



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 7 Sevalaya's News Letter - December 2012 Serve 9 Price-Re.1

Dear Friends,

On 15th Nov 2012, we celebrated our 24th annual function. Though the actual date of Sevalaya's inauguration was 29th May (1988), every year it takes a couple of months for annual closing of accounts for the year and then the auditors go through each and every transaction and finally sign our balance sheet and other account statements. The annual report is printed only after that. This year, due to the power problem in Tamil Nadu, the printers also took more time to get the report out. After this we need to get a right chief guest and fix the function. We have crossed all this now, and officially we have stepped into 25th year – our Silver jubilee year!

On such occasions it is nice to sit and recall some events that you can always remember and laugh about.

"Thinking big" has always been my BIG weakness. When a couple of friends and I sat together to discuss about the school we wanted to start, I said we should plan for 1000 students. This was 25 years ago and I was much younger at that time. Our bank balance was almost nothing and we didn't know where the money will come even for the day to day expenses. Obviously there was strong opposition to what I said. But I insisted that we should plan for a big school and then as a group we all went to see a builder. The builder might have thought that few college boys have come to talk to him but when I opened the topic and told him that we needed a plan and estimate to build a school for 1000 kids, he was taken aback. He looked at me with total disbelief and asked me "do you understand what you are talking about?" I said "Yes, very well.

We can have around 30 kids in a class, so we need 33 class rooms, a head master room, two staff rooms, an auditorium, computer lab, labs for physics, chemistry, biology, a library etc., I kept describing my dream school building. The builder said "Yes, you seem to know what you want, but this is going to cost you around one crore (200,000 USD). It doesn't look like you people have that much of money. I take up plan & estimate work only if I am going to get the building contract. Don't waste my time". Then I asked him "How much will it cost to get the plan and estimate ready?" The builder was visibly getting irritated and said "1000 rupees (20 USD)". I said "then it is fine, we have that much money now, so please get the plan and estimate and we will go for the building as soon as we get the rest of the money". After couple of days we got the plan and estimate and we started meeting lot of people, explaining about the project and the need to build a school in Kasuva village.

Today, after 25 years we see that the school for 1000 students is a reality – we have got the building with all the facilities we dreamt of – We even went for a second building with a capacity of 500 – then that also got full and we have a third building now! Our total capacity now is 2000 and we already have 1650 students. May be next year the third building will also overflow.

Are we ready to think about the free rural university for the poor and destitute children?

Thanks & Regards

Murali

Mr. N.Lakshmi Narayanan, Vice Chairman, Cognizant Technology releasing Sevalaya's 24th Annual Report



Inauguration of new Common Kitchen and Dining Hall by Mr. Page Pierre of M/s. Page Pierre Foundation, Switzerland



Public Relations

A Public relations training was organized by Prime Point Foundation on 26/11/2012, at Sevalaya's city office. Mr. Srinivasan, Founder of Prime Point foundation, Mr. Sakthi Prasanna a practicing PR professional, Ms. Bhanu Gomez, spokesperson of India Against Corruption and Mr. Nurulla, veteran journalist handled the sessions. Mr. Narendra, information advisor to four former Prime Ministers and Mr. Ananthapadmanaban of Jaya TV gave useful PR tips over telephone.

Bharathi Team Events

On 06/11/2012, associates of TCS – AXA UK group visited the School.

On 09/11/2012, four staff members visited SBOA Matriculation School to observe classes.

On 10/11/2012, Students and staff of Sri Saraswathi Matriculation School visited Sevalaya and donated gifts in kind for Diwali.

On 10/11/2012, Sevalaya students participated in the Inter school Science Exhibition organized by the School Education department, Government of Tamilnadu. 127 schools participated in the exhibition. Sevalaya won the first prize in both High School and Higher Secondary School categories.

On 14/11/2012, Children's Day was celebrated by the students and staff of Sevalaya in the Children's ward of Thiruvallur Government Hospital.

Mr. R. Vijayaraghavan participated in the Children's Day Celebrations of Sri Sankara Vidyalaya Matriculation School on 14/11/2012. The school presented a cheque as their contribution to the activities of Sevalaya.

On 14/11/2012, an advanced digital literacy program was launched by the KnowIt. Ms. Suguna, (Assoc. Professor of Computer Information Systems UC Clermont College Batavia, USA) released the 'Self learning, user friendly & interactively designed software', which was given free of cost to the students of thirty five schools.

On 15/11/2012, Sevalaya's 24th Annual Day was celebrated. The Vice Chariman of Cognizant Technology Solutions, Mr. N. Lakshmi Narayanan released Sevalaya's 24th Annual Report. The first copy was received by Mr. J.Chandramouli, Executive Vice President of Scope International. Ms. Geetha Karunakaran and Ms. Nagalakshmi of Scope International participated in the function.

Laying of Foundation stone for Sevalaya's ITI building by Mr.Edwin Nevis, CEO, Scope International



Ms. Srimathi Shivashankar, Vice President, HCL Technologies distributing new clothes for Diwali



On 19/11/2012, Head Mistress Mrs. Annapoorna and Asst. Head Mistress Mrs. B.Nirmala received the outstanding school partnership awards from the British Council in a function held in Mumbai.

