



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

MARCH 2019

15 Lacs worth relief kits, now houses for Gaja victims

Sevalaya's services reached the victims of Gaja within 24 hours of the cyclone striking. Food being the prime need of the hour, for the initial week, 6000 food packets were delivered every day from Sevalaya's Old Age Home at Thanjavur to the affected areas in the district.

Sevalaya and Ford joined hands to provide ₹ 7 lacs worth relief kits to the victims. Each kit consisted of non perishable items like bedsheets, tarpaulin to cover the roof, buckets, mugs, sanitary napkins, notebooks and stationery items. Totally, relief materials worth ₹ 15 lacs were distributed

On 17th February 2019, Sevalaya, in association with Financial Software Systems Limited, laid foundation stones for construction of four houses at a cost of ₹ 5 lacs for four families who lost their huts in the cyclone at Andinatham Village in Orathanadu, Thanjavur.

Three widowed women and a physically challenged man, who are the sole



Beneficiaries of Sevalaya FSS House Construction Project at Andinatham village, Orathanadu

breadwinners for their families are the beneficiaries of the project.

Thavathiru Thiruvadikudil Swamigal laid the foundation stone. S Geetha, Headmistress of the Primary School C Marimuthu, Ex Panchayat Vice President of Aandinatham Village and many villagers participated in the celebrations.

"My husband was an alcoholic and he committed suicide. Me and my son and daughter work for daily wages. We lost our hut in the cyclone. Thanks to Sevalaya for providing us a Home.

Mariyammal K, Beneficiary

Page Pierre Foundation sponsors infrastructure upgrade at Kasuva



Prof. Daniel Oyon inaugurating the reading room

On 4th February 2019, Page Pierre, Founder and Professor Daniel Oyon, Consultant of Page Pierre Foundation, a long standing donor of Sevalaya visited Kasuva centre to inaugurate the 4 projects sponsored by the Foundation - a reading room with audio visual facilities at the school library, renovation of the Boys and Girls hostels, Montessori kits

and a bus exclusively for the budding sports persons of Sevalaya to attend training sessions/competitions.

The reading room is presently well equipped with furniture, a TV and a Computer for the students. More books in pdf are made available to be projected and viewed in the screen.

Shelter has been provided covering the walking path connecting the hostels and dining room, so that the corridor can be used for reading purpose and more over the residents can reach the dining hall to have dinner without getting drenched on rainy days.

Montessori Wing has always been a pride of Sevalaya. The new kits supplied will be of great help to the kids.

With more focus on Sports, Sevalaya students have achieved success at Zonal, District and State Level in various games

and events. The students participate in various competitions in and around the city. The students also have rigorous practice sessions after school hours. The bus sponsored by Page Pierre Foundation is of great help to transport the students to the various competitions also drop them back home after their practice sessions.



Page Pierre and Daniel Oyon take a ride in the new bus

Joy of giving: the way of life

Dear Friends,

Abirami, when she was around five years old, lost both her parents in quick succession. She and her elder brother were left under Sevalaya's care, by the villagers and some distant relatives. From then on she grew up as a cheerful person, forgetting her past. She was very good in drawing and painting. She was good in singing and dancing too.

After her 12th grade in school, it was decided to put her in fine arts college and educate her in the field she was interested in. She wanted to take up drawing as her career but came to me and asked "Is this going to be very expensive? How will you manage?". I told her that cost need not be her concern, and Sevalaya with the support of donors admitted her into a professional course in fine arts college in city. She had to get ready very early, catch a bus to the railway station and then a train to come

into city and then reach the college.

Many occasions, the breakfast will not be ready when she leaves at 6 AM. Despite us telling her to eat out the poor girl will skip breakfast saying, "This is public money, we have to be very careful".

After she completed the four year professional course, we offered her a job in Sevalaya school as drawing teacher. She was very happy to work in the same school where she studied, where she lived all her life.

