



# LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

AUGUST 2021

## Forest Minister inaugurates Oxygen Plant at Gudalur GH Equipment sponsored by Batch of 1983-1987 of College of Engineering, Guindy

Hon'ble Minister of Forests, K Ramachandran inaugurated an Oxygen plant at Government General Hospital, Gudalur, Nilgiris District, sponsored by the alumni of College of Engineering, Guindy (1983-1987). The project was implemented by Sevalaya.

On behalf of Sevalaya, the Hon'ble Minister also distributed special packages containing groceries for a month, to the priests in Gudalur and surrounding villages, who lost their livelihood due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking on the occasion, Nilgiris District Collector J Innocent Divya, IAS was very appreciative of Sevalaya for having finished the construction and installation of the plant in a record time.

On the occasion, Shyji Biju, Accountant of Sevalaya Samaritan handed over medical equipment for the Gudalur Government. General Hospital sponsored by Give2Asia, through Sevalaya, to the Minister.

In his keynote address the Minister said, "When many people hesitate to ask for help for themselves, it is amazing to know that Sevalaya has been approaching corporate and individual donors for the



Hon'ble Minister Of Forests, K Ramachandran inaugurating the O2 plant. Also in picture Sevalaya Murali, J Innocent Divya, IAS District Collector

cause of the underprivileged whose livelihoods have been affected by the pandemic and have implemented relief projects worth 6 crores, which ranged from distribution of groceries, food packets, sanitary kits to frontline workers, medical equipment to Government Hospitals across Tamilnadu."

Dr S Palaniswamy, Joint Director, Health Services, Nilgiris, and Dr R Pugazhendi, Chief Medical Officer, Government. General Hospital, Gudalur participated in the function.



Shyji, Accountant, Sevalaya Samaritan, handing over medical equipment to Hon'ble Minister.



Minister handing over grocery kit to temple priest



## Green Service Trust sponsors medical camps



Sevalaya has been conducting medical and occupational health awareness camps for frontline workers in partnership with Green Service Trust.

In the suburbs of Chennai, there are five Solid Waste Management Centers. Many

of the workers who operate in these facilities suffer from various physical ailments.

A medical camp and health awareness camp is conducted by Sevalaya every month for the workers in Uthiramerur, Kundrathur and, Mamallapuram centres. General health Checkup is conducted and medicines are distributed.

Green Service Trust, an environmental organisation sponsors these camps.



## Groceries for tribals and rural poor



The Samaritan Hospital at Gudalur run by Samaritan Gramodharan Samithy, which has been operating for the last 30 years in Puthur Field Road, Gudalur Municipality, was recently handed over to Sevalaya and is now operating as a unit of Sevalaya.

Sevalaya Samaritan will continue to serve the poor tribals in the region as envisioned by the founders of the Samithy, and explore the possibility of reaching out to more tribals in more areas like education and health.

Sevalaya Samaritan is now continuing the distribution of weekly groceries to 50 families of kurumba tribals and poor villagers in Mohanalli, Bandipore, Karnataka, every Thursday, 50 families

of paniya and kurumba tribes every Monday, and to 12 paniya tribe families on alternate Wednesdays in Thondiyalam village.

Each grocery kit consists of 5 kg Rice, 1/2 kg groundnut, 1/2 kg onion and 1/2 kg potato.



## BNY Volunteering



34 volunteers from BNY Mellon, took various sessions for Sevalaya's hostel children and alumni.

100 hostel children participated in the English classes and storytelling sessions conducted by the volunteers.

Additionally, they have been taking English classes and mentoring sessions for 10 alumni of Sevalaya. These daily sessions by the volunteers started in the month of May 2021 .

The sessions were very interesting and useful. The volunteers conducted many interactive games, which made learning fun.

