

## Give2Asia's ₹36 lacs pandemic relief

Sevalaya has been actively engaged in relief activities during the first and second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, with support from philanthropic individuals, associations, and corporates.

Give2Asia, an international non profit organisation based in the USA, supporting the work of NGOs by mobilising funds contributed ₹36 lacs. This funding supported gifting of medical

equipment to the government hospital, public health centres and providing grocery kits to the families affected by the pandemic across Tamilnadu. Please refer to the table below



Dr J Gokulakrishnan Head Health Department, Sevalaya, handing over medical equipment to A R Rahul Nadh, IAS, District Collector, Chengelpet.

Items	Quantity	Beneficiaries
CM 1200 A ECG Machine (Multiparameter Monitor)	8 nos 7 nos	Government Medical College Hospital, Gudalur, Ooty, Tamilnadu
CPAP MASK	45 nos	Government Medical College Hospital, Chengalpattu, Tamilnadu
Stretcher with Cylinder Placement	5 nos	
Wheel Chair	5 nos	
Water Distributors with Filter / Water Can	5 nos	
Multipara Monitors	5 nos	Government Medical College Hospital, Thiruvallur, Tamilnadu
Nitrile Gloves	1,000 nos	
Sanitizer 5 Ltrs Can	60 nos	
TEJAS - N 95 Mask	1,000 nos	
Disposable bed cover and pillow cover 160 x 240 cms	500 nos	
Disposable Toilet Seat Cover	500 nos	
Infrared Thermometer	50 nos	
Finger Pulseoximeter	30 nos	
Garbage Bins	50 nos	
Grocery kits	200 nos	Rural Families, Tenkasi
Grocery kits	100 nos	Rural Families, Thanjavur
Grocery kits	600 nos	Rural Families, Thiruvallur
Grocery kits	300 nos	Rural Families, Chengalpet

Each grocery kit consists of Rice (10kgs), Toor Dal (500gms), Moong Dal (500gms), Gram Dal (500gms), Urad Dal (500gms), Fried Gram (500gms), Turmeric Powder (100gms), Chilli Powder (100gms), Salt (1pkt)



S Shyji Biju, Accountant, Sevalaya Samaritan, handing over medical equipment to J Innocent Divya, IAS, District Collector, Nilgiris.



Dr J Gokulakrishnan, Head- Health Department, Sevalaya, handing over medical equipment to Alif Vagease John, IAS, District Collector, Thiruvallur.



K Rajeshwari DSWO, Thanjavur, handing over grocery kits to the families affected by the pandemic at Thanjavur

# Sevalaya's 9<sup>th</sup> community college, attached to Samaritan

On 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021, R Krishna Pradapan, President, Merchant's Association, Gudalur inaugurated the ninth community college of Sevalaya Samaritan. At this college, free training in tailoring will be provided to rural poor women.

In his address, Chief Guest R Krishna Pradapan said, "I wish Sevalaya Samaritan Hospital in Gudalur will continue to provide free medical services to the tribals in Gudalur".

He also assured that the Merchants Association, Gudalur will extend support to all initiatives of the organisation.

Rajendran, Secretary DMK, Gudalur, promised to donate 10 tailoring machines to the newly inaugurated community



*R Krishna Pradapan inaugurating the community college*

college. Arun Kumar from Humour Club International, Gudalur, and many

members of the Merchants Association participated in the function.

## Solar power for Thanjavur Old Age Home



*Honourable MLA, K Marimuthu Inaugurating the solar power plant*

Amrutanjan sponsored 3 KW solar panels and Arjun Vijayakumar, a software engineer from the USA sponsored 2KW solar panels to Sevalaya's Gandhi Ashram Krishnan memorial old age home at

Thanjavur. This will provide uninterrupted power supply to the destitute elderly at the Home, by tapping alternative sources of energy. On 4<sup>th</sup> August 2021, K Marimuthu, B.com, Honourable

Member of the Legislative Assembly, Thiruthuraiipoondi, Thiruvallur District, was the special guest at the event and launched the project.

The Chief Guest, in his address, expressed his happiness to see Sevalaya providing the basic necessities such as food, clothing, entertainment free of charge to the hapless elderly people abandoned by their children. He also applauded the promotion of organic farming and hoped to see the expansion of Sevalaya's service in many places.

T K Krishna Murthy, Municipal Secretary, Rudrapathi M, District Secretary, M Balasubramanian, District Treasurer, N Kannan, Ward Councilor attended the function.

## Digital Literacy Project at Sirkazhi



*Sevalaya Murali Inaugurating smart class rooms*

3 Smart classrooms and a computer lab with 10 desktop computers were inaugurated at Sabanayaga Mudaliyar Higher Secondary School, Sirkazhi under

the Digital Literacy Programme.