When she was in college, she met Prabhakaran, a Keyboard artist, her co passenger in train. They got closer and fell in love. Few months ago, Abirami told me about this. Then we made enquiries about the boy, his family background etc. We went and met his parents and broke the news. The boy's parents also came to Sevalaya to see the "home" of the girl. After discussions it has been decided to have the wedding on 8th May 2019, in

Sevalaya Kasuva village campus.

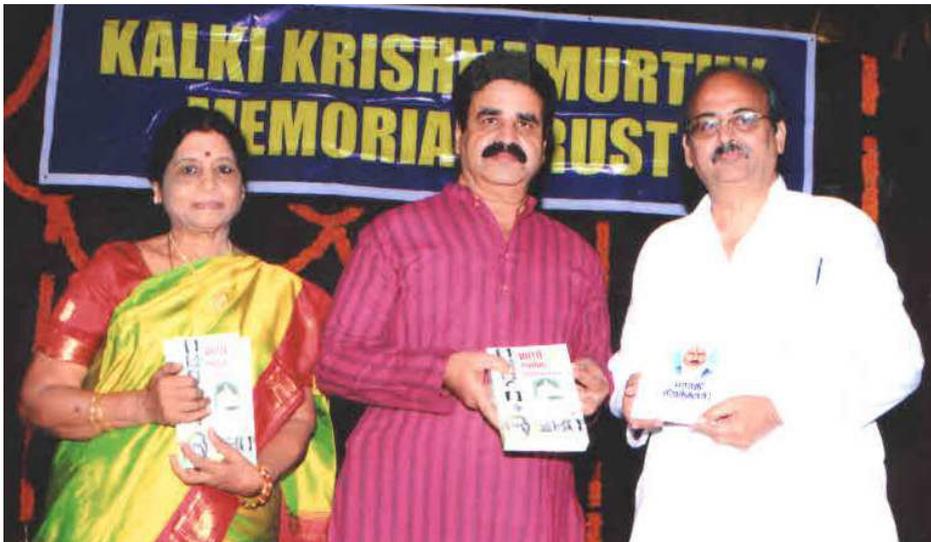
We have conducted such marriages in the past. Our donors helped us in meeting the wedding expenses and also presented gifts to the new couple to start their life. In Indian custom, there is a big list of things to be done for the wedding - by parents, brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles. Yes, big list of relatives and bigger list of gifts! In this case, it will be all Sevalaya and its donors - we have to play the role of parents, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts etc. Hope all of you are ready to contribute.

Inviting you to the wedding of Abirami, daughter of Sevalaya, on 8th May 2019, at Sevalaya Kasuva campus, Thiruninravur, Thiruvallur dist. Please come, join the wedding celebrations and bless the couple.

Thanks and Regards

Sevalaya Murali

"Perpetuate Bharathi's memory in Kadayam"- Sevalaya Murali



From L to R Lalitha Sivakumar, Vocalist, S Chandramouli, Trustee, Kalki Memorial Foundation, Sevalaya Murali

Sevalaya Muralidharan was the Chief Guest at the Kalki Memorial Day organised by Kalki Krishnamurthy Memorial Trust on 26th January 2019.

He released the second edition of the books - *Bharathi Pirandhar* and *Yaar indha manithargal?* authored by the popular writer, freedom fighter and journalist, R Krishnamurthy, popularly known as Kalki. The first copy was received by noted Carnatic Vocalist, Lalitha Sivakumar.

In his speech Sevalaya Murali recalled Kalki's devotion for Gandhiji, which made

him give up his studies when he was a student and resign his position as a very successful editor of the popular magazine *Ananda Vikatan* later, in response to the Mahatma's call. He never thought for a moment about his future.

Speaking about the power of Kalki's writings, Muralidharan mentioned that once when Kalki visited Ettayapuram, the birthplace of Mahakavi Bharathiyar, some youth in the town approached him with a request to help them create a library in memory of the poet.