*P Anushiya-IX C*

## Awareness campaign



Sevalaya Samaritan conducted COVID-19 awareness camps in the tribal villages of Bandipur, Alloorvayal 1 and 2, Makkamoola 1 and 2, Odakadavu, Marthoma Nagar, Maganavalli, Thenvayal, and Ezhumuram. A team of nurses visited these villages and educated the tribals about the safety precautions to prevent COVID-19 - wearing masks, washing hands, and maintaining social distance.

They also impressed upon them the need to get vaccinated.

250 tribals were covered during these awareness programmes.

# PPG Asian Paints sponsors 38 Oxygen Concentrators

No. of Oxygen concentrators	Hospitals/ Health centres
3	Primary Health Centre, Kundrathur
10	Government Hospital, Kanchipuram
10	Government Hospital, Puducherry
15	Omandurar Government Hospital, Chennai



PPG Asian Paints Pvt Ltd has donated ₹35 lacs to Sevalaya for COVID-19 relief work as a part of its CSR initiative. Through this donation, Sevalaya has purchased 38 oxygen concentrators of 5 litres capacity

From L to R: P Parthasarathy Plant Head, PPG AP, K Niranjana, Manager, HR PPGAP, DR from PPG Asian Paints, Prasanna P, VP, Sevalaya, D N Bala Ganesh, Manager Operations Support from PPG Asian Paints and Arunkumar, Medical officer, Kundrathur PHC



From L to R: M Rajesh, Deputy Manager, Engineering, B Joshwa, Deputy Manager, Production from PPG Asian Paints, Prasanna P, VP, Sevalaya, C Arunchalam, Senior Manager, Quality, Dr Udayashankar, Director IGMCRI Indra Gandhi Medical College & Research Institute, M Leo Christopher, Plant Head, S Nandakumar, Executive HR, from PPG Asian Paints, John S, Centre head, Sevalaya Thirubuvanai centre, Puducherry

distributed them to government hospitals in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

The second wave of COVID-19 caused havoc and with an acute shortage of Oxygen supply, Sevalaya was actively engaged in relief operations.

Garnering support from philanthropic individuals/ corporates, Sevalaya facilitated the supply of the much-needed oxygen concentrators to many Government hospitals and primary health centres.

# Acheron sponsors furniture equipment for OAH at Thanjavur



Acheron software Consultancy donated ₹75000 as a part of its CSR initiative to Sevalaya's old age home in Thanjavur District for the purchase of 5 nos of 6.5

feet steel bureaus, plastic chairs, exhaust fan, BP apparatus, Blood Sugar level checking strips, and needles.



# BNY Mellon Sponsors ₹7 lacs worth Medical Equipment

BNY Mellon sponsored medical equipment worth ₹7 Lacs for Government Stanley Hospital, Chennai. Sevalaya coordinated the procurement, transportation, and distribution of the equipment.

On 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021, Dr D Vidya, India Lead, Global Impact Citizenship, BNY Mellon, handed over the two-door freezer, Remi centrifuge Rotor R 41, and Remi Cytocentrifuge to Dr A Jamila, MD, Vice Principal, Stanley Government Medical College, and Hospital.

In collaboration with Sevalaya, BNY Mellon has executed COVID-19 relief projects worth ₹80 lacs for Stanley Government Hospital, Chennai in both the first wave and the present second wave.



## Food for the flood-hit tribals



The recent heavy rains and the subsequent floods washed away the huts of the tribals in Gudalur. The poor tribes were stranded in the streets. The pandemic has already affected their livelihoods and the floods added to their agony.

71 people including children from 16 families of the Paniyar tribe from Thenvayal village who were worst hit by the floods were shifted to the flood relief camps at Puthurvayal Village in Gudalur, Nilgiris, by the Government.

Sevalaya Samaritan distributed food for the 71 people at the camp on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The food was prepared by the staff of Sevalaya Samaritan which included nurses of the Samaritan Hospital. Dr Vimal Raj, the resident doctor at

Samaritan hospital pitched in to transport the food items from the hospital to the camp.

