



SIVAN ARUL FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER 2024



SIVAN ARUL

FOUNDATION





"I am happy to look forward to a brighter future."

Sujeevan from Sivan Arul Illam

Dear Sivan Arul Friends and Supporters,

2024 has been a year full of challenges, but with your unwavering support, Sivan Arul has achieved remarkable progress. Together, we have created more livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities and provided access to education for the underprivileged, empowering them to build a brighter future.

Your generosity and encouragement continue to be the foundation of our success. As we move forward, we remain committed to making an even greater impact.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey!

OUR MISSION

*Providing women
with job
opportunities to be
financially
independent.*

*Educating
underprivileged
children to reach
their full potential.*

*Giving livelihood
opportunities to the
poorest to escape the
poverty trap.*

SIVAN ARUL ILLAM CHILDREN'S HOME

Sivan Arul Kids are excelling in both education and sports. We also prioritise teaching them humanity and moral values so they can positively contribute to the community with compassion and integrity. We currently have 184 boys and girls in total including the hostel children. There are 34 children under 10 years of age.

One of our biggest challenges is the increasing number of children who come from difficult family backgrounds and require extensive social support. Many of these children have educational standards far below what is typical for their age. However, at Sivan Arul, we firmly believe that every child has potential, and we focus on nurturing their strengths to help them thrive. We are proud to announce that we have been recognised as one of the best children's homes in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. Our Girls' Home achieved first place in the Northern Regional Competition for homes, excelling in cultural activities and sports.



Sivan Arul Children on a tour to the Upcountry with the Director Selvaranjan Sir

This year, we celebrated a 100% pass rate in the GCE Ordinary Level exams, with many children now pursuing Advanced Level studies. We are especially delighted to see more children choosing science and technology subjects, setting the stage for a brighter future. Additionally, we are happy to share that some of the girls who completed vocational training have successfully secured jobs as bakers in Colombo, marking a significant milestone in their journey toward independence. Unfortunately, we faced a fire incident in October caused by an electrical fault, which severely damaged part of the Girls' Home, particularly the storeroom. Despite this setback, it was heartwarming to witness the outpouring of support from so many of you. Your generous donations toward rebuilding and renovations mean so much to us. We are excited to begin construction work in the new year. Thank you for standing by us and making all this possible. Together, we continue to create meaningful change in the lives of these children.



Nobika and Anusiya from Sivan Arul have mastered cookie-making and now craft chocolates and biscuits at a reputed bakery in Negombo.

SIVAN ARUL FACTORY AND BAKERY

The Sivan Arul Factory in Kilinochchi and the Sivan Arul Bakery in Puthukudiyiruppu are growing from strength to strength. Sivan Arul products have earned an excellent reputation both overseas and in Sri Lanka for their exceptional quality and commitment to being free of additives.

We currently employ 95 people, most of whom are women, providing them with sustainable livelihood opportunities. Our model has been recognised and appreciated by many NGOs for its impact on empowering communities. As a non-profit initiative, all profits generated by our businesses are reinvested into community projects run by Sivan Arul.



Pratheepan graduated from Sivan Arul Home-Now working as a senior sales representative at the Sivan Arul Factory



Vizhiyarasi graduated from Sivan Arul now employed at the factory as a quality control manager

We are proud to announce that we have recently secured Rs 85 million loan from Sinamon Global, a US-Sri Lankan based investor. With this funding, we plan to launch new high-demand products, particularly soy meat and noodles, further expanding our range and impact.

Children graduating from our home are vocationally trained here and gain employment at the factory. Currently, there are over 12 boys and girls working at the factory, which is a feather in our cap.

SIVAN ARUL FARMS

We operate three integrated farms: one in Thachanamaruthamadu (Madu district, Mannar), Nadarasa Dairy Farm, and Arunasalam Farm in Mavittapuram (Jaffna). We launched the dairy farm in Mavittapuram last year, overcoming significant challenges such as disease, floods, and adverse weather conditions. Despite these setbacks, we have made remarkable progress, and our milk is now sold directly to the Dairy Board. This year, we plan to expand the dairy farm, which will not only improve our production capacity but also create more job opportunities for local youth, empowering the community.

The farm in Thachanamaruthamadu has been transformed into an experimental site for the region, where we are demonstrating the feasibility of modern agricultural practices in a traditionally challenging environment. Last year, we were the first to successfully cultivate vegetables and grains in an area where it was previously thought to be impossible due to the lack of water supply. By introducing drip irrigation, we have shown the surrounding villages that with the right technology, even areas with limited water resources can thrive with sustainable farming practices.



Poshan harvesting eggplant at TMM Farm



Ari and Ginthu are about to feed the cows with newly cut grass

In addition to our efforts in agriculture, we are also working closely with Rotary clubs in both Australia and Sri Lanka to further develop the Thachanamaruthamadu farm. Our goal is to create sustainable job opportunities for villagers, teach them modern farming techniques, and build a long-term solution that will help strengthen the local economy. Through this collaboration, we are fostering skills development and ensuring the farm's growth is beneficial for everyone involved.



