sevalava LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

JUNE 2018

And the success story continues... 100% pass in XI and 99.2% pass in X and XII Std



Students eagerly checking the results

The searing heat of Chennai in May was just not felt at the Sevalaya campus at Kasuva as the results started coming in. The new arrangements made by the Tamilnadu government made it possible to download the results of the Std X, XI and XII Board in the school itself. On 16th May 2018 when the XII results were declared the whole place was ringing with the sounds of joy and laughter as

123 out of 124 students had successfully cleared the exams with excellent marks. 82% of the students secured first division marks and 20% of these students scored more than 80%.

The Kasuva centre wore a festive look again on 23rd May 2018 when the X Std results were announced. 128 out of 129 students passed with more than 64% scoring first division marks of whom

26% scored more than 75%.

The icing on the cake was the 100% pass in XI std results of which were declared on 30th May 2018. All the 138 students were successful and 6 of them had scored above 80%.

No small achievement considering the fact that many of these students live in small single room houses with no special facilities for studying. These children also have to help out their parents, who mostly work as daily wage earners and struggle to keep the family afloat.

The credit for this achievement definitely goes to the unstinted support of wellwishers, philanthropists and corporates. The teachers of Sevalaya spared no efforts to coach the children and spent extra hours in the mornings, evenings and all holidays to sit with their wards and patiently guide them at their own pace. In the evenings many houses have drunken parents creating a nuisance and children are able to study only because they remain at school with their teachers. Snacks from the dining hall gives them energy and the teachers' presence, a world of comfort where they forget about all the troubles at home and concentrate on their studies.

Page Pierre Foundation and RR Donnelly donate a bus each



Senior citizens in the bus donated by Page Pierre Foundation

Sevalaya received 2 buses as donation- a 30 seater from Page Pierre Foundation, a long standing donor and another 30



Flagging off the bus donated by R R Donnelly

seater from RR Donnelly an integrated communications company. These buses will be used to transport students of

Sevalaya to various educational and cultural events and also to take senior citizens to various events and temple visits.

During weekends, Sevalaya plans to utilize the bus to conduct study/cultural tours for the high school and higher secondary school students to places of tourism/historical/cultural importance in Thiruvallur and Chennai districts. The bus will also be used to transport the students to various sports competitions around Thiruvallur and Chennai districts.

Joy of giving: the way of life

Once again Sevalaya children have proved that underprivileged children from the villages can do equally well in academics if proper facilities are given to them. A school with proper classrooms, laboratories, equipment, books, note books, other learning kits, library and above all caring teachers, will make sure that children who have lost both parents, children with single parents, children from broken families, children from bonded labour families, children who have criminal background and left under the care of Sevalaya under Juvenile Justice act, children from very poor village families can also do well in 10th, 11th and 12th grade exams.

Sevalaya has achieved 100% result in 11^{th} grade (138/138) and 99.2% results in 10^{th} grade (126/127) and 12^{th} grade (123/124) this year.

The achievement assumes significance, considering the background of the

students of the school, most of whom are first generation learners. This has been possible only with the support of donors like you who can experience the joy of giving, when your contributions have made a positive change in the lives of the under privileged children.

Sevalaya thanks you for your continuous support in the last 30 years. This year also we have 2000+ such children, who need your support. To get the initial requirements of two sets of uniforms, notebooks and other educational kits, we need an average of ₹1000 per child. To support a child for one year for education, it will cost ₹8000 per child. If you prefer to create an educational endowment to support one child permanently, it will cost ₹1,00,000.