The villagers were sent back to their villages on 27<sup>th</sup> when the rains subsided and the situation got better. Sevalaya Samaritan then visited to the village and distributed grocery kits to the families.



## Smart Phone Distribution



The schools are closed for nearly 2 years now and online classes have become the “new normal”.

For the rural underprivileged students, this is a big challenge as they cannot afford to buy smartphones and hence miss classes and assignments.

Sevalaya has been appealing to donors to contribute for the purchase of smartphones for the students of the school, which will help them to participate in online classes and not be left behind.

In response to Sevalaya’s appeal, Venkata Prasad and friends from the USA donated US\$600 towards the purchase of 4 smartphones to be given to students to help them attend online classes.

# Food and dry ration kits for the pandemic affected



With the support of donors, Sevalaya donated food packets and grocery kits to people whose livelihoods were affected by the pandemic. The beneficiaries included daily wagers, pregnant women affected by COVID-19, employees of places of worship like temples, churches and mosques.

13000 food packets were distributed to families affected by the pandemic in and

around the 13 locations of Sevalaya. 300 Grocery kits were distributed to priests of rural temples/ churches and mosques who depended on the contributions from the devotees who visited the places of worship. Due to pandemic, the number of visitors to these places dwindled severely affecting the people dependent on that.

Distribution of grocery kits consisting of 25 Kg of rice, and groceries including *toor*

*dhall, rava, wheat flour, idli rice, chilli powder, turmeric powder, pepper, and cumin seeds* has benefited 1200 people from the 300 families.



## Free telemedicine facility at Ravanasamudram

Free Tele Medicine consultation facility was inaugurated on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021, for the residents of Ravanasamudram in Tenkasi District. Dr J Gokulakrishnan, Head, Health services, Sevalaya, provided online consultation to the patients with the support of a Merlin Suji, nurse at Ravanasamudram centre. Dr Major R S Rengan, MS DNB, who inaugurated the facility also offered consultation to the patients.

Dr Rengan, has served as a military doctor for 14 years and is a reputed surgeon with 34 years of experience in surgery in multispecialty hospitals in Chennai. During the event, he expressed his delight to be a part of Sevalaya's service.

He will be donating the building at the site of the Welfare Association at Ravanasamudram to provide medical services. He also promised that his two sons and daughters-in-law all of whom are Doctors would join hands with Sevalaya to provide free medical care to the needy of his hometown Ravanasamudram.

With all their support Sevalaya plans to set up a super speciality hospital



with all facilities at Ravanasamudram village to provide the best treatment to underprivileged villagers of Tenkasi free of charge.

Sevalaya has been helping to provide a disease-free life to many people living below the poverty line through various services like health care centres at Kasuva, Nathamedu villages in Thiruvallur district, Sunguvarchathiram in Chengalpet district, 4 mobile medical vans in Thiruvallur, Kanchipuram and Thanjavur districts in addition to conducting health

awareness camps and specialized medical camps at regular intervals in and around its different centres in Tamil Nadu.

Sevalaya has so far helped more than 2,65,000 people through its medical relief services. Two donors from Singapore, N Subramanian, and Venkatakrisnan and PPG Asian Paints support the medical centres at Kasuva, Nathamedu and Mambakkam respectively.

The mobile medical clinics are supported by BNY Mellon in Thiruvallur District and RNAIPL and VPG in Kanchipuram district.

# From Arts teacher to Headmistress

“I never dreamt about success, I worked for it”- the quote aptly suits B Nirmala Headmistress (Admin) of Sevalaya’s Mahakavi Bharathiyar Hr. Sec. School. Skilled in tailoring, arts and crafts, she joined the organization in 1996 as a craft teacher at the age of 27. From a rural background, her educational qualification then was +2.

