

DR DATHU RAO MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST



# ANNUAL REPORT 2016 – 2017

“PATHWAY” Centre For Rehabilitation & Education of Mentally Retarded  
&  
“PATHWAY VOCATIONAL CENTRE”

E-76/1, 12th West Street, Kamaraj Nagar, Thiruvannamipur, Chennai – 600 041

Tel : 2448 3949 Tele Fax : 2448 8366

## "HAVE THE POOR HELP THE POOR"

Pathway began in 1975 with just two children in a small, rented house in Chennai, India.



A D S N Prasad, an Audiologist and Speech Pathologist, sought to fill the void existing in the care and rehabilitation of mentally retarded children.

From these humble beginnings grew an organization that has served almost 31,700 children and adults in two city centers and a rural agricultural farm.

Prasad guides Pathway with the belief that

**"EVERY INDIVIDUAL SHOULD BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO UTILIZE THEIR POTENTIAL IN ORDER TO LIVE WITH DIGNITY AND SELF-RESPECT, REGARDLESS OF MENTAL OR PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS."**

Pathway is a voluntary, charitable, nonprofit and non - governmental organization which serves children and adults without any bias to religion, caste, creed, or any other consideration.



## ORGANIZATION – GOVERNANCE

Pathway has a clearly defined Memorandum and Articles of Association which directs the working of the organisation. This society has a distinguished Board of Trustees

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MRS. SUDHA SUBRAMANIAM  
PRESIDENT

MRS. DHULI PATNAIK  
VICE-PRESIDENT

MRS. CHANDRA PRASAD  
GENERAL SECRETARY

MR. A. RAMAR  
TREASURER

### EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Mr. Y. V. R. Rao  
Mr. Shanth K Jain

### GENERAL BODY MEMBERS

Dr. Pradhan Ravindranath  
Mr. Rajesh Ramana



Pathway is run under the auspices of Dr. Dathu Rao Memorial Charitable Trust a Registered Society under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act.

❖ Recognized by the office of the Commissioner for the Differently Abled, Government of Tamil Nadu (Department of Differently Abled Welfare).

The organization receives an annual grant-in-aid from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.

The organization receives grant in aid from the office of Commissioner for the Differently Abled, Government of Tamil Nadu (Department of Differently Abled Welfare) for the project “Pathway -Home for persons with Mental Retardation and Associated Conditions”

Pathway is monitored and audited yearly by independent parties to ensure proper implementation of all finances and governance.

## RECOGNITION AND GRANT-IN-AID

- ❖ Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India
- ❖ Office of the State Commissioner for the Differently Abled, Government of TN
- ❖ Department of Social Welfare as a recognized Orphanage.

## REGISTRATION AND PERMISSION

- ❖ Director of Exemptions, Dept. of Income Tax, Govt. of India, Nungambakkam, Chennai U/S 80G of the Income Tax Act.
- ❖ Ministry of Home Affairs under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, Government of India, New Delhi
- ❖ Registered with The National Trust for Autism, under section 12(4) of the Act for the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Multiple Disabilities and Mental Retardation, Government of India, New Delhi
- ❖ Registered under Justice Juvenile Act, Department of Social Defence, Govt of Tamil Nadu



- ❖ Registrar of Societies (South), Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Chennai
- ❖ Registered with Department of Social welfare, Govt of Tamil Nadu under Orphanages and other Charitable homes supervision and control act 1960
- ❖ Registered with Department of Social Welfare, govt. of Tamil Nadu under section 52 of persons with disabilities, equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation act 1995
- ❖ Registered with Directorate of Matriculation Schools, Govt of Tamil Nadu

## ORGANIZATION BOARD

### DR DATHU RAO MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST ORGANIZATION - BOARD

The board members meet at least four times a year to transact the business of the organization and meets every year to conduct the Annual General Body meeting to review the work of the organization and resolve various important issues, including: Acceptance and passage of yearly budget

- ❖ Reviews of audit accounts and balance sheet
- ❖ Appointment of auditors and lawyer
- ❖ Election of officers
- ❖ Long- range planning and development goals of the centres
- ❖ Offers general direction in the everyday operation of the organization.



SUDHA SUBRAMANIAM  
PRESIDENT



DHULI PATNAIK  
VICE-PRESIDENT



CHANDRA PRASAD  
GEN SECRETARY



M A RAMAR  
TREASURER



SHANTH JAIN  
TRUSTEE



DR PRADHAN. R  
TRUSTEE



Y V R RAO  
TRUSTEE

# PATHWAY

CENTRE FOR  
REHABILITATION & EDUCATION  
OF THE MENTALLY RETARDED  
&  
PATHWAY VOCATIONAL  
CENTRE



## FROM THE DIRECTORS



As we welcome the New Year, we are indeed grateful for the many blessings we have received. This year saw new challenges in form of cyclone which left a trail of disaster not just for us but the entire Tamil Nadu state which has been affected. Infections and injuries and other skin problems were the biggest issues we were confronted with along with increase of snakes, scorpions etc during that period. We also face the monkey menace. An estimate of nearly 100 thousand in US dollars was our damage. It was

heartening to realise that during this trial period we led a charmed life since all the kids, and staff at all the facilities were unharmed physically. We are grateful to have been blessed with courage, strength, and above all with mercy of God to overcome these daunting challenges.



We are indeed very grateful to Sabin Foundation, Mr Yoh-Chie Lu and Mr William P Benac and Mr John-Luc Butel who came forward to help during these challenging times for basic needs of the staff and children. The management and staff have pledged to intensify their efforts and serve more of His children with renewed zeal and enthusiasm. As members of the editorial board, we earnestly hope that you enjoy reading this annual report.

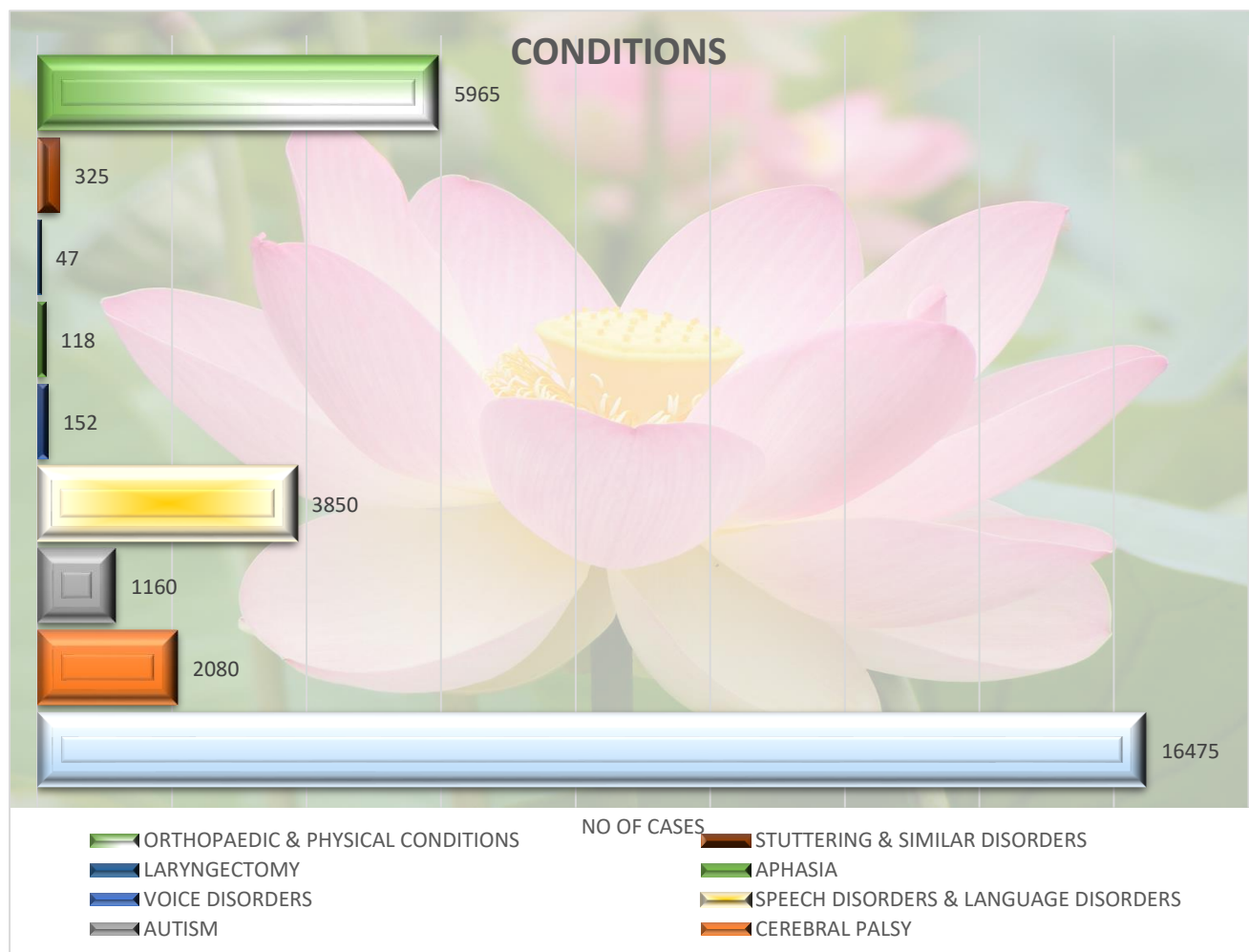
This year too we had visits from some very wonderful well wishers like Ms Bonnie, Ms Chizuru Noji Chizuru, Mr William P Benac, Mrs Barbara Benac, and Mr John-Luc Butel, Mr Arvind GunaSekaran, Mr Arun and family, and Mr Suresh Menon

It is also our desire to magnify our endeavor to serve many more “poorest of the poor” through our outreach programmes in remote villages. We believe that every child is special and has been especially sent to us to be served. At this marvelous time we convey our continued gratitude to all our partners and benefactors and well wishers for their continued love, munificence, and association.

## PATHWAY CENTRE FOR REHABILITATION & EDUCATION OF THE MENTALLY RETARDED CHENNAI



CONDITION	NO. OF CASES
MENTAL RETARDATION	16475
CEREBRAL PALSY	2080
AUTISM	1160
SPEECH DISORDERS & LANGUAGE DISORDERS	3850
VOICE DISORDERS	152
APHASIA	118
LARYNGECTOMY	47
STUTTERING & SIMILAR DISORDERS	325
ORTHOPAEDIC & PHYSICAL CONDITIONS	5965





## PATHWAY'S TEAM OF SPECIALISTS INCLUDES

SPEECH PATHOLOGIST  
AND AUDIOLOGIST  
CON. PSYCHIATRIST  
SURGEON  
YOGA INSTRUCTOR  
PSYCHOLOGIST  
CREATIVE DRAMA  
THERAPIST  
PEDIATRICIAN  
PHYSIOTHERAPIST  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST  
SPECIAL EDUCATORS  
DENTISTS  
NUTRITIONIST  
VOCATIONAL INSTRUCTOR  
CON. NEUROLOGIST  
PHYSICIANS etc

Learning Knows No Bounds





Examples of successfully rehabilitated and integrated patients:

- ❖ Nearly 55% of children with Cerebral Palsy
- ❖ Almost 90% of children with speech and learning disabilities Includes language and voice disorders, stuttering, and others
- ❖ Adults with CVA or stroke with Hemiplegia and Aphasia
- ❖ Adults with Carcinoma Larynx 90% are accomplished esophageal speakers



The mentally retarded pose a unique challenge toward rehabilitation, as cultural biases in India shun those with retardation, and jobs are scarce. The Indian government reserves 3% of jobs for the disabled, but does not seem to include the mentally handicapped. In spite of these odds,

Pathway has successfully placed many rehabilitated children and adults in workshops and small businesses, and provides employment within its own centers.

More than 16,300 mentally retarded children served by Pathway

- ❖ 50% are considered “trainable”
- ❖ 35% have been placed in sheltered workshops and small businesses
- ❖ 10-15% are profoundly retarded

This unit caters to all disabled children regardless of their abilities and limitations. Each child is properly and comprehensively assessed with special educational tools. Base line scores are established for progress measurement. Parameters include:

- ❖ Intelligence
- ❖ Level of performance
- ❖ Specific behavioral problems
- ❖ Social integration



Data is used to formulate individual educational needs and programs  
Once children have been thoroughly tested, they are classified according to degree of disability, and placed in the appropriate educational course for optimal rehabilitation.

CHILD ASSESSMENT CLASSIFICATIONS	SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSES
<b>PROFOUND</b>	ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING I
<b>SEVERE</b>	ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING II
<b>MODERATE</b>	TRAINABLE GROUP I
<b>MILD</b>	TRAINABLE GROUP II
<b>BORDERLINE</b>	EDUCABLE-TRAINABLE GROUP I
	EDUCABLE-TRAINABLE GROUP II
	EDUCABLE GROUP I
	EDUCABLE GROUP II
	PRE-VOCATIONAL GROUP
	VOCATIONAL TRAINING

## HOMEBOUND PROGRAM

In addition to comprehensive care at its centers, Pathway has developed an outreach program that enables a child's therapy to continue at home. This unique program was created to address the following needs:

- ❖ Pathway attracts many children from different parts of India
- ❖ These children need a place to live while receiving treatment at Pathway.
- ❖ No facility in India has the means or capacity to house every child in its care.

#### How it works:

- ❖ A parent or family representative is trained by a rehabilitation expert at the center with specific therapies for their child
- ❖ The parent give treatment to the child in their home
- ❖ The child must visit a Pathway center once every three months to be examined and monitored by an expert

#### Benefits:

- ❖ The family becomes involved in the child's care
- ❖ Family members attain a high level of proficiency in therapeutic treatment
- ❖ Housing costs are reduced for both the families and Pathway
- ❖ More children throughout India can be treated by Pathway professionals
- ❖ In 2016-2017 a total of 65 children participated in the Homebound Program



## SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME SUPPORTED BY CHILDREN'S CARE EMMAUS

It has been a great blessing that Pathway has been continuously receiving support from Children's Care Emmaus, Berne. Currently 20 children are being sponsored by the esteemed organization. All the children are disabled. While some of them are destitute, the others are absolutely poor.

