



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 1 **Sevalaya's News Letter - August 2006** Serve 5 Price-Re.1

Dear Friends,

Sometime back we arranged a cricket match between Sevalaya school children and one of the city school children. The city school children came with proper cricket kit bag, with good bat, pad, etc. They were all dressed in white and white and when the team got down from the bus, it looked like a national under 12 team! When the match started, they were surprised to see that the Sevalaya team was not having any proper sports uniform; they wore no shoes and played bare foot; there was no cricket kit for each child; in fact the entire school (now 850 children) had only one bat and all had to share! On the contrary, the city school children were very particular to use their own bats, as that was of the right height and weight for them; their own individual kit and their own water bottles! Ofcourse, at the end of the day, Sevalaya School won the match!

Many city school children come to Sevalaya on NSS (National Service Scheme) camps. Some schools even stay on the campus for 10 days. When they interact with the children, they are surprised to know that there are kids who have lost parents at very young age, there are kids who live in small huts and there are even kids who don't know their parentage.

Such knowledge about poverty is well understood when the children from the 'both sides' of the world interact closely. One such child from city sent us contribution to sponsor food on his birthday, cancelling the

birthday party! One more child sent all her birthday presents to Sevalaya children.

This year we were hard pressed to organize note books for all the 850 children. Ofcourse we had contributions from donors like Bharata Mata Sangam and some other individual donors, we still needed more note books. We thought it will be better to appeal to the city school children. We sent out our appeals to many schools, requesting the children to buy one extra note book, when they buy note books for their own use, and donate it to Sevalaya. This evoked a very good response from many schools. They made an announcement in their assembly and note books started pouring in. In fact some of the schools arranged a trip for their school children to come in person and handover note books to their brothers and sisters in Sevalaya.

What a nice feeling it is to receive one note book each from each child – it is worth millions! We have given an opportunity for the next generation to practice the 'art of giving'; the children know that they can also give, as no donation is big or small; When given by one child to another, it is no more a DONATION, it is just sharing.

The Sevalaya children know, that each one of them, has a friend in need!

Thanks & Regards
Murali



Annual Day Celebrations

The 18th Annual Day Celebrations were held on 01/07/2006. The entire village wore a festive look with colourful rangolis decorating the road leading up to Sevalaya. Lion B. Jayaraman, Chairman, JAK Group of Companies was the chief Guest and he released the 18th Annual Report. The first copy was received by Ms. N. Latha, Chief Educational Officer of the Thiruvallur District. Mr. D.V.Venkatagiri of Bharatha Matha Sangam felicitated Sevalaya. The Sangam donated notebooks to the school children. It appeared to be a revisit of Santa Claus in July when Lion Jayaraman announced the grant of 2 sets of uniforms for all the children of the School, 2 colour TV sets with free JAK TV cable connection and contribution towards higher education expenses of the children.

The children presented a cultural programme. Mr.Appadurai, Village Administrative officer, Lion.B.Jeyachandran, Mr.Raveendra Naidu, Panchayat leader of Palavedu village, Mr.Krishnan, Panchayat leader of Sivanvoil village, Mr.Andhiridoss, Advocate and Mr.Sadagopan Advocate also spoke on the occasion and congratulated Sevalaya on its 18 years of selfless service. Awards were given to staff, who, had put in 5 years and 10 years of



Craft Training to Staff



service. Prizes were given to the top 3 rankers in the X and XII Standard Board Examinations. 3 residents of the Old Age Home were also awarded prizes for actively taking part in the day to day activities of the organisation. Manuscript magazine, 'Vidiyal', prepared by the children of Sevalaya was also released on that day. Heads and teachers from many nearby schools also participated.

Events

As a part of their "Chennai – 365 Days" Programme, Sri Krishna Sweets arranged for recital of Lalitha Sahasranamam and a Bhajan session at Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa Old Age Home on 13/07/2006 They sponsored special lunch for the residents of the student's Home and Old Age Home. Sri Krishna sweets management was kind enough to get a list from us about the snack items, what each grandpa or grandma would like to have and brought those items individually packed, for each one of them!

The "Kottu Murasu" Cultural troupe of Sevalaya presented a Programme at Kakalur (Thiruvallur District) on 15/07/2006. The children sang Bharathiyar Songs. They enacted a small skit highlighting how Sevalaya lends a helping hand to



TCS ers at Sevalaya