

RIPPLES

The Arvind Foundation Newsletter



Dear Readers,

It has been a really good start for the academic year 2019-2020. The students and staff are all geared up for the year and eagerly looking forward to making this year a fruitful one too. We extend a warm welcome to 6 of our new staff who have joined us this year. We are also taking baby steps towards sustainable and green living. As a first step, we have installed solar panels in one of our centers. We dream to be a green organisation and have many more ideas in the pipeline. As always we seek your support and are grateful for having received it so far. We will keep you updated about the progress we make, however small it be!

Gomathy T
Editor

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Going the Solar Way

We installed our first solar panels at Arvindaalayam, our Poonalmallee center on June 27, 2019. It was a long time desire to harness the solar energy and our dream finally came true through United Way of Chennai (UWC). This will help us reduce our electricity costs by almost 90% and also provide uninterrupted power to our center. The money saved through this will definitely be useful in other essential needs for our special needs children. We are ever so grateful to UWC for having extended their help towards installing the solar panels. This would also mark the beginning of our green journey which we are all looking forward to.



Rotary Award

The Rotary club of Alandur conferred the VOCATIONAL SERVICE AWARD on Mr. Athmaraj, Founder of Arvind Foundation. The award is in recognition of his services of providing avenues of livelihood to the special needs young adults. This project was chosen because it addresses the huge question 'Who after us?' that every parent of a special child is bound to have. We are grateful to the Rotary Club of Alandur for the recognition. The recognition comes as a result of all the hard work put in by Mrs. Sudha Athmaraj and her dedicated staff, without whom all of this would not be possible.



10000+ Arecanut products

The students of Arvindaalayam, our Poonamallee center, produced a record number of 10000+ arecanut products during the month of May. Despite the heat, the students turned up to work and displayed utmost dedication to the work. The stipend paid to them was an extra motivation. The small initiative taken to introduce avenues to provide livelihood has thus become a successful project of Arvind Foundation.

Larsen and Toubro Infotech (LTI) has been a major contributor for this project. Ever since the unit was set up, volunteers from LTI have provided substantial help whenever required. In June, when it was suggested that repainting a few classrooms at Arvindaalayam can be an area where they can assist, the response was unbelievable. The request found 34 volunteers showing up and the three classrooms turned bright and beautiful in just a single day. LTI has made the beginning of this academic year a colourful one for all the young children at Arvindaalayam.



Arvind's Store

Arvind's Store has received quite a good response from the neighbourhood as well as our well-wishers. The store displays and sells products made and packed by our special needs students. Products include masala powders, doormats, arecanut plates and bowls, agarbathis etc. A full time employee assists the students at the store and they learn to interact with public, handle queries and sale transactions. They also make paper covers and envelopes when they have fewer customers to cater to at the store. The store has been a great catalyst in boosting up the confidence of our special needs adults and will continue to hone their life skills.



Gaining Academic Excellence

We are extremely grateful and proud that our students are now gaining academic excellence too. We have Mr Vinod Kumar from our K K Nagar Center who has cleared Tamil and Painting exams under the NIOS program. He worked extremely hard and overcame his fear with the constant effort of Mrs Bindhu, a volunteer at the Foundation. He now plans to appear for Data Entry and Home Science exams in October 2019 and is working hard preparing for it.

Ms Thulasi from our Poonamallee center has joined a regular school from June 2019. She joined us with some developmental challenges. The therapy and the curative methods used at the Foundation have helped her a great deal and has prepared her for a regular school. As much as we will miss having her, we are thankful and proud of her achievement.

Upcoming Events

Please do block your calendars for our upcoming events. We will be looking forward to your presence and support as always.

Arvind's Cafe - July 20, 2019 - 4.30 to 6.30 pm (This Cafe project focuses on juices - a variety of them which are healthy options. Arvind Foundation is all set to serve "**Colours and Flavours in Cups**")

Saaraansh 2019 - August 25, 2019 (Set to magically shrink a year in one and a half hours by depicting all the four seasons of a year. 'Celebrating Seasons' forms the theme for which the preparation work has already begun. We will let you know the time and venue shortly.)

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