



aasai



American Association for Social Advancement of India
...help others so they can help themselves...

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Makkala Ashraya Yojane
AASAI's Midday meal project for abandoned street children
Deena Seva Sangha, Bangalore

**.....May you never feel hungry until food
is brought before you.....**



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Yet another year is coming to an end...we are in the midst of many historical events...most notably the financial market meltdown with significant decline in net assets...home values at historical lows...significant job loss..It is only natural that all of us are worried about ones own financial standings and future well being....Despite all the bad news, I am really overwhelmed at your continued generosity and support. Truly our donors are more concerned about the welfare of other less fortunate among us. Please accept our sincere gratitude for all your support. In these uncertain times, I am only reminded of the common saying that the "darkest hour is before the dawn". Let us not despair but

keep our faith steady and face the obstacles with courage and confidence. Please be assured that faith can move mountains. So, on behalf of AASAI family, let me be the first to pray and wish the New Year to



bring renewed prosperity, health and happiness. Let us pray that our happiness and prosperity permeate the entire world...let all our fellow beings live peacefully car-

ing for each others and leaving no one behind us. In the words of our Lord Krishna:

"yam hi na vyathayanty ete purusham purusharsabha ama- dukkha- sukham dhiram so 'mrtatvaya kalpate"

"..the person who is not disturbed by happiness and distress and is steady in both is certainly eligible for liberation." We are ever so grateful for your continued generosity.

L.Raghavan

AN ECO-FRIENDLY PROJECT TAKES SHAPE IN ITS SUPPORT OF THE HOME FOR THE MENTALLY DISABLED DESTITUTE

An eco-friendly project has been successfully launched to support TRUST (Training and Rehabilitation of Underprivileged members of Society), Trichy, Tamilnadu. TRUST, at its Shanthivanam facility, cares for over 100 mentally disabled and destitute patients. These patients who come from all parts of India, are poor and unaware of their homeless conditions; TRUST provides free and professional care to them at Shanthivanam. Many of these patients have been reunited with their families (if found) or other foster families. Many of them have also received some vocational training and thus live with self-respect and dignity. AASAI Ghoshala (cow farm) has developed into a valuable facility that is of financial help and therapeutic resource for TRUST. Two years ago, AASAI initiated the Goshala project. Recently, Dr. Subbramaniam (AASAI Director) visited the facility to see the progress. The facility has now 13 cows



Dr. Subbramaniam at Shanthivanam

and 5 of them produce milk enough for the patients. The excess is sold in the local market which helps TRUST raise funds for its core project. The cow waste is used in the Biogas fuel facility which produces one cylinder worth of fuel per week. This again saves money from not having to buy gas for cooking. Soon the plans are to charge the next larger bio fuel unit, which will yield enough fuel to meet the cooking needs at Shanthivanam kitchen. Please

donate generously to this project. You can also sponsor a cow (\$500), meals for lunch (\$100/day). Your cash contribution can also be steered for specific projects. Your generosity besides helping mentally ill contributes to the green environment.



Let me enlighten

Money doesn't buy class

Being kind is more important than being right

Sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand

I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way

Just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day

It's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

Everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile..

A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks

Andy Rooney ... a man few words

AASAI has initiated support to Sevalaya, by providing total support to 20 orphan children. This includes education and complete living at an annual cost per child of Indian Rupees 6000 (\$150). Total annual cost for 20 children Indian Rupees 120,000 (\$3000). Sevalaya runs an orphanage in the village of Kasuva near Thirunninravur about 40 kms west of Chennai. It is also engaged in activities for the welfare of the poor and the deprived. It runs a high school for about 1000 students, an orphanage for about 120 boys and girls,, free medical center; free library; and, an old age home for destitute senior men and women, a ghosala (cow farm including taking care of non-milk yielding

cows without sending them to butcher shop) and a gobar gas (bio-fuel) plant. These activities are located on a 7 acre campus. All activities (school, orphanage and old age home) are



provided totally free, funded by donations. A noteworthy feature of the organization is the transparency in planning and budgeting/accounts of the activities. A committee of staff

and with student representatives, prepares the annual budget and is also regularly involved in setting priorities for the institution. The children in the orphanage and the school are brought up in an atmosphere free from such prejudices. They are imparted good value systems, particularly the teachings of Gandhi, Bharathi and Vivekananda who are the inspirers for the organization. Our directors, Dr. C. Gopinath, and Dr. S. Natarajan, President, AASAI Chennai visited the Sevalaya in August 2008.

