

# Shanti Children Project

Newsletter – May 2010

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Shanti Children Project!

We are happy to share with you our achievements in 2009 academic year and say our heartfelt thanks to all of you for your continuous support!

Our project children have finished their annual exam and all got promoted, just today the 10th grade exam result came and *Bharathi* scored 94.8% and got the first mark in her school and *Meenakshi* scored 94% and she got 2<sup>nd</sup> place, we are all happy about the marks. Our tuition teachers were busy helping them with their studies, home works, etc., which helped the students to score good marks and pass in their exams.

This year all the children are continuing at shanti tuition centre, there will be a few new admission in the first batch (1st grade to 5th grade children), adding some poor needy children.

Most of the schools reopen around the first week of June. We also reopen the tuition centre on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June for this year. We will be busy until then because we have to organize many things, buy notebooks, school uniform, stitching the uniform, visit their schools to pay their school fee, etc... We know the work and we like to do.

Sathya



There are many success stories in the last year, at least a few we want to mention:

*Sathya*: has finished the College of Nursing with Diploma in June 2009 and now she is working as a nurse in the KOVAI MEDICAL CENTER & HOSPITAL at Coimbatore. Congratulation!

Our support to the poor needy young ladies continues!

The second nurse is getting ready from our project :), Yes, *Chandra* is doing her final year nursing course in Vellore, she is doing well with her studies, but since about six months she has been through some heart pain and feeling tired, we are checking with the doctors and she is taking some medicine, we hope and pray that she recovers well, easy and quick.

*Chandra**Meenakshi*

*Deepa* is doing her 3rd Year B.Sc maths degree course, her parent, brothers and sisters are illiterate and she is the first one in the family who has finished the high school and going to the college.

*Elakkiya (Geetha)* is doing her 2nd year B.Sc, Microbiology. After the college hours and on the weekends, she is helping her mother by selling flowers, in front of the ashram and also learning and doing her assignments.

*Meenakshi*, a seven year deaf girl was attending a regular government school, now we brought her to a special school for hearing impaired. Now she is in the right place & learning properly. Our special thanks to the school director *Sri Sylvia Wright*.

Sponsor girl *Nithya* and her sisters

*Krishnamoorthi*: Passed in 12th grade and going to study science degree. He has been living with his brother and aged parent in a hut, rainy days they could not sleep inside, rain would come everywhere inside the house. So with the help of *Wouter*, *Lyse* and some other Canadian friends we have built the concrete house for them, now they are living in a rain proof house and happy. Special thanks to *Wouter*, *Lyse* and *Mollie Ma* group from Canada.



Magic show at Shanti Tuition Centre

**Magic Show:** Again, the great magician *Mr. Dragan Matijevic*, Director "Fun for life" NGO from UK, came to our centre, taught some magic and drama performance skills for our project children and did a fantastic magic show with our kids, it was amazing. More than 100 children and 30 adults watched and enjoyed their performance. Also he has made arrangements for some regular music and drama classes in our centre for this year. We thank *Dragan* from our heart, for his interest towards these children.

[www.funforlife.org.uk/h2h\\_india.html](http://www.funforlife.org.uk/h2h_india.html)



Getting Computer lessons from Kumar



Free Dental Camp with Dr. Ashok



Christmas celebration

**Computer class:** We are teaching 7 children from 10th grade students, basic computer course, as vocation training program. They have been coming regularly and learning to use the computer, typing, Microsoft office programs, email and internet. They are keen to learn computer, now they have their own email address and know to use the email and search on the internet.

Participating students: *Bharathi, Suganya, Deepa, Kokila, Indira, Anusha and Suseendran.*

Also 3 boys, *Jagan, Suseendran and Ajith* are learning computer hardware course.

