



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

MAY 2021

Foundation stone laid for Sevalaya's 3rd Old Age Home



From L To R: M Chengalvarayan, V Manoharan, D V Sridharan, Bhuvaneswari Muralidharan and Sevalaya Murali.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of Sevalaya's free old age home at Zamin Endathur was performed on 24th March 2021.

D V Sridharan, a long-time donor and well-wisher of Sevalaya has donated about half an acre of land at Zamin Endathur for the construction of a

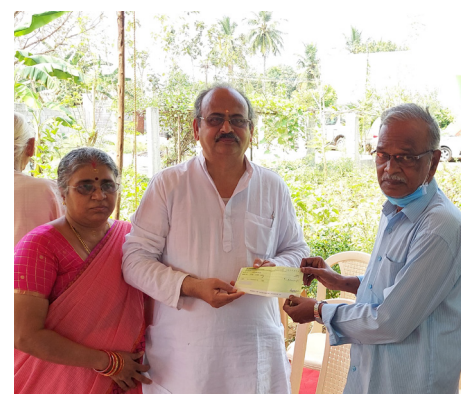
free Old Age Home in memory of his grandmother Janaki Vijayaraghava Achariyar. An old age home in 5044 sq ft accommodating 30 senior citizens is planned to be constructed.

In the first phase, the women's wing, with 6 rooms, kitchen & dining, 3 restrooms, and 2 bathrooms in 1697 sq. ft will be

constructed. This wing will accommodate 15 grandmas. This free Home will provide shelter to destitute senior citizens. Sevalaya already runs free old age Homes sheltering 90 destitute senior citizens in its centers at Kasuva Village in Thiruvallur District and in Thanjavur.

V Manoharan, Retd Professor, Agricultural University from Puducherry and Nikhil Johri, a long-time donor of Sevalaya have contributed towards the construction of this Old Age Home.

D V Sridharan and V Manoharan participated in the function.



Service Over Self Award for Bhuvaneswari Muralidharan



Bhuvaneswari Muralidharan receiving award from Usha Saraogi, District Chairperson, Inner Wheel District 323.

On 1st April 2021, Bhuvaneswari Muralidharan, Honorary Correspondent, Sevalaya, was awarded the Service over Self award by Inner Wheel District 323 at their Annual conference SAMSIDDHI held

at ITC Grand Chola, Guindy, in honour of the service to Society for over 3 decades in the areas of education, health, rural development, and disaster relief and rehabilitation, through Sevalaya.

Vasudhaa Chandrachud, President, Association Inner Wheel Clubs in India was the Chief Guest at the event.

Usha Saraogi, District Chairperson presented the award to Bhuvaneswari Muralidharan which carried a citation and a cheque for ₹1,00,000, as donation to Sevalaya



Joy of giving: the way of life

Dear Friends,

We thought it was over. We can be back to normal. We can relax. May be we relaxed too much. Corona is back with a vengeance. The second wave is hitting hard, creating new records in daily cases and deaths.

The positive side is, we are well prepared now. We have the experience of dealing with wave one, we have vaccines, we have PPE kits, we have testing kits. But the numbers are unmanageable and all governments, all over the world are struggling to contain this wave.

Entire academic year was washed out, now there are fears that the same will happen this year also. We are not sure how the students of 10th grade will join higher secondary education and students of 12th grade will join university education.

Many are now comfortable with online classes, meetings, functions etc. We need to work out ways and means to continue the activity online for few more months to come. So far Indian government has not opted for national lockdown,

though parts of the country have already announced it.

Last year we had many people losing jobs, getting less salary, walking the length and breadth of this country to reach home town etc. This caused lot of hardships mainly to the poor people and Sevalaya jumped into action by providing them food, groceries etc.

Sevalaya also donated many ventilators, PPE kits and masks to many government hospitals in Chennai, Thiruvallur, Kanchipuram, Chengalpet, Trichy and Thanjavur.

Sevalaya supplied food in government run camps for migrant labourers. Sevalaya distributed free masks, gloves, hand wash soaps and sanitizers to underprivileged free of cost.

Sevalaya staff worked tirelessly risking their own lives. This year, the situation has not gone that bad, but looks like it will. As long as lockdown is not announced, people will still go for jobs to earn their daily bread. But the spread of the virus is very fast and may be it will come to a stage where we may have to

repeat last year services. We are keeping our options open. If required, we will need all your support to fight the new wave of this pandemic.

