



aasai



**American Association for Social Advancement
of India**

...help others to help themselves...

Volume 15

May 2018

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF IN-
TEREST:**

- Special Children School
- Women Empowerment
- Cancer Screening
- Green projects

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Our ChildrenAre Special



Athmalayam School For Special Children

**11136 Lake Breeze Drive, N. Potomac, MD20878, USA
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Chairman's Corner

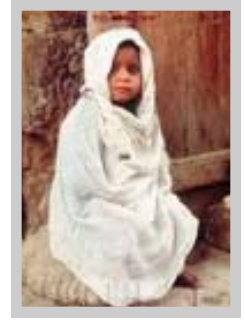


Thanks to your continued generosity, AASAI is approaching its significant milestone, and is now 20 years young. We are very humbled by your continued

support and generosity. We are very proud to be part of many organizations and opportunity to serve the underprivileged in our society. In the last couple of years we saw several major emergencies most notable the floods in Tamilnadu. Several thousands, both privileged and the poor with no exception, were affected. Even daily bare necessities of food, shelter and clothing were not available. But the entire India rose to the occasion and came to the help of the fellow citizens with whatever they can. In all my trips to India I never saw such a devastation. AASAI, for its share, coordi-

nated through our family of NGOs, specifically Voluntary Health Services (VHS), provided food, water, clothing to our women in Rehoboth home (shelter for women in distress). Through our Kalanjiam organization AASAI helped to rebuild several homes which were totally destroyed in the floods. We witnessed true generosity of the people and strength to face challenges when we are together. To these men and women we can only say thanks. Our gratitude to them knows no bounds. Sincerely seeking your continued support ..Raghavan

Let me enlighten



Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.

Old friends are like Gold! New friends are Diamonds! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a base of Gold!

A blind person asked St. Anthony: "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your vision."

Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble; it is a "steering wheel" that directs us in the right path throughout life.

When we lose hope and think this is the end, Relax, it is just a bend, not the end

Author Unknown

Support to OMayal ACHI Health Center AASAI Continue Free Cancer Screening



AASAI in cooperation with Omayal Achi Community Health Center (Health Center) run by MR Omayal Achi MR Arunachalam Trust (Omayal Trust) initiated breast and cervical cancer screening at villages in and around metropolitan Chennai. The Health Center (Est. 1998) serves the poor in and around 45 villages and provides free health care services in wide range of areas such as General Morbidity, Chronic Disease, antenatal, Gynecology, mental health wellness, children wellness,

We are Grateful to Omayal Achi College of Nursing, Its staff and students

Dental and Eye care. Intensive health care services is provided to 18 villages by the Health Centre benefiting more than 20,000. For conducting the screening with state of the art techniques, AASAI provided financial support to buy advanced Colposcopy-Digital equipment, financial support and clinical services. The camp has identified several positive cases which could have gone unnoticed before. Your support is vital for saving many lives. Please continue your support.



Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening

Organized by

Obstetrics and Gynecological Nursing Dept,

Omayal Achi College of Nursing.

In Collaboration with

International Centre for Collaborative Research (ICCR) & Omayal Achi Community Health Centre, Arrakampakkam.

Sponsored By

American Association for the Social Advancement of India(AASAI)





Dr. Vasudevan (VHS) at the Tailoring Center

On Feb 26, 2015, AASAI initiated its long awaited vocational training program for deserving women to acquire skills to earn independent living. We started this program “Jyothi Tailoring Center” at Kalanjiam (an NGO involved in rural development) with 6 sewing machines. The women were trained by Mr. Ezumalai, a veteran tailor in the nearby village and associated with



Our Women Graduates

Kalanjiam. While on training, AASAI gave stipends to these women and they learned ordinary straight stitching of bed sheets and pillow covers. Consistent with AASAI’s networking model and sharing of resources, the bedsheets and pillow covers and other additional surgical unit needs are sent to VHS, AA-

SAI’s another initiative. Voluntary Health Services. VHS is a hospital in Chennai that provides medical care to the poor. (See photo). Now we are very proud to say that 76 women have progressed and acquired necessary skills to stitch blouses etc.

Many of them have started to earn moderate income from stitching blouses, petticoats, gowns etc. for local families.

