



# LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 3 **Sevalaya's News Letter - July 2008** Serve 4 Price-Re.1

## Dear Friends,

Nearly 12 years ago myself and other trustees of Sevalaya, contacted a building contractor and explained to him our dream school building and asked him to draw a blue print. The contractor looked at me and thought that I must be joking. He said in an unfriendly voice "You are asking for 32 class rooms, 4 labs, one library and an auditorium – do you have any idea how much it will cost? Close to one crore rupees(250,000 USD). So don't waste my time". Then I asked him "How much will it cost to draw the blue print?". The contractor said it will be around Rs 1000 (25 USD). Then I said "Oh! We have that much now, so please give us the plan".

After we got the plan, we relentlessly worked towards making our dream a reality. We constantly spoke to our families, friends, colleagues, contacts about our grand plans. The way the children's Home we started was functioning, inspired confidence and our tireless campaigning started yielding results. The support base was building up.

Seven years later, the school building was fully constructed, at the estimated cost, and now 1000 children get free education in this building. We were happy that we are able to realize our dream and we could somehow muster the one crore rupees required and complete the building.

But in the last two years, we are pushed into a situation that we are not able to admit more children into the school, even though we get many deserving kids seeking admission. This is because the school is full to its capacity and we can't take any more kids. Then the phase II of the dream started – why don't we go beyond the 1000 mark? This will need another school building. But this time the challenge is the availability of land. The entire 7 areas of land are fully utilized now and we need to buy extra land to go for the second school building.

This entire week (June last week), we have been negotiating the purchase of some more land, and by the time this newsletter reaches you, we would have completed the transaction. The blue print for the first stage of the second school building is ready now. The cost is going to be Rs 56,00,000 (140,000 USD). This means each class room will be costing Rs 4 lakhs (10,000 USD) to construct. I am sure we need not wait for seven years to complete this building, as we did in the case of the first building – we are hoping to complete it within one year, so that when the next school year starts in June 2009, we will be ready to welcome 500 more children into the education system.

As we are sure about support from all of you, as soon as we take over the land, we plan to lay the foundation and start the construction work. We will report about this in our next month's news letter. Any contribution, big or small, one class room or a block of class rooms, one fan, one light, one door, one window, or one brick will all count. We can all pool in our resources and make a difference to 500 more kids' lives, on an ongoing basis.

Thanks & Regards  
**Murali**



**Free Books, Note books, Bags & other Educational aids for 1000 Children**



**Events**

On 07/06/2008, in a function organized for the commencement of academic year 2008-2009, 2 sets of uniforms each, notebooks and school bags were distributed to the 1000 rural poor students of Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School. 2 Trained Graduate Teachers in English, Mr. Mohammed Shafi and Mr. Chelladurai, who are visually challenged, were also inducted into the school. The uniforms and other educational aids were distributed by the Chief Guest Mr. Rajasekaran, Deputy Tasildar of Thiruvallur District. Mr. B.Vijayakumar, Advocate of Madras High Court was the special guest.

The Thiruvallur unit of the DMK Party celebrated the Tamilnadu Chief Minister Dr. M.Karunanidhi's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday at Sevalaya on 08/06/2008 by providing special meals to the residents of Sevalaya. Thiruvallur Chairperson Mr. V.S.Shanmugam, the district councillor Mr. R.S.Rajarajan, Jaya Pughazhendi and panchayat presidents and councillors from 15 villages around Sevalaya participated in the function.

25 Chinese from the Rotract club of Hong Kong landed in Sevalaya on the morning of 08/06/2008, to conduct a mini Olympics for the children and senior citizens of Sevalaya. Various events were



**Prizes to the toppers in the public exams. by J.C.D. Prabhakaran, Ex. M.L.A. and Askaraj Jain, Ambattur**

**Felicitation for receiving the Swami Gnanananda National Awards 2008**



organized and the Chinese volunteers were very busy, out in the hot sun, running along with the children and cheering them up. The grandpas and grandmas were also early participating in the walking race and the musical chair and many other competitions.

The visiting Rotractors spoke to the children about Hongkong, the city's history, about China's National Flag, the National Flower and about the Chinese Calendar. They also spoke to them about the Chinese languages Mandarin and Cantonese, explained how each sign represented a word, how those symbols evolved etc., distributed many colourful prizes the winners of the events. They also screened a movie on the culture and history of Hongkong.

Senior officials and staff of State Bank of Mysore, Chennai Main Branch visited Sevalaya on 26/06/2008. They interacted with the residents of Sevalaya and distributed Notebooks to them.

Nearly 20 Volunteers from Rotract club of Aakash spent two days at Sevalaya i.e 28/06/2008 & 29/06/2008. They conducted sports events for the children, presented cultural programme. They also planted tree saplings in the campus and in the village during their stay.



**Volunteers from Rotract club of Aakash**