It is very important that we all remain safe, come out of the house only when it is absolutely required, wash hands regularly, wear masks when going out, use sanitizers, and maintain social distance.

Equally important is we help each other, help the elderly, help the people infected, help the underprivileged, help the daily wage earners, help the migrant labourers, and help the ones who lost their jobs.

Sevalaya has already started supporting government hospitals and distributing safety kits. We need your support.

Thanks and Regards

Sevalaya Murali



You can donate via
G Pay 9710907675

Annual eye check-up



An annual eye checkup was conducted by Dr Bohra Eye Charitable Trust at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre, for the Children's Home and Old Age Home residents in phases during April 2021.

43 children and 11 senior citizens were found to have problems in eyesight and free spectacles were given to them.



Annadhanam



Sevalaya and Sri Sankara academy organised Annadhanam for 70 poor people on the occasion of Amavasai (New Moon Day) at Meru Swami's Vrindavan, the location where Swamiji attained Jiva Samadhi, at Lower Theppakulam, Mannargudi on 11th April 2021.

Meru Swami was the royal guru of the Maratha Empire who ruled Thanjavur.

Medical Camp at Mannargudi



Sevalaya along with Shri Sankara academy conducted a Medical camp at Matha Kovil, Kanoor Paruthikottai, 7 kms away from Mannargudi in Thiruvavur District, on 31st March 2021.

Dr S Kannan, Director, Shri Sankara Academy inaugurated the mobile

medical unit by flagging off the mobile medical van.

A team of doctors and nurses from Sevalaya conducted health checkups for 82 villagers. This backward village does not have any medical facility and the nearest Public Health Centre is 8 kms

away. No medical camps have so far been conducted in this village.

Two emergency cases were identified at the camp. One, a severe anemia patient who needed immediate treatment, was moved to the Govt hospital.

Next was a patient who could not move his hand since that morning. The doctors visited the patient at his home and found that he had had a stroke. Immediate arrangements were made to shift him to the Govt hospital, Thiruvavur.



Medical camp for Kurumba tribes



Sevalaya's Samaritan hospital, Gudalur, conducted a Medical camp at Sokkanalli tribal Village, near Masinagudi, 30 kms from Gudalur, Nilgiris District, on 19th April 2021.

A team of doctors and nurses from Sevalaya conducted general health checkups for 45 villagers of the Kurumba tribe.

This interior village does not have any medical facility and the nearest Public Health Centre is 10 kms away.

The checkup revealed that many were suffering from Thyroid, BP,

Joint Pains, etc. 75% of the people were found to be anaemic. Necessary Medicines were distributed to the patients free of cost.



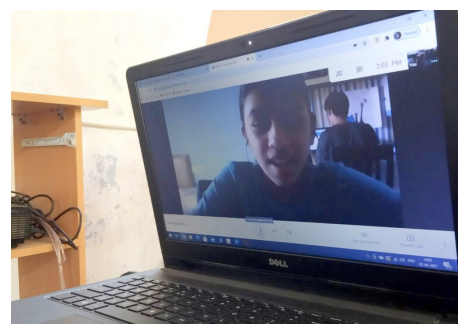
Youngest Volunteer



At 13 years, Megha, a student of Std VIII at APL Global school, is Sevalaya's youngest online volunteer. She is the daughter of one of the long-time donors, Priya Padmanabhan.

She takes maths classes for hostel students studying in Std V.

Megha's interest in volunteering and her coming forward to help the less fortunate children is highly commendable.



Stepping in to serve the tribals at Gudalur

Samaritan Gramodharan Samithy was established in 1991 to help the neglected tribals and other very poor people of Gudalur in Nilgiris district and its suburbs to a reasonable existence and a better future.

The founders Dr. Herbert Herring, Former Director of the German Cultural Institute, Madras, and Dr Lakshmi Chettur Herring, a Doctorate in Medical Genetics, believed in secularism and the essential oneness of all religions, the urge to help the needy, and abiding love for nature.

The activities of the Samithy at Gudalur for the welfare of the tribals is the manifestation of the beliefs.