## VOCATIONAL JOB TRAINING & PLACEMENT

One of the key factors in helping people build self-esteem and self-sufficiency is having a job and earning an income. Pathway recognizes the unique challenges of training mentally and physically disabled children and adults with skills that will qualify them for some type of rudimentary employment. As such, they have developed a comprehensive vocational program that includes several levels of training and development, as well as internal income-generating activities and outside job placement.

Pre-vocational training includes utilizing teaching aids developed by the Pathway vocational staff, as no standardized tools exist in the ready market. These aids are specially designed to meet specific learning disabilities, determined by extensive testing and evaluation of each child.

All children above age 14 are evaluated for trainability, and taught key values necessary for successful integration and job placement:

TIME MANAGEMENT

HYGIENE

SOCIAL INTERACTION

RESPONSIBILITY

AGE-APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

HEALTHY SENSE OF COMPETITION

CLEANLINESS –PERSONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL



Pathway also requires each child to contribute to the cleaning and maintenance of each center. It is the goal of the organization to replace as many “normal” workers with the disabled in various household functions. These activities provide “on the job” training for many children. Additionally, the pre-Vocational Training methodology takes into consideration several aspects of a given task, such as:

TYPE OF JOB

PHYSICAL ENERGIES REQUIRED FOR A SPECIFIC JOB

MASTERING A PARTICULAR SKILL

TYPE OF VOCATION	NO. OF TRAINEES
WEAVING 1	10
GREETING CARD: HANDMADE	8
JEWELLERY MAKING /PAPER MACHE	16
SPECIALARTIFACT WITH BEADS	15
BAKING	8
MAKING OF PRESENTATION ITEMS	6
GARDENING	8
SELLING VARIOUS PRODUCE	4
PACKAGING	2
CANDLE MAKING	9
CLEANING & BOOK BINDING	4





## OUR NEW PRODUCT RANGE

The joint effort of The Vocation unit at pathway AND THE SABIN CENTRE came up with different and unique products. Our endeavor has always been to create and try new concepts to better our products supported by special teaching aids. We have been very fortunate to have people support us in this journey by giving us orders and motivating us to reach higher goals. One such person has been Keyne Monson who has ordered our special peepul leaf card designs along with our nativity set. In his words—

*"We were thrilled to receive a large order of handcrafted items from Pathway this week. The greeting cards were created on the highest-quality paper, with creative and elegant designs that are unsurpassed. The beaded nativities are unlike any we have ever seen, and clearly represent a tremendous amount of intricate work and attention to detail. We*



*are amazed that Pathway is able to work with students to achieve this high level of craftsmanship, and we are already looking forward to receiving our next order."*



We are indeed grateful to him. The other group which visited us and gave us new order request for our sequence flower bouquets



was employees from THE FORD COMPANY. To match the above we received a request letter from AID Cincinnati chapter to create 50 numbers of decorative mementos depicting their logo. We are pleased to announce that we successfully completed the above. The above mentioned opportunities paved more room for new products to be designed and some under experimental basis too. The pictures speak volumes for themselves.



## THE WORLD YOGA DAY

It was a landslide victory for India at the UN General Assembly when the United Nations declared June 21st as International Yoga Day (or World Yoga Day). This came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi had urged the world community to celebrate yoga at the international level, in his maiden speech at the UNGA in September 2014. He had said, "yoga is an invaluable gift of our ancient tradition. It is not about exercise, it's a path through which an individual can discover his sense of oneness with nature. It embodies unity,



unity of the mind and the body, thought and action, restraint and fulfilment. On the whole, it's a holistic approach to health and well being."

. The idea of an International Yoga Day had garnered overwhelming support: 175 countries in the 193-member General Assembly had joined as co-sponsors as on December 9, 2014, the highest number of co-sponsors ever for any UNGA resolution. The initial official document circulated to the General Assembly, known as the L document, itself had 130 member states joining as co-sponsors, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, several Asian, European and Latin American countries and nearly 60 per cent of African nations. It could be concluded that India had managed to lay its golden paving stone to walk proudly through the gateways of the world and embrace yoga practitioners across the globe.

It is estimated that close to 200 million people around the world practice yoga (of some form or the other), a majority of them in India, and over 20 million of them in the United States alone. With this resolution for an International Yoga Day, more people will become aware of the tenets of yoga and will be encouraged to follow a yogic life style, a life that is healthy, humble and devout.

BKS Iyengar, one of great modern propagators of yoga was quoted:

*"yoga, an ancient but perfect science; deals with the evolution of humanity. Yoga means union – the union of body with consciousness and consciousness with the soul." The reason why June 21st was suggested was because it is the Summer Solstice, and from the perspective of yoga, it marks the transition in the Sun's celestial passage from north to south.*



Understanding the above we at Pathway became a part of the world yoga day celebrations. Across all the centres we embraced yoga too. This was not a new concept to us since it has been a part of our curriculum. The benefits of the same is manifold. The children were made aware of the relevance of yoga in daily life. Different asanas were demonstrated under the guidance of the trained staff.

The pictures shown give you a glimpse of the different asanas performed by the children and the wonderful concentration with which they exhibited their learning.



## VEGAM 2016 – AN ATHLETIC MEET FOR THE CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES



VEGAM is a dedicated sports event for differently-abled children started in the year 2011. This event has gained trust among the special and differently-abled school children across Chennai as they make use of this platform to compete in various Athletic events.

The number of participants has grown from 250 to 1200, the enthusiasm expressed by the teachers towards their wards performance has been the motivating force behind regular participation of some schools.

On the 16th July 2016, the 5th edition brought our 39 children along with 12 staff members to board a bus early morning to reach the Jawaharlal Nehru stadium.

We were the proud winners in 100 mts race category bagging the first and second prize by Maria and Devi and second prize in potato gathering too.

Under the same above category Mohammed bagged the first prize for the boys section.



## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

It was at the stroke of midnight of August 15, in 1947, that India finally won its freedom from the British Rule. The event was marked by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, broadcasting his famous speech 'Tryst with Destiny' over All India Radio.

That magical night was enough to draw tears for years, from all those who were born and lived during that period. Even today, patriotic songs that are broadcast through the day still manage to bring out tears for some and invoke a deep sense of patriotism and pride in all Indians.

For any country, its journey into the future is influenced by the journey of its past, and therefore, it's important for the present generation to know and recognize the sacrifices that our forefathers made for the freedom that we take for granted – well, mostly – today.

It's also a day for the present generation to discuss and debate the learnings of history to ensure that we, as a nation, do not repeat any past mistakes. India's Independence Day is celebrated all over the country as a National holiday of India. It is observed every year in every Indian states and union territories with great enthusiasm. President of India gives a speech every year in order to "Address to the Nation" on the evening of a day before the Independence Day. It is celebrated with big passion in the Capital of country on 15<sup>th</sup> of August where the prime minister of India hoists the Indian flag on the Red Fort, Delhi. After the flag



hoisting, National Anthem song is sung and twenty-one gun shots are fired to salute and honour the Indian flag and solemn occasion.

This year the Independence day became more special since our Prime Minister Narendra Modi decided to launch a programme named as “70 Saal Azadi-Zara Yaad Karo Kurbani”, also called “AZADI70” (means, 70 years of independence-Do recall the sacrifices). The aim of this campaign was to make Indian people aware that country is first and individual is secondary as well as remember those supreme sacrifices made by the great freedom fighters of India during the freedom struggle. There was also a week-long “Tiranga Yatra” in order to motivate people regarding nationalism and patriotism.

Since many schools have a plethora of activities organised in the week leading to the D-day, schoolchildren make the extent of celebration by singing patriotic songs and the National Anthem, performing stage acts on ‘Azaadi’-inspired stories, collating Prime Ministers’ Independence Day speeches and so on. Flag hoisting ceremonies are also carried out in schools and are followed by patriotic songs and sweets distribution. Similar events are organized in residential colonies and societies across the country. At our Pathway centre the staff and the children were busy right from 6 am, Every child showed his /her keenness to give their best performance. Excitement feverishness had already paved its way. The past few months practice was going to be tested today. They were to demonstrated their new found learning in the form of a dance, drill, drama, and skit children were ready to present colourful programmes based on India’s independence.

The co curricular activity in the special classes had submitted their skill by making tri colour batches using the appropriate ribbons to design our National Flag. This was given by pride by the students to the staff and directors which were equally worn with pride by the proud wearers of the same.

The children were raring to go and perform. The principal Mrs Jeyseeli took charge. Her one whistle brought every child to form a line and assemble near the flag mast area. They stood in attention waiting for their next order.



Our President Mrs Sudha Subramaniam was requested to unfurl the national flag. She and the Vice President along with the treasurer moved to the centre stage to do the honors. With rapt attention every soul standing there watched with the greatest pride. The unfurling of the flag showered down the soft fresh petals of marigold, jasmine and ofcourse the rose. The lovely breeze swaying the florets and petals gently down was a lovely sight to watch. The

flag by right seemed to stand up to its full potential , gently swayed by the breeze. The bright blue sky with the flag trying to touch the heights the assembled group sang the national anthem in unison. The unison and the emotion brings out the patriotism in every



assembled person .By the time the national anthem ended the last of petal had rested on the ground causing a myriad of colors covering the earth.



The dignitaries took their seat to watch the kids performance. It started with a drill And followed by a dance presented by 8 children. This song - *senthamizh nadenum pothinile* written by Bharthiyar a very famous poet. This was followed by a drama depicting the freedom fighters This was well presented by the children, choreographed by the special educators and others of Pathway. Children dressed as Mahatama Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Bhartiyar, Subash Chandra Bose, Tilak and other great patriots. The narration of the same was beautifully executed by Harish.. The event came to close with distribution of sweets and special lunch for the day.

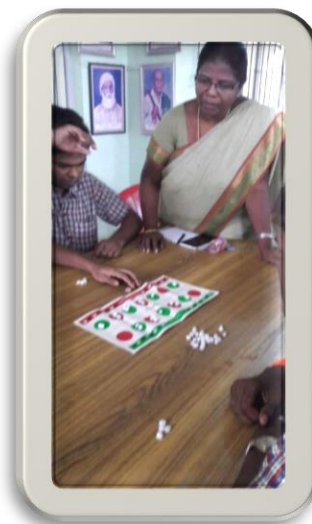
The trust board members immediately then drove down to the agro farm to oversee the celebrations at the farm.

## KREEDA



Traditional Games were not just games, they were designed in such a way that one can develop lot of skills like logical thinking, building strategy, concentration, basic mathematics, aiming, and lot more. Nowadays we develop these skills by paying money to centers that conduct personal development courses.

Traditional Games act as learning aids. They teach us many things while playing like to learn to win and lose, develop sensory skills, count, add, improve motor skills, identify color, improve hand-eye co-ordination and finally to have fun, naturally one play or watch a game to have fun.



The values that we achieve by playing these games are more when compared to the games that we play nowadays. Some of the values that we gain are that they are environment friendly, we get a chance to learn about our culture and history, and an important thing is, it is suitable for all ages, so they increase the interaction between generations. Many modern games played around the world have their origin in these traditional games this is a pride to our country's culture

the two groups involved in an inter school cultural competition regarding traditional games invited us for the same on 23<sup>rd</sup> august 2016.



Four students-Karthick, Murugappan, Madhavan and Joseph along with two special educators headed out to the designated venue in the morning. The morning session covered the traditional 5 indoor games –

- 1 Chinesepiel
- 2 Pallanguzhi
- 3 Shell game
- 4 Kalanay Belanay
- 5 Tamarind seeds

The benefits and advantages of using these games in their daily special curriculum was emphasised. The highlight was that these above games were non expensive and at the same time could be used for all age groups. Readers are aware that the most liked activities always bring about more concentration which in turn leads to quality education and learning. The group returned by evening enriched with their day's learning and ready to share their experience.

### CHINESEPIEL

A colour identification game for young children, it is believed to have originated on the Indo-China border. Suitable for very young children.



### PALLANGUZH-

This game is said to have its origins in the Ramayana when it was created by Rama for Sita to pass her time in captivity. Pallanguli is a box which has bits of 2 rows and 7 columns this is a game of distribution and counting. Variations of the game appeal to different ages and make it challenging and exciting.

The game begins with six seeds placed in each cup. The player starting first picks up the seeds from any of the holes and, moving anti-clockwise, places one seed in each hole. If she reaches the end of her cups she goes on the other side of the board. When the player drops the last seed she has, she takes the seeds from the next cup and continues placing them in this way. If the last seed falls into a cup with an empty cup following it, the seeds in the cup following the empty cup, are captured by the player. This game is played on Shivratri in the southern states. The interesting part is when it gets over in your opponent's pit, you score more. The winner is declared with the largest number of seeds.



### SHELL GAME

The game is traditionally played with cowrie shells instead of dice. To protect our biodiversity, we have discontinued the use of cowrie shells. We use game pieces made out of paper powder handmade by women. We seek your support in this initiative. This is a fast paced but simple game for all ages. As it can be played by any number of people, the game is a wonderful way to spend a family evening. It is suitable for children over five and adults.



## KALANAY BELANAY



A game from Karnataka, was taught to the Kreedha staff by a lady anxious to see the games she played as a child passed on to the next generation. This is a true representation of the value of research and the role of all people in ensuring that these games are preserved. An interesting game played with shells and board it is unusual and exciting. It is suitable for children over five and adults.