With management's support, she was able to pursue her dream of continuing her studies. She completed her M A Gandhian Thought, B. Lit Tamil, M. A Tamil, and Tamil Pandit Training (TPT). Her role in the beginning in administration is now a great help in the school admin work as mandated by the statutory requirements of the government. After completing B. lit she was posted as Tamil Teacher for high school. Her dedication produced excellent results in Tamil in the Board exams. She was then promoted to



take senior classes and administration. In 2014, she became the headmistress in charge of the administration of the school.

“Sevalaya supported me, while my own family failed to do so. I have 3 children. Because of my sister’s sudden death, I had to take care of her 2 children also, who were very young then. Sevalaya provided free education to them also.” says Nirmala.

Sevalaya opened new vistas. She joyfully remembers a memorable 10 day trip she had to London in 2011 as part of an Education Exchange Programme organised by British Council.

“It was a wonderful experience for me for I have never travelled even by train. Next, I went to Mumbai to collect two awards for Sevalaya from British Council and enjoyed the stay at the iconic Taj Hotel.” says a visibly thrilled Nirmala.

Sevalaya has made a profound impact on her life. She proudly says, “Sevalaya is my family. All in Sevalaya celebrated my completing 25 years of service.”

“From a humble beginning, I have come up in life this far, thanks to Sevalaya's support” says a visibly moved Nirmala.

# Yoga Day celebrations



The 7<sup>th</sup> International yoga day was celebrated across 13 centers of Sevalaya, online on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021.

Yoga Master Sri Yogasharan V S Prakash from Atma Niranjana Yoga Vidyalaya of Satyananda Yoga Tradition addressed the

250 staff who participated and explained to them about Yoga and its benefits. He also guided them to do some simple asanas and Pranayama.

Dr R G Anand, a Member of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

(NCPCR) visited Kasuva centre in the evening. He spoke to the children and elders about the benefits of Yoga. And also distributed 50 NAMOARE 2021 KIT.

Each kit had a steamer, sanitizer sachets, 1 packet of kabasurakudineer powder, and a towel.



Dr R G Anand presenting gift to Sevalaya student

# Kamarajar Birth Anniversary Celebrated



A great statesman and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu K Kamaraj's birth Anniversary was celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at Sevalaya, Kasuva, Thiruvallur District.

On the occasion, the Chief Guest Durga Ram, Correspondent of Tiny Toddlers playschool, Mylapore, said, "Both education and discipline are essential for the students to succeed in life."

She also spoke about Kamarajar, under whose leadership thousands of schools were opened all over Tamil Nadu and education became accessible to the poor. "It is apt that Kamarajar's birthday

is celebrated as Education Development Day." she observed.

The Chief Guest donated toys, biscuits, tables, and chairs for the hostel children. Earlier, on the eve of Kamaraj's birthday, painting, oratorical, and quiz competitions were conducted online. 1449 students from 29 districts across Tamil Nadu participated. Of these, 105 students were selected as winners.

The Chief Guest distributed prizes to the winners from local schools in the vicinity of Kasuva centre, who attended the event. Prizes will be couriered to the winners from other districts.

# Vasavi Foundation USA donates O2 concentrators



Vasavi Seva Foundation, USA sponsored 6 Oxygen Concentrators, in July 2021.

On 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021, 5 Oxygen Concentrators were handed over by Suresh AVP, Operations, Sevalaya, to Dr V Sowndarajan, Block medical officer, Government Primary Health Centre, Seruvaviduthi, Thanjavur.

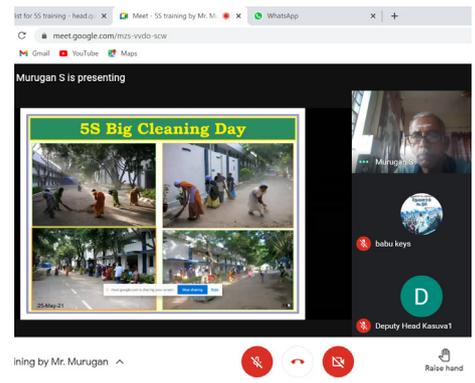
There are no Government hospitals within a radius of 20 kms around

Seruvaviduthi and this Primary health centre has setup covid care centres to provide medical care to the villagers from 20 villages.

