



SIVAN ARUL

FOUNDATION



*“Embracing a bright future:
Optimism in our journey ahead”*



Dear Sivanarul Supporters and Well-Wishers,

As we reflect on the year 2023, we are pleased to present the annual newsletter for the Sivan Arul Foundation. It has been a year of challenges, resilience, and, most importantly, unwavering support from individuals like you. The ongoing struggles with the economic collapse in Sri Lanka and the skyrocketing cost of living have presented continuous challenges for us.

However, in the face of adversity, your support has been the driving force behind our ability to persevere and sustain our projects. Despite the financial hurdles, we are proud to share that we have successfully continued our various projects and initiatives aimed at making a positive impact on the lives of those in need. The annual newsletter provides an in-depth look at all the activities and milestones achieved throughout the year. We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the Sivan Arul Foundation. Your generosity and commitment have been the cornerstone of our ability to continue our vital work. The impact of your support is felt not only by us but by the countless individuals and communities benefiting from our projects.

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 Home) Thiruketheeswaram

We are very proud to announce that our Sivanarul Illam has been selected as one of the best maintained children's homes in the north of Sri Lanka. Our director Mr Selvaranjan and staff were honoured with a trophy by the commissioner of children. Tremendous hard work by the dedicated staff were responsible for this huge success and we celebrate this achievement with a sense of pride and gratitude. This recognition inspires us to continue our commitment to providing a safe, nurturing, and enriching environment for the kids in our care.

At Sivanarul Illam and Sivanarul Hostel, a total of 180 children are currently under our nurturing care. As of now, we have 60 boys and 50 girls in Sivanarul Illam, and an additional 70 children in Sivanarul Hostel. The recently released GCE OL exam results in December brought great joy as 10 out of the 12 children who sat for the exams obtained grades that will enable them to continue their studies in Year 11. Furthermore, we are thrilled to announce that 4 of our children successfully entered university last year.

Our home has also excelled in the realms of sports and arts. In the Mannar zonal district sports competition, our children achieved first place, showcasing their talents and team spirit. Additionally, our children demonstrated exceptional skills in art and dance, earning them the top position in the district. This is a testament to the dedication of both the students and our team, working collaboratively to foster a conducive learning environment. With your continued support, we look forward to creating more success stories and making a lasting difference in the lives of those who need it most.



ANNUAL PRIZE GIVING DAY AT CHILDREN HOME- BOYS WITH SPORTS MEDALS



SIVANARUL BOYS EMBARK - A JOYFUL JOURNEY TO SCHOOL IN THE MORNING



SENIOR STUDENTS AT SIVANARUL-LATEST EXCURSION TO UPCOUNTRY



SENIOR STUDENTS AT SIVANARUL-LATEST EXCURSION TO UPCOUNTRY

Sivanarul Products (Factory and Bakery)

Past year has seen a steady success and growth of Sivanarul Factory and Bakery! The expansion plans and the positive impact on the local community, especially in providing job opportunities for single-family headed women, reflect a socially responsible approach to the business. The international success in exporting spices, flour, chili powder, and bakery products to countries like Switzerland, the UK, Canada, France, and Australia is commendable. This not only contributes to the global market but also showcases the quality and appeal of our products on an international scale. Our vision is to use the profits from the factory to fund education projects and support the Sivanarul children thus committing to give back to the community and investing in the future. The acquisition of modern machinery with the support of a World Bank has empowered the organization to adopt a forward-thinking approach to technology and efficiency.



VIJITHA - GRINDING MACHINE OPERATOR



JEHAN - RESILIENT PRODUCTION MANAGER THRIVES WITH POSITIVITY DESPITE LOSING RIGHT HAND



NITHARSINI - FACTORY SALES ADMIN STAFF

Facing challenges such as the introduction of VAT in Sri Lanka requires adaptability and strategic planning. We are confident in overcoming these challenges with continued support as we work closely with financial advisors and tax professionals to navigate the changes smoothly. Sivanarul Factory and Bakery are not just focused on business growth but are also dedicated to making a positive impact on the community and contributing to social development.

Sivanarul Integrated Farms

It has been a challenging journey to establish a profitable business on integrated farms, especially given the hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the absence of adequate water facilities. Nevertheless, we are making strides towards recovery and have implemented numerous initiatives to transform both farms into successful ventures.