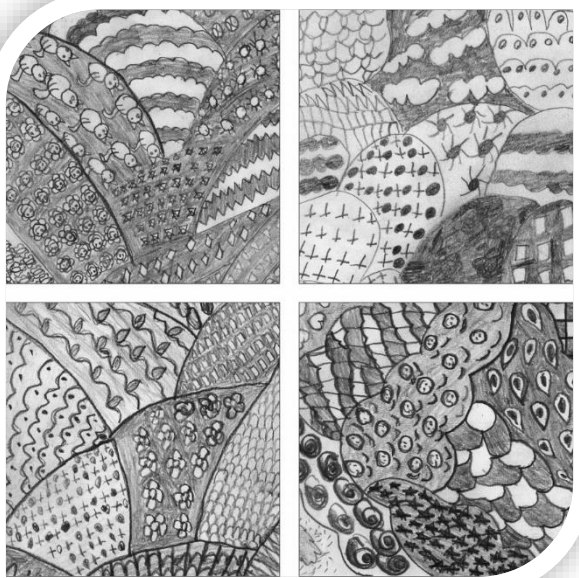
## TAMARIND SEEDS

Heap a bunch of tamarind seeds. Blow at it with a straw. If all of them are separated from each other, it's a win, else, the challenge is to pick one from above the other without the slightest movement.



# DISCOVERY OF ZENTANGLE

It all started at Pathway when some children could not match their peer group in drawing activity. They felt that they were not able to draw a scene, or an animal or a bird hence could not come up to the expectation of neither their friends nor teachers. When we sat and started thinking about this collectively it suddenly dawned why we could not teach the children the art of Zentangle. It was just a few days back I had read about it on the Internet and also tried my hand at it. We felt that this was one method one has to try to see its effects. This is how Zentangle started here.



The original Zentangle was a thought and developed by a couple as described below.

Maria told Rick what she experienced as she drew background patterns on a manuscript she was creating. She described her feelings of timelessness, freedom and well-being and complete focus on what she was doing with no thought or worry about anything else.

"You're describing meditation," Rick said. Rick and Maria wondered if they could create a simple system

so others might enjoy a similar experience. And so began the journey towards discovering this simple and elegant system called the Zentangle Method. Little did they know then that it would grow this quickly and touch as many lives in as many ways as it has. The Zentangle Method is an easy-to-learn, relaxing, and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. Almost anyone can use it to create beautiful images. It increases focus and creativity, provides artistic satisfaction along with an increased

sense of personal well being. The Zentangle Method is enjoyed all over this world across a wide range of skills, interests and With the Zentangle Method, anyone can create beautiful images from repetitive patterns. It is easy to learn and easy to do. And even though it is a specified series of steps, it results in a creative expression that transcends its own rules. Fun and Relaxing Creating Zentangle art provides a fun and lighthearted way to relax and intentionally facilitate a shift in focus and perspective. The children were absolutely thrilled about the simplicity at the same time the complexity of it when they were finished. They eyed each other's designs and tried to enrich theirs with more different strokes. The teachers felt that this was one more method of teaching that would bring forth more creativity from children of all levels. The beauty of this method was that it brought in unexpected results. Since there was no preconceived idea by following this unusual approach the creations turned unrestricted without any expectations and this was what brought delight and motivation to out do each other. We definitely found that this method did hold plenty of benefits and uses. The topmost we felt was that it brought relaxation, increased self esteem, modified behaviour, relieved stress, improved eye and hand co ordination, helped in fine motor skills, and also helped in managing anger.

At first glance, a Zentangle creation can seem intricate and complicated. But, when you learn how it is done, you realize how simple it is . . . sort of like learning the secret behind a magic trick. Then, when you create a piece of Zentangle art, you realize how fun and engrossing the process itself is. The aptitude of doing repetitive work we were able to realise that the children were able to focus more and create what did turn out to be as creative art forms. There were certain rules which were followed while asking the children to perform like not using any erasers, only white paper and black pen though in the beginning pencils were used. This allowed a freedom to think new thoughts, new perspectives, and new insights without any anxiety or effort. Any mistakes during this process of creation only added more foundations for new patterns and unbound joy since every stroke added new possibility for a better design. Since this method allowed both freedom and challenge it materialised into an uplifting experience. There was no up or down the way the paper was kept neither was a start or end hence it proved to be more beneficial. The stress of drawing a perfect picture like a bird or animal gave way to a sense of accomplishment and focussed more on enjoying the art work.

After the first session when we viewed what the children came up with we were definitely taken aback with the final results. It was a sheer joy to see how this method brought the best of every child regardless of their levels. Their excitement was visible when they finished and submitted since no comparisons could be done. Each was a unique piece of abstract art. In unison they voiced out that their special art could be used for greeting cards this year. We all nodded and smiled in unison

## ANNAI THERESA 106TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



*"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things."*

— Mother Teresa

Usually every celebration children have taken a part actively on the stage to showcase their talents. This celebration was slightly different.in the month of September dated 1<sup>st</sup> we were



invited for the birthday celebrations of the legendary Mother Teresa (1910–1997) was a Roman Catholic nun who devoted her life to serving the poor and destitute around the world. She spent many years in Calcutta, India where she founded the Missionaries of Charity, a religious congregation devoted to helping those in great need. In 1979, Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and became a symbol of charitable, selfless work. In 2016, Mother Teresa was canonized by the Roman Catholic Church as Saint Teresa.

25 participants from Chennai centre were their guests and they had the honor of witnessing some dance and drama events performed by prominent personalities from the cinema field. They were entertained for a good two hour period and then escorted for dinner. The children came home armed with gifts. Seeing the children so happy and My mind traversed my memory to the quotes mentioned by this wonderful legendary human saint---

*None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful.*

*Mother Teresa*

## “PUNNAGAI” – A CULTURAL SHOW & TALENT COMPETITION FOR SPECIAL CHILDREN

The members of ROTARACT club of Akash, who are the youth wing of Rotary International arranged a cultural show and talent competition for the special children for various institutions covering length and breadth of Chennai city. Pathway was delighted to be a part of the same. Their motto is to provide an opportunity for students and the working professionals (18-30 yrs) to enhance their knowledge and their skills that will assist them in personal development that will address the physical and social needs of their communities and to promote better relations.



Punnagai 2016-17 was scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> Saturday, the Oct, 2016, at Asan Memorial Matriculation Higher Secondary School. more than 900 Special Children below 17 yrs of age took part in this year's Punnai. The main objective is to provide opportunities to bring out the hidden potentials of these children. It was truly a day of enjoyment for our centres since 87 children with 20 staff members went as participants.

The kids were delighted to know that a sumptuous breakfast would be supplied to them which had their favourite choice of dishes. Having feasted they were raring to go and show their prowess in the different competitive events.



We would like to inform our readers that we have been winning the shield consecutively for the 6<sup>th</sup> time. The motivation banner was high and each participant wanted to uphold the tradition of bringing laurels back home.

The children displayed their talents by taking active participation in the cultural programs which included the dance, drama, music, mime, skit, solo dance, rangoli, painting and singing events. The activity hours just rushed past and the time had come for results.

There was a hush of silence finally when the prizes were to be announced. As the prizes were announced a beautiful smile and then thunderous clapping was heard since most of the gold medals were won practically in all categories.

Our various participants were Tamilmani, Pratap, Chandru, Harish, Srinidhi, Sudeep, Vardarajan, Anitha, and Joshwa to name a few. In the older group category Beena, Diwakar, Mohammed, Murugappan, Poongodi, Jenifa, Jerin etc walked away with a handful of gold and silver medals. The girl children were not far away in outdoing the boys. They too had lifted the gold in Group Singing event. The surprise and excitement on everyone's face was when the overall shield cup was announced. The winner for this year again consecutively for the fifth year was PATHWAY. The kids jumped with joy and the staff had tears of joy streaming down their faces. Their dedication had paid off.

The organisers had taken care to see that no child goes empty handed by handing out gifts to them and to their respective teachers.







The next day these children who lovingly shared their success, placed all the trophies in front of their directors and proudly asked for the moment to be captured in a photograph. Punnagai, true to its name brings a smile of joy and contempt on the faces of all those who have been a part of it.

## DIWALI CELEBRATIONS



This year Diwali fell on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016. Diwali, or Deepawali, is India's biggest and most important holiday of the year. The festival gets its name from the row(*avali*) of clay lamps (*deepa*) that Indians light outside their homes to symbolize the inner light that protects us from spiritual darkness. This festival is as important to Hindus as the Christmas holiday is to Christians. In northern India they celebrate the story of King Rama's return to Ayodhya after he defeated Ravana by lighting rows of clay lamps.

Southern India celebrates it as the day that Lord Krishna defeated the demon Narakasura. In western India the festival marks the day that Lord Vishnu, the Preserver (one of the main gods of the Hindu trinity) sent the demon King Bali to rule the nether world. In all interpretations, one common thread rings true—the festival marks the victory of good over evil.

Diwali, celebrated in October or November each year, originated as a harvest festival that marked the last harvest of the year before winter. India was an agricultural society where people would seek the divine blessing of Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, as they closed their accounting books and prayed for success at the outset of a new financial year. Today this practice extends to businesses all over the Indian subcontinent, which mark the day after Diwali as the first day of the new financial year.

Indians celebrate with family gatherings, glittering clay lamps, festive fireworks, strings of electric lights, bonfires, flowers, sharing of sweets, and worship to Lakshmi. Some believe that Lakshmi wanders the Earth looking for homes where she will be welcomed. People open their doors and windows and light lamps to invite Lakshmi in.

Over the centuries, Diwali has become a national festival that is enjoyed by most Indians regardless of faith: Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, and Sikhs.

All the centres from Pathway were a part of this festival. Children donned new colourful dresses and they looked forward for the special meals and





sweets which would follow for the day. Crackers being a part of this festival it was kept minimal to sparklers and safe flower pots with a few display of fancy fireworks. Children had been busy from morning. They had very tastefully produced colourful rangoli patterns in from of their building entrances with each group trying to outdo the others. All the simple rituals of Diwali have a significance and a story to tell. The illumination of homes with lights illuminate our homes and hearts, that this simple truth finds new reason and hope. From darkness unto light — the light that empowers us to commit ourselves to good deeds, that which brings us closer to divinity. and the skies with firecrackers is an expression of obeisance to the heavens for the attainment

of health, wealth, knowledge, peace and prosperity. According to one belief, the sound of fire-crackers are an indication of the joy of the people living on earth, making the gods aware of their plentiful state.

In all this joyous festival is always welcomed by not just the kids but adults too.

Every special educator as well as other educators for normal children prepare their wards a month earlier to the history and significance of this festival in form of varied activities.

## DISTRICT LEVEL SPORTS MEET AT ST LOUIS

The district level sports meet on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016 was conducted in the grounds of St Louis school working with the deaf -mute.



Twenty five children and seven staff members from Pathway participated in all the events with great enthusiasm and excitement. The march past being the first event was the highlight of the show since participants and non participants of all organisations get a chance to walk in perfect march in front of so many dignitaries and their friends and parents alike. This year saw Mariya from Pathway carry the Olympic torch along with three more children. After the march past the signal was flagged for the events to take place. Each staff member with their wards rushed to various areas of the stadium to ensure that they were in time for their event.

They won several prizes in

individual and group events Keerthana, Devi and Nandini were the recipient of first prize in ball throw, Mariya bagged the first prize in running long jump category. The second prize winners in different events like ball throw, running and standing long jump were bagged by Bharath,



Vani, Logesh, Joseph and Priya. The third prize winner was Priyadarshini in lemon spoon race. The Special educators took great interest in each child's performance and encouraged them to perform and win. It was indeed a gala event enjoyed by all the children.

At the end of the events the overall state level sports winners were announced. Pathway is proud to reveal that Mariya and Devi have been selected for the same. We applaud these children who show that courage and determination are the only two words which prove that irrespective of any disability the motto WE CAN is possible. Even the word possible is hidden in impossible. We salute them

## CHILDRENS DAY CELEBERATION

*Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future.*

*JOHN F KENNEDY*



Children's Day also known as Bal Divas, honors the awareness of people towards the rights and education of children. On this day schools organize various celebration with little kids which is fun. Parents must play a key role in celebrating this day along with their kids and should be aware about their dreams and desires. V K Krishna Menon proposed the idea of Universal Children's Day to the UN General Assembly and they accepted this proposal in October.



India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, was born on November 14. Apart from being known for his skills as a statesman, Nehru was also immensely fond of children.

He thought children are the future of a Nation and they need utmost care. They win over our hearts with their angelic eyes and innocent smiles. Nehru wished his birthday to be celebrated as Children's Day.

Since his death in 1963, his birthday is being celebrated as children's Day in India. So the Children's Day is dedicated to the children of India. Children are loved by one and all.. Children's Day is not just a day to let the future generation have its say. It is a day to remember a leader who, in his quiet but determined way, laid the foundation to convert a nascent nation into a world power. The more popular and famous of Nehru's pictures show him with children. He is always called as Chacha Nehru (Nehru Uncle). His thoughts can be summed up in the following quote-

*"Grown-ups have a strange way of putting themselves in compartments and groups. They build barriers... of religion, caste, colour, party, nation, province, language, customs and of rich and poor. Fortunately, children do not know much about these barriers, which separate. They play and work with each other and it is only when they grow up that they begin to learn about these barriers from their elders."*





The children at the main centre enjoy every bit of opportunity given to them. They took charge this time and decided to surprise their educators. The pre vocation and vocational group children pooled their



resources and bought balloons and festoons to decorate their school. Childrens day paper caps were distributed to all. They requested finally their teachers and other peer group to witness a small programme organized by them this included a dance, skit



and a drama. Choosing our late prime ministers favourite flower rose they showed their love for him by handing it to every staff. Dance group was led by Maria. Harish chose to play the role of chacha Nehru and Mani played the role of this favourite flower the rose. After the end of session, prizes were distributed and the entire group was given snacks and sweets which they cherished.

## WORLD DISABLED DAY

### PARTICIPATION IN DISTRICT LEVEL SPORTS MEET

Disability Day, or the International Day of People with Disability, is a day that has been promoted by the United Nations since 1992. The aim of Disability Day is to encourage a better understanding of people affected by a disability, together with helping to make people more aware of the rights, dignity and welfare of disabled people, as well as raise awareness about the benefits of integrating disabled persons into every aspect of life, from economic, to political, to social and cultural. Disability Day is not concerned exclusively with either mental or physical disabilities, but rather encompasses all known disabilities, from Autism to Down Syndrome to Multiple Sclerosis.