SRI AHOBILA MATH SCHOOL STUDENTS ACHIEVE STATE RANKS AGAIN

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
 ☆ top achievers in ☆
 ☆ 2008 higher ☆
 ☆ Secondary ☆
 ☆ Public exams ☆
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 ☆ **A. Aiswarya** ☆
 ☆ **S. Divya** ☆
 ☆ **B. Sandhiya** ☆
 ☆ **D. Janaki** ☆
 ☆ **K. Aparna** ☆
 ☆ **S. Hemnath** ☆
 ☆ **T. Divyajothi** ☆
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AASAI INITIATES ANADASHRAM HOME FOR POOR SENIORS AND ABANDONED STREET CHILDREN, BANGALORE

AASAI is expanding its support to Deena Seva Sangha (DSS) in Bangalore. DSS started in 1930 by Gandhian workers, provides rehabilitation to the underprivileged. Currently, through DSS, our 'Makkala Ashraya Yojane' project, provides support for the care and education of about 20 orphans and destitute children who could otherwise land-up in the city jails. These children are now housed at the Anandashram, a home for orphans and destitute elderly on Bannerghata Road, Bangalore. The children attend a private school nearby, and receive love and care of the staff of the Ashram. Some of them are hoping to pursue professional careers as teachers, doctors and engineers. AASAI has now



AASAI Director Dr. Gopinath with our children

expanded its support through a project called AASAI-Anandashram.

our children become future doctors, engineers and other professionals.

This project involves construction of 38 rooms to provide free care for destitute or subsidized care for poor senior citizens. A dormitory for the orphan children is also planned.. The project is estimated to cost Rupees 2.5 crores (\$500,000). Please continue your support. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated. May

A Report from Shree Parashara Gurukulam, Mysore
By Dr. S. Natarajan
President, AASAI, India

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I visited Gurukulam of Vishvakshema Trust on August 13th & 14th 2008. True to their ideal of "Integration of Vedic Studies & Modern Education", the Gurukulam functions. e.g., the students attend courses and discourses in Vedic Literature. They also attend regular academic courses on English Literature, Sanskrit, Science subjects and arts subjects like History. More than this, the students participate in Volley Ball, Basket Ball and Cricket. On occasions like Independence Day, the students put up Flag Hoisting, marching with Band, arrange speeches by themselves & presented before a Chief Guest, invited for the occasion.



The Organizers of the Gurukulam and the residents are not bound by any time constraint - a class may be conducted at 7:30 P.M.! The 'Gurukulam environment' makes it possible - students stay in the buildings of the Vishvakshema Trust - all their activities are in and around these buildings. Food is provided in the same buildings. There are no servants for routine chores. Servants and helpers are employed for heavy-duty tasks like Cooking Food for all the residents, construction of buildings, electrical and plumbing tasks etc.

Vedic learning is compulsory only to a certain level - till about the 8th standard. By this time the 'basics' are done. Students get more time after that stage to concentrate on regular 'modern' education, so that they would be able to compete with students of any other School, and go for college level courses. In fact, it is worth mentioning here about 4 of the past students of Gurukulam. Two have finished school studies and not continuing with the Gurukulam as they are aspiring for Engineering and Medicine, the 3rd and the 4th students are now in College - at the Intermediate levels (+one). These four continue to stay in the Gurukulam premises. They still participate in as many activities of the Gurukulam as possible - I saw them reciting slokas, in the Band Team for celebrating Independence Day, etc., consistent with their attendance elsewhere. All because these students did their schooling in Gurukulam -- training in Vedic Learning and doing Modern Curriculum -- they did not miss out on anything open to the 'regular students' doing Modern Education only in any institution other than the Gurukulam!

At present the Gurukulam functions from 4 buildings. One of these is owned by the family who formed the Vishvakshema Trust. The other 3 buildings are rented. These buildings are within walking distance of each other. One building accommodates the Library. Another is for conducting classes and living of students. Poojas and some of the Vedic learning take place in the 3rd (owned by the Trust family). The 4th is only for the members of the Trust family, for day to day living.

The Trust was donated a piece of land located about 4 kms from the Gurukulam. It is now fenced, and a little bit of agriculture is going on. Water is available in plenty, with a stream running across the property. The Trust plans to have the entire Gurukulam on this property, with a Temple and herbal plants cultivation. The idea is to develop studies in Indian Medicine along with Vedic Learning. The current strength is 18 students. Ten of them in the 10th standard, and the rest in 8th standard. After moving to the new site, additional strength is planned.