In Thatchanamaruthamadu (Palampitty District), we manage a 15-acre farm. Currently, we have cultivated 600 coconut trees, as well as peanuts, urid dhal, sesame, and seasonal vegetables for sale in local markets. Recent substantial rainfall has alleviated our water-related challenges. We anticipate that the farm will generate sufficient funds to sustain itself next year. We have recently ventured into poultry farming, approaching it with a deliberate pace to comprehend the intricacies of maintaining a thriving poultry farm. Currently, we are managing a flock of 500 chickens and are enthusiastic about expanding and enhancing this business in the future. Additionally, our goal is to contribute to the welfare of the local village by creating job opportunities. Starting in January, we plan to initiate weekend tutoring sessions to provide extra educational support to school-going children.



INSPECTING THE THRIVING PEANUT PLANTATION FOR QUALITY AND GROWTH

We are in the process of establishing a cattle farm at Nadarajah Farm in Mavittapuram. The essential infrastructure and staff training have been completed, and we anticipate commencing operations in January. Unfortunately, our plans have faced delays due to heavy rainfall. We express our gratitude to the charity organisation "Granted" in Australia for funding this project. In line with our integrated farming approach, we will continue agriculture and poultry farming at this location. Simultaneously, in Mavittapuram, we have initiated cultivation on another farm, Arunachalam Farm, which has been generously leased to us by a philanthropic family in New Zealand. Our goal is to begin cultivation once the initial planning is completed. It's noteworthy that both farms are managed by our university graduates from Sivan Arul Illam, underscoring our commitment to educating and employing our own youth.



SABESHAN, MANAGER AT PALAMPITTY FARM BUSY AT WORK

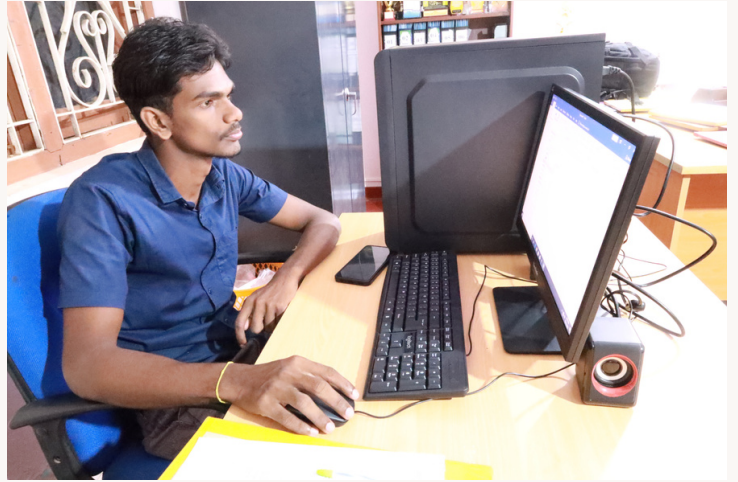


CATTLE SHED CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY IN MAVITTAPURAM

University Graduate Success Programs Update

We are delighted and humbled to announce that several students, whom we have supported in their university education, have now secured high-profile positions.

The success stories of Kowshigan and Jeyarubi, who were brought up at Sivanarul Illam are now Managers at Rudram Restaurant after completing their degrees, and Ealatheepan, a graphic designer with a diploma in Graphic Design, showcase the diverse paths that your students have taken, highlighting the range of opportunities made possible through your support. Kuhenthiran, who was brought up in Sivanarul Illam, is currently managing the accounts. He is pursuing a degree in accountancy/management.



KUHENTHI AT SIVANARUL ENGAGE IN ACCOUNT REVIEW

Additionally, the accomplishments of Mithurshan as a successful Robotic Engineer in Singapore and Sajaruban as a Lecturer in Electro Technology at Jaffna University are impressive. Their commitment to giving back, as evidenced by Mithurshan's plans to contribute to the Sivanarul university education program, adds another layer of significance to your institution's impact.

It's clear that Sivan Arul's dedication to supporting students in their university education is making a meaningful difference in their lives, empowering them to excel in various fields and contribute positively to society.



KOWSHIGAN AND JEYARUBI AT WORK- RUDRAM RESTAURANT



SAJIRUBAN- LECTURER AT THE ENGINEERING FACULTY



MITHURSHAN ROBOTIC ENGINEER IN SINGAPORE

SriRudram Vegetarian Restaurant:

As a 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 our graduating students from Sivan Arul, this restaurant has become a significant venture for our community. Presently, 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. The restaurant has garnered a stellar reputation for its excellent food quality, making it a valued establishment in the community.

We envisage a significant expansion for our restaurant in the next few years, given the steady influx of tourists from India arriving at Thalaimannar by ship. The restaurant also provides high-quality accommodation options for tourists, featuring a facility with four double bedrooms.



