



aasai

American Association for Social Advancement of India

Wherever we live or work, we rely on the services of others whose opportunities may be less than ours.....so let us help them so they can help themselves

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Please hold me.....Lead me

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.....I am only one; but still I am one.
I cannot do everything; but still I can do something. I will not refuse to do the something I can do.....

Helen Keller

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Once again, it gives me great pleasure to report to you about AASAI's performance. At the outset, please join me in welcoming our new board of directors. I personally would like to thank the new board for volunteering their precious time to serve on the board. I also would like to place on record our deep appreciation for the services of the outgoing board whose untiring service has brought this organization from a mere \$40 annual contributions in 1998 to over 100 donors contributing \$50,000 this year. I sincerely hope that you will continue to support us so that our contributions could reach \$100,000 year. Your overwhelming support has enabled AASAI to support several new-

projects; they span the full range of our society. AASAI has expanded its involvement in several of our existing projects, such as, sponsoring eight special children through Little Angels of Bombay, and sup-



porting ten abandoned street children through Deena Seva Sangha in Bangalore and supporting the Aduthurai village school construction where 130

children receive high quality education that only the privileged ones receive in our modern cities. In addition, AASAI has initiated a new project, Balavidyalaya, and is sponsoring two deserving young women to be trained as teachers for ear-ring and speech - impaired children. I will be visiting these organizations, to thank them for their yeomen services to the society and to ensure that our contributions are well-directed. Of course these projects would not have been possible without your ardent support and generosity. For your support, please accept our humble thanks.....

Raghavan

AASAI's project—Deena Seva Blooms with 10 Children HELP FOR STREET CHILDREN IN BANGALORE

You have been generously contributing to our project, Deena Seva Sangha (DSS) in Bangalore. DSS started in the year 1930 by Gandhian workers, provide education, and rehabilitation to over 20,000 orphan and destitute children in the slums of Bangalore. DSS programs include several schools including school for special needs children, and vocational training centers. AASAI pro-actively interacts with the city police to shelter abandoned children who would otherwise be in city jails. Buoyed by our success, AASAI now has expanded its effort and has taken charge of ten children (previously five children) who are now housed in 3 cottages in the DSS-owned 90 acres of land in Pestalozzi Village near Bangalore. While in India, recently Dr. Gopinath visited DSS to see the progress and to determine what else could be done. He learned that

Himalaya Drug Company in Bangalore, is involved community outreach scheme to help growing herbs to its specifications



with a buy-back arrangement. AASAI plans to initiate a project at the Pestalozzi Village to grow herbs for the drug company. We believe that this would be a valuable learning experience for the children and the village residents. The funds generated will be fully used to support the street

children educational activities.

Thanks to your support, Pushpa, a 10 year old adorable girl, abandoned by

mother and grandmother, abused by an alcoholic father, now is growing nicely and studying in 1st grade. 13 year old Uma, another child, abandoned by her parents, with no place to go is currently studying 5th grade. A special teacher assigned to her is bringing her into the mainstream. AASAI is proud of DSS's accomplishments and hope these precious children will become bright and productive future citizens. We thank you for your continued support of this valuable project.



Let me enlighten

You must be the change you wish to see the world.....

Mahatma Gandhi

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give....

Winston Churchill

It is one the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man sincerely try to help another without helping himself...

Calvin Coolidge

We began by imagining that we are giving to them; we end by realizing that they have enriched us....

Pope John Paul II

No act of kindness however small is waste

Aesop

Keep hope alive....

Rev Martin Luther King

You do wrong to everyone you could help, but fail to help.

St. Basil the Great

DR. DAVE MUELLER - AN ARDENT SUPPORTER OF OUR WORK IN INDIA
By L. Raghavan—Chairman

“Thy will be done” says Jesus... When one is involved in selfless service to mankind, mysterious things happen; unforeseen divine force gathers momentum; brings the world around you come together to help you...One such great soul is our own dear friend Mr. V. Swaminthan, IAAS (retd), known as Swami to friends. After years of distinguished government service Swami, a selfless visionary, has tirelessly devoted every waking moment of his life to the cause of the old, needy and children education. Under the aegis of Sri Ramani Ranganayaki Trust, and Sri Poorna Mahameru Trust, Swami started “Sri Vidyasram” free school to village children and “Shanti Niwas” home for destitute senior citizen.

When one is as devoted as Swami is, you find that there is less tape to measure the gap between you and others.....you discover that your cause is at the center of the universe. Distances, national origin or other factors vanish...there is only “wholeness.” You wonder whether this is all true. Yes.. here is the real life proof.

