

# DR DATHU RAO MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST



## ANNUAL REPORT 2018 – 2019

“PATHWAY” Centre For Rehabilitation & Education of Intellectual Disabled

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

Tel : 044 - 2448 8366

[www.pathway.org.in](http://www.pathway.org.in)

## FROM THE HON.DIRECTOR'S DESK



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 Kerala Flood and Cyclone Gaja which left a trail of disaster. It was heartening to realise that during this turbulent period we led a charmed life since all the kids, and staff at all the facilities were unharmed. We are grateful to have been blessed with courage, strength, and above all with mercy of God to overcome these daunting challenges.

This year too we had visits from some very wonderful well wishers like Mr Jean-Luc Butel, Elder Grant Hurst and Sister Jeannette, Benjamin Wright, Nathan Kitchen and Saryn Moline from BYU, Mr Skyler Munson, Mrs Anna Lyn Cook, Mr Taylor Cook, Mr Bruce Wilson, Mr Jim Dossdall, students and faculty from Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities, Odisha twice in this academic year. Below I am sharing some excerpts of their visit in their own words-

*I am very much impressed by the teaching methods followed for Intellectually Disabled students. It is one of the best institute in India in the field of special education. We are very happy to see the vocational unit. At last I would like to thank the principal and all the dedicated teachers of this institute- Reena Sahu REGIONAL CENTRE, JANLA, ODISHA*

ALI YAVAR JUNG NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPEECH AND HEARING DISABILITIES

*This place is truly amazing. The children and teachers are inspirations...SKYLER MUNSON*

*Pathway is amazing and what they are doing for these kids is truly incredible. The things the children make are so intricate and beautiful. I'm so happy to be able to see it! ---ANNA LYN COOK*

*I'm so grateful to be able to visit Pathway. There is much good that goes on here and I hope to be a part of it all my life! ---TAYLOR COOK*

*Ingenious.---JIM DOSDALL*

*So amazing! Thank you for letting us have this experience. Pathway is incredible and the children are fantastic.---BEN WRIGHT*

*I knew this experience would be life changing, but i never expected to fall so deeply in love with all the children and the program of Pathway. I am grateful to have spent so much quality time with so many great people. I am grateful for the opportunity and hope to return soon.---NATHAN KITCHEN*

*An experience I will never ever forget! The children of pathway will always have a special place in my heart. The school of Pathway is so inspired and helping so many. I am so incredibly grateful for my time here. I am so impressed by the kids and never thought I would become so attached. Also the things these residents make are so beautiful! ----SARYN MOLINE*

*We are proud to have the opportunity to visit Pathway an institute of international importance today We really are amazed to observe this marvellous work done by the children. We wish to have such opportunity to work with these children. With regards to all staff and the Director.---ALI YAVAR JUNG NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPEECH AND HEARING DISABILITIES, REGIONAL CENTRE*

It is also our desire to magnify our endeavor to serve many more “poorest of the poor” through our outreach program in remote villages. We believe that every child is special and has been especially sent to us to be served. At this marvelous time I convey our continued gratitude to all our partners and benefactors and pray for their continued love, munificence, and association. We are indeed very grateful to Sabin Foundation, A Brighter Path, Judge William Sheffield, Mr and Mrs William P Benac and Mr John-Luc Butel, Mrs Ursula Bose, Drawing & Sponsorship Emmaus, Mr Jim and Karen Dossdall, Mr Michael Ang who continue to support us. My most sincere and grateful thanks is also due to the grants received by the State govt of TamilNadu, which includes Chennai and Kancheepuram district as well the Govt of India who have

strengthened our hands and are an integral part of our work. Our most dedicated staff continue to intensify their efforts and serve more of His children with renewed zeal and enthusiasm. As member of the editorial board, I earnestly hope that you enjoy reading this annual report.

## 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. DHULI PATNAIK  
PRESIDENT

MR. ABHIJEET PAREKH  
VICE-PRESIDENT

MRS. CHANDRA PRASAD  
GENERAL SECRETARY

MR. A. RAMAR  
TREASURER

### EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Mr. Y. V. R. Rao  
Mr. Shanth K Jain  
Mrs Usha Rammohan

### GENERAL BODY MEMBERS

Dr. Pradhan Ravindranath  
Mr. Santhanagopalan Achutan

### AUDITOR

Sridhar Krishnamurthy & Associates



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 -Sabin 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 Section 53 of Justice Juvenile Act, 2015, Dept of Social Defence, Govt of TN
- ❖ Registered under Section 34(3) of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000, amended in 2006 and rules therein., The State Govt/Director of Social Welfare-Child Welfare .
- ❖ 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 51(2) of the Rights of the Persons with Disability Act, 2016
- ❖ Registered under TamilNadu Recognized Private Schools (Regulations) Act, 1973 and Rules 1974
- ❖ Registered with Directorate of Matriculation Schools, Govt of Tamil Nadu
- ❖ Registered under NGO-Darpan Portal of NITI AAYOG, Govt of India