OUTDOOR CABANAS AT RUDRAM



SRI RUDRAM RESTAURANT- OUTSIDE VIEW

Computer Classes

Sivan Arul recognizes the importance of empowering children and young adults with computer technology in the modern world. This opens numerous opportunities for personal and professional development. Offering courses like NVQ3 and NVQ4 Graphic Design can indeed lead to numerous opportunities for personal and professional development. In Akkaraipathu over 100 school leavers have completed the NVQ3 course and 70 have passed the government exam, obtaining certificates that help them seek employment, is a commendable achievement. Expanding these computer courses to Thirukoil and Upcountry indicates a positive step towards reaching more communities and providing valuable skills as technology continues to play a crucial role in various industries, such initiatives contribute significantly to bridging the digital divide and preparing individuals for the modern workforce.



COMPUTER CENTRE AT AKKARAPATHU

Revolving Fund Projects



REVOLVING LOAN- PAPAYA PLANTATION



REVOLVING FUND- GOAT REARING

It's heart-warming to see the positive impact of the revolving fund projects initiated by the Sivan Arul Foundation. These projects not only empower single women and vulnerable families but also contribute to the overall development of the communities involved. The focus on small businesses like home vegetable gardening, small-scale farming, home catering, and poultry provides sustainable sources of income for these individuals. Regular support and supervision are given to ensure smooth running of each individual projects.

The revolving fund model, where the capital is returned after 15 months, allows for a continuous cycle of support, enabling more women to benefit from the program. This not only ensures the financial stability of the individuals involved but also promotes the economic growth of the entire community. The extension of the program to remote villages in the East, such as Thangavelayuthapuram, Korakkar Village, Manicka Madu, and Vinayagapuram, indicates a commitment to reaching underserved populations. The success of these initiatives is a testament to the effectiveness of community engagement and collaboration with local women's organizations. Revolving funds also involve the building of tube wells and distribution of bicycles to school children, showcases a holistic approach to community development. Access to clean water and transportation can have a significant impact on the well-of the community. The support provided by the Australian Tamil Engineers Foundation, Anbaalayam and Gandhi Illam in NZ is commendable, highlighting the importance of international collaboration in addressing social and economic challenges.

Sivanarul Education Centres

Sivan Arul provides Education to underprivileged children in remote villages an addition to school education by means of providing extra tuition in weekends. This had enormously benefited many children. This year one of our education centres in Kanchirankuda, a remote Village in the east saw 32 kids getting high grades in the GCE (O/L) out of the 34 students who appeared for the exam, enabling them to move on to year11. This was a huge success for the education centre and would not have been possible without the extra tuition they had. Overall pass rate was 94%.



EDUCATION CENTRE AT KATKULAM

Similarly evening and weekend classes are run in, Neeenamkerni (Near Muthur), Katkulam, Olumadu, Thirukoyil and Oddusuttan. Regular exams are conducted, and their academic progress monitored. Providing additional tuition, especially on weekends, addresses a critical need in the educational landscape for children in these areas, who might not otherwise have access to such resources. School in Korakkar Village, with the educational support Sivanarul provided had moved from 63rd to the 1st in the zone for last 2 years with 100% pass rate in year 10 and many students entering the university.

By running evening and weekend classes, the foundation ensures that these educational opportunities do not interfere with the regular school hours, thereby complementing the children's primary education. Conducting regular exams and monitoring academic progress are crucial aspects of the program. This not only helps in assessing the effectiveness of the tuition but also in identifying areas where students might need additional support.



EDUCATION CENTRE AT OLUMADU

IT IS EASIER TO BUILD STRONG CHILDREN THAN TO REPAIR BROKEN ADULTS

~ F DOUGLAS

”

Aranery Schools and Paalar Palli

At 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.

Our approach at Sivan Arul is not merely academic; it's about shaping character and fostering emotional well-being. We strive to create a holistic educational environment that nurtures well-rounded individuals who will contribute positively to society.



KINDERGARDEN AT NEENARNKERNI



KANCHIRANKUDA PRESCHOOL- PRAYERS



MEDITATION AT THIRUKOYIL ARANERI SCHO

Upcountry Projects

Its well-recognised fact that for many years Upcountry has been neglected by many NGO's resulting extremely poor living standard and very low educational standards of children compared to the rest of the country. Addressing this issue Sivan Arul have established education centres for underprivileged kids and Aranery schools to teach human values. Sivan Arul last year built an Elders home Annalakshmi Anpu Illam to look after the destitute old people. It not only addresses the immediate needs of the elderly but also reflects a commitment to the holistic well-being of the community. In the same building a computer school has been opened to teach computer science free to the children and youth. Computer course has been commenced with the hope of creating more job opportunities for the youth.