Kalki wrote about it in his magazine and

support poured in. ₹ 45,000 was collected (in the year 1945) in response to Kalki's appeal. Kalki had to make another appeal to the readers to stop sending contributions as more than enough money had been collected.

What started off as an effort to create a library ended up with the construction of a Manimandapam for the Mahakavi. A bank deposit in the name of Chellammal Bharathi was also created out of the amount that remained so that she could receive quarterly interest from the deposit.

"True to the adage 'History repeats itself', a similar opportunity has come now.

Recently I visited Ravanamudram village in Tirunelveli, for the inauguration of Sevalaya's community college. Some youth from the near by village Kadayam, the birthplace of Chellammal Bharathi met me with requests to arrange for celebrating the wedding anniversary of Chellammal and Bharathi on June 27th every year, erect statues of Bharathi and Chellammal and create a museum in Kadayam, in memory of the illustrious son in law and daughter of the village.

Now I am taking this opportunity to make an appeal to the readers of Kalki and the public at large to support Sevalaya achieve this." he concluded.

Children's creativity on display...



R Srinivasa Raghavan, Principal, Bala Vidya, Mandir, Adyar, inaugurating the Montessor Exhibition

R Srinivasa Ragavan, Principal, Bala Vidya Mandir, Chennai was the Chief Guest

at the Montessori exhibition held at Kasuva centre on 12th February 2019.

Hindu Spiritual and Service Fair *Mathru Pithru Pooja Diwas*

Sevalaya put up a stall at the 10th Hindu Spiritual and Service Fair 2019 (HSSF) held at Gurunank Collge from 30th January 2019 to 4th February 2019. Many craft items were on display at the stall.

Sevalaya got an opportunity to meet thousands of visitors who thronged the fair and spread the message about the service activities of the organisation and seek support.

Sevalaya students were part of the group that performed Moovarnam Dance drama at the fair, along with the students of Dhatchayani Ramachandran of Nrithyaarpana Dance School.



Swami Vimurthanandaji Maharaj at Sevalaya Stall at the HSSF 2019

Parents worship day or *Mathru Pithru Pooja Diwas* was observed at Sevalaya on 3rd February 2019. The children expressed their love and reverence for their mothers by performing Pooja in the traditional way to their parents. It was an emotionally charged event and both the parents and children were seen with tear filled eyes. The resident children who had no parents, performed pooja to the wardens.



Children performing Pooja to parents

Such expression of love and affection deepens the bond between the children and the parents/wardens which provides an healthy atmosphere for the children to grow.

An Yoga session was held and the day ended with a festive lunch for the parents and the children.

Inaugurating the exhibition he said "The motto of education should not be adding a mere degree as a suffix to the name but building up good character and strong moral values. The responsibility for this has to be shouldered by the teachers as well as parents".

Models made out of sand, wooden saw, cotton and wet clay were examples of the children's creativity and extensive innovative talents. Impressed by the talents of the tiny tots the Chief Guest added "Sevalaya provides abundant opportunities for the rural underprivileged children which is highly commendable".

Srinivasa Raghavan presented a washing machine to the Old Age Home, solar water heater to the hostel and an ECG monitor to the Medical Centre, donated by the students of Bala Vidya Mandir.

Pasam train friends



Children at competitions by *Pasam* Train friends

Pasam Train friends is an association of people who regularly travel together by train in the route Pattabiram siding to Chennai Central for the past 18 years. *Pasam*, the acronym for (Pattabiram siding Avadi Madras) interestingly is also a Tamil word which means 'affection'.

For the past 18 years, the association members spend a day at Sevalaya interacting with the children and senior citizens.

This year 20 members with their families visited Sevalaya on 27th January 2019. They conducted games and competitions for the children Prizes were distributed to the winners.

They also sponsored festive lunch for the residents.