This project is sponsored by R Chandrasekaran (JR Charities), Former Executive Chairman of Cognizant Technological Solutions and an alumnus of the school.

From a humble beginning, studying in a rural school, Chandrasekaran has risen to the top ranks in the Software industry. He wanted to create better opportunities for the students of his alma mater. He sponsored the Digital literacy Programme for the school with Sevalaya as the implementation partner. 1200 students of the Sabanayaga Higher Secondary School will be

benefited from this Programme.

Teachers from Sevalaya will train two computer teachers of the school. They will also be conducting online classes for the students. Sevalaya's unique value education programme- the BGV sessions - will also be conducted online for the students of this school.

S Arivudainabi, Headmaster, and S Muralitharan, Physical Education Teacher of Sabanayaga Mudaliyar High School, Sirkazhi, A A Kingston, Vice President, Operations, Sevalaya and R Vijaya, Headmistress of Sevalaya School were present on the occasion.



# Yazaki borewell for 69 families at Kattupakkam



YAZAKI, financed Sevalaya to construct a bore well as a part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme.

Sevalaya identified the need for a borewell in Kattupakkam village in Uthiramerur taluk of Kancheepuram district, where for the past 3 years 69 families were affected by water shortage.

Sevalaya executed this CSR bore well water project by setting up 2 hp submersible pump for 460 feet and a water tank with a capacity of 2000 litres in that area successfully with the support of the Municipality and the villagers.

On 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021, Sandeep Nair, Head-Purchase, Renault Nissan

Automotive India Pvt Ltd, B Sitharaman, BBA, Entrepreneur, Kattupakkam Colony, Kattupakkam Taluk, were the special guests for inaugurating this borewell. D Surendra Babu, DGM-SCM, M Sethuraman, Deputy Manager, were present at the event. P V Raju, CEO Yazaki took part in the event online.

Sevalaya Murali, Founder and Managing Trustee, Kingston AA, VP Operations, L Ashok Kumar, AVP Operations were also present at the inauguration.

## InstaGana Live



Krishnakumar Narayanan, IGL, hosting the Music programme

Sevalaya and IGL (Insta Gana Live), an US based organisation of amateur singers, celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> Independence day by organing an online musical event on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

The Chief Guests for the program were Kavignar P Rajendran, President Podhigai Tamil Sangam, Tamil Semmal Awardee, Tamilnadu Govt and Dr Sripriya S, Principal Chinmaya Vidyalaya Tattamangalam, Palakkad,Kerala.

The live 3 hour musical programme hosted by Krishnakumar Narayanan, IGL, witnessed singers from various locations from remote villages such as Ravanasamudram in Tirunelveli & Eraharam in Thanjavur to cities in Milpitas, Chennai, Mountain house, Palakkad, Dublin, Pleasanton, California and Livermore. Patriotic songs in different Indian languages were sung and played on musical instruments in succession. Nearly 26 singers of different generations kept the spectators enchanted with their vibrant performance.

14 children and 5 staff from Sevalaya participated and performed well

## State level chess tournament



A State-Level Chess Tournament in memory of Shri Vankamamidi VenuGopala Rao (VVG MEMORIAL) sponsored by Satyaprbakar, CEO, Sulakha.com and his family was conducted by Sevalaya at Kasuva Centre on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

190 children from 25 chess clubs across 5 districts - Chennai, Thirvallur, Kancheepuram, Trichy, Chengalpattu participated. The Tournament had 4 categories, Under - 8, Under - 10, Under - 12 & Under - 14.

Satya Prabhakar and his family members joined the event online and announced

the winners. Cash Prizes were awarded to 12 winners - 3 from each category.

R Srivatsan, International Chess Arbiter and a regular donor of Sevalaya gave away the prizes and certificates to the participants.

M M Prabu karthick who got second prize in under 8 donated ₹3000, the prize money he won, to Sevalaya.

The family of Satya Prabhakar sponsored a special lunch for Sevalaya children, senior citizens participants of the Chess tournament and their parents.



# Help Foundation sponsors 100 dry ration kits



Help Foundation sponsored grocery kits for 100 underprivileged families whose livelihoods have been affected by the COVID Pandemic.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021 10 kits each in 10 centres at Kasuva, Ambattur, Sunguvarchatram, Tirukandalam, Uthiramerur, Zamin Endathur, Gudalur, Thanjavur, Thalavaipalayam, Ravanamudram, Thiruvavur, Mannargudi were distributed by the respective centre heads of Sevalaya.

