

SIVAN ARUL ILLAM INC, THIRUKETHEESWARAM, MANNAR.

Email: sivanarulillam@gmail.com

20th October 2009 Volume 1, Issue 2



80 days had rolled by since the arrival of the children and elders from IDP camps and we are happy to report that they had settled well in their new environment. The projects, Sivan Arul Illam embarked during this period are progressing as per schedule. Our priority is to provide quality education for the children of Sivan Arul Illam and details are given in this Newsletter.

We thank all donors for their compassion and sacrifice which has enabled us to ensure that these children who had lost their parents, get back to normal life like other children. Your timely help has assured us that these children have an extended family, which they can rely on.

1. Schooling and Meeting the Educational Needs

The children are attending the school close by, Gowri Ambal School except the smaller ones who attend kindergarten classes. All children are provided with uniforms and necessary books. Sivan Arul Illam, Thiruketheeswaram has organised private tuition for children who need to master their weak subjects. A handful of students are having difficulties to comprehend what is being taught and the authorities are currently exploring other forms of vocational training for these children.

In order to supplement the facilities available at Gowri Ambal School, Sivan Arul Illam funded the buildings of a Science room, IT room, and a music room. On Vijayadasmi day, the Director of Education, Mannar was the chief guest at a ceremony to formally open these buildings for use. Senior children of Sivan Arul Illam presented a musical program at this function. UK well wishers are funding the computers for use in the IT room.

UNICEF has agreed to build a semipermanent building to accommodate more children at Gowri Ambal School. They have also promised to fund Sivan Arul Illam for additional water supply.



Children playing violin and mirudhangam on Vijayadasmi day

We have also arranged for child counsellors to attend to these children as some are still traumatised by their experiences. This has been very productive. These counsellors have identified some issues and we are working towards helping these kids. They have also noted that some children are with high IQ and we are coaching them for scholarship exams.

On Vijayadasmi day, some of the children with interest in playing violin and mirudhangam had their first lesson. One of the Elders in the Illam is a Music teacher and she has agreed to coach these children.

Inside This Issue

1. Schooling and Meeting the Educational Needs
2. Social Outing
3. Elders
4. Rehabilitation project for the people who had lost their limbs
5. Building constructions
6. Future plans
7. Recent Arrival to Sivan Arul Illam
8. Administration
9. Sponsoring a Special Meal on a particular day
10. DVD of the activities at Sivan Arul Illam, Thiruketheeswaram
11. Shobhanam Drama Productions staging Laughing Ho Laughing in Sydney

2. Social Outing

Judge Judson, our well wisher in Mannar was kind enough to invite all our children for his wedding in Vavuniya. The children were excited as it was a social outing and valued them as noble beings.

They were dressed for the occasion and travelled to Vavuniya by Bus. All senior officials attending the wedding/reception were impressed with the behaviour of these children.

3. Elders



Jeevathi, an experienced carer sitting with two elders, lady on the right is our Lakshi amma who is 101 years old!

Our Elders have settled well in their temporary accommodation in the Sambanthar Madam. We are grateful to the temple management for providing this facility till we build our own Home for the Aged. They have access to reading material, TV and cooking facilities. They seem much contented with their accommodation. The temple environment gives them the much needed peace and an opportunity to interact with the pilgrims to the temple. An Elders' day was held recently and all took part in the fun activities. The day was filled with fun and laughter. Sivan Arul Illam intends holding another fun day on 17th October, to celebrate Deepavali. There are five paid carers looking after the elders and two special cooks employed to cook special meals for them.

4. Rehabilitation project for the people who had lost their limbs

People who had lost their limbs in recent years due to the war are being rehabilitated at District Hospital, Mannar. Dr Panagamuwa, a senior Rehabilitation Surgeon, an individual with high morals and Dr Sooriyakumaran, senior rehab physician both from United Kingdom are coordinating this rehabilitation program. They both have been to Mannar recently and worked with the Physiotherapist and patients for limb fitting. Dr Panagamuwa will be visiting Mannar again with more resources.

Dr Sooriyakumaran will be sending us a report of his experience and we will forward that to all our donors and well wishers. We need more Physiotherapists to assist in the rehabilitation program and with God's grace we hope to overcome these challenges. Mr Mike Wardlow, from UK a prosthetist (limb making and fitting technologist) has also been working with these two specialists and the local doctors on this rehab project and will continue to work for another 3 months in Mannar. We are very grateful for these specialists for their services at Mannar Rehab clinic.