The 2016 theme is “Achieving 17 Goals for the Future We Want”. This theme notes the recent adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the role of these goals in building a more inclusive and equitable world for persons with disabilities. It has been celebrated with varying degrees of success around the planet. 3<sup>rd</sup> December every year is celebrated world over as well as in India as the world disabled day. This day is well celebrated in Chennai in a big way. Several activities are slated to coincide with the day for children with various disabilities. However much it may appear to be a mere formality, the day is welcomed with great expectation by children with disabilities, organizations for the disabled as well as other stake holders in the country. This is the day when the press and the media specially focus on the needs and demands of the disabled.

The celebrations start right from the first day of December when children from various organizations converge in large numbers to participate in district and state level sports meet. This year children from Pathway and Sabin Centre participated in the event in full strength. They were highly excited to participate in the colourful march past which is a major ingredient of the event. Children from different organizations from 32 districts of Tamil Nadu Participate in the sports meet.



Children from Pathway joined the march past carrying a large attractive printed name plaque; they were beaming with smiles as they reached near the

saluting base, where the chief guest was present to receive the salute. Beena was one of the torch bearers. They marched with precision, with considerable pride written over their face. The colourful opening ceremony has many ingredients that make it interesting and fun filled for the children. As a mark of inauguration of the event the chief guest was requested to release doves and also release helium filled balloons in the sky. There were considerable fire works that signaled the beginning of the celebrations.

Unfortunately mother nature decided to play spoil sport. There was a heavy thunder shower and every participant present along with staff, parents and officials ran for cover. Children had come from far and wide and thousands of prayers were released to heaven to somehow stop the down pour. Very patiently every one seated in the stadium waited with hope.

We at Pathway who had been invited to keep a stall which showcased our products made by our vocational group. The State Commissioner was very keen to spread awareness to the other organisations regarding our pioneer work in the vocational area involving the dexterous work of our fine special artist. From bakery products to the bead work and handicrafts and gift articles everything was laid out for public view. The rain did not dampen our spirits because it gave time for people to view our stall till they waited for the rain god to show mercy. Our sales too touched good limits of which the kids were thoroughly proud of. Though the sports didn't take place this day but the children did enjoy their outing and the special lunch that was provided to them.



## VARDHAH

Last year we were hit with floods and we were gearing back to normalcy when nature decided to strike out at us again. But this time it was in the form of a cyclone also known as Vardah. The name Vardah, an



Urdu word meaning red rose, contributed by Pakistan. The name of cyclones in the Indian Ocean Region are decided by the member countries, which are India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand, Myanmar, Maldives and Oman.

Even before we could realise and gather our wits the cyclone had hit us with a wind speed of 120 and 130 kmph bringing with it heavy rain that lashed the coast in Tamil Nadu and neighbour Andhra Pradesh all through Monday. We at Pathway were so shocked to see a sudden change in weather that for a few minutes we were rooted to our spots not knowing how to handle the situation. There was a sudden quietness and we sensed fear in the kids eyes. This sudden change brought us back to reality and we took stock of our surrounding. Orders were given and the older kids rushed to close the windows and checked and made sure that every head was counted and safe inside the building.



The next area to look into was our terrace door. It seemed that nature was enjoying playing tag with us. It took super human effort to close the terrace door. The wind speed had increased by now. We thought we were safe and decided to get back to our usual chores when we heard the first shattering of glass. All the smaller kids were herded to their dorms since that seemed at that time to be the safest area. A few older kids and we assessed the damaged. In a few minutes the entire glass panes had shattered and rain with full glee burst into the building. The next sounds we heard were the swishing of our trees. Prayers became intense. We prayed for every life to be safe. It seemed nature was not in a mood to listen. There was a thunderous sound and our gigantic trees had been ploughed down by this mighty wind. we tried our best to stop the water gushing in by using every available vessel to collect the excess water. Magically every drum or bucket seemed brimming with water. We remembered our office was down and with magical speed we rushed to save our files and computers. Having done that we waited patiently for nature's calamity to settle down. Lunch was forgotten. We were too busy deciding how to minimize our damages. Our immediate concern was no child should



fall prey to that shattered glass inside the buildings. Little did we realise that nature had decided to give us some more flying object gifts like-broken shafts, broken asbestos bits flying in and all the other unwanted materials. We did realise that the power lines were down and so was the internet. There was no way to contact anyone. Outside situation was not less. Nearly 20,000 people had been evacuated from low areas. Cyclone Vardah made landfall in Chennai on Monday afternoon between 3 p.m. And 5 p.m., uprooting trees, defacing highrises, smashing cars, disrupting public transport and telecommunication, bringing the metropolitan area to a standstill.





The total rainfall received from early Monday up to 6 p.m. Was 16 cm in the Chennai region alone, according to the Meteorological department. By 8 p.m. The windspeeds decreased to 60-70 kmph, and the system now a 'cyclonic storm' moved westwards, bringing moderate to heavy rainfall to the interior areas as well.

By the next morning when we stepped down to the ground floor we were shocked to see that our main entrances were blocked by the fallen trees and the vehicles were damaged. The enormity of destruction was slowly seeping into our minds. We tried to get information about the farm and children residing at the Sabin Centre. Fortunately no life was in danger but the aftermaths like -snakes, scorpions were another challenge we had to meet. Our biggest ever challenge is always infections occurring during these periods.

We decided to first clean up the centres phase by phase. Help was not available since every staff member were facing the same situation as we were. This is the most beautiful time to relish and feel blessed that children never gave up hope and decided to contribute their mite. Their confidence helped us to overcome the worst situation.

When we took stock of our surroundings we found that we had lost our terrace garden nursery cover, our medical roof had been blown away, our dental clinic was totally flooded with water, 80% of our window glass panes were shattered. Nature didn't even spare our plumbing lines which were ripped away along with our display boards. We never realized till it did take place that we would be in darkness for a fortnight and internet for coming months wouldn't work.

The next entire month was spent day in and day out in cleaning up the mess and trying to get lowest quotations to fix the glass panes and the roof. Certain priorities were immediately met and some we had to wait till we could raise some more funds.

Out at the farm the situation was as grim. Many glass panes were broken, trees in hordes had lost their bearings and our entire paddy cultivation was destroyed. Though the damage was intense but we were happy that no life was in danger. We were thankful to that Almighty for keeping us safe. Our prayers were answered and we are indeed humbled by HIS grace.



Summing up our city's damage the Corporation officials pegged the number of trees fallen at 568 along the 471 bus routes and over 33,000 interior



roads in the 426 sq km of the Greater Chennai Corporation limits, impeding the flow of traffic. Flight operations were also suspended at the Chennai airport along with Suburban train services. The roads, were flooded with ankle-deep water, remained deserted now, with tree branches, police barricades and banners lying twisted by the side. Power supply, banking transactions were affected too.

## CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION

Since 13<sup>th</sup> December so much havoc in our state in the form of the Vardah cyclone, we celebrated Christmas on a very low key. The basic in house programmes were conducted since the children had prepared for the occasion and their beautiful art work banner was displayed to their peer groups. The message of Christmas eve was not lost on the children. They proved in action this time by gifting away their toys to other needy children in and around our centres and gave their time in community service since every place was strewn with broken branches of trees, garbage

in form plastic materials of all sorts etc. they decided to clean and beautify their surrounding areas. We were touched by their resolve and learnt that Christmas was after all giving and not taking. We are proud and blessed to have such wonderful children in our facility. I can sum up this feeling in the below words of the prophet-

*"Christmas is the spirit of giving without a thought of getting. It is happiness because we see joy in people. It is forgetting self and finding time for others. It is discarding the meaningless and stressing the true values." - Thomas S. Monson*



## KREEDA -SPORTS MEET FOR PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES

This year saw many sports programmes conducted by various institutions. We believe that children should participate given an opportunity. This particular event was jointly organised by inner wheel club of madras fort and National institute for empowerment of persons with multiple disabilities at Rajaratnam stadium on 9th January 2017.



The event was a days affair. As usual children were excited to go for the meet. They had been practising from the past two weeks. They were eager to be a part of the march past which was led by Pradhap and a solo drill too was performed.



Children seem to enjoy the various activities though termed sport for them its entertainment. Years of experience has taught us some valuable lessons they have taught us the meaning of true sportsmanship. Winning and losing has never been their criteria.

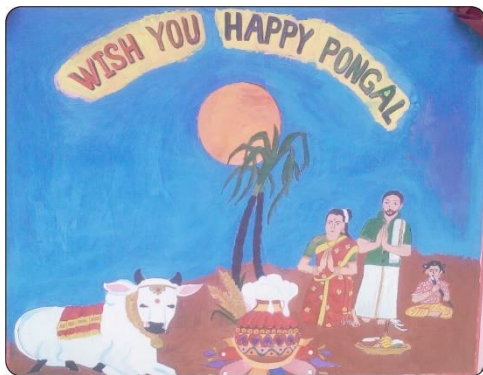


The children have shown us that love and care is not just words but actions that need to be proved. For eg. When they came home with 4 gold medals, a silver and 2 bronze- they did not surrender it to us saying that who has won it individually but with a broad smile handed over saying that they have won it collectively. Life's valuable



lessons are learnt from these innocent and most wonderful hearts who know the true meaning of love. We are so blessed to work with such a group which knows no vile of the world. Their world seems to be more enriched than ours. Their happy smiles and the sparkle in their eyes speak all the volumes.

## PONGAL



Mid January is an important time in Tamil Nadu, so also for Pathway. The harvest festival falls typically on 14 January. This time the harvest brought great cheer in the hearts of everybody at the Pathway Agro Farm as plenty of rice and vegetables were harvested. This three day long Pongal festival was celebrated with great fun and frolic by the children and staff of Pathway, Chennai, the Pamela Martinez Matriculation School and the Sabin Centre for the differently abled. The wardens, special school staff, Farm staff, Supervisor, Electrician, Plumber, Driver and Hostel staff, teachers are called to participate in the event with their Tools All

the children are involved in the spring cleaning of the entire campuses. The drivers are incharge of cleaning their vehicles. In general every body is involved in the above activity.

Though this practice is in everyday life here but this gives a start for a new year ringing in freshness and beauty all round. Special prayer was said by Archana, and there after the Principal explained about the meaning and concept of these three days significance much to the delight of Bonnie Lynn who was visiting us then.





A small joint prayer or pooja is organized and the blessings are given in form of puffed rice, fruits, sweets and ofcourse the inevitable goodness of sweetness- the sugarcane. this community act brings people closer and friendships and ties get stronger. Worshipping the tools which offer one's livelihood makes them respect these aids.

Pongal is celebrated by the Indian state of Tamil Nadu as well as Tamils worldwide, including those in Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Mauritius, South Africa, USA, Canada and Singapore. The festival is at least 1000 years old although some believe that the festival is more than 2000 years old. As per epigraphic evidence, it used to be celebrated as Puthiyeedu during Medieval Chola empire days. It is thought that Puthiyeedu meant the first harvest of the year. People of all relegions celebrate the pongal festival. This is a harvest festival - the Tamil equivalent of Thanksgiving.

Once the pongal is ready a Padayal (the offering) is first made. Sharing of the Pongal with friends and relatives follows a few minutes of meditation or a prayer. The children were absolutely excited about this day. The excitement of a festival is always writ with pleasure on their face and this showed in their eagerness to follow any ritual rules like getting up early in the morning and having a shower and donning new clothes. The previous night the kids had collected their old clothes and each one had made their own bundles since the first day, Bhogi, is celebrated by throwing away and destroying old clothes and materials, by setting them on fire, marking the end of the old Thai and the emergence of the new Thai. The excitement was definitely on high since they receive new clothes and toys to mark the occasion. The day set off by the girl children drawing kolam decorations in front of their school and dormitory buildings. Everywhere colorful buntings were installed. The buntings waved along with the breeze matching the childrens smiles. Their enthusiasm brought a renewed energy in the adults who thought less of their everyday worries and became a part of the scenario by joining the kids in the festivities.

The second day, Pongal, is the main day, falling on the first day of the Tamil month Thai (January 14 — 15). Also known as Sarkarai Pongal or Veetu Pongal, it is celebrated by boiling rice with fresh milk and jaggery in new pots, which are later topped with brown sugar, cashew nuts and raisins early in the morning and allowing it to boil over the vessel. This tradition gives Pongal its name. The moment the rice boils over and bubbles out of the vessel, the tradition is to shout of "Ponggallo Ponggal!" and blowing the sangu (a conch), a custom practiced during the festival to announce it was going to be a year blessed with good tidings. All the children from all the centres joined along with their staff and our special visitor Bonnie to watch the setting up of the clay pot on bricks with wood as the fuel. The sugarcane was a part of their



decoration which was used in the form a stand . The children were dressed in their new clothes and the entire farm was dotted with a riot of colors. A bystander could watch the kids bobbing their heads and chatting gleefully waiting for their principal to say the prayers. Once done all the pair of eyes were focused on the pot waiting for the rice to boil over. The sight of the rice boiling over immediately brought a chorus from children who shouted "Ponggallo Ponggal!" The happy faces smiled gleefully and waited with bated breath to receive the offerings made and ofcourse the best loved sugarcane. Children were busy seated in and around the playground area with their sugarcane pieces in their mouth and their strong teeth skillfully tearing the top layer and enjoying sucking the fresh juice. The excitement was hard to contain. Many a times watching them send an adult back to his memory lane where he or she relives their childhood

The third day, Maattu Pongal, is for offering thanks to cattle, as they help farmer in different ways for agriculture. On this day the cattle are decorated with paint, flowers and bells. They are allowed to roam free and fed sweet rice and sugar cane.

Some people decorate the horns with gold or other metallic covers. In some places, Jallikattu, or taming the wild bull contest, is the main event of this day and this is mostly seen in the villages.