Ladies drying the red chilies at our farm to be sent to our factory



Corn farm in Palampitty

LIVELIHOOD PROJECTS AND REVOLVING FUNDS

We are overwhelmed by the positive impact of the revolving fund projects initiated by the Sivan Arul Foundation. These initiatives not only empower single women and vulnerable families but also contribute significantly to the overall development of the communities involved. By focusing on small businesses such as home vegetable gardening, small-scale farming, home catering, and poultry farming, the foundation helps create sustainable sources of income for these individuals. Regular support and supervision are provided to ensure the smooth operation and continued success of each project. The revolving fund model, where capital is returned after 15 months, fosters a continuous cycle of support, allowing even more women to benefit from the program. This model not only ensures the financial stability of the individuals involved but also contributes to the economic growth of the entire community. The extension of the program to remote villages in the East, including Thangavelayuthapuram, Manicka Madu, Vinayagapuram, and Aalaiyadivembu, demonstrates our commitment to reaching underserved populations and creating opportunities for growth in those areas. The success of these initiatives is a testament to the effectiveness of community engagement and collaboration with local women's organisations. In addition to the small business support, the revolving funds also contribute to infrastructure development, such as the construction of tube wells and the distribution of bicycles to schoolchildren. These efforts reflect a holistic approach to community development, as access to clean water and reliable transportation can greatly improve the well-being of the community.

We deeply appreciate the generous support from the Australian Tamil Engineers Foundation for the revolving fund initiatives, as well as the individual donors and other organisations who have contributed to making these projects possible. Together, we are empowering individuals, strengthening communities, and fostering sustainable development.



Revolving fund- Successful local shop



An amazing onion harvest

ARANERI SCHOOLS AND PALAR PAADASAALAI(KINDERGARTEN SCHOOLS)

Sivan Arul, we are committed to nurturing young children with essential human values from an early age. We have established Araneri schools in numerous remote villages, focusing on teaching children about human virtues, discipline, and meditation. We firmly believe that introducing concepts of righteous behaviour and meditation early in life plays a pivotal role in building a better society. Additionally, we have set up numerous Paalar Palli (Kindergartens or preschools), which are instrumental in preparing young minds for their formal school education. These early educational experiences are crucial, as they lay the foundation for a child's cognitive, social, and emotional development. Recent addition is a school we have started at Thatchanamaruthamadu next to our farm.



Araneri School in Thirukoyil- Ready for a cultural show



Pre school kids at the kindergarten at Palampitty

EDUCATION SUPPORT TO SCHOOL GOING AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Sivan Arul funds extra tuitions supporting 1500 children. Around 120 University students benefit from monthly financial support to be able to continue their studies. Their performance is continuously monitored to ensure that the given funds utilised appropriately. Many individual families have donated funds for this purpose. We sincerely thank families in Australia and Canada who have been sponsoring many of these children. In addition, Sivan Arul has established Education centres in Katkulam, Neenakkerni, Olumadu, Thirikovil, Kanchrankuda and Upcountry. After school education is provided at no cost. It's heartwarming to see the number of children passing with good grades from these education centres. Many of the university students would not have been able to continue education with the financial support from Sivan Arul.

SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Many schools, particularly in rural areas, struggle to provide the desired education due to a lack of qualified teachers and insufficient funds for basic resources like stationery. Another major issue is that many children from poor social backgrounds come to school without having breakfast. They often lack proper nutrition, which affects their ability to concentrate and study effectively.

At Sivan Arul, we provide educational support to these schools by offering extra tuition in key subjects after school hours. We also provide funding for sports, prize-giving, and essential stationery.

Additionally, we support the initiatives of “Iyaamiddun,” an Australian-based charity organisation that works with underprivileged schools in Sri Lanka to provide nutritious meals for children. This ensures the children are well-fed, allowing them to focus on their education and stay after school for extra coaching, all supported by Sivan Arul.

We are very proud to say that many of the schools supported by Sivan Arul have received excellent results in recent exams. One such school is Korakkar Maha Vidhyalayam, near Sammanthurai village, which has consistently achieved first rank in the last three exams.



Smart teaching class established at Korakkar School at Korakkar village



Children from Sri Ganpathy Hindu school receive regular support from Sivan Arul

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS

The success of a community is assessed by how well we look after the women in society. Sivan Arul's core mission is to empower marginalised women, particularly single women and war-affected women who head their families. We prioritise providing livelihood opportunities for these women. In addition to offering job opportunities at our factory and bakery, we actively seek to create small business opportunities, preferably from home, so they can continue caring for their children. These businesses include establishing poultry farms, home cooking ventures, sewing, and handicraft businesses. We have also established a handloom weaving factory in Paandiruppu. Our commitment to supporting these women remains steadfast, and we will continue our efforts to provide opportunities for their empowerment.