You may send cheque drawn in favour of Sevalaya to our city office address :

No 54 P S Sivaswami Salai North, Mylapore Chennai – 600004. You can also directly transer your contributions to our bank accounts details of which are provided below:

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS:

Account Name: SEVALAYA Account No: 218601000134 Bank: ICICI BANK Branch: Mylapore Chennai - 600004 IFSC CODE: ICIC0002186

Account Name: SEVALAYA Account No: 029101000008743 Bank: INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK Branch: Dr. R K Salai Branch (EE Road Branch), Chennai - 600004 IFSC Code: IOBA0000291

For further information please visit **www.sevalaya.org**

Thanks & Regards

Sevalaya Murali

Welcome to Sevalaya family



Ganesh R, AVP, Donor Relations

Ganesh R alias GaneshKrishnan, a commerce graduate and a Postgraduate Diploma holder in Materials Management, has 23+ years of rich exposure in the field of Materials Planning and Stores towards automotive applications, Sales & Marketing and administration. He is a classical dancer, singer, writer with many performances all over India to his credit. He is also the recipient of best dancer Award from Tamilnadu Government at World Tamil Conference year 1995 from then Chief Minister of Tamilnadu. He has received various awards for Social service especially from APJ Abdul Kalam Trust.

He is an "A" Grade National Corps Cadet and has headed the team at Republic day parade at New Delhi. A social activist, field worker, fund raiser for charities and a person with wide network in various fields, Ganesh has joined Sevalaya as Associate Vice President- Donor Relations.



Rakesh S, AVP, Operations

Rakesh S, hold a Master's Degree in Communication from Madras Christian College, Chennai and has ten years of work experience in the fields of Administration, Marketing and Team Management, liaisoning with Govt. Depts.(State & Central Govt), Educational Institutions and Corporate Companies.

Rakesh was the Project coordinator for SDI-MES (Skill Development Initiative-Modular Employable Skills) and Enterpreneurship Awareness camps. He also has experience in monitoring the PMEGP (Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme) beneficiaries Units and Banks across Tamilnadu and Puducherry on behalf of Khadi and Village Industries Commission(KVIC). Now Rakesh has joined Sevalaya as Associate Vice President Operations, coordinating the operations of community colleges in all locations other than Kasuva.



Rangarajan M N, AVP, Operations

M N Rangarajan, Masters in Social Work, from Madras School of Social Work, has 22 years of experience in various NGOS. He has been involved in the formation of Women Self Help Groups, Awareness and capacity building of women on socio and economic developments aspects, Agriculture Development, Soil and water conservation, and networking with other NGOs. He has also been responsible for the effective implementation of Health, Education and Lively hood, economic enhancement program for the Tsunami affected villages in Thiruvallur District.

Rangarajan also has rich experience in implementation of Health care projects in the areas of sanitation and safe drinking water, Early Childhood Nutrition, Anaemia and Rural Medical Camps and SHG Health Training. He also has experience in administration, documentation, and measuring achievements and impact. He has joined Sevalaya as Associate Vice President Operations – Kasuva.

Sports Camp in Summer Sharpening the skills to achieve national level



Cross country jogging

Sevalaya has a dream - a dream to prepare our students to achieve National level in sports in the current year. The organisation is in the process of preparing the ground for this. There is an increased emphasis on sports activities. All facilities, including infrastructure, training, ensuring physical fitness are all provided to the children. Every year a sports camp is conducted in summer, in which more focussed and special training is provided to the children talented in sports.

This year the Summer Sports camp was held from 23rd April 18 to 12th May 18. Sevalaya's PT Masters A Sankarapandian, Kalirajan, Saravanan, Volleyball coach and and Elanchezhian Athletic coach were the trainers. 75 children participated in the camp.

During the camp, the day started with regular physical exercises and fitness work out sessions. This was followed by training in athletics - sprint, jump events, and throw events, Handball, volleyball and basketball. The students also went for cross country jogging. The students were also shown videos of the final events in the recently concluded



Common Wealth Games, followed by a discussion on the same.

Sevalaya alumnus Pradeep who is a member of the Periyar University Hand ball team and has represented the State, along with his friends who are also University players visited the camp and shared their experiences with the students.

Kavitha, A Sevalaya aulmna who is now a student of Sports Development Authority of Tamilnadu (SDAT) hostel also visited the camp and spoke to the students.

Nutritious food like Soya Chunks, dates , chappathies and milk and ragimalt were

regularly provided to the camp students.

Jerseys and shorts were distributed to all the participants. This was sponsored by T Nagaraj, Lakshmi and family, donors from Madurai.