Each kit consists of 10 Kgs of boiled rice, and groceries including toor Dal, moong dal, bengal gram, urid dhal, chilli powder, turmeric powder, fried gram, salt, and cooking oil.

## Sanitation kits for 50 frontline workers



On 4<sup>th</sup> August 2021, Dr Arasi Srivatsan, Dean, Thiruvallur, Government Hospital, Dr Rajkumar, RMO, distributed the sanitation kits to the frontline workers of Thiruvallur Government Hospital. Each kit with a value of ₹550, consists of 10 masks, 6 sanitisers, 1 hand wash, Gloves, becozinc tablet 30 nos.

Prasanna Parthasarathy, VP Corporate Relations and Dr Gokulakrishnan J, Head of Health were present at the event.

Sevalaya has been engaged in relief activities during this pandemic, with the support of many individuals, associations and corporations.

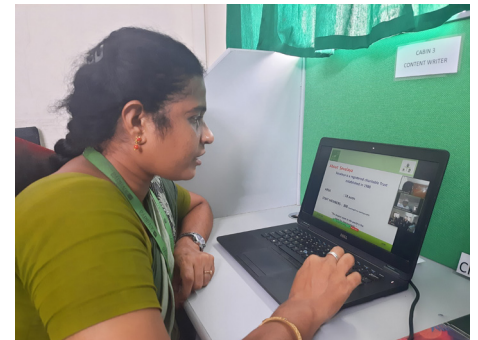
## Certificate of Appreciation



At the 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day celebrations at the District Collectorate Office, Thanjavur on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021, Sevalaya was awarded a certificate of appreciation for the support extended to the district administration to combat the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic.

A Suresh, AVP Operations, Sevalaya received the certificate at the hands of Dinesh Ponraj Oliver, IAS, at the District Collectorate office.

## 5S Training in Telugu



A training session on 5S was conducted by L N Anupriya, Head, Quality and Volunteering, in Telugu for the Smiles Home, A Home for children and senior citizens, located 30 Kms from Hyderabad.

26 girls and 100 Senior citizens participated in the session.

## Chess class training



Help foundation organized a 6 week chess class for beginners from 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 to 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

Sourish Bandaru, American volunteer from Help foundation conducted the sessions for 3 boys and 2 girls from Stds VI and VII.



# Students say NO to alcohol at Putlibai Day celebrations



On 5<sup>th</sup> August 2021, at the Putlibai day celebrations held at Kasuva centre, 200 students of Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School and Community College made a promise to their mothers that they will never consume alcohol.

The oath was administered by the Chief Guest G Ram Mohan, a staunch Gandhian and Former Safety commissioner, Indian

Railways. Ram Mohan emphasized that this promise would help the boys overcome temptations in their life in later years. He impressed upon the students the sanctity of this pledge which should not be taken as a casual repetition of words but must be adhered to in all earnestness.

State-level competitions including oratorical and quiz were conducted

online to commemorate the day. 1309 students from 38 districts participated.

The Chief Guest distributed the prizes to the winners from nearby schools. Other prizes were sent by courier to the winners.

Sevalaya organises this event every year on August 5<sup>th</sup>, to commemorate the promise made by Mahatma Gandhi to his mother Putlibai not to touch wine, women and meat before leaving for England for higher studies in 1888.



*Prize winners with Sevalaya Murali, G Ram Mohan and Bala subramanian, Gayathri Charties*

## Gorgeous grandma day



50 pattis (grandmas) at Sevalaya's old age homes at Kasuva and Thanjavur lived their dream on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021- Gorgeous Grandma day.

At Kasuva centre, 6 MSW student volunteers from Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development Chennai and Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore volunteered and dressed up the grandmas in different sari styles. They also organised a ramp walk and games for grandmas.

The best-dressed grandma was selected by votes from the audience and was crowned "Gorgeous Grandma". Many games were conducted for the grandmas at Thanjavur Home and prizes

were awarded to winners.

The origins of this day go back to the 1980s when Alice Solomon, a radio host and author from the USA, created Gorgeous Grandmas Day after graduating from college at the age of 50.

The pattis at Sevalaya's homes have faced tough situations in life and are left to fend for themselves in their old age. They have landed up at Sevalaya's Old Age homes in the autumn of their lives.

They contribute their bit, like lending a helping hand in the kitchen and maintaining the lush green gardens.

They follow their daily routine of prayers, yoga, and satsangs

cheerfully supporting each other.

They were very enthusiastic about celebrating this day, participated in all the activities with exuberance and were in raptures at the end of the day.

## 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration



On 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021, girls of Sevalaya Home organised a party to celebrate the 99<sup>th</sup> birthday of Soundaram Patti, the senior most resident of Ramakrishna Paramahansa old age home in Sevalaya.