The foundation stone for the new free Industrial Training Institute of Sevalaya was laid by Mr. Edwin Nevis, CEO of Scope International, on 20/11/2012. The building is sponsored by Scope International.

Prof. R.Jagannathan, Deputy Registrar, Vinayaka Mission University visited Sevalaya on 24/11/2012, and conducted physics classes for the XII Std students.

On 27/11/2012, Mr. Krishna Prasath from Gopalapuram conducted an interactive motivation session to all the X Std students of the school.

Training

On 06/11/2012, Ms. R. Vijaya attended 'Teaching Life skills to the Students' training conducted by the Govt. of Tamilnadu in Thirur DIET premises.

On 08 & 09/11/2012, teachers attended the Govt. training program on how to coach slow learners for board exams.

On 09/11/2012, three teaching faculty of Sevalaya attended the HCL's 'TERI - Go Green' Eco project training program.

On 10/11/2012, twenty staff from various departments of Sevalaya participated in the 'Leadership Training' program conducted by Ms. Srimathi Shivashankar of HCL Technologies.

Sports

On 06/11/2012, students of Sevalaya participated in the sports event organized by Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Poondi and came out with flying colors by bagging both Senior & Super Senior titles.

On 22/11/2012, Rotract Club of Akash organized a Sports Meet "Thiramai por" at Sevalaya Campus in which resident boys & girls participated and won many group events. Sevalaya bagged the 'Overall Championship' among six neighbouring schools.

Gandhi Team Events

On 16/11/2012, 360 kgs of micro nutrients enriched salt was distributed to nearly 520 families in the Vathattur and Magaral villages.



Visit by Sri Saraswathi Mat. School



Outstanding School Partnership award from British Council



Mr.R.Vijayaraghavan at Children's Day Celebrations of Sri Sankara Vidyalaya Mat. School, Pammal



Launching of Advanced Digital Literacy Programme developed by KnowIT

On 25/11/2012, MTS Telecom Company conducted a Campus Recruitment Drive for the Alumni of Sevalaya as well as the Graduate youth in the neighbouring villages. Twenty three willing and eligible candidates were identified and eighteen were selected.

Kottu Murasu

On 11th, 18th and 25/11/2012, Kottumurasu troupe presented cultural programs at Poosalimedu, Pakkam, Thamaraipakkam villages, creating awareness on the dangers of drug addiction.

Medical Camps

On 20/11/2012, a free Eye camp was organized jointly by Scope International and Sankara Nethralaya. Screening was done for the students, senior citizens and staff of Sevalaya. Eighteen Senior Citizens from Old Age Home, four school staff and Sixteen children were given treatment and provided free spectacles.

Mobile Library

The Mobile library visited Poosalaimenu village on 11/11/2012, Pakkam new colony village on 18/11/2012 and Thamaraipakkam perumal Koil Street on 25/11/2012.

Organic Farming

On 20/11/12 sixty staff of Scope International volunteered their services in Sevalaya's Kitchen Garden (around 70 cents) and planted seeds and saplings.

Vivekananda Team

Corporate Visits

On 03/11/2012, Servion Team headed by Mr. Sethuraman visited Sevalaya to explore the possibilities of solarizing the entire campus.

Diwali at Sevalaya

On 10/11/2012, Ms. Srimathi Shivashankar, Vice president of HCL Technologies distributed new clothes for Diwali to the resident Children and Senior Citizens.

Diwali celebrations commenced on the evening of 12/11/2012. The children lighted crackers and had fun. A lively Bhajan Program by Mr. Vaseegaran of "The Art of Living" made the evening more colorful.

On the day of Diwali 13/11/2012, the Alumni of Jaya Engineering College visited Sevalaya and joined the celebrations.

Events

On 03/11/2012, ten resident boys & ten girls participated in the Diwali celebrations organized by Inner Wheel Club of Madras at MGR Janaki College for Women, Chennai.

On 05/11/2012, ten Solar street lights were activated in the premises of Girls Home, Boys Home, Old Age Home & Integrated Home. A permanent solution to the electricity problem has been found and power cuts will not affect the study hours of the resident children.

On 11/11/2012, Sai Nivas group from Perambur conducted an effective Value Education Interactive session for the resident students and exclusive Bhajans to the resident senior citizens.

On 19/11/2012, Mrs. Parameswari and her devotee friends performed Moola Mandhiram recitation and provided Annadhanam in Old Age Home.

On 20/11/2012, the Scope International volunteers distributed Sarees & Dhothis to the residents of Old age home.

On 22/11/2012, twenty resident children participated in the NEETA Talent competition conducted Rotary Club of Madras T Nagar and came out with flying colors.

On 23/11/2012, members of Madras Metro Round Table 95, headed by Mr. Roshan visited the Old Age Home and distributed Provisions worth Rs. 20,000. They also donated Common medications, sarees, lungies & T Shirts to the resident senior citizens.

