



Ananda Social and Educational Trust

Shanti Children Project

Newsletter – March 2012

Dear Friends,

Shanti Children Project has been serving the local children for eleven years now. We have assisted around 200 poor children in obtaining a better education. Most of the children have been with us for many years. They will start with us and remain throughout the remaining years of school. The majority of the funds to support the children comes from “AWD Kinderhilfe”, Austria, individual donations and the support of friends just like you. We thank all our donors, friends, volunteers and well wishers from our heart, and sending lovely greetings from the children of Shanti Children Project!

It is so nice to send this newsletter from Shanti Children Project. The time goes so fast, already the academic year is almost finished. Our children are busy studying for their annual exams. We are confident that they will do well in their exams. The weather is getting hotter every day. We are looking forward to the summer holidays, and our excursion trip.



On the 24th Sep 2011, together with Iyarkai group, we have organized a cycle rally to raise environmental awareness among the children and in the community. About 200 school students and volunteers from eight different schools took part in the cycle rally. All the students above 13 years from shanti children project also took part in the cycle rally. They have performed a nice drama (play) about environment at the beginning of the rally.



Our Success stories continues....

- Chandra has completed her studies and internship which lasted 6 months. Since 10th Feb 2012, she is working as a Nurse in a private hospital in Chennai. We congratulate Chandra on this wonderful accomplishment!



- Karthikeyan (Krishnamoorthi's elder brother) is working as a guest lecturer in the Government College in Tiru. He is earning enough to support his family. His aged parents were working hard all these years selling flowers in front of the temple and near the Ashram, finally we can see a huge smile on their faces as they have support from their son. Karthikeyan also helps neighborhood students with tutoring in the evening hours. Our friend Wouther has come to visit us last month, he was so happy and touched by experiencing this wonderful true story of Krishnamoorthi and family. THANK YOU ALL !!!



- Our college students are helping at the free Eye Camp for local poor people. This program is conducted once a month by Lions Club of Tiruvannamalai.
- We have taken our children to Marudam Farm School arts and crafts fair, it was very interesting for our children to see all the self made creative things they had there, like calendars, notebooks, bead necklaces, bracelets, etc., Also they enjoyed the games, music and at the end they got snacks. That was a nice evening.



- We have celebrated Saraswathi pooja, Ganesha Chadurthi, and for Pongal festival, with our children we served milk, snacks and sweet, for Pongal our SCP girls did rangoli (mandala with color powders), in shanti garden area, it was beautiful, many tourist came and took pictures.



- For Diwali festival, we had fireworks and sweets, that was so nice to watch the happy faces. For Deepam, our children painted Deepam oil lamps, they have painted different color and design, at the end they have taken some lamps for them to give to their parent/guardian, and the rest we have given as gift from our children to our friends and volunteers and teachers.

- We thank Uncle Heinz, again he came as “Father Christmas” for the Christmas party at Shanti Tuition Centre, he made about 200 children happy. That was a fantastic Christmas celebration, with all the kids and many parents and volunteers, teachers, we had music, dance, drama, singing, storytelling and at the end father Christmas came and gave gifts to all the children. We served dinner and sweets to all the children.



- Alissa Nathaniel from Australia, came to Tiru this year and did a fund raising concert for Shanti children project, that was a wonderful live music program, on 2nd January 2012 she released her Jazz Kirtan CD called “Sacred Soul” that was super, she is a great singer, more than 150 people came to the concert and made a nice donation for our project, thanks to Alissa and her partner Jnanadev for organizing this great event. The Music cd is available at Shanti Café, you get this as a gift when you make a little donation for shanti children project.



- For the last two years, we wanted to go for the turtle walk, finally this year it happened, our friend Mr.Arun has been volunteering and conducting the Turtle walk for many years, last month he came to Shanti tuition centre and showed the slide show about the turtle walk. Immediately, all our tuition children wanted to go and experience the turtle walk. The Students Sea Turtle Conservation Network is a volunteer group trying to conserve sea turtles and create awareness about endangered species www.sstcn.org.

On the 12th Feb. 2012, we took our tuition children on a bus to Chennai. Walked about 7 kilometer at the beach in the night time and found more than 250 turtle egg and relocate them in a safe place, it will be a better chance of hatching and making it back to their home in the sea. It was an amazing experience for all of us, walking on the ocean in the moon light, saw many fish, crab, few dead turtle, lobsters, etc., thanks to dear Arun.



As usual we are going to teach the 10th class students basic computer class in their summer holidays, the students are looking forward to their computer lessons. More than 10 students will participate and get benefit from our computer classes, which will help them with their further studies, communication skills and general computer knowledge.



We hope that our activities, programs and trips will help the Shanti Children to learn, understand, and most importantly to "Love all, serve all". We thank all of you for your continued support. We are confident, with your support we will be able to help more poor and needy families and children.