Motivational programme for facing exams fearlessly



Samadharna Pandian MHM B.Ed, conducting motivational session

A motivating programme on how to face board exams without fear was the theme of the event *Achcham Thavir* conducted at Kasuva Campus on 9th February

2019. 400 students of Stds X XI and XII attended the session. The programme was conducted by Samadharna Pandian MHM B.Ed, Section Officer, Co-operative

Food and Consumer Production Department, Ramya Ashok, Founder, Ramya Educational and Charitable Trust, Chennai and G V Kumar M.H.S., MBA, PhD, Psychiatrist, Chennai.

Ramya Ashok focussed on how to face the board exams fearlessly. Techniques to plan, study, manage time, set goals and achieve them were the points discussed by her in the interaction. She also provided tips to read and memorize easily. Psychiatrist G V Kumar presented a simple formula on how to study effectively. "40 minutes must be allotted for a topic - 20 minutes for reading it, 15 minutes for recalling the bullet points and 5 minutes for writing them down for practice" he suggested.

In the final session, a video clipping of Nick Vujicic, a man born without arms and legs and who is a world renowned motivational speaker, was screened which proved to be a morale booster for the participants.

City kids discover village life



63 students of Stds III to IX and teachers from The Velammal International School, Mugalivakkam visited Sevalaya on 16th February 2019. The trip was organised by my Harvest, an organization that connects people closer to farming and good food under the programme "Reconnect to Nature." The students went around the campus and interacted with the residents. V Nithya of Gaushala team and D Munirathnam of Agriculture team explained to the children about the activities of gaushala and agriculture.

Coming from city, the children were overjoyed to see the open fields and the cows at the gaushala. They had fun putting their hands in the soil, feeding the cows and wandering among the fields.



"I totally enjoyed feeding the cows First time I saw a new born calf. I really want to come often and spend time at Sevalaya. The school has a lot of open ground to play and I really enjoyed a lot. Thanks for the experience"

Sahana P Std III

World Cancer Day



Breast Cancer Awareness Programme

World cancer day is observed every year on 4th February 2019, to raise awareness about the dreaded disease, its causes and symptoms. This year's theme, "I am and I will" is an empowering call-to-action urging for personal commitment and represents the power of individual action taken now to impact the future.

Nursing students of Sevalaya's community college conducted breast cancer awareness programme at MRC and VSB brick kilns, in which 35 women participated.

The women were taught how to self examine and when to seek medical help. Importance of early detecton was stressed upon.

BNY Mellon sponsors the medical camps by Sevalaya in Thiruvallur Dt

31 students in the State level Handball and Basketball tourneys

2 girls from Sevalaya have been selected to participate in the State level Basketball CM trophy tournament.

16 girls and 13 boys from Sevalaya have been qualified to participate State level Handball CM Trophy tournament. The students were the winners of the District level CM Trophy Tournament in the under 21 category held on 31st January 2019.

6 teams from Sevalaya - 3 boys team and 3 girls team - participated in the tournament in which 500 students from 15 schools and 10 colleges in Thiruvallur District participated.

The tournament was declared open by S Aruna, District Sports and Welfare Officer, at Tiruvellore District.

The 3 girls' Handball teams from Sevalaya won the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize in the tournament and cash awards of ₹ 1,000, ₹ 750 and ₹ 500 each for three players.

In the boys category in Handball, 2 teams from Sevalaya won the first and the third prize, winning cash awards of ₹ 1,000 and ₹ 500 each for the team members.

The sports activities in Sevalaya are sponsored by Lionbridge Technologies.



Sevalaya Boy's Handball team with S Aruna, District Sports and Welfare Officer, Thiruvallur

Deiva Thiru Moovar Jayanthi Celebrations at Sevalaya Thanjavur



Dr S Narendran, Thavathiru Thiruvadikudil Swamigal, distributing prizes

The birth Anniversaries of Shri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Holy Mother Sharada Devi and Swami Vivekananda known as the Holy Trinity among the devotees was celebrated as *Deiva Thiru Moovar Jayanthi* on 17th February 2019 at Sevalaya, Thanjavur .