Many of them expressed interest to purchase a tailoring machine, so the project provided a loan to six women towards purchase of a machine. Within four months most of the women have returned over 70% of their loan and the project was able to purchase additional four machines for four more women.

All the women who went through the advanced training course are employed either at Kalanjiam and / or on their own, and are producing garments for local community.

Vocational Training at Kalanjiam A Success Story



A Woman trainee at the Sewing machine

The project continues to train other



women who stitch necessary items for VHS. In return, VHS provides free medical care to all deserving poor from Kalanjiam sponsored villages where the medical help is either not easily available or unaffordable. Thus far over 4000 garments stitched by the women trained at Jyothi Tailoring Center have been provided to VHS



VHS Receiving Bed Linens

Athmalayam School for Special Children



Athmalayam , School for Special children is now a reality. As a result of your generosity Athmalayam opened on November 25, 2017. Over 200 special children will attend the school where they will receive loving care and training by dedicated staff to lead an independent life as much as possible. Our Treasurer Muralidharan and his wife Ramah attended the function and inaugurated the school.. We deeply appreciate your support and hope you will help us to complete the infrastructure. Our sincere thanks for your support.

We look forward to your continued support to our special children.





Children born with or developmental disability are invisible. Recent survey shows 1.5% of children are suffering with mental retardation, 1% Autism, 9.6% learning disability, 11% with attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD) of varying degrees of severity. Even if parents are willing to give special education to them, there are very few schools suited to guide them. This situation is very pathetic in semi urban and rural areas. Many children with severe disability will not have toilet training; some have behavior problems, self-injurious behavior, anger and violence leading to danger to self and to others. These children show disinhibited behavior in the society, gatherings, and some children will have seizures (epilepsy) which the parents find embarrassing.



The parents and the siblings of these children are stigmatized and treated as outcasts in the community. On the whole the entire family suffers burden, humiliation, stigma and financial constraint. There are numerous causes for disorders - genetic, metabolic, brain injury, and brain infection and for many, the cause is unknown.

For these children, medical help will reduce or control their aggression and epilepsy. In the case of autistic and ADHD children, the medical help and focused training will develop their concentration. But more essential aspects are training in various skills. If training is started at a very early stage, good improvement can be achieved. With early intervention many children have been shifted from special education to main stream inclusive schools.

These are not mental illness like depression. There is no cure for these children. However, most children with mental retardation can learn to participate in a large number of activities. It just takes them more time and extra effort than other Children.... About 87% of people with mental retardation will only be a little slower than average in learning new information and skills.

All that is needed is patience, perseverance, hope, and support from every one and more importantly recognition. It is not a disease. It is not contagious

Athmalayam has been established as the school for these special children blossom into self-reliant adults who can contribute to the society. The Athmalayam also strives to make their parents feel proud that they have shaped the future of their children with special needs.



Please visit

<http://athmalayam.org>



A few years ago, we initiated a project with Kalanjiam, (a charity organization involved in rural development programs) to provide bi-cycles to poor students in rural village areas as a way to reduce school drop outs. AASAI has thus far provided nearly 300 bicycles.



Commuting to school by bicycles saves time, reduces physical strain and enhances energy level through physical exercise.

This make the students more active / alert in the class room and improves learning. Buoyed by the

success of the project, AASAI has determined to continue this project. Many of you have contributed to AASAI in this initiative. It takes a mere \$75 for one cycle. AASAI is grateful for your contributions and sincerely hope that you will continue to

support us in this project. Please be a part of this wheels in motion for education..

AASAI Joining Hands with Mahaveer Trust To

Reduce Social Disparity and Upliftment Thru Education

AASAI initiated general financial support to Mahavir International, Vadodara Kendra, a charitable organization founded in 2000 with the motto “Love All – Serve All” and is part of the large and well established social institution, Mahavir International. Since its inception, the Kendra has undertaken a large number of activities with particular emphasis on Education, Health as well as Supporting the Needy.