The main project of the Samithy is the Samaritan Hospital, a ten-bed hospital with two full-time Doctors and five Nursing staff, Casualty, ICU, Operation Theatre, Delivery Suite, X-Ray machine, Ultrasound Scanner, Clinical Lab and Pharmacy. Apart from treating patients at the hospital, a medical team with a Doctor and Nurse visits hamlets in the forest and treats patients who are unable to come to the hospital. Preventive vaccinations are carried out. Basic awareness regarding health and hygiene is created during these visits.

The other activities include the supply of essential groceries to the tribals every week, a set of new clothes and woolen blankets once a year, used clothes in good condition throughout the year, assistance in renovating the huts by replacing the roofs of grass thatch or plastic sheet with bamboo frames and tiles, distribution of



books, pencils, uniforms, chappals and umbrella to the children and encouraging them to go to school and free tailoring and craft classes for the poor women to help them earn a living.

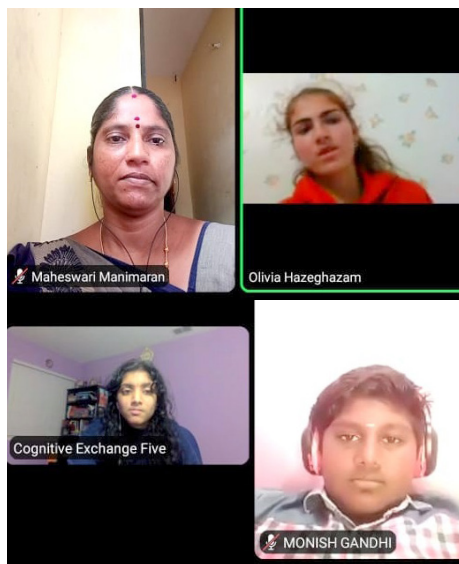
After the demise of Dr Herring in 2002, Dr Lakshmi Chettur Herring was managing the activities. But due to advancing age, she wanted to entrust the Samaritan Society in safe hands, so that the work goes on. She was also particular that the Society should retain the secular character. It was then one of her friends suggested Sevalaya to her. A meeting with Sevalaya Murali, a visit to the Kasuva centre and the trio of Bharathi, Gandhi and Vivekananda as Sevalaya's inspirers were the clinching factors for Dr Lakshmi to entrust the Society in the safe hands of Sevalaya management with the confidence that the services will continue in true spirit.

The Society and all its charitable activities

will be managed by a new Board under the leadership of Sevalaya Murali and other key members of the Sevalaya Trust.



Cognitive Exchange Programme



Cognitive Exchange is a US-based non-profit organisation with the goal of helping underprivileged students, to learn skills such as public speaking, critical thinking, and debating.

They conducted a 12-week Communication skill development programme, online, for 11 students of Std VIII.

The goal of the programme is to upgrade speaking skills and help students speak English without any fear.

Sumanjana Nagasuri and Olivia Azhagesan were the trainers. A competition was conducted at the end of the programme on 24th March 2021.

Printed copies of the E Certificates were handed over to the top 3 students, selected based on their presentation - P Gajalakshmi – 1st place, R M Rohith – 2nd place and M Pavithra – 3rd place, during the Easter celebrations.



Welcoming Tamil, Telugu and Vishu New Year



Amudhavalli Narayanan, long-time donor and well-wisher of Sevalaya, was the Chief Guest for Tamil New Year Celebration at Kasuva, on 15th April 2021.

Talking about the importance of "Mukkani" (Mango, Jackfruit, and Banana) in the New year celebrations, she advised the students that they should give importance to Education, Health, and Discipline in life.



RTN Ram N Ramamurthy, Past President, Rotary Club of Madras Mount, CEO, EIPP solutions was the Chief Guest at Ambattur Community College. The Chief Guest also donated ₹1,00,000 for Sevalaya.



Dr Venmani, BAMS, Ayurvedic physician, Kumbakonam was the Chief Guest at Eraharam Tuition Centre on 13th April 2021.



S Janagraman, Assistant Inspector of Police, Gudalur, Nilgiris District was the Chief Guest at Sevalaya Samaritan

Gramodharan Samithy, Gudalur on 13th April 2021. The Chief Guest conveyed his wishes for a Happy New Year and appreciated the services of the Samithy for the welfare of the tribes.



R Subramaniyan, Thirumalaiyappapuram, a social worker, was the Chief Guest for the celebrations at Ravanasmudram Community College on 14th April 2021.