Thavathiru Thiruvadikudil Swamigal presided over the function and spoke about the Trinity.

He particularly recalled Swami Vivekananda's call to the youngsters to build our nation and advised the students

to read Swamiji's works and follow the path shown by Him.

Dr S Narendran, Gastroenterologist Surgeon, appreciated the services rendered by Sevalaya and assured support for all the new endeavours to be undertaken by the organisation in Thanjavur.

Earlier, competitions were held for schools students on Swamiji's Inspiring Speech at the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago, USA. Prizes were distributed to the winners at the function.

Dental camp for students

A Dental camp was conducted by doctors from Saveetha dental College on 19th February 2019 for the children of hostel.

110 children were screened and scaling was done for those who required cleaning. The children were taught about correct ways of brushing and maintaining dental hygiene.



Dental Camp in progress. 110 children screened

"Sevalaya, my home away from Home"

- S Dinesh

S Dinesh and his younger brother came into Sevalaya's Boys Hostel when Dinesh was 9 years old. His widowed mother, a daily wage labourer couldnot provide education for her children.

Now 17 year old Dinesh is a dedicated student and an energetic sportsman as well. His hardwork fetched him fantastic results in X Std. Adding another feather to his cap, this budding sportsman is a District Winner in Basketball.

He helps the younger boys in all day to day activities."I feel at home at Sevalaya. I want to help the other boys because



when I first came to the Home *Appa* - Head Warden Krishnaswamy is referred to as *appa* (father) by all boys. helped me do all these things."says Dinesh." He developed an interest in Maths thanks to his favourite teacher, Naveenkumar. Dinesh wishes to pursue higher studies

in Accountancy.

Dinesh is a voracious reader and reads epics like Mahabharatham as well as comics equally. "Helping others as others have helped me" seems his basic idea. His activities prove worthy of his idea.

From farm labour to Railway job

- Alumnus R Raghu

Hailing from a very poor agricultural family , Raghu came under Sevalaya's care from Thiruvanamalai in 2006.

His father Raji was an an agricultural labourer. Raghu heard about Sevalaya through his father's friend. Joining at Sevalaya has changed his life track.

Raghu chose Maths and Biology group at Sevalaya. He was inspired by his teacher N Annapoorna and gratefully recalls her impressing upon him the importance of hard work and moral values.

Once he completed schooling he procured both a Diploma- in Electrical Engineering and a degree in business administration (BBA). Further he cleared the Railway Recruitment Board exam and joined as Assistant in Electrical department in Southern Railways in 2017.

"I am very thankful to Sevalaya for giving me this support and making me attain a good career. Sevalaya took care of all my



needs and provided me with all the study materials free of cost.

My journey with Sevalaya had helped me

reach the destination of a good life" says this Railway man.

District Judiciary pats Sevalaya



District Judge J Selvanathan interacting with students

Based on an order of the High Court of Madras to the Judiciary to inspect all the

Children's Homes in Tamilnadu, Principal District Judge J Selvanathan and G Saraswathy, Secretary/Senior Civil Judge, District legal service authority, Thiruvallur District, along with their team landed in Sevalaya for inspecting the Homes on 19th February 2019.

The team thoroughly checked all the records, inspected the facilities and spoke to the children individually. At the end of the 3 hour inspection they found everything to be in order. The Judges expressed their appreciation for the services rendered by Sevalaya.

Attention donors...



Organic farm fresh vegetables and bakery items available at Sevalaya City Office every Monday from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

An insight into the real time working environment



Sevalaya's E publishing students on an Industrial visit to Flatirons Jouve

On 9th January 2019, seven students from E - Publishing 5th batch , Ambattur Community College went on an industrial visit to Flatirons. The students were explained about the existing process in various departments by the Senior Manager, J Satish Kumar. Language conversion and many other topics of "InDesign Software" were explained.