The staff had organized a wonderful fun day programme for children . Some children were dressed in their traditional costumes. The older girl children danced a classical number in front of their peers to mark the day's festivity. This was followed by a popular game known as Tug of war. The air was filled with happiness and joy and cheering sounds from the crowds who egged their groups to pull harder to win the contest. This was displayed by the tiny tots, middle school kids, special children, and ofcourse the lady staff members who were pitted against the male staff members. The boys were thrilled that their gender won. The adult special children weren't going to be left behind and they showed their skill in musical chair which was won by Armugham followed by Zair. The last but not the least was the blindfold game which challenged the participant to hit a pot which is hung eight to nine feet above the ground and try to smash it and carry the prize housed in it. It seems like another version of piñata. Tired and exhausted the kids trooped in for their special food which they enjoyed and welcomed the nap after it. During the final day, Kaanum Pongal (the word kaanum means "to view") people visit beaches and theme parks. The children in batches were taken out to visit the nearby bird sanctuary. They were delighted.

This day is a day to thank relatives and friends for their support in the harvest. Although it started as a farmers festival, today it has become a national festival for all Tamils irrespective of their origins, caste or even religion. It is as popular in urban areas as is in rural areas.



## REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS



Republic Day is the symbol of true spirit for the independent India where military parades, exhibiting military equipments, salute to the national flag by the Indian president and variety of events are take place at this day. Indian national flag has horizontally tricolour (upper saffron, middle white and bottom of dark green colour divided in the equal proportion) and a wheel (navy blue colour, having 24 spokes) in the centre representing the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka.

India is a country having people of different cultures, societies, religions and languages who interplay with each other harmoniously. Independence to the India is the great pride as it was obtained over years after facing a variety of obstacles and hurdles.

The day is celebrated every year to feel the Indian people very proud for living in the multi cultural and independent country. Republic Day is celebrated in very colourful and exhilarating ways in order to make memorable and significant celebration of the year. National Anthem is sing by the people participated in the celebration. This celebration brings all the Indian people together at one place and thinks at one topic The chief guest on Republic Day of India 2017 was Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. As every year, the India would follow the great Indian culture and tradition “Atithi Devo Bhav” of welcoming the prime Minister of another country as a chief guest. The major highlights of this years republic day are –

- *For the first time a contingent of the National Security Guard (NSG) popularly known as the Black Cat Commandos walked down the Rajpath during Republic Day celebrations.*
- *The parade also saw the fly-past of three LCA Tejas Aircraft flying 'Vic' formation and the Airborne Early Warning & Control System (AEW&C) developed by Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).*
- *Indian Air Force tableau with the theme "Air Dominance Through Network Centric Operations" received huge applause from the massive crowd at Rajpath. The tableau featured scaled down models of fighter jets Su-30 MKI, Mirage-2000 and also AWACS, UAV, Apache and communication satellite.*
- *The stunning show by the marching contingents of Army which included horse-mounted columns of the 61st Cavalry, the Mechanised Infantry Regiment, the Bihar Regiment, the 39 Gorkha Training Centre, 58 Gorkha Training Centre, the Madras Engineering Group and Centre and 103 Infantry Battalion (Territorial Army) Sikh Light Infantry.*
- *Abu Dhabi crown prince and deputy supreme commander of the UAE armed forces Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan was the chief guest at this year's Republic Day celebrations at Rajpath.*



The 68th Republic Day anniversary was celebrated with pride at Pathway. The boys and girls of the Centre were seen to be practicing many program which they were planning to showcase. On this special day the flag mast and the entire area was decorated with colourful rose petals and buntings and tiny flags. Each child was found sporting a small Indian flag that was affixed on the lapel of their clean white shirts The show started with an impressive march-past by nearly 50 children They marched with precision driven by a rhythmic band that was played by two older boys. All the children in their neatly ironed clothes marched perfectly past the saluting base, As the national flag was unfurled by the President of our trust with the Vice - President at tow, there was a shower of fresh petals of roses, jasmine, marigold and various other flowers. This signaled the singing of national anthem which was rendered with great poise and decorum.

Republic day was celebrated at Pathway, Chennai in a grand manner. There was feverish excitement in the children as many of them were ready to present a colorful program. Beena was dressed up as mother India, Divya and many other girls were dressed up in their white and colourful chiffons ready to dance to the patriotic tunes selected for the occasion. As the children were called to attention, Sudha Subramaniam was requested to unfurl the national flag. With this the children, staff and everyone assembled sang the national anthem in unison. Children dressed as Gandhi, Nehru, and





other great patriots passed by, drawing resounding claps from all assembled, culminating in praising and offering obeisance to Mother India. The event came to a close with distribution of sweets. Every year these special moments are captured on camera and they get embedded in the special album of special children achievements.



Children at Martinez Sabin group were out. They prowess in



Pamela and the Centre not to be left showed their the different



drill and exercises like pyramid formation which was followed by resounding applause from their peer groups. In all the children practised their best to win the hearts of their trainers and audience alike. The march past was followed by a wonderful beat of the band .The band leader had made sure

that all his counterparts were in their best attire which caught envy of many .This year the salute was taken by the Principal.

## S'PAEDOFEST 2017



The department of politics and public administration, university of madras organised an inter-school cultural competition for special children in Chennai. Various events like drawing, craft making, quiz, extempore, cultural competition was organised on 12.02.2017. This event was organised with an aim to give an opportunity to interact with university students and gain experience. Pathway was geared for this event. Children from all age groups were selected to be a part of the competition. The various competitions selected were- solo dance, solo song, group



dance, craft making, drawing and extempore speech.

We are proud to announce that the first prize in extempore speech was bagged by Harish, second prize winner category included Maria and Anitha in craft making, Harish in drawing and 8 of our group in group dance. The third category prize winners were Sudeep in craft making, and Devi in Drawing. It was definitely a proud moment for the educators and trainers who work so hard to bring a smile on their ward faces. The children at the end of the day brought their gifts, medals and certificates and proudly displayed it the next day to their other peer groups.

## PATHWAY EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR 2016

The Pathway Excellence award was conferred in an impressive but a simple function recently at Pathway, Chennai. The venue was tastefully decorated with colorful 'Shamiana' with a large stage. These awards were conferred on meritorious poorest rural children of Tamil Nadu selected from all over the district. This concept of bestowing awards on such children was conceived six years ago. Pathway being an organization serving the disabled and the poor wanted to focus on the needy children who show promise in their scholastic performance. The mandate of the organization has been to serve the most needy and deserving children without any bias to their religion, caste or any other consideration.

It is the aim of the organization to discover the unsung heroes who live in the dusty rural areas of the state without being recognized. The aim of Pathway also has been to uncover the potential of highly deserving children who are generally neglected or marginalized by the society because of their obvious problems, such as, poverty, lack of opportunities, poor facilities in the rural areas, etc. The panel also studied the performance of each short listed student in his/her scholastic achievement as well as in their all round achievement. The specialty of this award was to allocate a mentor to each of the selected awardees. Pathway has selected a panel of highly successful professionals drawn from different walks of life for the mentorship program. The panel consisted of doctors, engineers, captains of industry, marketing and business management experts, scientists, administrators, etc





The Pathway Agro Farm for Children was packed with invitees, a large section was earmarked for children, their parents, there were rows of seats that was reserved for principals of schools from the rural areas. The faces of children were beaming with smiles of great expectation. They were all seated as per their awards. All together 8 meritorious awardees were present to receive the honours. It was really interesting and overwhelming to listen to the parents of the some of the children who hailed from remote rural areas. They expressed their glee and delight in participating in a such an event and thanked Pathway for this great opportunity. The principals of village schools were equally delighted with the honour bestowed on their wards.

Excellence award was given for three categories of high performers. During this event 8 meritorious children were conferred with Pathway special Awards. These awards were bestowed on children shortlisted from all over the district which also included a couple of children from the Pamela Martinez /Pathway Matriculation School and Orphanage who matched their performance with high performing children from different parts of the state. Children who obtained high scores, who were first generation or first time school goers were selected for all the awards. The award consisted of a cash prize, a certificate, a medal and a shawl.

The most coveted awards were:

The Pathway Judge William Sheffield Excellence Award

The Pathway- Gary Sabin Excellence Award

The Pathway A D S N Prasad Excellence Award

The Pathway- William P Benac Excellence Award

The Pathway-Jean-Luc Butel Excellence Award

The Pamela Martinez/Pathway Excellence Award

These prestigious awards were bestowed on children who showed exceptional grit and strength and also superlative performance in their scholastic performance despite severe trials and tribulations.

Almost every Awardee had a great and impressive story. The Pathway Judge William Sheffield Excellence Award was conferred on G Pandian. He and his sister were brought to our fold in the year 2005 by their single parent who is a housemaid. He has passed with flying colors making us proud with 96 % score. He is continuing under our guidance for his higher studies. D. Jothilakshmi and her four other siblings lost their mother at a tender age and were brought to Pathway by their father who was a labourer. Despite this hardship, despite this poverty and in spite of these trials and challenges she was adjudged First Rank in her school and second in the district with over 93% scores in all subjects, with





100% in science and social studies. Pathway salutes this great achiever and bestows The Pathway A D S N Prasad Excellence Award. She was thrilled to receive this honor.

The Pathway-Gary Sabin Excellence Award was bestowed on K Chandrakalai from Kanikapuram village studying in the Govt.School, Kilkodungallur, Wandavasi.has scored 98percent with centum in social science This 15 year old has been attending a government high school in a remote village, and has shown great dedication, perseverance and ability in her education and in her life. Hailing from a very poor family, living in a shanty hut, carrying water for over 5KMs everyday for survival, this girl has excelled despite severe challenges.

Chandra Prasad, Hony Director and Chief Functionary, Pathway, described briefly the work done by the organization for the disabled from the past 40 years and has also outlined contribution made by Pamela Martinez school and orphanage and the Agro Farm, from the past 15 years. She said nearly 40,000 lives have been touched by Pathway for over these years.

She conveyed her grateful thanks to Judge William Sheffield, Gary Sabin, William and Barbara Benac, Pam and Alex, and Jean-Luc Butel for their long association and for their great contributions.

Ms Sudha Subramaniam, President and Director Spl.Projects chaired and steered the Mrs Dhuli Patnaik, Vice-President, Pathway proposed a vote of thanks.

## UNIVERSAL ONENESS – PERFORMANCE GIVEN BY 200 DIFFERENTLY ABLED

Pathway has always believed in giving comprehensive rehabilitation and education to all the special children it serves, hence another dimension of holistic approach using theatre as a medium has been catered to. Pathway joins hands with this wonderful organisation known as RASA to allow our children to grow in this sphere.

On the eve of 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017 a group of two hundred children from various special schools were drawn to perform this mega event at Narada Gana Sabha under the banner of ONERU or also known as oneness. This time the theme under this banner was on the life of Guru Gobind Singh which was exemplarily performed by 25 of our children. These children brought the characters of the story to life with their charming and wonderful performance. Children of Pathway depicted the goodness of a disciple of GURU GOBIND SINGH



The differently abled of all ages had been practising their part for nearly four months. As the day was drawing closer they were getting excited to show their talent. The most noticeable character of these child was to watch their confidence in whatever they do. The fear of stage was missing. We are always amazed looking at them.



As the event day dawned there was hectic activity going on. Food which is always their highlight for a usual day was given the least importance. They constantly chattered and smiles galored on each individual. Their moment of performance was drawing close. As usual the older kids took care of the younger ones and finally after all the checks and rechecks of their baggage and snacks they boarded the bus to the city's main theatre hall.

As a part of the audience the other kids and we moved towards the main hall to capture the best seats we could. Our cast of 25 children made their way to the make up room to finally don the beautiful costumes which would transform them into the various characters.

With baited breath we waited for the programme to start. Ours was the third programme under the Universal theme. The others were - As the programmes rolled on it was our turn finally. As soon as the announcer announced our name there was a thunderous applause from the audience. We would like to tell our readers a gist of the story which is very interesting by itself ----

Bhai Kanhaiya (1648–1718) was a Sikh (disciple) of Guru Tegh Bahadur and was requested to establish the Sevapanthi or Addanshahi order of the Sikhs by Guru Gobind Singh Ji. Many Sikhs know of this Sewa, because during British Rule over India, this was ok with the British. What the British tried and succeeded in suppressing was



Manjee Sewa, the Sikh version of Gentle Missionary. Sikhs do not impose, but share Sikh teachings as a Knowledge for all Humanity, and anyone who wants to can become a Sikh, but without anyone sharing what Sikhi is all about no one can discover it. This is the role of the Manjee, to spread Sikh teachings as a universal knowledge far and wide. Bhai Kanhaniya was anointed Manjee to Afghanistan, and hundreds of thousands of Afghans discovered Sikhi and became Sikhs.



Bhai Sahib was born in a Dhamman Khatri family of Sodhara near Wazirabad in Sialkot district (now in Pakistan). His father was a wealthy



trader, but he himself being of a religious bent left home when he was still very young and roamed about with sadhus and ascetics in search of spiritual peace.

During his youth he also spent a lot of time in the company of Nanua Bairagi, who was also a disciple and comrade of last three Sikh gurus. Nanua Bairagi was a renowned poet-mystic of Punjab and he left a deep imprint on Bhai Kanhaiya's spiritual and humanitarian outlook in his formative years.



His quest ended as he met Guru Tegh Bahadur (1621–75) and accepted initiation at his hands. Kanhaiya established a dharamsdhal at Kavha village in the present Attock district of Pakistan which he turned into a preaching centre. His special mission was selfless service of humanity with no distinction of nationality, caste or creed. In 1704–5, he was on a visit to Anandpur when the city was invaded by a combination of hill troops and the imperial Mughal army.