R Rajakumar, MA., M.Ed, Head Master, Govt Higher Secondary School, Santhavallore was the Chief Guest for the Tamil New Year Celebration on 12th April 2021 at Sunguvarchatram Community College.

Wishing the participants a very Happy and prosperous New Year, the Chief Guest urged the students to make the best use of the opportunities provided by Sevalaya. He was also appreciative of Sevalaya's services in providing training in the vocational courses which have a huge demand in the market.



Sivakami Sundari MA, M.Ed, was the Chief Guest at Old Age Home, Thanjavur. The Chief Guest spoke about the significance of Tamil New Year. She sang Tamil devotional songs.



K Murugaiyan M. A, Correspondent, Kalaimakal English High School, Thirubuvanaai was the Chief Guest at the celebrations at Thirubuvanaai Community College, Puducherry.



K Jagan Kumar, Station Typist, Fire Station, Uthiramerur was the Chief Guest for Tamil New Year Celebration today at Uthiramerur Community College.

Stressing the importance of fire, he emphasized that fire is a good friend as well as a bad enemy. He also gave some tips, how to handle the gas cylinder and some precautions while handling fire. He also mentioned that April 14th will be celebrated as the Tamil New year by all. But for the fire department, it would be a day of remembrance for those who died in a fire accident.



S Suresh B.com., MBA., Sub-Inspector of the survey was the Chief Guest at Zamin Endathur Community College, Madhuranthakam on 13th April 2021.

He appreciated the services of Sevalaya for the underprivileged youth and urged the students to make the best use of the opportunities provided by the organisation.

Please click the link to watch the Event

<https://youtu.be/8c0ijxmq18A>

A tutor from Utah, USA for toppers

Arjun Vijayakumar, a software engineer by profession and presently working for Adobe, is a native of Tirunelveli district. He did his schooling in Trichy and Chennai. After finishing college in 2006 he moved to the US for higher education and has been living there ever since. He is currently living in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA with his wife, Krithiga, and two children, Sahana and Vivaan, aged 6 and 3 respectively.

Arjun's father, R Vijayakumar, a retired official of the Unit Trust of India (UTI) was associated with Sevalaya right from its inception, having come to know about the organisation through Bhuvaneswari Muralidharan, Hony Correspondent of



Sevalaya, who had a brief stint at UTI from 1986 to 1988.

When Arjun decided to give back to society, Sevalaya was his first choice. "I was particularly impressed to hear

that high-quality education is provided completely free of cost to deserving children from the neighbouring villages. I was eager to contribute in any way I could. My interest in teaching STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) to students found a natural avenue. We identified a small set of students for these remote bi-weekly classes.

The staff played a vital role in facilitating these remote classes. I have been particularly pleased by the dedication and interest shown by each student I have had the opportunity to teach," says Arjun.

He takes online classes in Science, twice a week, for three toppers of Std IX who have been identified, based on their potential, to be given extra training to crack the admission tests for professional courses in premier institutes.

Arjun also took the initiative to collect funds from his friends to support the school expenses and to sponsor the project to solarise the Old Age Home building at Thanjavur.

Money and fame to serve the society

G Ranjani (16), studying in IX std is a resident of Sevalaya's Mother Theresa girl's home for the past 4 years. Ranjani was transferred to Sevalaya from another home that was closed down by the Government.

Ranjani could not adapt easily to the regulations at Sevalaya. Being a fiercely independent girl, she was very defiant and refused to follow any rules of the Home.

The atmosphere of the Home and the opportunities she got here, mellowed her down. Observing the leadership qualities in her by the way she managed the other kids who were transferred along with her from the other Home, efforts were taken to make her feel a part of the new home.

She was involved in the children's parliament where she got the



opportunity to identify the requirements of all the residents of the home and involve in taking action to fulfill them.

"When we were taken to VGP for an outing, I saw a person who was begging for food. I felt bad that he begged every person there but no one was ready to give. I then took one extra plate of food from my caretaker and gave it to that person. This incident made me realize the value of the services of Sevalaya for the poor and the needy." says Ranjani emotionally.

In the beginning, she was very irregular to school, but now she shows a lot of interest in studying.

She has varied interests. She wants to study agriculture. She also wants to become an actress and then a politician and serve society. "Money and fame are more important to transform society and by becoming an actress and a politician I think I can change the society." says Ranjani with an air of confidence.