The valedictory function of the camp was held on 12th May 2018. Olympic Gold medallist V Bhaskaran, Former Captain of the Indian Hockey team which won Gold in Olympics 1980, was the Chief Guest. Very much impressed and moved by the services of Sevalaya, especially the importance given to Sports, he assured unconditional help to the organisation for any of their requirements in Sports, both financial and networking. Dr Bohra Sports Academy sponsored the certificates and Best Player Awards for 10 top students in the camp. The Chairman of the Academy, Rahul Bohra, distributed the certificates and the awards.

26 students from Sevalaya (14 boys and 12 girls) who have reached the regional level in athletics, participated in the World Beaters Talent Spotting scheme by the Sports Development Authority of Tamilnadu (SDAT). The scheme implemented by SDAT is to spot the promising talent in sports among students of Std VI to VIII. It was a residential camp from 2nd May to 16th May 2018. In these camps talented boys and girls are identified and trained for state selection trails.



Sports camp participants with Olympic gold medalist V Baskaran

"The daily routine of physical fitness was very useful. They also taught us about sportsman discipline."

M Surya, VIII D

"The exercise sessions and fitness schedule in the camp was very good. We were told about the exercise schedules to be followed pre meet, during the meet and post meet."

S Sharmila, VIII B

30th Birthday celebrations



D Sathya (1 year experience), Office Assitant, Ambattur receiving Best employee award

Birthdays are special occasions with friends and family gathering together celebrating the event with joy, fun and laughter. Lavish feasts are prepared and people enjoy the tasty food in the company of their near and dear ones. Memories, old stories are recollected and shared.

8th May saw a similar celebration at Sevalaya, being the 30th birthday of the organisation. Sevalaya was registered as an NGO in May 1988 and started with 5 orphans in a small rented accommodation. Today it has grown into a sprawling complex at Kasuva benefitting thousands of people in various ways and spreading branches at Vadanallur, Mambakkam, Ambattur, Thirumalaivaiyavur and Thanjavur. New centres at Tirunelveli, Gunipalayam and Pondicherry are on the anvil.



R Rizwana Sultana (5 years experience), Admin Assistant, Chennai sharing positive experience at Sevalaya

The inspiration of Bharathi, Gandhi and Vivekananda has seen activities in the educational, village development and social security fields growing with each passing year, addressing the needs of the rural underprivileged, bringing about positive changes in their lives.

Staff from all the centres, advisors and trustees got together at Kasuva to celebrate the day which started with prayers and Gau pooja at Vinoba Bhave Gaushala. The bakery students and staff had baked a large cake for this big family of nearly 300 people and the brightly decorated Kasuva premises resonated with joyous cheers as it was cut.

The staff of Sevalaya then shared their experiences with the organisation highlighting the positive impacts of the year that had gone by, the joy they had experienced working for the

Book reviews at Gandhi Study centre



S Kanchana speaking on Gandhi and Vallalar

S Kanchana, Sevalaya's Primary School Assistant Headmistress, spoke on Vallalar and Gandhi, at the Wednesday Study Circle Meet conducted by Gandhi Study Centre, a Chennai based Gandhian organisation at its campus at Thakkar



K Muthuramakrishnan, Advisor Sevalaya reviewing Vazhi Vazhi Bharathi

Bapa Vidyalaya T Nagar on 2nd May 2018.

On 9th May 2018, K Muthuramakrishnan, Sevalaya Advisor reviewed the book *Vazhi Vazhi Bharathi* at the same forum. organization and hilarious incidents they had experienced. Some staff members broke into spontaneous songs, a few recited verses they had penned while hostel students gave a colourful cultural performance. The entire place brimmed with positivity with everyone pledging their commitment to take the services to the next level.

The morning hours flew by and then the big family had a special healthy lunch of deliciously cooked millets of various kinds. The dining hall was filled with youngsters from the homes, senior citizens, staff and management representatives having their lunch together. This was followed by an all staff meeting after which everyone dispersed to their various areas with renewed energy and enthusiasm to continue to serve with a smile.

