



Sivan Arul Illam Inc

Thiruketheeswaram, Mannar.

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Welcome to our first news letter for 2010. With your donations, support and blessings Sivan Arul Illam has progressed with confidence with its humanitarian work. The children from IDP camps had clocked just over 6 months with Sivan Arul Illam and we pay our obeisance to the loving God for giving us this opportunity to care for these children. These children have progressively settling in, enjoying the friendly surroundings, extra curricular activities and benefiting by attending the school.



Meditation and Breathing Exercise Class

Guru Ravishankar from Living Art Foundation has been gracious enough to conduct a few meditation and breathing exercise classes for the children. The children benefited from these sessions and we intend having these sessions on a regular basis.

We have also arranged for a child psychologist to visit the affected kids for counselling sessions. These sessions have been enormously helpful for the kids who had gone through a lot of trauma witnessing the death of dear ones under tragic circumstances.

Dr Jayendran Namasivayam, founder of Sivan Arul Illam and currently residing in England, visited the Illam in December



Children at Thalaimannar Beach

2009 and was overwhelmed with the love the children showered. He organised a picnic to Thalaimannar beach for all at the Illam and they all had a relaxing day at the beach filled with fun.

Jayendran was pleased with the progress with the various projects undertaken by Sivan Arul Illam. Some have sponsored special meals at the Illam on their special days. Sivan Arul Illam has sent photos of this special day at the Illam to the sponsors. We are grateful to all donors and sponsors of children and elderly as the money is being put to good use. We presume many of you would have seen the DVDs and the postings on YouTube



Pongal Celebration

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Pongal Celebration

Thai Pongal was celebrated on a grand scale at the Illam in the traditional way, with all the children taking part in the

ceremony. They wore new clothes and lit fireworks to amuse themselves.

We have lost few elders due to sickness and some have been relocated with their families. We have about 35 elders now many of them needing constant care. As in a nursing home paid carers and attendants look after them. Special Dieticians/cooks are employed to make sure that appropriate meals are served to these elders with medical problems. In the past Australian Medical Aid Foundation had paid their salaries and we have requested them to continue this commitment.

We have been approached to help with limb fitting for 400 disabled war victims in the three IDP camps.

Rehabilitation Projects

Jayendran was also able to visit Mannar District hospital and oversee our rehabilitation projects. We are working with "Metha foundation", a charitable organisation, providing artificial limb fitting. Sivan Arul Illam Trust has donated five million Sri Lankan rupees for the purchase of physiotherapy equipment and is being used to rehabilitate the ones who have lost their limbs on account of the war. Currently twelve voluntary Physiotherapists have been employed to continue physiotherapy for the patients who are fitted with the limbs. IMHO, Canada and Australian medical Aid Foundation have come forward with

generous donations to help us with this rehab project. They are providing funds to pay the salaries of the Physiotherapists and funds to purchase artificial limbs.



13 year old boy awaiting for the limb fitting in our unit

We have been approached to help with limb fitting for 400 disabled war victims in the three IDP camps. Sivan arul Illam has completed fitting artificial limbs for 80 disabled individuals at a cost of 8600 Sterling pounds. We have also bought an oven for 1700 pounds to help with the production of artificial limbs.

We are very grateful for the invaluable service of Dr Panagamuwa of Metha Foundation, a senior rehabilitation surgeon from UK, who had provided all the assistance with this project. Dr Sooriakumaran, Rehab physician from UK along with the artificial limb prosthetist

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Mr Mike Wardlaw and Dr Panagamuwa attended to the needs of the rehab unit at the hospital and visited the Illam. Dr Sooriakumaran's report was circulated early in the year.

Sivan Arul Illam is currently in the process of signing a memorandum of

Understanding with the Sri Lankan Government to continue our rehabilitation projects in Mannar district hospital. The rehabilitation and limb fitting service is being expanded to include all who sustained disabilities as the result of the war.

Those interested in fund-

ing the fitting of an artificial limb(s) to a war victim(s) are requested to contact Sivan Arul Illam via email sivanarulillam@gmail.com and we would provide the relevant details.

Rehab/Vocational Training Projects

There is a cry for help among the people who had been displaced from their homes in particular from the ones who are currently disabled and unable to continue in their trade they were in before they were disabled. They have young families to care for and to provide the resources to keep their body and soul together. They are unable to send their children to school due to lack of resources.