During the frequent sallies and skirmishes between the Sikhs and the enemy, Bhai Kanhaiya was often seen carrying a mashak (a sort of pouch made of goat's skin that was used to carry water from one place to another), to serve water to anyone who was thirsty. He took upon the task of quenching the thirst of the wounded soldiers in the battle of Anandpur Sahib in 1704. He did this sewa with love and affection without any discrimination between the Guru's Sikh soldiers and the Mughal armies' soldiers. His act of compassion stirred up stern criticism amongst his fellow Sikhs, who complained to Guru Gobind Singh Ji, pointing out that Bhai Kanhaiya Ji was serving water to the wounded soldiers from the enemy camp. They were especially annoyed because the Mughals had surrounded the city and stopped all their food supplies, and here was Bhai Kanhaiya sharing with them what little water they had. They had tried to stop him many a time, but he would not pay any heed. Guru Gobind Singh summoned Bhai Kanhaiya and explained that he had received a complaint about his actions on the battlefield.

Guruji said, *"These brave Sikhs are saying that you go and feed water to the enemy and they recover to fight them again – Is this true?"*

Bhai Kanhaiya Ji replied *"Yes, my Guru, what they say is true. But Maharaj, I saw no Mughal or Sikh on the battlefield. I only saw human beings. And, ... Guru Ji, .. they all have the same God's Spirit? – Guru Ji, have you not taught us to treat all God's people as the same? OUR SIKH HEROES DESTROY ENEMIES BY KILLING THEM, BUT I DESTROY ENMITY BY GIVING THEM WATER."*



The Guru was very pleased with the reply. Bhai Kanhaiya Ji had understood the deep message of Gurbani correctly. Guru ji smiled and blessed Bhai Kanhaiya. Guru Ji said, *"Bhai Kanhaiya Ji, You are right. You have understood the true message of Gurbani".* He



then continued and told the Sikhs that Bhai Kanhaiya had understood the deeper message of the Gurus' teachings correctly and that they all have to strive to learn lessons from the priceless words of Gurbani.

Guru also gave Bhai Kanhaiya Ji medical Balm and said *"From now on, You should also put this balm on the wounds of all who need it"*



Then turning to the sangat Guru Ji said, *"Saadh sangat ji, Bhai Kanhaiya is a God-fearing saintly soul. His impartial and non-biased behaviour towards others has led him to achieve Sehaj-avastha. Let him carry on with his mission. Many more will follow in his footsteps in the years to come and keep the tradition of Nishkam sewa alive."*

Today Bhai Kanhaiya Ji may not be with us physically, but as you walk in the compound of the memorial asthaan, Gurudwara Aduti Sewa, you can almost sense his presence amidst the surroundings. Suddenly an image of this tall, lean figure, carrying a mushak full of water behind his back begins to flash in front of your eyes; especially when you walk towards his old hut (Kutiaa), which has been restored to its original form.

The above main characters were beautifully portrayed by Prasanna who donned the role of Bhai Kanhaiya, Mughal king by Bharath, Tamil Mani showed his prowess as Guru Gobind Singh. The other roles of dancers were fulfilled by Maria, Devi, Vani and Beena. Our drum players were Sudeep and Manoj, and

trumpet players were Rani and Muthu. The remaining soldier character were played by Madhavan, Murugappan, Sivachandran, Subramani, Mohammed, Anand, Joshwa, Joseph, Arun and Vardarajan. The helpers and assistants were Diwaker, Lokesh and Karthick.



We are always debted to the entire staff force which takes so much interest in bringing the best out of the children. Their services will never get unnoticed since our hearts humbly bow down to all their sincere efforts.

## FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATIONS

29<sup>th</sup> march was engraved in every soul who had known Dr Prasad the founder and father of Pathway. This day has been declared as the Founders day in history of pathway. We wanted every individual to honor and respect and in his memory create moments of treasure this day.

In consultation with the staff of all centres we decided to conduct a full day programme involving parents, our alumini group and children from all centres. The programme was designed to have fun elements, cultural programme along with fun games. This year we had some surprise visitors from Singapore Katie



Deavor and her two wonderful daughters who became of guests of honor.

Everybody gathered around 9 in the morning at the schools play ground area. The day started with a opening prayer and hymn. It was followed by unfurling a huge banner of the founder whose ever smiling face brought heartfelt respect and cheer from every soul present. After paying our humble respects to this wonderful visionary a birthday cake was cut. This cake was especially prepared by special hands of Chennai centres bakery group.

Children paid their respects in different forms like greeting cards by the Sabin group, flowers from the tiny tots, in memory poems for their dad from the older children and some had even prepared individual cards.



The mike was later handed over to the hony director followed by the president of the trust. Children were patient and very respectful.as the speeches were over their tiny whispers and excitement started growing. This is the first time they would be seeing their parents too taking part in the fun games and vice versa.

The tiny tots had a series of games to attend to like the potato gathering, balancing a ball on a tiny plate, sack race, balloon bursting, and arranging paper cups in limited time period. Every game was watched with earnest spirit and loud cheering with applause and claps rendered the air. Now it was the turn of the parents. The games played were musical chair, matching picture game, going through memory test and finally the tug of war. The biggest applause was for the tug of war. Childrens beaming smiles left us totally satisfied. The spirit of happiness seemed to have surrounded us all. Every game event ended with a prize which was so kindly distributed by our guests. Snacks were distributed at the end of this session.





After a sumptuous lunch and a bit of relaxation the kids and staff were ready for the next session. The next session was started by 3 in the afternoon which concluded by 5 in the evening. The various programmes conducted were group dances, special talent show by Paul Johan, solo and group dances by different class groups. The highlight of the show was a magic show by David and Chandru and finally a fun skit. The children from all centres had participated to make this a very memorable event. As expected every event was concluded with special prizes. The Sabin group boys had to blow balloons till it burst. The winners declared here were Citibabu and Dayalan. Thaneer, Sarvana, siva, Sheikh and anand were involved in the game of throwing a light plastic ball into a bucket kept at a distance. Sheikh was declared a winner here. Not to be left out of the festivities the staff too participated in the fun event. The entire campus was resounding with cheers and childrens laughter. I am sure there could be no better way to celebrate a founders birthday which gladdened so many hearts.



## NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS 2017



The first National Autism Awareness Month was declared by the Autism Society in April 1970.

The aim of this month is educate the public about autism. Autism is a complex mental condition and developmental disability, characterized by difficulties in the way a person communicates and interacts with other people. Autism can be present from birth or form during early childhood (typically within the first three years). Autism is a lifelong developmental disability with no single known cause.

People with autism are classed as having Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and the terms autism and ASD are often used interchangeably. A wide spectrum disorder, people with autism have set of symptoms unique to themselves; no two people are the same.

Pathway rose to the occasion by partaking in the awareness. The vocation group headed by their staff decided to make pastries and a centre piece cake for the occasion. Two days earlier the preparations took place and there was a hustle bustle of activities trying to get the measurements right of the various ingredients.

The children decided to surprise the 200 and odd group who were invited by the State Commissioner to partake in the awareness day by presenting special eats wrapped up in





tastefully decorated boxes and gift wrapped. The children worked diligently taking care to the last minute detail. They were definitely and eagerly waiting to see their peer groups smile. The very thought of it had gladden many. By 2.30 in the afternoon our group of ten set out along with the concerned staff to the office of the Commissioner at K K Nagar. The entire function was attended by various heads of different institutions along with their wards. Each group shared their thoughts and experiences and re-pledged to work further for more better improvement.

In the above process every member who received the gift of goodies appreciated and thanked the children who were involved in making their evening more



special. The close of the event ended with a group photograph standing in front of the office building which was resplendently lit in blue to show their solidarity with

the autism group.

## ORAL POLIO VACCINATION

Every year literally Pathway has been a base to draw in children from surrounding areas to get benefitted from the govt driven polio vaccination programme in January and April. We feel satisfied to note that in some humble way we are able to help the cause of polio eradication in India

Two drops of polio vaccine are administered to all children below the age of five except the sick children. All vaccinated children will be marked with ink on their left little finger.

With the global initiative of eradication of polio in 1988 following World Health Assembly resolution in 1988, Pulse Polio Immunization programme was launched in India in 1995. Children in the age group of 0-5 years administered polio drops during National and Sub-national immunization rounds (in high risk areas) every year. About 172 million children are immunized during each National Immunization Day (NID).

The last polio case in the country was reported from Howrah district of West Bengal with date of onset 13th January 2011. Thereafter no polio case has been reported in the country (25th May 2012).

WHO on 24th February 2012 removed India from the list of countries with active endemic wild polio virus transmission.



The Pulse Polio Initiative was started with an objective of achieving hundred per cent coverage under Oral Polio Vaccine. It aimed to immunize children through improved social mobilization, plan mop-up operations in areas where poliovirus has almost disappeared and maintain high level of morale among the public.

## BOTTLE OR VERTICAL GARDENING

Last year we had reported that we had tried Hydroponics to our latest gardening techniques and skill. This year the challenge came in a different form when we were hit by the vardah cyclone. The effect was this cyclone was so massive that it had destroyed our beautiful terrace garden. The lush greens were totally

destroyed with the massive winds, our nursery cover and poles had been uprooted and taken for a joyful ride not knowing their destination of landing. It was a utter scene of devastation. The children and I gathered and sat in a circle deciding what to do next. The kids faces showed dismay since they had worked hard the entire season and were waiting for the fruits to bear. It was very disheartening to see their drooping faces. A child brought a bottle of water for me. I thanked him and was toying with it in my palms. My mind was working and trying to find even if it was a wee bit of a solution to bring some smile to their faces.

A sudden thought struck to me. I was thinking if we could use these same water bottles as our fence maybe we could avoid this kind of disaster in future. The idea of vertical gardening was born. My heart was light now since I could explain to the kids about the positivity of trying a new method and in the new found knowledge seeing their expectations grow.



The kids were excited about the new method. Our first job was to start hunting for 1.5 litres of water bottles keeping in mind around the same pattern and length. There was a kind of frenzy to procure these bottles from various sources at the lowest or no cost at all. After collecting from a considerable number we decided to clean in batches. Each individual put in their efforts and this kept them busy for a week. After the bottles were cleaned, they were sorted in bundles of 5 which happened to be our length of our fence measurement. As and how we worked new ideas kept propping up. We are placing our final ideas and the method we employed which today is visible in the photographs showing the copious growth of flowers, herbs, and ornamental plants.



Each bottle lid was pierced in the centre and around four strands of cotton ply was tied along with sponge which was used as filler and fitted back to the bottle. A window base was cut in a rectangular shape to allow the plant to blossom and show its foliage. A group of five bottles were created and then came the final stage.

Each bottle was first filled with gravel to allow free flow of water and then stacked with garden soil which also had a mix of coarse builders sand. Extra care was taken to see that the aeration and proper drainage aspects were confirmed to. Before planting any plant every bottle was moistened to the right consistency which would aid the plant to grow in their limited space. This process alone took several days since we had decided to cover the entire perimeter of our terrace garden.

We were happy with the final result. The next stage was choosing plants to grow. Each child came up with different names. Finally we settled down for a few on experiment basis. Our results proved that

herbs like tulasi, pudina, dhaniya, mint, ginger, bittergourd, greens, curry leaves, bougainvillea, hibiscus, ixora, rose, jasmine and some ornamental plants were a possibility.

Keeping this vertical gardening as our backdrop we tended to our other plants which were so successfully grown in the previous year like-the citrus family, pineapple, vegetable like brinjal, cucumbers, double beans, tomatoes, chillies, ladiesfingers or okra, lime etc. Their sincere efforts had brought back life to their green patch and lifted the spirits of many.



## TRADE FAIR

“Tourism for all — promoting universal accessibility” was the theme of the 43rd India Tourism and Trade Exhibition 2017. The exhibition began on Island Grounds on January 13. Officials said the footfall for the exhibition was around 11 lakh people the previous year and they expected a good number of visitors till April, when the exhibition was supposed to end. Organised by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation, the exhibition was attended by 25 State government departments and 23 government undertakings.



To this wonderful Exhibition Pathway's Vocational unit was called once again this year to be a part which opened on a grand note at the Island Grounds. Several dignitaries from State departments were present



“The idea of this fair was to provide a billion opportunities to the tourists visiting. During this 2 month long fair Pathway exhibited their products to the public and received rare compliments and kudos for the work at large to the society. The fair was

open from 3 pm to 10 pm on weekdays and from 11 am to 10 pm on Sundays and public holidays.



## VOCATIONAL – JOB TRAINING & PLACEMENT

To meet the employment challenges of the disabled, Pathway offers the following jobs to its students:

NO. OF JOBS	TYPE OF SKILL	LOCATION
WEAVING	10	CHENNAI
CLEANING AND HOUSE KEEPING	4	CHENNAI
DENTAL CLINIC	1	CHENNAI
MEDICAL CLINIC	1	CHENNAI
JEWELLERY UNIT	8	CHENNAI
BAKERY	6	CHENNAI
CANDLE MAKING	6	CHENNAI
PAPER MACHE	15	CHENNAI

Over the years, Pathway has developed some long term, time-tested relationships with certain companies, organizations, and individuals who have consistently supported the Center and its endeavors to rehabilitate and employ its students.

Additionally, many small businesses and individuals regularly buy services from the Center's printing, wood working, candle making and bakery facilities.

## MEDICAL UNIT

Pathway's medical programme is a comprehensive and continues to grow. Established 33 years ago in a rented building in the slums of Thiruvannmiyur, Kamarajnagar, the medical centre is committed to providing care for both Pathway patients and poor communities within Pathway's reach.