She has been a resident of the old age home since 2002. She is not married and does not have any immediate family. The children cut a cake baked in Sevalaya's bakery. Snacks were distributed to all the children, elders and staff.



## Finding satisfaction in supporting hapless elders

Dr V Manoharan, Retired Professor from Agricultural University hails from a weaving family in the village of Madukkarai in Puducherry. Despite having no formal education, his father understood the importance of educating his children. He managed to educate his eldest son Ramasamy, who was the first graduate from their town. The first son then took on the responsibility of educating his brother, Manoharan, "My parents and older brother have played a huge part in shaping my life. Without their support, I would not be where I am today," says Manoharan.

He completed post graduation and did a doctorate in Agriculture. from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) in



Puducherry and joined as a Research associate in 1979. His hard work and dedication helped him move up the ladder in his career and he retired as Professor. "Honesty and integrity, qualities which I imbibed from my father and brother, coupled with dedicated work is the reason for success in my career," he claims.

His journey with Sevalaya started 4 years ago when he saw a charity video of Sevalaya on YouTube. Impressed with the wide range of services provided by Sevalaya He says he found the right place to fulfil his desire of helping the

people in need. Since then he has been contributing towards providing meals for the residents of the Children's Home and Old Age Home on the death anniversary of his parents every year. When Sevalaya opened a community college in Puducherry, he visited the facility. He also visited the Kasuva centre. Though he had seen videos about Sevalaya, actually visiting the centre and seeing in person the services provided to the destitute children, senior citizens and cows in the Gaushala, was overwhelming.

He contributed towards the construction of Sevalaya's Old Age Home at Zamin Endathur. His confidence in Sevalaya, to effectively implement welfare projects prompted him to donate his house at Dharmapuri, to run an OldAge Home for destitute senior citizens there." I have seen so many elderly people spend their lives begging on the side of the street without support. Turning my house into a Home for such people is an act that gives me great satisfaction. "As the saying goes, success is a measure decided by others whereas satisfaction is a measure decided by ourselves. And I derive great satisfaction and joy that I am able to play a part in making the lives of the destitute elders better," concludes Manoharan.

## Leelamma: With Samaritan for 21 years

I come from a farming family of Koothattukulam in the Ernakulam district. My parents had 5 children - three boys and two girls, and I'm the youngest among them.

In order to assist our father, all three of my brothers left school in the 9th grade and began working in agricultural fields and then my sister also stopped in 9th grade. Since I was the last in my family, I was educated till the 10th class. Although I wanted to become a nun ever since I was a young girl, my family prevented me from pursuing my dream because my cousin said he would provide a job abroad if I completed my nursing degree. Therefore, I began taking nursing courses at the Vayanad - Kariyambadi - Malabar diocese medical mission hospital, staying in my uncle's house in Vayanad. Rather



than joining GNM,(General Nursing and Midwifery) where I would need to study for three years, my family enrolled me in ANM,(Auxiliary nurse midwife), a two-year course. After finishing my studies, I worked in the same hospital.

Several months later, I heard from my friend that there was a vacancy in Gudalur Clinic, and I joined her there.

During the time I worked at the clinic where I treated a lady named Leelamma Joseph She used to talk to me and liked my character so much that she proposed my marriage with her brother-in-law. Our marriage took place in 1989. Initially,

N V Chacko, my husband, was a farmer in Thottakadu, from Kottayam village. After our marriage, he joined an estate in Gudalur, and I continued to work there. Having lost my job at the clinic I was working for in 2000, I was referred to Samaritan by a friend. I have spent the rest of my career at Samaritan. I've been a Samaritan employee for 21 years as of now. One of the most memorable moments of my work was being there when a Muslim sister gave birth. Sadly, the baby didn't come out completely, only the head came out, and the body remained stuck. For surgery and to get the child out, a doctor from Bathery had to be called. I prayed to God, and somehow the doctor and I managed to grab the baby's head and pull him out by hand. I will never forget the crying of that sister back then. My love for the job led me back to work here after I retired in 2018.

Our son has completed an MBA and is now employed in Coimbatore with a private company. We at the Samaritan are delighted to have joined Sevalaya.

We are learning a lot from scratch already. We had a medical camp, we've attended Awareness Camps, and we've covered 5S, all of which are new for us.