AASAI is thankful to Dr. S. Natarajan for his ardent support, dedication to our cause and self-less service

A Few of AASAI's Projects - Miles to go



Project India-60 supports the needy seniors who live below the poverty line. They have no one to care for them, and no sustainable ways for food and health care. India-60 provides care at their own homestead; a meal a day, 2 sets of clothes per year, and Rupees 50 per month, and free medical care.



Sevalaya, Tamilnadu provides totally free education to the poor children and instills in them gandhian values. AASAI has adopted 20 beautiful children providing total support to them. Dr. S. Natarajan visited them this year and handed over our check.



Raghavan at Shantivanam - home for mentally destitute. Several patients have been rehabilitated by Dr. Ramakrishnan.

AASAI India President Dr. S. Natarajan at the village school where 350 students receive high class education that is normally available only to privileged.



AASAI India President, Dr. S. Natarajan speaking with the students and the staff of Avvai Home Girls School in Adyar, Chennai, where over 35 girls (living in the slum area of Chennai) receive free English medium education.



Appeal

We are writing this letter to appeal to your generosity and your desire to help others help themselves. Thanks to your support and patronage, AASAI has successfully helped hundreds of the poor and underprivileged since its founding in 1998. Guided by our mission to “help others so they can help themselves,” one of our primary objectives is to provide education to the poor and needy to give them the opportunity to enjoy the benefits and privileges that we often take for granted.

AASAI has personally seen the direct impact education has had on these children, but the indirect economic impact these projects have had on previously neglected communities is perhaps more important. The general economic prosperity as a result of job opportunities for young women to become teachers, seasonal laborers to receive year-round work, and associated service industries to prosper, has developed a chain reaction that allows these communities to enrich themselves, thereby fulfilling AASAI’s mission.

AASAI is convinced that we are at a critical point where these successes have become repeatable in communities across India at a larger level, and can have a dramatically positive impact on the general welfare of society. To do so we will need your increased involvement, and your active support.

The educational projects we are involved all provide opportunities to underprivileged children, be it in the most rural of areas to the largest of cities. A few of the projects :

Supporting a school with 300 children in a village in rural Tamilnadu, where the students receive a free English medium education at par with children of affluence.

Providing a free English medium education to young girls from slum areas in Chennai.

Adopting and providing shelter, care and education to abandoned street children in Bangalore.