Alumni wins Gold medal at Madras University



S Janakiraman receiving gold medals at the hands of Ram Nath Kovind His Excellency the President of India

Alumni S Janakiraman won 2 Gold medals 1 for distinction and 1 for being Madras University topper in B A History at the hands of Ram Nath Kovind, His Excellency the President of India. Son of a vegetable vendor, Janakiraman, completed Std XII from Sevalaya and graduated from DRBCC Hindu College, Pattabiram, affiliated to Madras University. He recollects with pride and gratitude, the various opportunities that were open to him at Sevalaya to participate in various essay competitions, oratorical competitions etc,

Janakiraman is now pursuing Masters in History. His aim is to join the Indian Administrative Service.

Inspired by Sevalaya Janakiraman runs a free tuition centre at in Kizhakondaiyar village, Thiruvallur.

Summer camps and activities

The organic farm at Sevalaya had a totally new look on, 28th April 2018. 52 Young men and women from city, were seen busy at the farm, removing weeds, plucking tomatoes and green chillies etc., These are the youngsters from IT industry-LTI, who volunteered at the organic farms. The youngsters enjoyed their work and were able to appreciate the labour of the farmers.

On 25th and 26th April 2018, 82 volunteers from BNY Mellon prepared around 230



Greeting cards for Sevalaya. This Greeting card making activity happened in BNY Mellon office at DLF IT Park. Sevalaya will use these cards to send Season's Greetings to donors.

47 volunteers from BNY Mellon visited Sevalaya on 28th April 2018 and conducted a one day camp in which 100 students of Sevalaya Homes participated with enthusiasm. The volunteers taught the students to make sandwiches. They then screened animation movies which the children thoroughly enjoyed. The children also sang songs and played indoor games with the volunteers. The day of fun filled activities was a memorable one for the children and the volunteers.



On 11th May 2018, 7 BNY volunteers conducted soft skills training for alumni of Sevalaya. They spoke to the alumni on how to prepare for interviews, how to face the interview committee etc.,

On 19th May 2018, 7 volunteers from BNY visited Sevalaya to conduct an introductory session of SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Threat) analysis training for the resident children. It was an ice breaking session. The session began with the volunteers asking the children to introduce themselves. They then conducted games to break the ice. A brief introductory talk on SWOT was given. The volunteers then screened motivational speech videos of former President of India Late Dr A P J Kalam. 37 resident children participated in this.

"I enjoyed working in the organic farm. I thank LTI for giving me this opportunity to participate in CSR camp. One can really serve the country either by joining Army or by becoming a farmer. I am glad that Sevalaya has adopted organic farming. I appreciate the services of Sevalaya in providing free education to the poor and a peaceful Home to the destitute elders in the last days of their life."

Rakshitha H E, Graduate Engineering Trainee, LTI

Healthcare and earth care in villages...



Tree plantation by Asian Paints team

Sevalaya is partnering with Asian Paints in implementation of their CSR programme Vision turns One for rural development.

On 7th April 2018 a general medical camp was conducted in Melari village, Sriperumbudur Taluk. 66 people were benefitted. Medicines were given free. The doctors also spoke to the villagers about the importance of maintaining good health and hygiene.

20 tree saplings were planted and tree guards placed at the Govt. Higher Secondary School at Pullalur village in Kanchipuram district. 4 volunteers from Asian Paints also participated in the activity. A vermicompost manure pit was also dug in the school premises, to produce organic manure.

Training on paper bag making



Students learning to make paper bags

71 volunteers from Standard Chartered Global Business Solutions (SCGBS) landed at Sevalaya on 27th April 2018. They had planned various activities for the children. Many games were conducted. The volunteers then taught the children to make paper bags, an eco friendly alternative to the plastic bags. 80 students participated with enthusiasm in these activities.

"I was very happy when I made a paper bag with the help of volunteers. It was a nice experience to me. I am interested in craft activities. I learned a new thing today. It was very easy to make paper bags. I enjoyed the session and the volunteers are very friendly. This summer is an unforgettable one for me."