We are planning to take the rehab project further! When Dr Namasivayam was in Mannar, he visited the Hospital and interviewed some families where more than one family member had lost their limbs and lost loved ones. There were many heart drenching stories. We have now decided to take over some families and provide support for them at Sivan Arul Illam. We intend providing suitable vocational training so that they can get back their self worth and function independently. In addition we will also make sure that their children attend the local school so that they can continue their studies. In house tuition will be arranged for children whose disability will prevent them travelling to the school on a daily basis.

With the limited resources we have at the moment, we have commenced this programme by caring for two families.



11 year old
Tayutsan before limb fitting.

Those who are interested to sponsor artificial limbs are requested to contact us at sivanarulillam@gmail.com

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With the limited resources we have commenced this Rehab / Vocational Training programme by caring for two families.

◆ **Eleven years old Thayutsan** who has lost an arm and a leg in the war has now started full time school. His widowed mother Kamaladevi is just rebuilding her life. She is currently sewing clothes to earn a living. Sivan Arul Illam has provided her with a sewing machine and a bicycle to attend to her clients and to provide transport to Thayutsan and his younger sister to school.



11 year old Tayutsan after limb fitting and he is undergoing rehabilitation at Mannar hospital.

◆ **Pushpavalli** is a 29yrs old widowed mother with an 8year old son Madhialagan who is paralysed due to a spinal injury he sustained during the war. She lost her husband when the area where they were staying was shelled. Madhialagan is wheel chair bound and has permanent catheter in his bladder. His mother is the full time carer for him. Pushpavalli also has two other children, 11yrs old son and a 6yrs old daughter. In addition she has a widowed mother who has lost one arm in the war. The five of them have been in Mannar Hospital since April 2009, having treatment for Madhialagan and his grandmother. With persistent persuasion, Sivan Arul Illam has obtained their discharge from the hospital and have taken them to Thiruketheeswaram to rebuild their lives. They have been given temporary shelter-in a spa-

acious room with beds and other facilities at Sambandhar Madam.



8 year Old Madhialagn, her mother Pushpavalli and Dr Jaya Namasivayam

Once the proposed building project is completed these two families will be provided accommodation in this building.

Ms Vanaja from UK who was keen to be physically involved in providing service has been staying at the Illam and assisting this family. She has provided the support this family needs at the time of settling in a new environment and had assured the family that they are not alone. We have reproduced below the report we received from her.

"Pushpavalli & her family have settled into a daily routine.

Madhialagan 9 yr old paraplegic who is wheel chair bound and Jasindhan 12yr old are not ready to attend school as yet and are having daily home tuition. They are enjoying this and making good progress already.

Their 6yr old sister Madhusa has started the Nursery at Gowri Ambal School in Thiruketheeswaram. She is excited and eager to attend school with her new uniform, School bags etc.

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Pushpavalli has become a helper/cleaner in the elderly nursing home. She gets paid for her work.

In the mornings Pushpavalli has to look into the needs of her disabled 9yr old son & 80yr old mother & the other two children. Then she finds some time to work in the elderly home.

We will soon receive a specially designed table for Madhialagan and tables for the other children for their studies."

Ms Vanaja also assists other children with their English learning, playing games and training some of the older children with administrative work.

Anyone from overseas interested in spending some time at Sivan Arul Illam and provide service to the children are kindly requested to contact us at sivanarulillam@gmail.com



Kids are playing

Anyone from overseas who is interested in offering their voluntary service at Sivan Arul Illam, please contact us.

Our Building Projects

The upstairs building sponsored by the Humane Australia Foundation with their donation of \$95,000 is nearing completion and the formal opening ceremony is scheduled for the first week of April. Without their timely assistance we will not have been in a position to abide by one of the conditions we needed to fulfil for the authorities to hand over the 70 children from the IDP camps. We express once again our gratitude to HAF.