“Education is the best Gift” has been a major initiative of Mahavir International. Beginning with Adopted Schools Program in 2001, a number of additional schemes and programs have been added over the years to cover the entire spectrum. These include: Adopted Schools Initiative, Drop-out Prevention Initiative focusing on primary school students, Interest-free Loans to Students, Mentor Sponsor Program and Counselling of Children. The latest is the Street-to-School Initiative born from the realization that while the focus was on school and college going students, there were a lot of children on the streets and in slums who were not even going to regular schools. The school in such cases is taken to the children through schools in slums / streets or footpaths. There are sixteen such centers catering to over 500 children under "Asha Deep" Banner. The citizens of Vadodara actively assist and participate in these Centers. The children are provided all teaching materials, uniforms, school bag, shoes etc. and are also encouraged in sports and a variety of creative activities for their development. Field trips, movie



and magic shows, sports events, fun fair etc. are just a few examples of the activities with these children. Mentor sponsor program was started at these centers through which seventy bright kids (who are not able to bloom to their potential due to constraints faced by them and their families) are enrolled in better schools to unleash their full potential and ensure all-round personality development.. Please Visit www.mivadodara.org



Network Transforms Energy To Synergy - Beneficiary to Resource



Totally free medical care to Rehoboth residents

Totally free medical care to deserving patients from the Kalanjiam sponsored areas

Voluntary Health Service
General financial support
other support as depicted here



Phynoil
Soap
Mop

Bed Sheets
Pillow Covers



Rehoboth Home

Pudhumai store
Livelihood Program
Phynoil Project
Tailoring

Kalanjiam

General financial support
Bicycles to children to reduce school dropouts
Women livelihood program



Professional medical care to the women and special children



Shantivanam
General financial support,
Goshala (Cow farm),
biogas plants for cooking gas,
Organic fertilizer production
Finance to school for special children

AASAI's unique model provides resources for self sustainability of individual NGOs to do what they do best. Their skills and resources are shared with other NGOs in AASAI's network to promote effectiveness and efficiency through synergy. Please share your views with us and help us



American Association for Social Advancement of India

....help others so they can help themselves....



- ❖ Let none lack opportunities to excel
- ❖ Let all have equal access to health care to prosperity
- ❖ Let elders lead a secure and dignified life
- ❖ Let all minds realize its full potential
- ❖ Let women be empowered to lead a life without fear, discrimination and abuse
- ❖ Let us wipe out tears from every eye
- ❖yes, together we can achieve....

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



Please visit us at WWW.AASAI.org It has been revamped and substantially upgraded. You can read about many more stories and updates and see a Gallery section with photos of the many projects and activities carried out through our partner NGOs.

Please visit the website for detail on our Vision, Mission and Approach. The website includes a well-illustrated video clip highlighting our unique approach in the selection and management of projects.

You can now make donations On-line. Also make every purchase count for a small donation to AASAI using Amazon smile. For details go to <http://www.aasai.org/donations>

Our Board

L. Raghavan	Chairman
Dr. K. Subramanian	President
R Muralidharan	Treasurer
Dr. C. Gopinath	Secretary
Nalini Gopinath	Director
Logachandar Natarajan	Director