- ❖ Medical centre began with a modest grant from the Drawings & Sponsorship EMMAUS of Switzerland
- ❖ Established under the direction of late Dr. V. Shankaran, Professor of Surgery (Retd)
- ❖ Now located within the Pathway Centre building in Thiruvanniyur, with funding from :
- ❖ Judge William Sheffield, USA
- ❖ Mr. Jean-Luc and Mrs. Carole Butel, USA



On average over 4,509 patients are treated every month at the medical facility:



- ❖ Nearly 1,893 are men.
- ❖ Over 2,616 are women and children

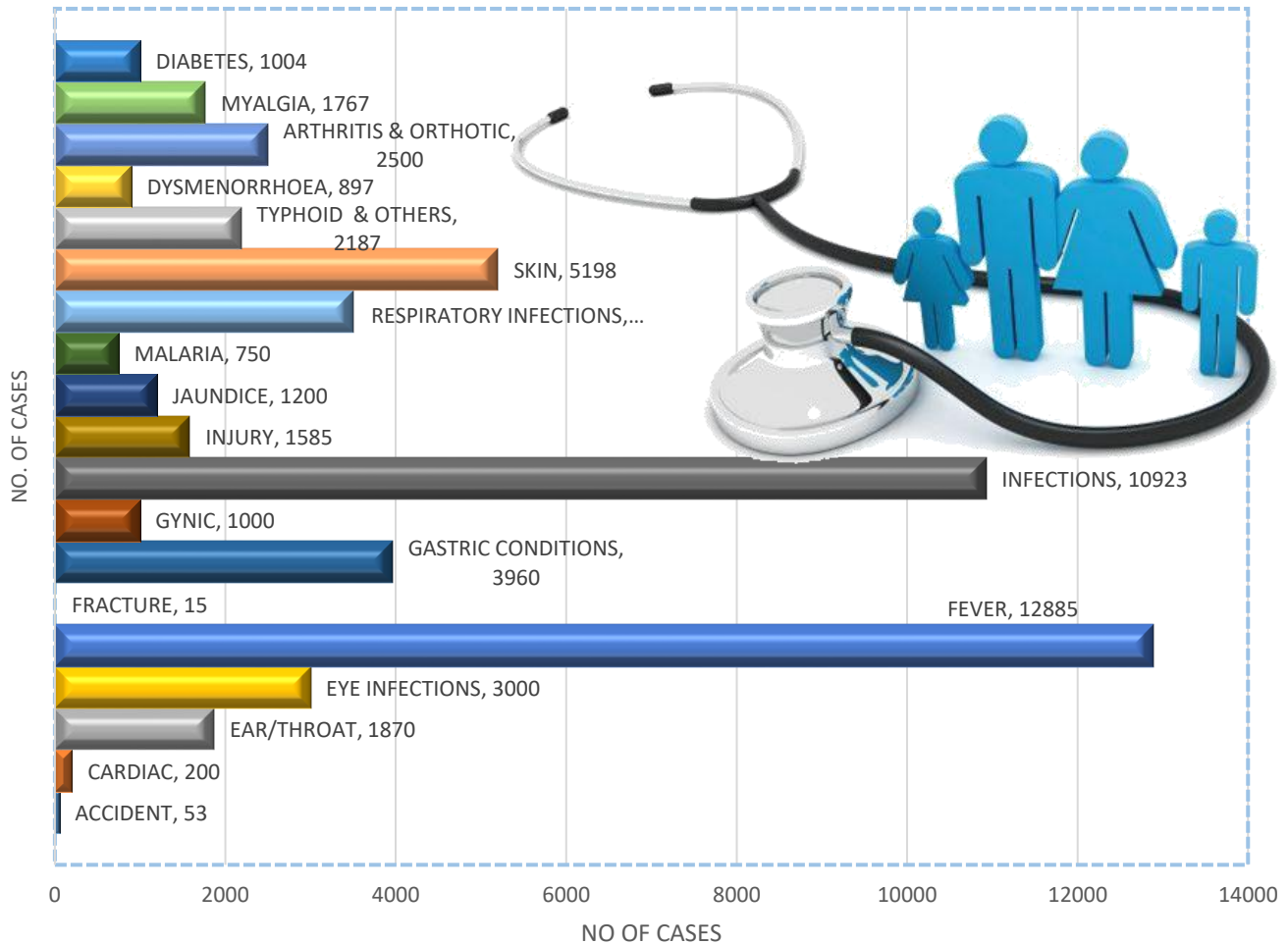


The medical centre has the following capabilities:

GENERAL MEDICAL CONSULTATION	DRESSING AND INJECTION AREA	PEDIATRIC CARE	PHARMACY
MINOR SURGICAL PROBLEMS	PSYCHIATRIC OUT PATIENT CARE	MEDICAL STORE	TREATMENT ROOM

CONDITION	NO. OF CASES	CONDITION	NO. OF CASES	CONDITION	NO. OF CASES
ACCIDENT	53	EYE INFECTIONS	3000	GASTRIC CONDITIONS	3960
CARDIAC	200	FEVER	12885	GYNIC	1000
EAR/THROAT	1870	FRACTURE	15	INFECTIONS	10923
JAUNDICE	1200	MALARIA	750	INJURY	1585
RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS	3500	SKIN	5198	TYPHOID & OTHERS	2187
DYSMENORRHOEA	897	ARTHRITIS & ORTHOTIC	2500	MYALGIA	1767
DIABETES	1004				

## CONDITIONS



Total number of cases treated is : 54,494 Men : 26,157, Women and Children : 28,337

## DENTAL



Pathway's Dental Clinic in the Thiruvannmiyur centre also serves Pathway patients and the surrounding slums and middle class neighborhoods.

Full service clinic with the latest equipment presently manned by Dr. Senthil, MDS, PhD consultant in Orthodontist & Dentofacial and also a specialist in Lingual Orthodontistry

Dental chair, tools and dental x-ray  
Dental scaling and sealing equipment



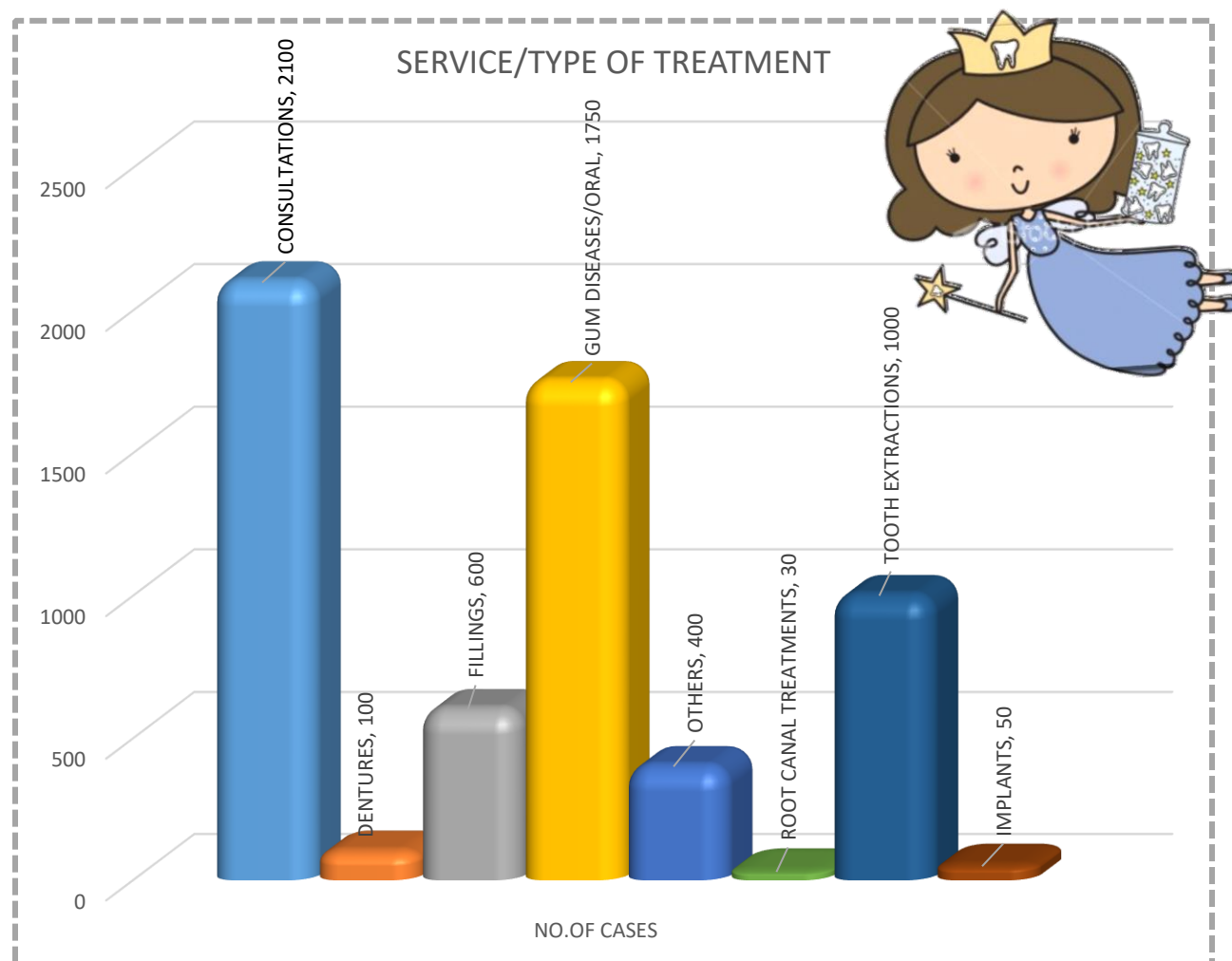
Facilities for pure filtered and treated water

Fully licensed and experienced dental surgeon available every day for consultation and treatment

Open to patients six days per week from 6.30 -10.30p.m

Established with generous donations by: Judge William Sheffield, Amanda & Kay Sheffield,  
Dr. R Wheatfil, DDS USA

SERVICE/TYPE OF TREATMENT	NO.OF CASES	SERVICE/TYPE OF TREATMENT	NO.OF CASES
CONSULTATIONS	2100	FILLINGS	600
DENTURES	100	GUM DISEASES/ORAL	1750
OTHERS	400	TOOTH EXTRACTIONS	1000
ROOT CANAL TREATMENTS	30	IMPLANTS	50



## DENTAL CAMP

During the cyclone we had plenty of destruction to face since the roofing was ripped off and the dental chair was flooded with water. There was no way to clean up the mess till a fortnight. During this period the dental chair faced a setback and all the other small instruments caught rust. We tried to garner all the support we could get and clean and disinfect the entire area. We also cleaned the chair so that the basic work could be attended to at the same time silently prayed for a new one which to our delight was confirmed by our great supporter and friend Bill Benac who very benevolently offered to provide a new one. We are humbled by his munificent gesture.

We at Pathway having services of highly trained dentists and dental services realised that its not just enough to cater to our children but also awareness of this service in form of regular camps is necessary. This gives us an opportunity to educate the surround community along with our staff and children the merits and demerits. This year two special camps were conducted and the doctors educated the audience regarding the common dental ailments especially stressing on tooth decays and other gum diseases arising from them. The parents were educated regarding the choice of foods and eating pattern to conform to. They also demonstrated the choice and use of proper toothbrushes and paste . In very easy and descriptive ways they explained the major cause of tooth decay---PLAQUE. Some curious parents and children did enquire more about this oral diseases.

After screening the children were highly excited to get new brushes and tooth paste along their new patient card, the diagnosed problem and the dental treatment plan.

## CHENNAI STAFF

Pathway currently employs a total of 45 staff members at the Chennai centre, plus 4 honorary experts

STAFF	NO	STAFF	NO	STAFF	NO
SPEECH PATHOLOGIST & AUDIOLOGIST	1	ASSISTANT TEACHERS	3	HELPERS	5
PEDIATRICIAN	1	OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST	1	CLEANERS	3
PHYSICIAN, SURGEON	2	YOGA INSTRUCTOR	1	ACCOUNTANT	1
DENTIST	1	PHYSIOTHERAPIST	1	PUBLIC RELATION OFFICER	1
NURSE	1	VOCATIONAL INSTRUCTORS	3	WATCHMAN	1
MEDICAL/DENTAL ASSISTANTS	2	BAKERY ASSISTANT	1	DRIVERS	2
SPECIAL EDUCATORS	13	WARDEN	1		

## TRAINING OF PARENTS

The institution regularly conducts training programme for the parents in the various aspects of rehabilitation. Parents are encouraged to join various programmes of the centre and work with the special children with special needs. They are also given opportunities to join as regular staff in various programmes for the children and adults of the centre. Groups of parents who have expressed their willingness to work are encouraged to assist the day care programme in several ways.



## SELF HELP GROUPS OF PARENTS



“The parent's association of Pathway” has successfully formed 'Self Help Groups' (SHG) . These groups consists of parents of mentally handicapped children and adults of the centre. The intention of the organization to form such group was to energize and empower parents to take lead in helping their children in various projects drawn by the organization. The organization has ambitious programme for the SHG in organizing sales of various products made by the organization, involving children and parents of the children, so that the SHG can work towards economic emancipation of their wards.

## TRAINING THE TRAINERS

The proposal strongly advocates “Training the Trainers”. It is proposed to establish very well organized and planned courses to train young minds to serve the disabled and the needy. These training programs will be need-based and specific to the urgent needs of the proposed facility. All these courses are recognized by the Rehabilitation Council of India, Ministry of Welfare, Govt. of India. These courses will run at different levels, such as: Multipurpose rehabilitation workers educators for the disabled, etc. All these training program will have considerable inputs from agriculture.

## BENEFITS OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMME

The training programs will provide 20-30 qualified and interested helping hands in integrated education to the Farm and reduce the overhead recurring costs. Candidates trained at the Farm are expected to acquire all round expertise which includes general management of the disabled, working with normal children, residential rehabilitation program, specific skills in the techniques of scientific agriculture, etc. Training will be unique as no such programs are available in other centers.





## EDUCATING SLUM CHILDREN FOR 23 YEARS



The 15th official census in India was calculated in the year 2011. In a country like India, literacy is the main foundation for social and economic growth. When the British rule ended in India in the year 1947 the literacy rate was just 12%. Over the years, India has changed socially, economically, and globally. After the 2011 census, literacy rate India 2011 was found to be 74.04%. Compared to the adult literacy rate here the youth literacy rate is about 9% higher. Though this seems like a very great accomplishment, it is still a matter of concern that still so many people in India cannot even read and write.

The numbers of children who do not get education especially in the rural areas are still high. Though the government has made a law that every child under the age of 14 should get free education, the problem of illiteracy is still at large.