ELDERS BEING TAUGHT YOGA



ELDERS HOME AT YETTIANTHOTA-UPCOUNTRY

Special Meal (Anandhanam) Provision

Donors living abroad regularly donate funds to provide meals to the needy on their special occasions such as birthdays, wedding anniversaries, death anniversaries etc. We organise these events and "Aanandhanam" (partaking of meals to the poor), at the children home in Thirukettheeswaram and in many remote villages in the East. Please contact us at sivanarulillam@gmail.com if you need this to be arranged



Empowering Upcountry Students to gain University Entrance

Sivan Arul recently embarked on a pioneering trial project to support the education of 22 academically gifted students from Upcountry schools. These students, despite demonstrating remarkable academic prowess in their Year 10 exams, were facing difficulties in continuing their education due to financial constraints. Our initiative aimed to bridge this gap by offering them a comprehensive support program. We chose to bring these students to our head office in Thirunelvely, Jaffna, where they received extensive coaching and support. Recognizing the challenges involved in relocating them from their homes, we ensured that all their needs – including accommodation, food, medical care, and tuition expenses – were fully covered.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our generous donors from Australia, whose contributions were vital in making this project a success. The journey wasn't easy. It required these students to adapt to a new environment and commit to rigorous studies. However, their hard work and determination were evident in their outstanding performance in the recent trial exams. This success has bolstered our confidence in the potential for exceptional university admissions for this talented group. Encouraged by this success, we are now gearing up to launch a similar program for 12 girls in comparable circumstances. Many of these students aspire to become doctors, and we at Sivan Arul are dedicated to helping them realize their dreams. This initiative not only showcases our commitment to educational equity but also underlines our belief in nurturing the potential of young minds to contribute positively to our society in the future.



UPCOUNTRY STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED COACHING FOR UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE

Recent Weddings at Sivan Arul

Sivan Arul is thrilled to announce the recent weddings at Sivanarul Illam! These celebrations were truly special and heart-warming. The fact that Arichandran and Kokulan, who were raised at Sivanarul Illam, found their life partners whilst pursuing their university studies and celebrated their weddings with the children they grew up with is truly remarkable.

The involvement of the entire Sivanarul community, especially the children at the home, in arranging and participating in Arichandran and Merina's wedding adds an extra layer of warmth to the occasion. It was the first wedding at the children Home, truly a touching experience for everyone involved. The story of Kokulan and Vidhura is indeed heartwarming. Kokulan, an Arts graduate who grew up at the Sivanarul Illam, found his life partner, Vidhura, at Eastern University. Vidhura herself was raised in Durgapuram Mahalir Illam. Their union became an occasion of double joy, as it brought together not just two souls, but also two supportive communities.

The collaboration between Sivanarul Illam and Durgapuram Mahalir Illam in organizing and arranging the wedding highlights the strong sense of community and cooperation that exists between these two institutions. This partnership in celebrating the union of Kokulan and Vidhura is a beautiful example of how such homes not only nurture individuals but also foster deep connections and collaborative spirits.

Such events are not just ceremonies; they are powerful testimonies to the bonds formed in places like Sivanarul Illam. These bonds clearly extend beyond mere residency; they are about shared experiences, mutual support, and enduring relationships. Moreover, the return of these individuals as married couples to work at Sivan Arul suggests a deep sense of gratitude and a desire to give back to the community that nurtured them. It is a beautiful cycle of care and support, illustrating how positive upbringing and community support can lead to successful, fulfilled lives.



WEDDING OF ARI AND MERINA AT THE CHILDREN HOME



WEDDING OF KOKULAN AND VITHURA WITH CHILDREN FROM BOTH HOMES

THANK YOU

The Sivanarul Family extends heartfelt gratitude to all our supporters and donors in Australia and the UK. Your generous contributions have been instrumental in making a positive impact on the lives of the people we serve through various projects, including education initiatives, elder care, and community support. Your support has enabled us to bring about meaningful change in the lives of those facing adversity, and we are sincerely thankful for your commitment to our humanitarian endeavours. Your donations have not only provided financial assistance but have also served as a beacon of hope for the less fortunate. With your unwavering support, we are energized and inspired to continue our humanitarian work with even greater dedication. Together, we can continue making a 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, and we look forward to your continued support in our ongoing efforts. WE WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY THAIPONGAL AND PROSPEROUS 2024.



Please contact us with any feedback or suggestions

Australia

sivanarulillam@gmail.com - J Jayamohan

United Kingdom

sivanarulillamuk@gmail.com- J Namasivayam

Sri Lanka

sivanarulillamtkw@gmail.com- Selvaranjan

Please visit our website www.sivanarul.org

“

WE MAKE A LIVING BY WHAT WE GET. WE MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT WE GIVE

”