Easter celebrations in various centres



Bishop Dr K Meshach Raja, BA, B.TH Mdiv, DD (LLB) Chairman, Tamil Nadu Political board and Minority board, CEFI DIOCESE, Chennai was the Chief Guest for Easter Day Celebration at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre on 3rd April 2021.

The Chief Guest spoke about why Easter is celebrated and about Jesus Christ's life. He advised the students to study well and become good leaders in the future.

He donated rice and provisions worth ₹20,000 and assured of his continued support in future.



K Anthony B.Th, Grace of Christ Gospel church, CRPF Avadi, AICWM coordinator, ACCPF treasure was the Chief Guest at Ambattur Community College.



A Emanuel Chandanraj, B.Sc, D.T.EMSG software solution Pvt Ltd, Tiruppur was the Chief Guest at Eraharam centre.



Stephen Kottakkal, St Mary's Church, Vimalagiri, Gudalur, was the Chief Guest at Sevalaya's Samaritan Gramodharan Samithy, Gudalur.



Jebakumar, Reverend, Ukkirankottai, Tirunelveli, was the Chief Guest at Ravanasamudram centre.



D Bhakkiyaraj, BBA, DFT, CSI Missionary Church of South India, Diocese of Madras, Chennai was the Chief Guest at Sunguvarchatram centre.



Rev P Bright Franklin, Pastor and PC Chairman, Thanjavur was the Chief Guest at Thanjavur centre.



Pr S V Solomon B.TH, Beroya Prayer House, Thirubuvanai was the Chief Guest at Thirubuvanai centre, Puducherry.



Rev K Bright Jaba Durai, Pastor, GGM church, Ammaiappanallur was the Chief Guest at Uthiramerur centre.



Pastor J Hezekiah B.Th, Redeemer Church Ozhavetti, Zamin Endathur was the Chief Guest at Zamin Endathur centre, Madhuranthakam

Please click the link to watch the Event

<https://youtu.be/1NX85AB5qfI>

Defeat? Not in our line!

The imprisonment of women worked like a charm upon the labourers on the mines near Newcastle. They downed their tools and entered the city in succeeding batches. As soon as Gandhi received the news he left Phoenix for Newcastle.

The labourers had no houses of their own. The mine owners had erected houses for them, set up lights upon their roads with the result that the labourers had been reduced to a state of utter dependence. Now, the mine owners had stopped their water and lights. Some had their household chattels thrown out.

Some were severely thrashed. Gandhi thought to himself that the strike could not continue if this type of treatment continued. He felt that he must find a way out, or else it was very much to be preferred that the labourers should own themselves to have been defeated and return to work at once, rather than that they should resume work after a period of weary waiting. But defeatist counsel was not in Gandhi's line. He, therefore, suggested that the labourers leave their

masters' quarters, to fare forth, in fact, like pilgrims. There were hundreds of labourers, and it was likely that the number would swell to thousands. Gandhi advised the labourers to take it that the strike would last for all time and leave the quarters provided by their masters. They had to take the risk that their belongings would be thrown away by the masters. When they come to Gandhi, they should bring nothing with them except their wearing apparel and blankets. He promised to live and have his meals with them so long as the strike lasted and so long as they were outside the jail. They could sustain their strike and win a victory only if they came out on these conditions. Those who could not summon the courage to take this line of action could return to work, and none should harass them. All the labourers accepted the conditions. There was a continuous stream of "pilgrims" who retired from household life to the houseless one, along with their wives and children, with bundles of clothes upon their heads.

The traders of Newcastle supplied cooking pots and bags of rice and dal. Other places also showered rice, dal, vegetables, condiments, etc. Many came forth to work as volunteers to look after the obscure and uneducated members. Many of the volunteers were also arrested.

In a huge concourse of men and women, there was the danger of violation of the rules of sanitation and morality. This had to be avoided. Gandhi decided that he must take the "army" to the Transvaal and see them safely deposited in jail.

The strength of the army was about 5000. He could not afford train fare for all of them. They would cover a distance of 36 miles on foot. Only those who were disabled would go by train.

While the preparations for the march were on, Gandhi received an invitation to meet the coal mine owners. He, therefore, went to Durban.

(To be continued.)



WHAT MONEY
CAN'T BUY!



Shoppeseva sells various item manufactured at Sevalaya Community Colleges and some items created by rural artisans: Potery items including dolls, food items, doot mats, bags and shirts.

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