Now, if we consider female literacy rate in India, then it is lower than the male literacy rate as many parents do not allow their female children to go to schools. They get married off at a young age instead. Though child marriage has been lowered to very low levels, it still happens. Many families, especially in rural areas believe that having a male child is better than having a baby girl. So the male child gets all the benefits. Today, the female literacy levels according to the Literacy Rate 2011 census are 65.46% where the male literacy rate is over 80%. The literacy rate in India has always been a matter of concern but many NGO initiatives and government ads, campaigns and programs are being held to spread awareness amongst people about the importance of literacy. Also the government has made strict rules for female equality rights. India literacy rate has shown significant rise in the past 10 years.

Perpetual flow of people from villages to cities creates many socioeconomic problems. The density of population of cities rises and civic amenities fall short of needs. Law and order situation deteriorates. Prices of essential commodities rise. Housing situation become acute and rents soar. New entrants start living on pavements and thatched huts. That way slum come up, at times, adjacent to or right in the middle of posh colonies.

Migration of the poor to cities creates slums. Cultivable land in villages is limited. And it is not enough to support the landless labourers in the village. Instead of starving in villages, they along with their women folk move on to cities in search of employment. While men work as unskilled works, their women get work in households. World found, they build juggles that later become a cluster of huts.

Landless labourers are also attracted to cities as there have many factories where mill hands are needed.



Later, these factory workers call their relatives and friends from their villages. Thus cities start expanding haphazardly.

Spread of education in villages is also responsible for migration of rural people to urban areas. Once a person in a village crosses the matriculation level, the agricultural profession does not interest him. He is on the lookout for an office job and hence the migration.

City Life has its own charm. We have sprawling bungalow multi-storey buildings, clubs, cinemas, theatres and other places entertainment and employment. Villagers start enjoying city life. They send money to their parents and elders regularly. At times they get lost the hustle and bustle of city life.

The slums in the capital and metro cities are getting larger and larger—with more migrants coming in. Basic amenities like electricity, potable water, toilets may be lacking in slums and there is no drainage. Heaps of garbage is found here and there. Hygienic conditions are not there—thus slum dwellers fall easy prey to diseases like cholera, malaria, jaundice. During the rainy season, it is real hell for slum dwellers.

Government is conscious of the deplorable conditions in which slum dwellers live. Basic necessities have to be provided to more than one crore- slum dweller in different urban areas in the country. This scheme is part of the minimum needs programme. The National Council for Applied Economic Research has been given the task of assessing the impact of slums improvement on the lives of slum dwellers.

The main difficulty faced by government is that the slum dwellers that are provided alternative accommodation sell away these at fancy prices and are back to form new slums wherever possible.

It is now more than twentythree years since Pathway started serving poor normal children from the urban slums adjacent to the city centre of Chennai by offering them free educational support. This service has galvanized lives of many children. Recently it was a pleasure to meet some of the boys and girls who have metamorphosed into successful young men and women in different walks of life. Murugan, who was in the 12th grade in 2012, is today successfully completed B.Tech. Some children are looking out for jobs and some are doing part time courses. Similarly, Gayathri has completed her B.Com and has set out to become an account assistant in Chennai. There have been other success stories from many of the children who were served by Pathway over the years. It was indeed satisfying and thrilling to hear such stories about many former students.



In 1992, as Pathway was in process of shifting to its new building at Thiruvanniyur, Chennai (where it is presently located), there was considerable hostility and opposition from the neighborhood, where hundreds of slum dwellers live next to the mosquito-ridden canal bank. The disabled children of Pathway faced hostility from men, women and children from the slum, who had the bizarre belief that the presence of disabled children in the area or even catching sight of them would spell “doom and bad luck”; therefore, the local people tried all methods to stall the functioning of Pathway. Prasad and Chandra

were baffled with this new problem and pondered over this for several days, when out came the solution.

**FIRST:** They decided to throw open the doors of the walk-in clinic to all the poor in the slum so that the men, women and children could receive free medical services and thereby have an opportunity get closer to the institution. This helped many so that they would actually visit Pathway and see the services which were given and accept the children with disabilities.

**SECOND:** To encourage children to get closer to Pathway, it was decided to start a child-friendly programme of helping a few school children in their education between 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. every day. This step had an overwhelming response as more than 150 children approached the organization for assistance. This compelled Pathway to enlist several well-educated and dedicated teachers to offer educational support to these poor children who were attending the government-run corporation schools. This free and highly friendly support gained the patronage of hundreds of children who needed educational support for completing homework as well as for understanding their lessons better. This move by Pathway brought great changes in the lives of children as they flocked in the evenings to attend the well-organized classes. The focus on spoken English gained much popularity. This service brought great dividends. Once hostile neighborhood children came to know many of the disabled children by name and showed positive affection and concern to them. In addition to this, Pathway also offered the deserving poor children modest financial support by purchasing books, stationery, clothing and other needs. This experience formed the foundation to understand the needs children, particularly girl children, and the problem of Indian children marginalized by poverty, and paved the way for Pathway to establish the Pamela Martinez Matriculation School and orphanage.

Many studies show that poverty and lack of education go hand in hand. One of the best ways to lift children from dire poverty is education, which allows them to earn better wages as adults and to value the education of their children. Poverty in India is widespread, with the nation estimated to have a third of the world's poor.

In 2011, the World Bank reported that 23.6% of the Indian population lives below international poverty line, with income of less than \$1.25 per day, while 58% live on an income of less than \$3.10 per day. According to the Seventh All-India Education Survey, in India there are more than 35 million children between the ages of 6 and 14 years who do not attend any school. Fifty-three percent of girls are illiterate, not able to even write their own names. The situation in many schools is appalling.

On an average there are less than three teachers in each primary school in the country, where many teachers are expected to manage children between grades 1 and 5 every day. In these areas there appears to be alarmingly high dropout rates: 50% of boys and 58% of girls drop out of schools between grades three and five. The reasons given are the need for the children to work to help support their families and the parents having little or no interest in education. The children living in slums with their parents face a number of problems. These are as follows:

There is no access of after school education to compliment the school education. There is no one to provide them tuition once they return from school, because their parents are very poor and illiterate. No one can help them in their homework and asking a young child to do his homework is a mockery of entire education system. There is poor quality of teaching by private tutors who are not qualified. The major one is lack of study space for the children. Since the houses are always cramped and the noise decibel of TV and continuous stream of visitors inside their tiny settlement, the children find it very impractical to study in



such circumstances. Then there is shortage of teachers, rooms, poor light conditions. The major hurdle being the parents lack interest about the education of their children. The society is not sensitive to their emotional needs. Hence like a drop in the ocean Pathway has been addressing this problem in a humble way, but with some success. By sustained effort, school dropout at the Pamela Martinez/Pathway Matriculation School and Orphanage has been reduced from 19% in 2002 (its first year of operation) to 0.5% in 2016. We whole heartedly will try to do our best to empower these kids so that their future is secured for generations to come. This lift will not only motivate but also spiral towards a better life. The dedicated staff of Pathway is sensitive to these youngsters and their efforts prove that these children can be an asset not just to themselves or their families but to the world at large.

## SNAPSHOTS OF OUR MYTH BUSTERS



On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of march2017 we received an intimation from the national trust, society for child development and Muskaan to submit photographs for an exhibition “THE PATHS WE WALK: Snapshots of our myth busters” on the occasion of World Down Syndrome Day and World Autism Day. The venue had been decided as the India Habitat Centre at new Delhi from 20<sup>th</sup> march to 20<sup>th</sup> April. The



subject was : Adults with Intellectual disability, Down syndrome, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, or Multiple disability **at work**. The **aim** of the exhibition is to create and promote awareness of the capacity and ability of persons with the above disabilities in doing productive and gainful work. Most people in the larger community are convinced that these individuals require only care and welfare. However, we do know that with adequate opportunities, they do us proud!

The above exhibition was inaugurated by the Hon’ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment-Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot

We at Pathway diligently answered and sent in 5 submissions. These were all selected among 76 individuals supported by 20 ngos and 9 states.





## SOME OF OUR LATEST PRODUCTS





ADYAR TIMES / DECEMBER 11 - 17, 2016

## Community >

### 'Pathway' to progress

By V. Vaishnavi

Pathway is a voluntary, nonprofit NGO for children and adults with Cerebral Palsy, speech and learning disabilities and mental retardation. They have a comprehensive vocational programme for their inmates, with activities that generate income and give job placement, thus realizing their potential to do work that gives them hope and dignity.

"Our founder, A.D.S.N. Prasad, started Pathway to provide care and rehabilitation for children with mental retardation. Though we face many challenges while training our inmates, we believe that nothing is impossible because even the word 'impossible' has the word 'possible' hidden in it. We try to make products that are both visually appealing and are easy to teach our students, and make teaching aids to simplify the process of making the products. Sometimes it takes months to come out with a product, but the joy, pride and self worth on



the faces of our children during our crafts fairs makes it worth while," says Chandra Prasad, the Honorary Director of Pathway.

The types of jobs available to inmates at Pathway range from weaving, making greeting cards, jewellery making and offset printing are focused on bringing out their talents and motivating them.

They are open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and visitors are welcome to view and purchase items from their collection of beautiful, colourful, and painstakingly crafted works of art during these hours. Some of the interesting items include, a Nativity set with dolls made of colorful glass beads woven with precision using computer-rendered designs. They have a large range of quilled works of art, many wall pieces, table decorations, dolls and a jewellery line made of colourful paper quills. Wind chimes, table decorations, made of Paper Mache or pulped paper is another item. They make greeting cards made of collages, punched paper, desiccated flowers and leaves and take special orders for weddings and other functions. Scented and decorative candles and freshly baked bread, buns, cookies and pastries are also available.

Pathway is registered with the Dept. of Income Tax and donations are exempt from taxation under section 80G of the Income Tax Act. At E-76/1, 12th West Street, Kamaraj Nagar, Thiruvanniyur. Ph: 2448 3949.



6

## Thiruvanniyur

### Pathway shows the way



Pathway, an organisation serving the disabled in Thiruvanniyur conferred 'The Pathway Excellence Awards' on meritorious, poor rural children of Tamil Nadu selected from all over the State on Feb. 23 at their Pathway Agro Farm for Children, in Melmaruvathur.

During this event 8 meritorious children were conferred with Pathway special Awards including a couple of children from the Pamela Martinez Matriculation School and Orphanage run by Pathway in Melmaruvathur. Chandra Prasad, Hon. Director and Chief Functionary, Pathway, described briefly the work done by the organisation for the disabled for the past 40 years. Pathway can be reached at 2448 3949

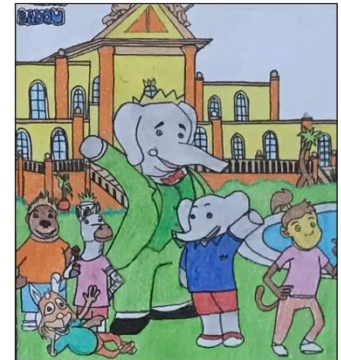
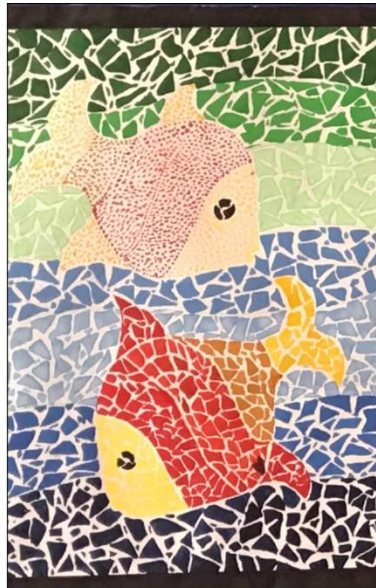
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By K. F

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# LOVE THROUGH ART



## AWARDS



Pathway has received numerous awards and prizes from various sources and institutions over the years:

🏆 GODFREY PHILIP Social Bravery Special Award conferred on A. D. S. N .PRASAD in the year 2013

🏆 THE PROFESSOR RAMESH K OZA Oration Award conferred on A. D. S. N. PRASAD in the year 2013

🏆 “Best Employee” awarded to one Pathway employees – Hon’ble Social Welfare Minister, Government of Tamil Nadu, 2013

🏆 "The Noble Soul Award" - Award of Excellence in the field of Social Responsibility & for Valuable Support presented by Sathyabama University on 7th December 2013

🏆 Pathway Centre for Rehabilitation & Education of Mentally Retarded was awarded "  
–The Best Institution for the Disabled for the year 2009-2010 by the Hon’ble Chief Minister of TamilNadu, - Mr. M. Karunanidhi

🏆 “MCDS-Award for a couple rendering exceptional services to the disabled” awarded to -  
–Mrs Chandra Prasad and A D S N Prasad, 2007. Award consisted of cash award, plaque and a citation handed over by Hon’ble Shri Surjit Singh Barnala, Governor of Tamil Nadu, in the presence of many distinguished persons including Mr. Devarajan, Managing Trustee of MCDS.

🏆 Award for “Services Rendered to the Mentally Disabled”  
–Council of Parent's Association of the Mentally Retarded, Chennai, 2002

🏆 “Vocation Excellence” award to A.D.S.N. Prasad for his services to the disabled  
–Rotary Club International, 1999

🏆 1998 award for “Most Outstanding Institution in India Serving the Disabled” and “Most Outstanding Employer of the Disabled in India”  
–Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, (awarded in 1999)

🏆 “Best Institution Serving the Disabled”  
– Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Ms. J. Jayalalithaa, 1995

🏆 “Best Employer of the Disabled”  
– Hon’ble Social Welfare Minister, Government of Tamil Nadu, 1995

🏆 “Best Employees” awarded to two Pathway employees  
– Hon’ble Social Welfare Minister, Government of Tamil Nadu, 1995

🏆 “Exceptional Contribution for Services to People”  
–Government of Karnataka, 1995

🏆 “Services Rendered to the Mentally Disabled in India”  
–Japanese SIVUS Council, 1993