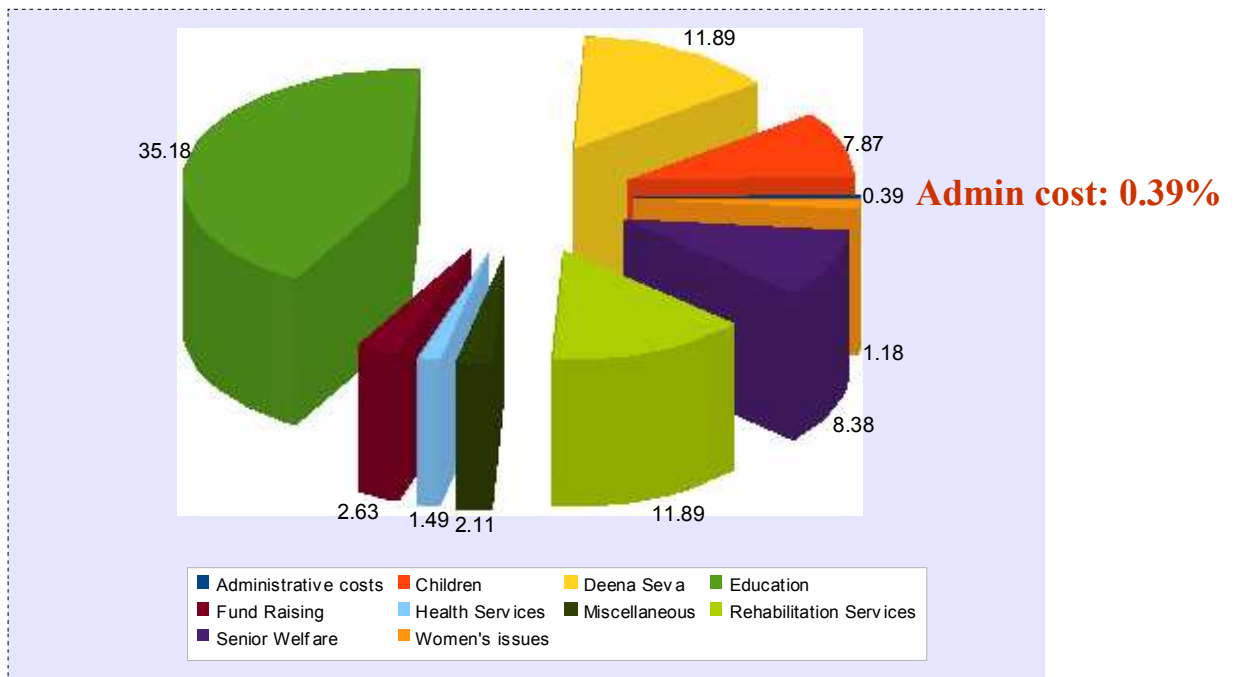
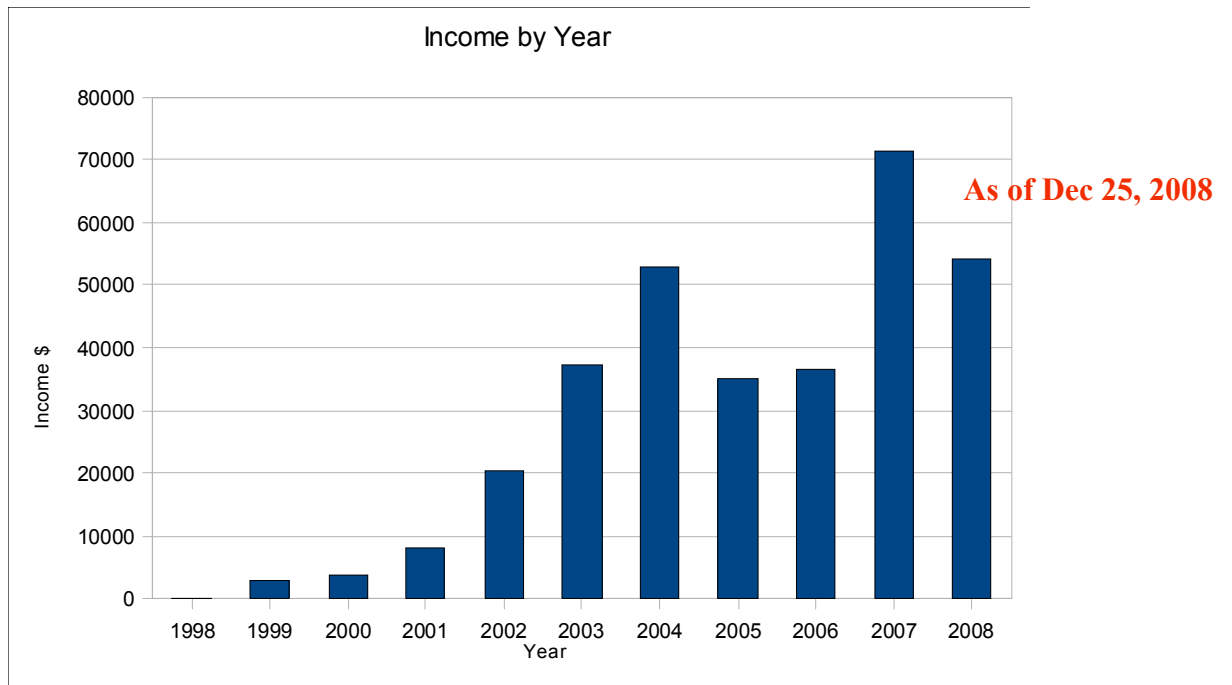
Providing support to special needs children in Mumbai to teach them how to become independent adults.

Providing total care to destitute mentally ill and rehabilitating and integrating them to the main society

Providing care to our seniors to lead their life with dignity

These are but of few projects that we are involved with. The tasks are monumental but of utmost need. Your generosity and support are critical for AASAI to sustain and grow.

Please help <http://www.aasai.org> to learn more about these projects and how you can get involved. Be assured that 100% of your contribution will go towards worthy causes (our administration costs are less than 0.5%) and note that your contributions are fully tax deductible under IRS rule 501(c) (3). Please fill the form next page and send your checks.



Total Distribution as of December 2008

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 \$ _____

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Our Projects:

Education

- Aduthurai Rural School for poor children
- Sri Ahobila Math High School - Educational excellence
- Shree Parashara Gurukulam - Modern education through traditional values
- Avvai Home - Girl's English medium school

Children Welfare

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

Elder Welfare

- AASAI Anadashram
- Sri Poorna Mameru Trust - Home for destitute elders
- India 60 –Elder care

Health

- Voluntary Health Services—medical needs of the poor and middle-income groups
- Shantivanam—Home for destitute mentally ill

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

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