A Mohana, VI B

ISACA sponsors girl's education



Radha Srinivasan, VP Donor Relations, Sevalaya receiving sponsorship cheque from ISACA

ISACA is a global association helping individuals and enterprises achieve the positive potential of technology. She Leads Tech is an initiative from ISACA, with the aim to increase the representation of women in tech leadership role and tech workforce. They have organized a program and cover cost raised has been donated to Sevalaya for the purpose of educating 5 girl children.

A new lease of life...

- M Harikrishna

Like a replanted uprooted tree slowly spreading its roots M Harikrishna is slowly finding his feet and settling down to steady life on his own. His father, a carpenter deserted his mother and her two kids in 2006. His mother admitted her son and daughter in a hostel in Ponneri in 2006 but never came to visit her children till 2010. She came in 2010 and took her daughter with her to Bangalore but has not contacted her son.

A small step, a big dream, a giant leap for the community

- V Devi

V Devi, belonging to the gypsy (narikurava) community created history in her small group by scoring 403 out of 500 in the X board exams.

46 gypsy families live near Tamaraipakkam kootu road, many of them in small thatched huts. They earn their living by selling fancy items in the different villages or during various village festivals. They purchase items like clips, bangles, combs etc at the wholesale markets in Chennai and carry them to various places.

Only 50% of the children in this group are interested in studies and very few among them desire to pursue higher education and Devi is one of them. She joined Sevalaya in 6th standard. "I enjoy the classes. Teachers are always ready to clear doubts and give extra coaching," says Devi. She attributes her success to the guidance given by teachers. She assiduously followed their instructions,



She did not meet her son even during that visit. Hari assumes that his sister must now be in X.

Hari completed his XII from Government Boy's Higher Secondary School, Ponneri and as advised by the Child welfare committee, Thiruvallur, joined Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College in 2017. He completed his electrician course which included internship at Sevalaya under the maintenance team. A cheerful, good worker he won the hearts of all at Sevalaya when he voluntarily came forward to donate his first month's stipend to the organization.

Hari likes the hostel where he has been staying since he came, especially the head warden Krishnaswamy who has taken him under his wings, guiding and mentoring him. He gives the entire credit for shaping his career to Krishnaswamy whom he addresses as Appa. He enjoys working with Sevalaya's maintenance team and puts in his best efforts in completing any assigned task. He enjoys the team spirit and bonhomie in the campus especially working for the 5S project in the various areas of the campus. He wants to meet his parents and tell them proudly that he has got a good job with an organization like Sevalaya.



doing self -study late into the night, completing the assignments given for the day. In their small two roomed house she shares with 6 other members of her family, she says would sit in the small puja room studying while the rest of the family would be in the other room watching TV, cooking and sharing the day's experiences. Devi aspires to become a doctor. She especially likes the Old Age Home as it caters to the needs of senior citizens and wants to help people after she completes her studies.

Children's trip to Vandaloor Zoo



Its vacation time and everyone is out with family, friends going on trips to exotic locations/hill stations for that much deserved break. Every child looks forward eagerly to these two months of freedom from the routine of school, books and homework and the residents of Sevalaya's homes are no different. The excitement o the last day of exams can be

Elders' trip to Beach

21 elders along with 2 staff went to Ashtalakshmi Koil and Velankaani church on 11th May 2018. After visiting the temple and church they spent some time in the Beach enjoying the pleasant cool breeze, a welcome change from the hot days.

Sevalaya organises temple visits for children and elders every week. Around 20 to 25 elders who are able to walk without much difficulty go on these visits. This month they went to Shiva temple and Anjaneyar temple at Pakkam near Sevalaya. The elders however wanted a break from the local trips and were

Heartfulness Meditation



Meditation session in progress

felt by everyone, an undefined energy of thrill and excitement. But then the home children settle down to a new routine. No classes or school and in its place daily sports camp and more hours of play. At such times trips sponsored by wellwishers/organizations/individuals come as a welcome break from the routine with an anticipation of joy and thrills. 10th May 2018 was one such day when 120 Children along with 6 staff went to Vandalur Zoo, a programme sponsored by Raindrops. Siripananda's laughter Yoga session set the mood for the day and had the children rolling with laughter. After a refreshing snacks of juice and biscuits the children joined the wild lion safari, deer safari and saw tigers, white tiger, chimpanzee etc., covering a major part of the zoo in the morning itself. The joy of being outdoors in the company of friends and well-wishers made them forget the heat and time. After lunch they saw the snakes, birds and fishes in covered enclosures. Soon the day came to an end and the Raindrops team sent them home with small gifts. It was a special day for the children thanks to the initiative of Raindrops.