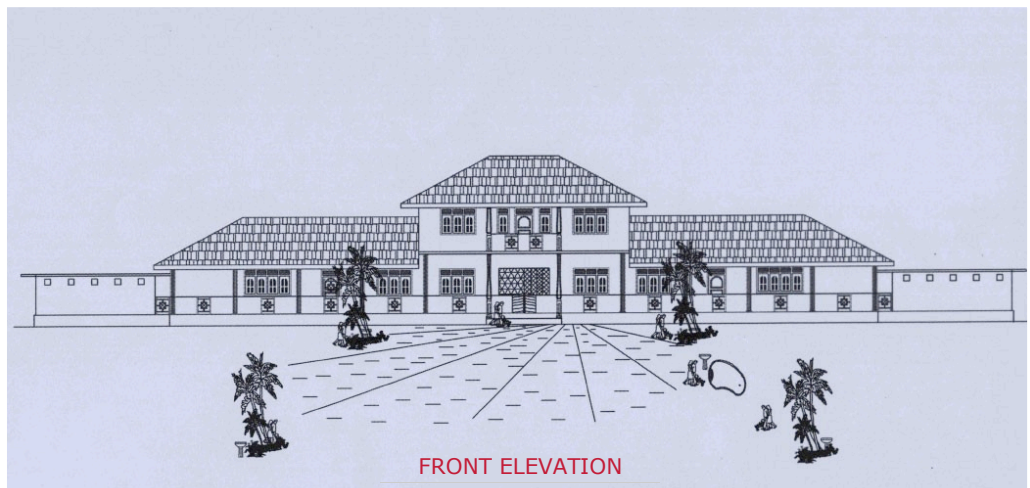
We are also planning to build facilities to house our elders who are currently in a temporary accommodation in the temple madam. The proposed building will have a separate wing to house our disabled families. Thiruketheeswarm temple had donated a prime land next to the Illam and once the administrative process of handing-over is completed

we intend starting on this project. The estimated cost of the building is 200,000 Australian dollars. We have requested a philanthropist group for funding and we are yet to receive a response from them.

We intend building a computer and community centre for use by children of the Illam and the wider community. We have identified a family with some disabilities who are computer literate to assist with the running of this centre. We have approached various institutions for financial help with this project and Tamil women's Organisation in Melbourne has in principle agreed to help us financially with this building project. We are very grateful for their generous offer. The cost is 15,000 Australian dollars. Please refer to the sketch plan.

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The estimated cost of our elders home is 200,000 Australian dollars / 118,000 Sterling pounds.



PROPOSED ELDERS HOME SIVAN ARUL ILLAM

The estimated cost of Children Welfare Community Centre building is 15,000 Australian dollars / 8,850 Sterling pounds.



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Disabled patients receiving intense physiotherapy using the equipment donated by Sivan Arul Illam Trust



Sivan Arul Illam Trust donated 5 million rupees for the purchase of the physiotherapy equipment.

To date 80 patients have been fitted with artificial limbs and they continue intensive physio using these equipment.



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We sincerely thank all our donors and sponsors from the bottom of our hearts to have made our dreams a reality. Thanks to you ... These unfortunate victims can now look forward to a meaningful life!

Future Plans

A few individuals have requested us to care for more orphaned children. We are glad to assist wherever we can, provided we have the resources. However, we will be making sure that we comply with the related Government guidelines and each child will be assessed before they are accepted. We will keep you posted with this development.

The growth of Sivan Arul Illam with the care of the

needy during the last seven months had been astronomical. We embarked on caring for the children from the IDPs camps blindly as that was the need of the hour.

We thank all donors and sponsors from the bottom of our heart to make this dream of ours a reality. Words are inadequate to convey our feelings of gratitude for your compassion and sacrifice.

It's heartening to note that youth are taking a keen interest in caring for the needy and have contributed to our projects in many ways.

In the years to come, we hope these youth will take a lead role in the activities of Sivan Arul Illam and the like so that we continue with this humanitarian work!



Limb Prosthesis Lab

Following organisations have recently donated for our project. If we have missed any of the organisations due to our oversight in the listing below, kindly notify us and we will make a special mention in our next newsletter.

1. Humane Australia Foundation
2. Australian Medical Aid Foundation
3. IMHO, Canada
4. Saiva Manram Sydney, Australia
5. Youth VIP (Sai youth group), Sydney
6. Sathya Sai Org, New Zealand
7. Vanni Neyam, New Zealand
8. Gandhi Illam, New Zealand
9. "Anpuneri", California
10. Thirumurugan temple society, New Zealand
11. Canberra Murugan Temple Society, Australia
12. Kalaivani music school, Canberra, Australia
13. Canberra Tamil School, Australia
14. Canberra Sathya Sai organisation, Australia