Many alumni, who are now employed in Flatirons Jouve, interacted with the current batch of students who were on the industrial visit. Chief Operating Officer R Kumaran interacted with the students and answered their queries.

The industrial visit was useful and informative. Further, the chance of interacting with the higher authorities was simply superb. We learnt a lot, from the 'Flatirons, about the work environment and various practical aspects of the job. Thanks to both Sevalaya and Flatirons Jouve for providing this wonderful experience.

S Ragavi, E Publishing student

12 students from Ambattur Community College were on a visit to Vikranth Chemicals on 26th December 2018. V G Karan, Managing Partner addressed the students. Finance Manager Gomathi Vikranth explained in detail about the basic features ,entry of purchase and sales accounts in the subject. The bills were shown to them practically. Students were then given an added moral value session, mainly focusing on self discipline. Sevalaya videos were shared, and finally the visit concluded with distribution of chocolates by the company."

The Community College at Ambattur is sponsored by Larsen and Toubro Infotech.



Sevalaya's Tally students' industrial visit to Vikranth Chemicals

'It was a very useful session to learn about Tally and marketing too. Personal behaviour in an office premises shared by them were of great value.Thanks to Sevalaya for extending such opportunities, beyond teaching.

S Lokesh, Tally Student

Constructive Programme

Gandhiji came out with a constructive programme of action in 1941 and revised it in 1945. He had listed 18 items which could be broadly classified into the following groups.

Social and moral reform: Communal Unity, Removal of Untouchability, Prohibition

Economic Freedom & Equality: Khadi, Economic Equality.

Rural Development: Village Sanitation, Village Industries

Education: Basic Education, Adult Education, Provincial Languages, National Language, Education in Health and Hygiene.

Uplifting the neglected sections: Kisans, Labour, Adivasis, Lepers, Women

Students had a special place in his scheme of things, as he called them the hope of the future.

He conceded that the list was not exhaustive and allowed flexibility to workers to add to the list as they deemed necessary.

About this programme, his views are summarized below:

Constructive programme is the truthful and non-violent way of winning Purna Swaraj. Its wholesale fulfilment is complete independence. If all the forty crores of people busied themselves with the whole of the constructive programme, which was designed to build up the nation from the bottom upward, it would mean complete independence in every sense of the expression.

Civil disobedience, like armed revolt, requires training. Both in armed revolt and civil disobedience, action takes place only when the occasion demands. Till such action is called for, people have to be kept in perfect fitness by regular training; constructive programme is such training for civil disobedience activists.

The constructive programme may more fittingly be called construction of Purna Swaraj by truthful and non-violent means. Complete Independence through truth and non-violence means the independence of every unit, be it the humblest of the nation, without

distinction of race, colour or creed. If the whole of the constructive programme is successfully worked out, the end of it would be the independence we want.

One significant thing about Constructive Programme is, even those who do not believe in the efficacy of non-violence, can whole heartedly participate in it to a fruitful culmination.

Gandhiji was firmly of the opinion that civil disobedience in terms of Independence without the co-operation of the millions by way of constructive effort is mere bravado and worse than useless. He hits the nail on the head by concluding: "For me, handling of civil disobedience without constructive programme will be like paralyzed hand attempting to lift a spoon."

Though Gandhiji spoke of constructive programme in the context of civil disobedience, we find the programme relevant-even, more relevant-today to bring about a resurgent India.

We will briefly discuss some items of the programme in the succeeding issues.

A photographic journey into the life of the Mahatma

A photo exhibition on the life of Mahatma Gandhi was on display at the Kasuva centre of Sevalaya on 31st January 2019 the death anniversary of observed as Martyr's Day at the 150th Centenary year of the great leader.

100 photos covering the important events in the life of the Mahatma with description of the events gave the students an insight into his life and the independence movement.

1000 people including staff and students visited the exhibition.

The photos were donated by Gandhi Study Centre, Chennai.



Sevalaya students viewing the Photo Exhibition on the life of Mahatma Gandhi

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