*Parameshwari*, going 10th grade and her mother works as coolie, father aged person and they both illiterate. They borrowed money from local money lender with huge interest rate, for their daughters marriage to pay dowry, they would never come out from this burden by paying this huge interest rate, with their little salary. So we helped them with our German friends help, took away their burden by paying their loan money. Now we teach the family the responsibility, not to get loan for everything and helping *Parameshwari* to go to school. Now they are paying their loan back to us month by month.

**Free Dental Camp:** *Dr. Ashok*, Dentist from Bangalore, has conducted a free dental camp in our centre for our project children. 75 children got their tooth check up, and some tooth eradication has been done. He was explaining the kids the importance of teeth and how to take care of them. At the end he gave free tooth brush and tooth paste for all the children.

We celebrated Christmas festival with lots of joy. We had Father Christmas come to our centre and brought gifts for all the children. *Uncle Heinz* from Austria played the "Father Christmas" role. He did very well, told stories and had so much patience to distribute the gifts and sweets to so many children. About 150 children and 30 adults gathered and enjoyed the Christmas celebration. **THANK YOU FATHER CHRISTMAS!**

We have been invited by *Mooji* Group in Tiru, for the charities fund raising concert, where our children also danced for one movie song; that was an excellent concert. Could not believe that we have such wonderful artists in Tiru. It was organized very well by the *Mooji* group. Thanks to them for the invitation and the donation.

For Pongal festival we did Rangoli drawing competition and we had fire crackers for Diwali festival. Also celebrated all other important festivals like Ganesha Birthday, Saraswathi pooja, Deepam and New Year. For all the festivals we did some drama, dance and music. Always the children like to have such cultural programs. For all the festivals we offer snacks with milk for supper. We thank *Upahar* and *Veena* for teaching yoga and singing classes for our children. The kids love this body movements and singing.

As to finish the academic year, last month we have taken all the 80 children and 20 adults (teachers, volunteers and helpers) for one day excursion to Chennai, to a cultural museum called "Dakshina Chitra" [www.dakshinachitra.net](http://www.dakshinachitra.net) And we visited one of the biggest amusement park in Chennai, [www.mgmdizeeworld.com](http://www.mgmdizeeworld.com) We took a private special bus for us, spent the whole day in the amusement park, with rides, games, swimming and many other fun events. The kids enjoyed so much; just watching them was a great gift for all of us.

Once again we thank you all for your continues support.

Our special thanks to:

- AWD Stiftung Kinderhilfe - Austria
- Uncle Heinz Family
- Findhorn community
- Mollie Ma group, Canada
- Mooji Group
- Nirangal cotton shawls ([www.nirangal.net](http://www.nirangal.net))

### Photos from the excursion



**Guest's comment from "Uncle Heinz", a friend from Austria:**

From the beginning of November 2009 to the beginning of February 2010 I was visiting Tiruvannamalai. So I had the opportunity to visit the Tuition Centre several times and I was invited to all the celebrations during that time. It was a pleasure to see with which zeal the tutors were teaching the children and they were helping at all the celebrations too. A special honor for me was to be "Father Christmas" at the Christmas-Party - giving to all of the tuition children a present - carefully wrapped and marked with the name of each child by Kumar, his wife and the Shanti-Crew! This thoughtfulness I was also able to see at all the other celebrations. What a surprise!

A special "event" for me was to bring Meenakshi, the deaf girl, on Dec. 7th 2009 to the boarding school for deaf children. Why did I become involved? Last January I went for a walk near the Shanti Tuition Centre a "young lady" came, took three of my fingers and went along with me. Although I knew she will not understand English I started to speak with her. When her "answer" was not articulated I WAS SURE SHE WAS DEAF! I wanted to help her? Her parents were not at home so I asked my friend Kumar to help us to support her! And he did what he always does: He endeavored to help finding the family, discovering a school for deaf children near Tiruvannamalai, getting the permission to bring Meenakshi to this school - it only took several months - but finally he was successful! Thank you so much!

**Shanti Children Project**

*Part of Ananda Social and Educational Trust  
Tiruvannamalai, South India.*

**THANK YOU!**

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