Woman showcasing garlands made from palmyrah leaves



Women at the Palmyra handicraft exhibition at Katkulam

Under the banner of "Palmyrah Projects," groups of single women from villages such as Thaandiyadi (near Thirukovil), Katkulam in Vavuniya, and Muthur are trained to create handicraft products from Palmyrah leaves and Palmyrah sweets from its fruit. In addition to providing training, Sivan Arul also assists with marketing these products to ensure the women earn a sustainable income. This project is generously funded by Mr. Jegan from Sydney, and we are deeply grateful for his financial support, which has made a meaningful difference in empowering these women. It's commendable that the group recently received recognition and first prize award for the best cottage industry in Vavuniya district.

UPCOUNTRY EDUCATION PROGRAM IN JAFFNA

Two years ago, we launched a unique experimental program, recognising the urgent need to educate talented children from the upcountry. We selected 15 students who performed exceptionally well in the GCE O/L exams and brought them to Jaffna, where they received high-quality, intensive coaching to prepare for the HSC exams. Our goal was to help them achieve top grades and secure university entrance, particularly into fields with high demand.

We are deeply grateful to many kind-hearted donors in Australia who came forward to support this initiative. We are proud to share that, except for one student, all passed the exams with flying colours. Two of the students earned straight A grades and gained admission to the Engineering faculty of their first-choice university.



Rohan and Sajinath both from Rakwana scored straight 3A's. They are seen with the school principal Mr Ashok Kumar



12 Girls from Upcountry receiving intense coaching for A/L exams

SRIRUDRAM VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT

Another proud initiative of Sivan Arul; Sri Rudram is a pure vegetarian establishment located in Mullipalam, near Thiruketheeswaram and the children's home. Founded with the dual purpose of serving as a business enterprise and providing job opportunities and vocational training to graduating students from Sivan Arul, this restaurant has become a significant venture for our community. Currently, the restaurant is efficiently managed by two of our university graduates from Sivan Arul Home. In addition to offering quality vegetarian meals, Sri Rudram provides evening meals to the children's home, contributing to the well-being of our residents. This year, we plan to expand the restaurant by offering a venue for children's birthday parties. We have also employed a new chef with culinary expertise. Stay tuned for updates in our next newsletter!

UPCOUNTRY PROJECTS

Two years ago, Sivan Arul established the Elders Home, Annalakshmi Anpu Illam, to care for destitute elderly individuals. This initiative not only addresses the immediate needs of the elderly but also reflects our commitment to the holistic well-being of the community. Currently, several elders reside there permanently.

In the same building, a separate computer school has been opened to offer free computer science education to children and youth. The computer courses were introduced to create more job opportunities for young people. Additionally, the centre is used to provide extra tuition classes for children who need support with their weaker subjects at school.



Elderly home in Yettiyanthota



Children from 18 Ananeri schools in upcountry

FLOOD RELIEF AID WORK

As you all know, there has been a major catastrophe in the North and East of Sri Lanka due to the recent severe weather conditions. Torrential rains have caused significant damage to homes in Mannar, Batticaloa, Ampara, and parts of Jaffna.

The Sivan Arul humanitarian team promptly responded to this disaster, providing essential assistance to displaced families. We distributed dry food supplies and tarpaulins to support the construction of temporary shelters, offering much-needed relief to those affected.



SPECIAL MEAL PROVISION AT CHILDREN HOME

Donors living abroad regularly contribute funds to provide meals for the needy on special occasions such as birthdays, wedding anniversaries, and death anniversaries. We organise these events, including "Aanandhanam" (sharing meals with the poor), at the children's home in Thiruketheeswaram and in many remote villages in the East. The children eagerly look forward to these special meals, and we extend a heartfelt thank you to the philanthropic individuals who make these occasions possible.



Please contact us at sivanarulillam@gmail.com if you would like to arrange this on your special occasion. We will also provide you with further details on how to get involved.

THANK YOU

On behalf of the Sivan Arul Family, we extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to all our supporters and donors in Australia, the UK, and worldwide. Your generous contributions have made a positive impact on the lives of the people we serve through various projects, including education initiatives, elder care, and community support. Your donations have not only provided vital financial assistance but have also served as a beacon of hope for the less fortunate.

With your unwavering support, we are energised and inspired to continue our humanitarian work with even greater dedication. Together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of those in need, fostering a brighter and more compassionate future for all.

Once again, thank you for being integral to our mission. Without your contribution and support, none of this would have been possible. We look forward to your continued support in our ongoing efforts.

We wish you a joyful Christmas and a New Year filled with happiness and contentment. God Bless.



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“WE RISE BY LIFTING OTHERS”

Please contact us with any feedback or suggestions

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