On 25/11/2012, Mr. Moses Raj and friends presented a Spectacular puppet show, enlightening all the children about healthy food and self-confidence.

On 27/11/2012, on the occasion of Karthigai Deepam the premises of Old Age Home and the Girls Home was decorated with traditional oil lamps.

On 28/11/2012, the New Common Kitchen & Dining Hall with a capacity of 600 people sponsored by Page Pierre Foundation, Switzerland was inaugurated by Mr. Page Pierre.

Training

On 03/11/2012, Mr. K. V. Venkatesh, and Ms. A. Kalaiyarasi attended the Training program on "NGOs Data Base Management in Excel Software" organized by iVolunteer and conducted by Ms. Archana Hari of GiveIndia.

On 11/11/2012, Mr. J.Manivannan attended One day Training on Safety & Defensive Driving conducted by Ingenious Driving Standard Academy.

On 24/11/2012, Mr. K. V. Venkatesh and Ms. U. Radha attended a Training Program for the "Effective usage of PPT by the NGOs" organized by the iVolunteer in Lion Bridge Technologies.

Visit to Places of worship

On 02/11/2012, the resident boys visited the local Vinayagar Temple and the girls visited the local Perumal Temple. On 09/11/2012, the boys visited the Ramanathapuram Vinayaga Temple.

On 19/11/2012 twenty five resident children went to Kandhasashti Thirumana Vizha conducted by the group Valli Devasena in Thiruninravur.



Swami Vivekananda's Karma yoga.

Power of self-restraint

It may look strange when we say one must learn to work. Every one works in some way or the other in this world. What Swamiji means is that one should work to the greatest result. According to Gita efficient work is a science. Swamiji says, "All work is simply to bring out the power of the mind which is already there, to wake up the soul. The power is inside every man; the different works are like blows to bring them out, to cause these giants to wake up."

People work with different motives. Some work for money, some work for power, some others for a place in heaven. There are people who work for fame and leaving their name to be remembered by posterity.

But the best way to work is to work for work's sake. There are people in many countries who work without any motive. They believe in being good and doing good. Is there anything to be gained in such work? Yes. He gains the highest. Unselfishness is more paying. Only, people do not have the patience to practice it. It is more paying from the point of view of health also. Love, Truth and unselfishness are not merely moral figures of speech, but they form our highest ideal... A man who can work for five days, or even five minutes without any selfish motive or whatever...has in him the capacity to become a powerful moral giant...self restraint is a manifestation of greater power than all

outgoing action. A carriage with four horses may rush down a hill unrestrained, or the coachman may curb the horses. Which is the greater manifestation of power, to let them go or hold them? A cannon- ball flying through the air goes a long distance and falls. Another is cut short in its flight by striking against a wall, and the impact generates intense heat.

All outgoing energy following a selfish motive is frittered away; it will not cause power to return to you; but, if restrained, it will result in development of power. This self-control will tend to produce a mighty will, a character which makes a Christ or a Buddha.

Foolish men do not know this secret; the majority of us cannot see beyond a few steps. Just a little narrow circle-that is our world. We have not the patience to look beyond, and thus become immoral and wicked. This is our weakness and our powerlessness.

(Ref: CW 1-Pages 32&33)

SPONSORSHIP DETAILS

SPONSORSHIP	CHILDREN HOME		OLD AGE HOME	
	Contribution(Rs)	Endowment(Rs)	Contribution(Rs)	Endowment(Rs)
FOOD				
Milk(One Time)	500	7000	200	3200
Breakfast(one day)	1000	14000	500	7000
Lunch/Dinner	2000	28000	1000	14000
Lunch/Dinner with sweet or fruit	2500	35000	1250	20000
Fullday food Expenses	3500	50000	2000	28000
Fullday food Expenses with sweet or fruit	5000	70000	3000	42000
Residential Expenses for one Child/one child/one Grandpa/year	6000	80000		
Maintenance of One Cow/year	6000	80000		
Education Expenses for one Child/year	6000	80000		
Salary for one staff per month	5000	850000		
Funeral Expenses for one Grandpa/one Grandma	5000	70000		
Cultural Expenses for one child/one Grandpa/one Grandma	1000	14000		
Medical Expenses for one child	500	7000		
Medical Expenses for one Grandpa/one Grandma	5000	70000		
Educational Aids Educational Kits	500	7000		
Sports Expenses for one child per year	500	7000		
Camps and Tours, Temple Visit for one child/one Grandpa/one Grandma	1000	14000		
Higher Education	20000	300000		
Professional Higher Education	50000	700000		
Workshop/Training/for one Staff	2000	28000		

Sevalaya winning the overall championship in Thirumai por conducted by Rotract club of Akash



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DONATION FORM

(Donations to School, Children's Home and Old Age Home qualify for 100% exemption under section 35 AC and Rest 50% under section 80G of Income Tax Act, India)

Name : _____

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E-mail Address : _____ I hereby enclose my donation of _____

Please make your donation payable by cheque to **SEVALAYA** and send to:

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