Sivan Arul Illam trust has donated Sri Lankan rupees 5million (A\$ 50,000) for this project and 40% of the equipment ordered had arrived.

The Specialists from UK visited Sivan Arul Illam at Thiruketheeswaram and were moved to tears to see the young children from IDP camps currently at the Illam. They appreciated the tireless work that has gone in rehabilitating these children and the facilities provided.

5. Building Constructions

An upper floor is being built to the existing home to accommodate more children. Humane Australia Foundation limited had funded this project. We intend using this facility early next year. We once again thank HAFL for their generosity.

You may recall from our previous newsletters that at the time of handing over the children from the IDP camps the Mannar district judge requested us to build a dinning hall and extra toilets. We are pleased to report that these building works had been completed from the funds provided to us by the sister organisations mentioned in our last newsletter and a few well wishers. All the children are now able to dine together.



6. Future plans

(a) We are expecting another batch of 80 - 100 children from IDP camps to be handed over to us. We have been involved in discussions regarding this matter with various officials and we hope that this hand over will take place soon.

(b) We will continue with our rehab project for the limbless children.

(c) We urgently need a building for our elders as they currently live in the temple "Madam". We have earmarked a land near the Illam and will soon be purchasing it.

(d) We are keen to embark on another project for which we need more sponsors. There are many young mothers who have lost their limbs with dependant children. Many of them have lost their bread winner. Sivan Arul Illam intends caring for a few of them and organise vocational training so that they could be self reliant. We would appreciate your thoughts on this matter. Our email address is sivanarulillam@gmail.com

7. Recent Arrival to Sivan Arul Illam

The recent Arrival to Sivan Arul Illam, Thiruketheeswaram is a 3 month old baby named Dharshan. The mother of Dharshan, when he was a few days old, witnessed her husband and her other children losing their lives under very tragic circumstances. As a result Dharshan's mother is not normal and is currently being treated in a psychiatry ward.

8. Administration

Sivan Arul Illam authorities have now appointed an Administrative Officer (AO) to coordinate the activities of the Illam, as the number of children had increased. This will help the children to manage their time productively. Sujeeta, the new administrative officer will ensure that all challenges are attended to without delay. She will oversee the work and duties of all our carers and officers. Sujeeta is the contact person for those visiting the Illam. She is computer literate and will assist the senior children of the Illam in using computers.

We are expecting another batch of 80 - 100 children from IDP camps .

We are keen to embark on another project for which we need more sponsors.

Email : sivanarulillam@gmail.com

9. Sponsoring a special meal on a particular day

We received few enquiries from well wishers in relation to sponsoring special meal to these children on a particular day, like the birthday of their child, death anniversary etc. We contacted the authorities in Thiruketheeswaram regarding this. Considering the current number of children, they have estimated the cost to be A\$150.

This includes a pooja at Thiruketheeswaram temple and the posting of the temple prasadam to the sponsor in Australia. Anyone interested in sponsoring a special meal is kindly requested to email Sivan Arul Illam Australia, providing details well in advance. The address is: sivanarulillam@gmail.com Kindly have special meal in the subject of your email.

10. DVD of the activities at Sivan Arul Illam, Thiruketheeswaram

Copies of DVD received from Sivan Arul Illam Thiruketheeswaram are being made for distribution to all donors. The DVD has daily activities of the children of the Illam and a layout of the Illam. This DVD will be mailed in the coming weeks.

11. Shobhanam Drama Production staging Laughing Ho Laughing in Sydney

This comedy program of Shobhanam Drama Productions (Director: Dr.J.Jayamohan) raised A\$35,000 (approx). This was in aid of Australian Medical Aid Foundation. The president of AMAF announced at the function that half the profit will be given to Sivan Arul Illam to assist its activities. We express our appreciation to AMAF for this kind gesture.



Children from Sivan Arul Illam seated at the function of opening ceremony of the Science room, IT room and Music room at the Local Gowri Ambal school.

Once again we express our gratitude to all our sponsors for your continuing support.

If you need further clarifications on any of the activities of Sivan Arul Illam, please feel free to write to us as a new email at sivanarulillam@gmail.com

Note : please do not reply to the email to which the News Letter is appended.