Bharathi said that she is going to Vandaloor zoo for the first time and did not expect see so many wild animals here. She said she enjoyed this trip a lot.

Magic Show



Sevalaya children volunteering at magic show

The very word MAGIC casts its spell on everyone irrespective of age .This summer holidays saw 71 Children and 12 elders enjoying a Magic Show organized by Abbas Cultural Academy on 13th May 2018 at Mylapore Fine arts club. This programme was conducted P M Mithra, a very popular magician. A few children had been lucky to see a similar show last year but there were many children who were seeing such a show for the first time. 3 girls got an opportunity to be with the great magician and be a part of his tricks.



Elders enjoying at the beach

longing for an outside trip. The Eliot beach trip was an enjoyable, pleasant experience for all of them.

53 teachers attended the Heartfulness Meditation programme conducted by Sahaj Marg Spirituality Foundation at Kozhundalur village, Thiruvallur on 23rd May 2018. After a half an session of meditation, the participants were divided into 5 groups. Each group had a mentor from the foundation who spoke to them about the benefits of Heartfulness Meditation and how it helps to reduce stress, develop patience, manage anger, and improve clarity in thinking. This will have a positive impact on the students.

The Great Trial (1922)

Gandhiji's decision to withdraw the Bardoli programme emboldened the Government. They were waiting for the opportune time to arrest him. Expecting this Gandhiji wrote: "I desire that people should maintain self-control and consider the day of my arrest, a day of rejoicing. The Government believes that I am the soul of all this agitation and that if I am removed it will be left in peace. The only thing that remains is for it to measure the strength of people Let the people preserve perfect peace and calmness."

Gandhiji was arrested, as expected, and made to face trial before Justice Broomfield. The offences were three articles in Young India "Tampering with Loyalty", "Puzzle and its Solution", and "Shaking the Manes."

Gandhiji pleaded guilty to the charges. He made a statement, in which he inter alia said," I hold it to be disaffected towards a government which in its totality has done more harm to India than any previous system. India is less manly under British rule than she ever was before. Holding such a belief, I consider it to be a sin to have affection for the system. And it has been a precious privilege for me to be able to write what I have in the various articles tendered in evidence against me..

.. In my humble opinion, non-co-operation with evil is as much a duty as it is cooperation with good. But in the past, non-co-operation has been deliberately expressed in violence to the evil -doer. I am endeavouring to show to my country men, that violent non-co-operation only multiplies evil, and that as evil can only be sustained by violence, withdrawal of support of evil requires complete abstention from violence. Non-violence implies voluntary submission to the penalty for non-co-operation with evil. I am, here, therefore, to invite and submit cheerfully to the highest penalty that can be inflicted upon me what in law is deliberate crime, and what appears to me to be the highest duty of a citizen.

The only course open to you, the judge and the assessors, is either to resign your posts and thus dissociate yourselves from evil, if you feel that the law that you are called upon to administer is an evil, and that in reality I am innocent, or to inflict upon me the severest penalty, if you believe that the system and the law you are assisting to administer are good for the people of the country, and my activity, is therefore, injurious to the common weal."

The judge passed upon Gandhiji a simple imprisonment of six years citing the precedent of the case against Bal Gangadhar Tilak. He hastened to add that he was doing this as it was his duty to do so. "If the course of events in India should make it possible for the Government to reduce the period and release you, no one will be better pleased than I." observed the judge. Gandhiji expressed his happiness at being compared with Bal Gangadhar Tilak. Gandhiji was incarcerated in Yerawada prison.

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