# 75<sup>th</sup> Independence day Celebrations at all locations



Sevalaya celebrated India's 75<sup>th</sup> independence day at all the centres on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

At Kasuva Centre, Sevalaya alumni, G Akshaya - Computer Operator, Directorate of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, R Nandini CTS, Program Analyst, and P Dilip Kumar - Southern Associates, Mechanic Engineer were the Chief Guests and they hoisted the national flag

Sevalaya students presented a colourful cultural programme of patriotic songs, dance and skits. Self-improvement books were distributed by the special guest as gifts to 25 staff who were celebrating their birthdays this month. As every year, the Sevalaya Alumni Association and Indian Red Cross Society, Chennai, organized a blood donation camp on the day. Over 80 units of blood were collected at the camp in which 78 people including alumni and Sevalaya staff donated blood. Vankamamidi Venu Gopala Rao memorial State level chess tournament, sponsored by donor Satya Prabhakar, CEO, Sulekha.com was also conducted, in which 190 students from 5 districts participated.



On 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day celebrations held at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Ambattur, Dr V Parthiban, M.Sc. Yoga, PhD, Professor, SRM University, Kattankulathur, were the Special Guest and hoisted the national flag.



Dr Venmani Uma Chandran, BAMS, Ayurvedic doctor, Government Hospital, Kumbakonam, was the Special Guest at Eraharam and hoisted the national flag.



R Chandran, Headmaster, Panchayat Union Middle School, Ravanamamudram, was the Special Guest and hoisted the national flag on Independence day at Ravanamamudram



S P Prabhu, Founder & Director of SPP Enterprises, was the Special Guest and hoisted the national flag at Sevalaya's Community College at Sunguvarchatram.



D Murugesan, President of the Rotary Club, Attorney-at-Law, was the Special Guest at the Sevalaya Old age Home, Thanjavur and hoisted the national flag.



Kayan, Village administrative officer, Thirubuvana, was the Special Guest at the Sevalaya's Community College, Thirubuvana and hoisted the national flag.



Dr N Agilan, B.V.Sc Veterinary, Assistant Surgeon, was the Special Guest at the Sevalaya Community College, Uthiramerur and hoisted the national flag.



Sevalaya's Community College at Zamin Endathur, where B Musthafa Sheriff M.Sc., BEd, was the Special Guest and raised the national flag



R Rajendran, Municipal Secretary, Gudalur, was the Special Guest at the Sevalaya Samaritan Hospital in Gudalur, and hoisted the national flag



# All in prison

The Government was keen that the pilgrims should be arrested before they reached the 'promised land. They saw that the arrest of Gandhi did not dishearten or frighten the pilgrims, nor did it lead them to breach the peace. He thought and said as much. Gandhi observes, "How long can you harass a peaceful man? How can you kill the voluntarily dead? There is no zest in killing one who welcomes death. If the mouse did not flee before the cat, the cat would be driven to seek another prey. If all lambs voluntarily lay with the lion, the lion would be compelled to give up feasting upon lambs. Great hunters would give up lion hunting if the lion took to non resistance. Our victory is implicit in our combination of the two qualities of non violence and determination".

It was suggested by Gokhale that Polak should go to India and help him in placing the facts before the Indian and Imperial Governments. Gandhi wrote to Polak that he would not leave for India without meeting him in person and

taking full instructions. Polak complied despite being aware of the possibility of his being arrested. While the discussions between Gandhi and Polak was going on, Mr. Chamney, the Principal Immigration Officer of the Transvaal came along with a Police officer and arrested Gandhi. He was not even allowed to talk to the pilgrims and leave instructions. Gandhi was taken to Heidelberg where he passed the night.

The pilgrims, with Polak as leader resumed the march and halted for the night at Greylingstad. There they were met by Sheth Ahmed Muhammad Kachalia and Sheth Amad Bhayat who apprised them that arrangements had been made and completed for arresting the whole body of marchers. When the marchers reached Balfour, three special trains had been drawn up at the station to take and deport them to Natal. The pilgrims were obstinate and insisted that they should be permitted to meet and talk to Gandhi before being arrested. This was a wrong attitude and the whole game

would be spoiled and the movement would receive a setback. The leaders had great difficulty in explaining to them that jail was their goal and they therefore should appreciate the Government's action in arresting them. Ultimately, the pilgrims were brought round and all of them entrained peacefully.

In the meantime, Gandhi was arrested on a warrant from Dundee where he was to be prosecuted on the principal charge of inducing the indented labourers to leave the province of Natal. He was taken to Dundee by rail the same day. Polak was arrested in Charlestown. Kallenbach who was working most energetically on behalf of the Indians was also arrested. Both of them were confined in Volksrust jail. Gandhi was tried in Dundee and was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment with hard labour. He had still to take his second trial at Volksrust on the charge of aiding and abetting prohibited persons to enter the Transvaal.

(To be continued)



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