

# RIPPLES

The Arvind Foundation Newsletter



Dear Readers,

The academic year 2018-19 closed on a high note for us with one of our dream projects - ARVIND'S STORE - taking shape. This store will display and sell the products made by our special-needs children and adults. This is part of our livelihood program that we have created for them. Focus will be on the livelihood program for our special needs young adults and children in the coming years in order to set up income streams for them. As always, we look forward to your support in this and are ever so grateful to all our well wishers for having supported us this far.

Gomathy T  
Editor

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# Saaraansh 2019

10th March 2019 was a special day for Chennaites, as a very special event happened in Mahodaya Hall, Ashoknagar, Chennai. Saaraansh 2019 - the annual day of Arvind Foundation was celebrated with great joy and jubilation by their special children, adolescents and adults, their staff and also their support staff.

The city would not have seen a better show under the theme Puthiyathor Pazhamai Seivom - New era of the old. Though weaving a story around this theme (bringing back the old traditions for making the world better) seems clichéd, bringing in the concept of "Black" and making the special children portray the message effectively is a feat. A standing ovation at the end of the show asserted this fact.



# Arvind's Café

It was a true “gramathu virundhu” – a feast from the villages on 13 Apr 2019 at Arvind’s Café. Pallangizhi, koozhangal, paandi all these games took us back to our childhood. The staff and the children had taken the efforts to bring in calf, hens, and goats to bring about that village environment. Their enthusiasm and passion were evident in the attention to detail in organizing the event. There was Pooanikkai adai, raagi puttu, Kambankoozh, panagam, and vadai made by the children under the able guidance of their teachers and they were all absolutely yummm. Celebrity Chef Damu was kind to be the chief guest for the day and he thoroughly enjoyed interacting with the students and staff. There were also traditional dance performances by our children and staff which all of us thoroughly admired and enjoyed. These events give our students the opportunity to display their learning and get an on the job training with taking orders and serving the customers.



# **Arvind's Store**

Fifteen years in the service of the children with special needs as an NGO, Arvind Foundation today crossed a milestone with great joy and pride. The joy was the opening of the 'Arvind's Store' in K.K.Nagar, Chennai to showcase and sell an array of products and the pride was the fact that all the products in the shop are exclusively produced / packed by the students of Arvind Institute of Excellence, a vocational unit of Arvind Foundation.

Keeping in mind the capabilities of the young adults and adolescents with special needs, Arvind Foundation imparts vocational training in some simple mechanical and manual operations. Thus, many products like arecanut plates, bowls etc., masala powders, agarbathis, fancy jewelry etc. are produced by the students under the guidance of the teachers and caretakers. The setting up of the shop has been sponsored by the Cosmopolitan Ladies Circle 38 who have been helping us in many projects.

Mr. Michael Wegener, Deputy Consul General in the Consulate of Germany situated in Chennai was a special guest. Ms. Rukmini K Reddy, Chairperson, Madras Cosmopolitan Ladies Circle 38 and Ms. Nandini Reddy, Chairperson, Area 2 Ladies Circle India were the Chief guest and guest of honour respectively. The store displays and sells products made and packed by our special needs students.

***No help is small help! We are always looking for funds to support more special needs children and young adults and volunteers to help us through the various events we conduct.***

***If you would like to help us in our journey, please contact 9841034234, 9841615333 or 7299911022 or email us at [arvind\\_foundation@yahoo.in](mailto:arvind_foundation@yahoo.in)***

***All contributions to the foundation are eligible for tax exemption under 80G***



## *Inauguration of Arvind's Store*