Committee Members

Dr. Durga Subramanian	Donor Relations
Jothi Raghavan	Cultural Affairs

The AASAI – Saraswati Project

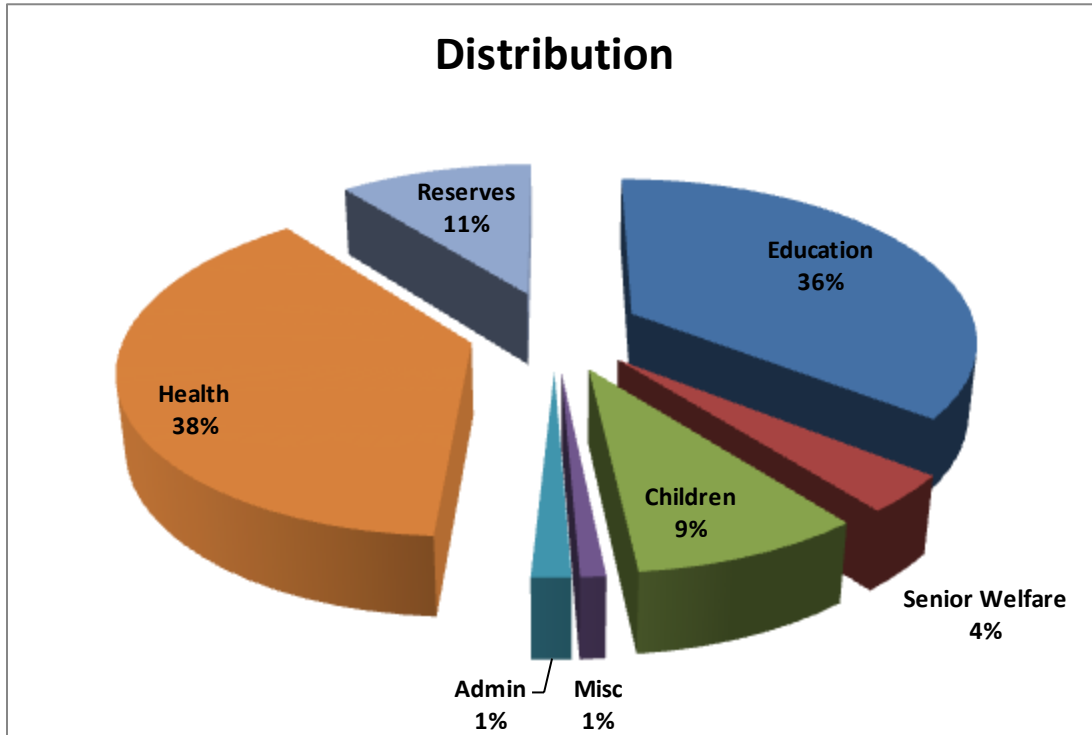
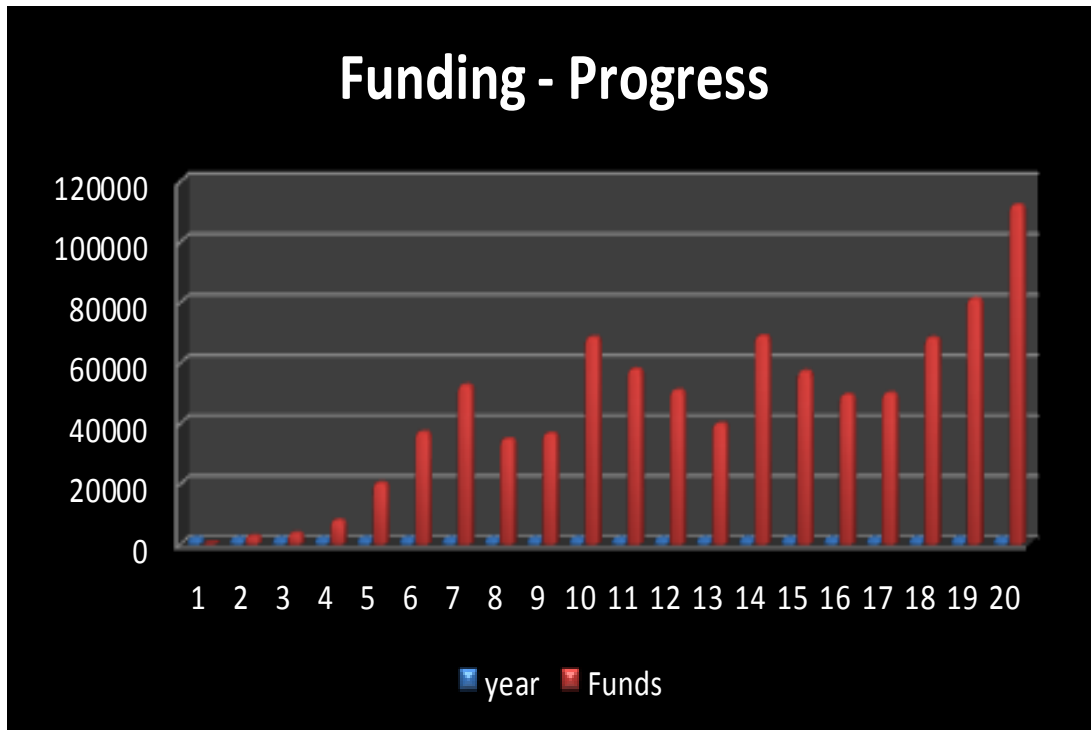
AASAI has established plant at our Santhivanam (the center for rescue, rehabilitation and reunification of mentally ill destitute persons) to produce Areca Plates that are bio degradable . This environmentally conscious and eco friendly project has been enabled by targeted funding from one of AASAI donors.