Dr. Muller earned his PhD from the prestigious MIT. While holding several senior management positions at Shell Oil and Chevron Chemical Companies, Dr. Mueller visited India more than 30 times. Here comes the divine intervention. During this period, he became close friends with Swami who was also working at Chevron as a senior executive, after retire-

ment. In their wide ranging ‘off hours conversations’ Dr. Mueller learned of and visited Shanti Niwas. bringing cheers to the elders. He also learned about Swami’s plans to found Sri Vidyasram to provide high quality, free education in English to the poor in the remote village in Tamil Nadu. Upon retirement, Dr. Mueller the “multitasked” was not idling away his time but rather pursued his interest in home renovation projects. Since 2003, his handiwork skills have been adapted to a novel form of support and has generated more than \$17,000 for Swami’s two Trusts through AASAI.



In Dr. Mueller’s words.... “My growing retirement interest in home handiwork was well known to my friends to the point they frequently asked me to help them in the planning of small projects which they intended to have contractors do in their homes. I would often say something like, ‘You don’t need a contractor...you and I can do it,’ to which I would get a polite reply, ‘Thanks but we really wouldn’t feel right about taking up your time.’ These were interesting projects to me, to the point that I actually was exasperated with feelings of being

“deprived” on a couple of occasions. In early 2003, a good friend, Vinnie Woldanski, needed some small exterior water damage items repaired. A contractor had quoted a ridiculously high price and Vinnie asked me to look at the situation to determine if it was ‘fair value’. I told Vinnie that I would be delighted to do the work myself (it looked like fun) and he could make a donation to my favorite charity ..Swami’s ashram... if he was worried about using my time. Vinnie liked the idea, so we did the work , and Vinnie donated \$300 to Sri Vidyasram , still saving significantly from the contractor’s quotation. The same motif worked with other friends, and “business” developed quickly by word of mouth to the point that I have more Swami projects in hand than the time to do them. Along the way, Vinnie has become a reliable “apprentice”, helping me on several of our larger renovation projects. These projects are great fun and good exercise. The bonus is to be able to help friends and involve them in supporting Swami’s good works in India through AASAI.”

From AASAI’s family, 130 school children at Srividayasram and 60 elders at Shanti Niwas.... our sincere thanks, love, and prayers and blessings to Dr. Mueller his family and his extended family of friends. These are not the mere words of mortals but rather feelings of immortal souls.

ADUTHURAI SCHOOL CHILDREN EXERCISING—SANE BODY & MIND



Deena Seva—Street Children project. Children abandoned and no place to go. No more. AASAI proactively negotiates with Bangalore City police to take charge of abandoned street children and provide them home, education and a mentor at Pestalozzi village, a 90 acre campus in Bangalore. Currently, AASAI supports 10 children. Dr. Gopinath, is negotiating with local pharmaceutical company to help the residents grow herbs in the village and buy the produce back. This will generate much needed resources for the expansion of this project.

AHOBILA MATH SCHOOL TOP RANK STUDENTS WITH DR. S. NATARAJAN



For the last 7 decades, the Children’s Garden School is providing education to over 5000 poor children. In addition, the school provides vocational training to women enabling them to maintain their dignity and economic independence. The school provided valuable service by training our Aduthurai school teachers in the Montessori education system. The school provides free balanced lunch for poor children shelter for destitute and poor. AASAI is supporting the school’s midday meal program.

Sri Vidyasram school is bringing top notch education comparable to any school that privileged ones attend to village children. The school imparts, besides regular curriculum, physical exercises, meditation, prayer in a state of the art facility. The school provides uniform and all school supplies. The school also provides free midday meals. The school started in 2001 now boasts 130 students in the grades from kinder garden through 2nd grades. AASAI is proud of this project’s accomplishments.