The centre also provides emergency care round the clock, on all days.

1 Oxygen Concentrator is used at Sevalaya's Mahatma Gandhi medical centre in Kasuva

# 5s training



A two-hour workshop on 5S was conducted by S Murugan, Secretary of Quality Circle Forum of India on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to 51 Sevalaya employees from its 12 centers.

Lakshmi Murali, Advisor, Sevalaya board conducted a session for 17 staff members of Sevalaya Samaritan Hospital in 5S methodologies on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2021. The session was in Malayalam, the mother tongue of most of the staff. The entire team understood the concepts very well easily.

Sevalaya won the Platinum award for effectively implementing 5S in November 2020. As part of sustenance and to make all the new employees get oriented to the concept, this training was scheduled.

The session was very interesting and all the staff understood the concepts very well. The session in Malayalam gave in-depth knowledge about the 5S concepts.

*Mini Thomas, Lab Technician, Sevalaya Samaritan Hospital, Gudalur*

# Grant from Livermore, USA



Hindu Community and Cultural Centre, a non profit community of the Shiva Vishnu Temple at Livermore, California, USA has donated USA \$500 for Sevalaya at its annual grant in aid programme.

# The Great March

Now, the straight and narrow path to tread was clear before Gandhi. On November 6, 1913 at the appointed stroke of the hour, they offered prayers and commenced the March in the name of God. The pilgrims' band was composed of 2037 men, 127 women, and 57 children.

Two days before the event, the Europeans in Volksrust had a meeting where they offered all manner of threats to the Indians. Kallenbach attended the meeting and, tried to reason with them. There was an attempt to assault him, but as an athlete, he could not be cowed down. An individual challenged him a duel. Kallenbach responded with a powerful speech in defense of the satyagrahis which may be considered historic.

He said, "As I have accepted the religion of peace, I may not accept the challenge. Let him who will come and do his worst with me. The charges you level at the Indians are false. The Indians are not out to challenge your position as rulers. They do not wish to fight with you or to

fill the country. They only seek justice pure and simple. They propose to enter the Transvaal only as an effective demonstration against the unjust tax which is levied upon them. They will not fight with you, but enter the Transvaal they will, even in the face of your gunfire.

They are not the men to beat a retreat from the fear of bullets or your spears. They propose to melt, your hearts by self-suffering." The pugilist who had invited Kallenbach to single combat became his friend.

The team halted for the night at Palmsford eight miles from Volksrust. The marchers had gone to sleep and the women with children in arms were lodged with a good Indian trader. At this juncture, a Police officer came with a warrant to arrest Gandhi. With his permission, Gandhi roused P K Naidoo and apprised him of his arrest, and asked him not awake the pilgrims before morning. They were to be informed only at the next halt after they had their

ration. He also said as to what to do in case he was also arrested.

Gandhi was taken to the court the next morning and was remanded to custody until 14th to which date the case was set for hearing. Gandhi applied for bail as he had over 2000 men, 122 women, and, 50 children in his charge whom he had to take on to the destination within the date of hearing. He joined the marchers with the conveyance provided by Kallenbach.

But he was re-arrested by the magistrate who had personally come over for this task. He was courteous. In the courtroom Gandhi found that five of his colleagues including P.K. Naidoo had been arrested.

Gandhi was released on bail till 21<sup>st</sup> to which date the case had been postponed. He rejoined the marchers when they hardly proceeded three miles further. The five co-workers had to remain in jail.

(To be continued.)



WHAT MONEY CAN'T BUY!



Shoppeseva sells various items manufactured at Sevalaya Community Colleges and some items created by rural artisans like dolls, food items, door mats, bags and t-shirts.

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