathyabhama University –Runner
2018	11–13 May, State Campby TamilNadu Wheelchair Basketball in Sathyabhama University
2018	15 July, All India Press, Council and Meenakshi Trust Bliss Award
2019	Jan – I am Strongest Award given by Sharon Ply
2019	3 March, First State 3ON3 Wheelchair Basketball Championship in J.J Stadium, Kilpuk –Runner

2019	24-29 June, 6 th National Wheelchair Basketball Championship in Mohali–Runner
2019	2-26 July Motivation Peer Training course in Coimbatore
2019	Aug TamilNadu Wheelchair Basketball State Championship in Coimbatore–Winner
2019	8 Dec SPT International Peace Award for Best Achiever
2019	19 - 22 Dec South Indian Women Achiever Awards Brand Ambassador
2021	Participated in State level Swimming competition
2022	Won 2 gold & 1 Silver in State level Swimming competition
2022	Bronze in the National Para Swimming Championship
2022	Silver in the South Zone Wheelchair Basketball Championship

PHOTO GALLERY

















PHOTO GALLERY

















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Wheelchairs of compassion



Players wanted to contribute in this time of crisis. Once they came up with the idea of stitching masks, I posted it on Facebook.

Mainthi Raja

Srinidhi PR

EachOneReachOne. This was one of the hashtags trending worldwide on Twitter the past few days. Away from the specifight, women's wheel-chair baskethall players of Tamil Nadu are following that motto to ease the pain under the lockdown enforced in the wake of the coronavirus parademic.

enforced in the wake of the coro-navirus pandemic.

In a display of grit and compas-sion, Malathi Raja has been engag-ing in volunteer work to help the physically challenged community in this crisis. She has also encour-aged some of her teammates, who stay at the Chemnai Corporation shelter for differently-abled per-

sons, to stitch masks. Metilda, Mary Kalai, Nadhiya and Kavitha are-doing just that, using reusable fabrics. Malathi has so far helped around 200 people with dry ration, medicines and other essentials. The 35-year-old bank employee condinates with others to reach out to the needy it began with providing teammates with basic essentials. At the government-run shelter, women are assured of accommodation and food under normal circumstances, mainly

ter, women are assured of accommodation and food under normal circumstances, mainly with the help of denatices. However, with everything coming to a grinding halt, they struggled to get essentials like sanitary napkins and baby diapers. "As a person who understands the needs of the physically challenged people, I wanted to help with whatever I can. Since I can't step out, I coordinate with people who are willing to help. Malathi said.

To reach a wider sudience and spread the message further, she took to Facebook. The respense was encouraging, as people came forward to volunteer and domate. "When I get to know there is a need for a specific tiem, I spread the word among my friends and family members who stay near that area and see if they can deliver it to the people concerned. Sometimes, NGOs belg," said the sole bread winner of her five-member family

"Igot messages from people asking for basic needs like rice, pulsees, etc. Some even asked for cash.

We have delivered even to Puduch-erry, Bengalaru and Tiruchirapal-il." added Malathi.

At the shelter which accommo-dates close to 30 women, who are either physically challenged or from economically backward com-munities, they work close to 10 bours making 300 single and dou-ble-layered masks a day. With eve-sylhing coming to standatfil, play-ers wanted to contribute in this time of crisis. Once they came up with the idea of sitching masks, I posted it on Facebook," she said. These masks are used mostly by samitary workers of the Corporation.

Coping with mental stress

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Although Malathi provides a helping hand, she had to flight her own
demons in the initial phase of the
lockdown: mental anguish. Working from home, she spends long
hours in a seated position. The discomfort in the back led to menral stress. Malathi acknowledges this kind of stress
might be common among
people with disabilities and
unges them to seek help.
To cope with this, she
sought the help of doctors as
well as her baskethall teammates.
'I discussed it with other players
as to what we can do to overcome
the pain and stress. We try to motivate each other and keep our
spirits up. Gradually, things are
falling in place," she said.

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