- Since April 2016 to August 2017 the AASAI – Saraswati Areca nut leaf project has generated an income of Rs. 400,000 vs. expenses of Rs. 300,000.
- At 50,000 leaf processed / month it is expected to generate sales of Rs. 300,000 at expense of Rs. 200,000 resulting in a positive cash flow of Rs. 100,000 / month.
- This project provides full time employment for two persons and vocational activity for about ten rehabilitated residents at Santhivanam.

We propose to expand the capacity of this plant soon..



THANKS—WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT



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:

Telephone:

Our Projects:

Education

Mahavir International—Vadodara Kendra
 Srividyaaram—Aduthurai Rural School for poor children
 Shree Parashara Gurukulam - Modern education through traditional values
 Avvai Home - Girl's English medium school
 Kalanjiam - Rural Village development

Children Welfare

Balavidyalaya - School for hearing speech impaired children
 Atma School for Autistic Children
 Kalanjiam - Rural Village development

Health

Voluntary Health Services- medical needs of the poor and middle-income groups
 Shantivanam, Trichy - Home for destitute mentally ill
 Rehoboth Home -Home for mentally challenged and battered women
 Omayal Aachi College of Nursing - Women health Screening
 Shiv Santananda Trust—Free Health care for poor

Vocational Training / Livelihood Development

AASAI Jyothi Tailoring School at
 Rehoboth Home –Employment for mothers of special children
 Kalanjiam - Employment for Village poor women
 Nambikai (Shantivanam)—Employment for rehabilitated mental patients

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

**WE ARE AN IRS-APPROVED NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 UNDER SECTION 501(c)(3). YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE FULLY TAX
 DEDUCTIBLE. OUR TAX ID NO. 31-1634640**

Appeal – \$1000 a Year Dedicated Contribution

We appeal to your generosity to commit \$1000 a year contribution to AASAI to enable us to pursue, develop and implement projects in a predictable manner. Many of you are already contributing significantly higher amounts. Please continue the same level of support..

Encouraged by your support, AASAI has been involved with a wide range of activities, from children's education to care for abused women, from free health care to care for children afflicted with autism, and from women health center to vocational training and development of employment opportunities for women and other poor citizens. We are extremely thrilled of our success and diligently focused on improving these areas.

AASAI has been following a unique model of self sustainability of individual NGO and developing synergy through integration and sharing of skills and resources. (See page s 4 and 5). In addition our projects are environmentally friendly ensuring nothing goes to waste. For ex: at AASAI's Pudhumai Store, Rehoboth Home, donated used clothes are either sold to public or used by the residents. Remaining not wearable items are made into floor mats or mops and washed and provided free to VHS hospital in Chennai. Similarly, at Shantivanam, a mental health center, AASAI's Goshala, milk is either sold or consumed by the patients, cow dung is used at the biofuel plants generating cooking gas. The remaining waste is processed and sold as organic fertilizer and used in site vegetable garden, rice paddy, and grass feed for cows. These are but a few examples how your contributions are used effectively and efficiently. (see details in this news letter elsewhere)

Our annual fund collection is approximately \$70,000. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 a year. (We do not want to grow beyond that). We strive to find ways to raise the needed funds with certainty and with minimum efforts so we can focus our efforts on ensuring success of the projects rather than fund raising.

In order to reach the goal, we need you and other 99 donors to commit \$1,000 a year to AASAI. (If you have been contributing higher amounts, please continue. Considering several employers match your contributions, we need less than 100 people to rise \$100,000 year.) The simplest way to do this is to include AASAI as a payee through your bank's online bill pay and set up recurring monthly payments of \$83.33. Our address for payment is AASAI, 11136 Lake Breeze Drive, N. Potomac, MD20878. Please consider this request.

We are ever so grateful for your continued support and contributions.