



Ananda Social and Educational Trust

Shanti Children Project

October 2013

Newsletter

Tiruvannamalai

Dear Friends,

Heartfelt greetings from Shanti Children Project!

We want to thank all our sponsors / donors / well wishers on behalf of the children from the project. Special thanks to AWD kinderhilfe, Austria. Uncle Heinz and family, Horst Raatz from Germany and all other friends. Only with all your support, we have made progress so far with SCP.

In the previous year more than 120 students benefited from our Shanti Children Project, with our Tuition centre, educational sponsorship program, shanti cleaning project, helping hands, art classes, etc.,

We had a wonderful year, all the kids from SCP are doing fine, passed in their exams, studying further, the academic year 2013 - 2014 started nicely.

We are proud to say that one of our student from Shanti Children Project got his Medical seat for this year, so we will have a "Doctor" in our SCP family in five years!



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Gnanaprakasam, from our project who joined in Medical College



ரக மருத்துவக் கல்லூரியை நேற்று வீடியோ கான்பரன்ஸிங் மூலம் முதல்வர் ஜெயலலிதா க்கப்பட்டிருந்த அரங்கத்தில் இருந்து கலெக்டர் ஞானசேகரன், கல்லூரி முதல்வர் சந்திர

Gnanaprakasam, second from right on a Tamil daily

Gnanaprakasam going to be a Doctor

This year the Tamil Nadu Government has opened a Government Medical College in Tiruvannamalai, in the first batch itself our student **Gnanaprakasam** got a seat allotted and he is attending the classes now.

He has been studying in our tuition centre until 10th standard, then he went to another private school for 11th and 12th grade, he scored very good marks, so he got the medical seat from the Government Medical College. He is from a poor family and his father died, he is living with his mother and brothers in Tiruvannamalai. We are so happy for him and for his family, that he is studying Medicine, (There are many students who are paying about US\$ 60.000,- just to get a seat, then there are other expenses to complete the course). But now his study would cost only about US\$ 300 per year.

He was invited by the district collector for the opening of the college and on the occasion he got the chance to speak to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister *Sri Selvi Jayalalitha*, (video conference) and thanked her for giving him the seat.

Chandra, the nurse

Chandra is studying "Speech Therapy", one year course, started in August 2013, at Jipmer Hospital, in Pondicherry. Even though she is newly married, she is interested to continue her study, which is great. We have been looking for a girl who would study this course for the last few years, but did not find one from our area, we are very grateful for Chandra doing this course. When we went to the deaf school in Tiruvannamalai, we have noticed that there is a big need for a Speech Therapy teacher. We hope to see Chandra to be the teacher for those needy deaf children.



Mathi & Chandra

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Medical camp:

On 28th July 2013, we have conducted a medical camp in our tuition centre for our SCP children. 70 children participated in the camp and six doctors came from Pondicherry, our Nurse **Chandra** was assisting us, and communicating with the students and helping the doctors. **Chandra** and her husband **Mathi**, arranged the free medical camp with the doctors. We only had to provide their transportation from Pondicherry, the consulting and some medicine we have got for the children all was for free. The medical camp was very interesting and useful for the children to have a medical checkup. Also some parents came and got free medical checkup at the camp.



We want to thank the doctor's team for their time and interest towards our children and hope to conduct this medical camp again for our kids in this area.

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Tour to Pondicherry and Mahabalipuram:

In the summer vacation, we have taken the smaller children to **Pondicherry** and the bigger children to **Mahabalipuram**, which was an amazing experience, we hired a big bus, while travelling the children sang, danced, and told stories to other children. They had so much fun to travel, see the ocean and enjoyed each and every thing we were doing. They swam and played in the water for hours.



We went to the crocodile and snake park in Mahabalipuram, Thanks to the directors of the Crocodile bank, who have given us free entrance and also arranged a guided tour for us, that was very interesting to see and hear a lot about crocodile and snakes. <http://www.madrascrocodilebank.org>

We want to thank our friend **Horst Raatz**, who contributed this bus trip to Mahabalipuram.

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Photography exhibition with Caroline:

Our friend **Caroline** from the USA, has been helping our children with the Art classes, last season she has started to teach the second batch children photography, she brought 5 new digital cameras, and split the children into smaller groups and gave classes how to use the digital camera, the features like zooming, how to transfer the photos into the computers, cut and paste, cropping etc., the few months have been intensive classes, the children enjoyed the classes very much, proud to hold the camera and shot the pictures and show to us.



It has been an experience for them filled with enthusiasm and creative exploration as none of these children had ever taken photos before this Project began in November 2012. The Photography Project is a collaborative effort between the Shanti Children Project and Art 4 Kids, India!.

As a result our kids have made so many nice pictures, Caroline has organized a fund raising photography exhibition in Shanti Cafe, the kids helped us to display the pictures, we have done a silent auction and many of our customers and friends bought the pictures, that was a very successful event! Caroline's dedication towards the project children was amazing and she has done a wonderful job!

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On behalf of the children, many thanks to Caroline, Thiyagu and all other friends who made this event so successful.



For more pictures taken by the children visit:

www.shantichildrenproject.org/gallery-2011-13

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Thanks to Uncle Heinz who has been our “**Father Christmas**” for SCP kids all these years, with his presence the Christmas celebration was a fantastic celebration, he agreed to come for this Christmas also, we welcome and looking forward to have him again with us.



We also thank **Upahar** and **Veena** from Europe, for the yoga / singing class with our children, for their time and dedication. They are volunteering with our scp kids for the time they are in Tiruvannamalai, usually from October to March, for the past seven years. The children enjoy learning the songs and gathering and relax techniques from the meditation and yoga lessons.

We have been receiving a big contribution from **AWD Kinderhilfe, Austria**, for the past three years, but now they stopped the support to us, due to their financial situation. Even though “AWD Kinderhilfe” stopped their contribution to SCP, we are hoping to raise enough funds for our project through all your support, that we can continue our help to the needy children in Tiruvannamalai. Again this year we have taken some new students, we could not say “no” to them because of their poor family conditions.

The festival season starts now, Diwali next week then Deepam, Christmas, New Year, and Pongal, etc., In this coming months, we wish you all the best for you and your family. We do hope to receive sufficient fund to continue the project activities. Please feel free to contact us for any further information about the project.

We thank you again on behalf of our children and wishing you a wonderful time!!!

Much love,

Kumar and all the children from Shanti Children Project.

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