AASAI CHILDREN WITH OUR DIRECTOR DR. GOPINATH

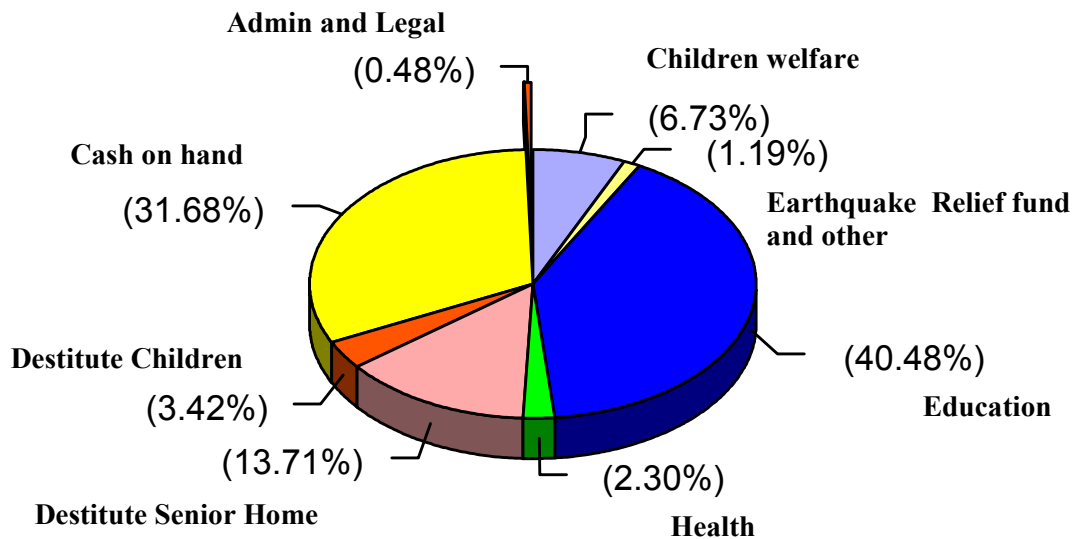
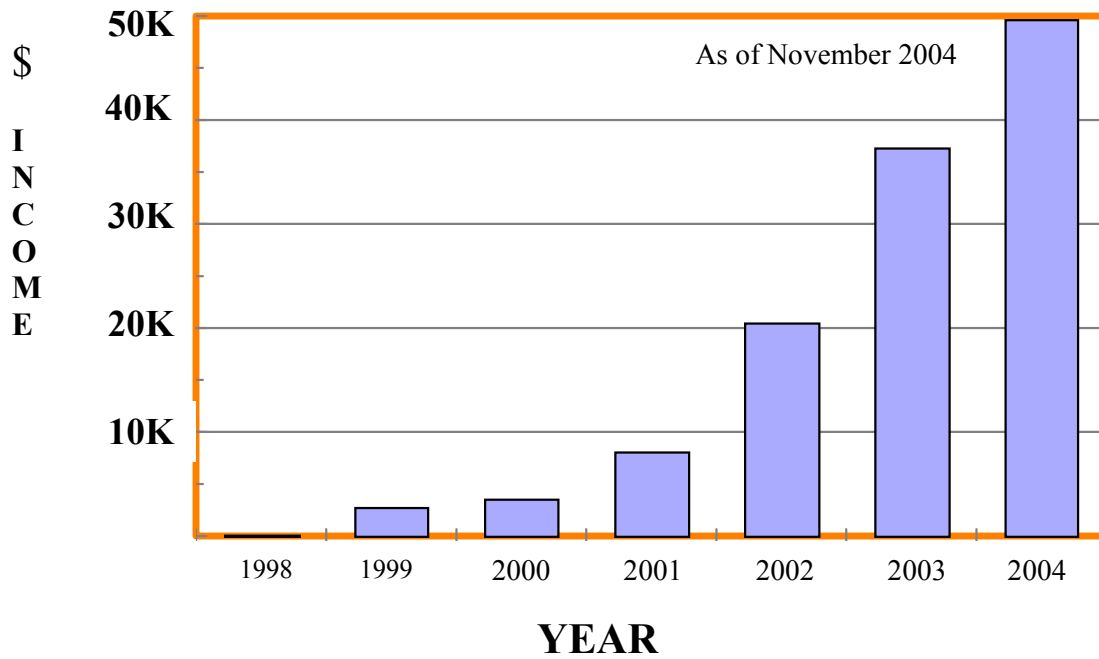


Sri Ahobila Math School students get not only modern subjects but also in vedic culture. The students come from lower middle strata of the society but they are rich in brain power. Many students, year after year, achieve top state ranks in various subjects. For the last three years AASAI has been awarding cash prizes for their scholastic achievements. AASAI is very proud of them.

MIDDAY MEAL THE CHILDRENS GARDEN SCHOOL-VIJAY RAGHAVAN SERVES



Income Growth



Total Distribution as of November 2004

"Goodness is the only investment that never fails" ---Thoreau

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Yes I would like to become a member. Annual dues \$120

Yes I would like to contribute \$_____

My address:

Email:

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Our Projects:

Education

Aduthurai Rural School for poor children
Sri Ahobila Math High School - Educational excellence
Pattamadai High School. Tirunelveli District

Children Welfare

Little Angels, School for mentally challenged children
Children's Garden School—Midday meals
Balavidyalaya - School for hearing speech impaired children
Deena Seva Sangha - Rehabilitation of abandoned children

Elder Welfare

Home for destitute elders

Women Welfare

Kasthurba Gandhi Kanya Gurukulam - Rural women welfare

Health

Voluntary Health Services—medical needs of the poor and middle-income groups

“Goodness is the only investment that never fails” - Thoreau

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