The details of each registration is given below

### ❖ CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

- ❖ vide **S.NO.13/2017** under **Tamil Nadu Recognized Private Schools (Regulations) Act, 1973 and Rules 1974**, vide this Office **Proc.No.1772/ST2/2017, dated.5.6.2017** is revised as follows; The Certificate of Recognition is renewed to **“PATHWAY CENTRE FOR REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION CENTRE – An Unit of DR. DATHU RAO MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST, E-76/1, 12<sup>TH</sup> WEST STREET, KAMARAJ NAGAR, THIRUVANMIYUR, CHENNAI – 600041”** to function as **“SPECIAL SCHOOL CUM VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE FOR THE INTELLECTUAL DISABLED”**. Valid for the period the commencing from **7.4.2017 to 6.4.2020** for the classes **ADL GROUP I & II, EDUCABLE, EDUCABLE & TRAINABLE, TRAINABLE,**

### ❖ CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

- ❖ vide **S.NO.10/2017** under **Section 51 (2) of the Rights of persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**, vide this Office **Proc.No.1771/ST2/2017, dated.2.6.2017 & Proc.No.1772/ST2/2017, dated.5.6.2017** are revised as follows; Registration is hereby renewed to **“PATHWAY CENTRE FOR REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION CENTRE – AN UNIT OF DR.DATHU RAO MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST, E76/1, 12<sup>TH</sup> WEST STREET, KAMARAJ NAGAR, THIRUVANMIYUR, CHENNAI – 600041”** – as an institution for the Persons with Intellectual Disabilities to function as **“SPECIAL SCHOOL CUM VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE FOR THE INTELLECTUAL DISABLED”**. The certificate of Registration is valid from **7.4.2017 to 6.4.2020**

### ❖ CHENNAI- CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION UNDER JJ ACT

- ❖ This Certificate of Registration is awarded to **PATHWAY CHILDREN HOME, Dr. Dathu Rao Memorial Charitable Trust, E-76/1, 12<sup>th</sup> West Street, Kamaraj Nagar, Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai-600041** as an institution for children in need of care and protection vide **S.No.1060/DSD/2017** under section 41(1) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 from the date **15.09.2017 to 15.09.2022**

### ❖ CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

- ❖ Registration is renewed to **“SABIN/ PATHWAY HOME FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY AND ASSOCIATED CONDITIONS – REHABILITATION CENTRE, No.125, Agili Village, Maduranthagam Taluk,**

Kancheepuram District, S.No.244/5A – 685.0,12.70 as an institution for the persons with Disabilities vide S.No.315/2019 under Section 51 (2) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 to run a **Home & Vocational Training Centre For Intellectually Disabled** which is valid from **01.09.2018 to 31.08.2021**.

### ❖ **FARM- CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION UNDER JJ ACT**

❖ This Certificate of Registration renewal is awarded to – **PAMELA MARTINEZ PATHWAY MATRICULATION SCHOOL CHILDREN'S HOME**, (Dr. Dathu Rao Memorial Charitable Trust) Agili Village, Sendivakkam post, Madhuranthagam Taluk, Kancheepuram District- 603319 of Tamil Nadu as an institution for children in need of care and protection vide SI.No.200/DSW/2015 under section 34(3) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000, as amended in 2006 & rules therein valid from **17.02.2015 to 16.02.2020**

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## ORGANIZATION BOARD

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

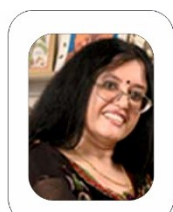
The board members meet at least four times a year to transact the business of the organization and meets every year to conduct the Annual General Body meeting to review the work of the organization and resolve



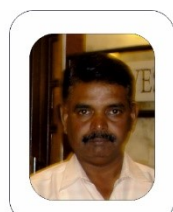
DHULI PATNAIK  
PRESIDENT



ABHIJEET PAREKH  
VICE PRESIDENT



CHANDRA PRASAD  
GEN SECRETARY



M A RAMAR  
TREASURER

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.



SHANTH JAIN  
TRUSTEE



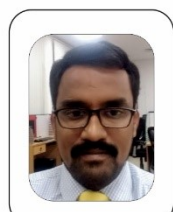
DR PRADHAN. R  
TRUSTEE



Y V R RAO  
TRUSTEE



USHA RAMMOHAN  
TRUSTEE



SANTHANAGOPAL ACHUTAN  
TRUSTEE

## "HAVE THE POOR HELP THE POOR"

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

Dr. 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 a city center and two in rural agricultural centre.

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.





# PATHWAY

## CENTRE FOR REHABILITATION & EDUCATION OF THE INTELLECTUAL DISABLED



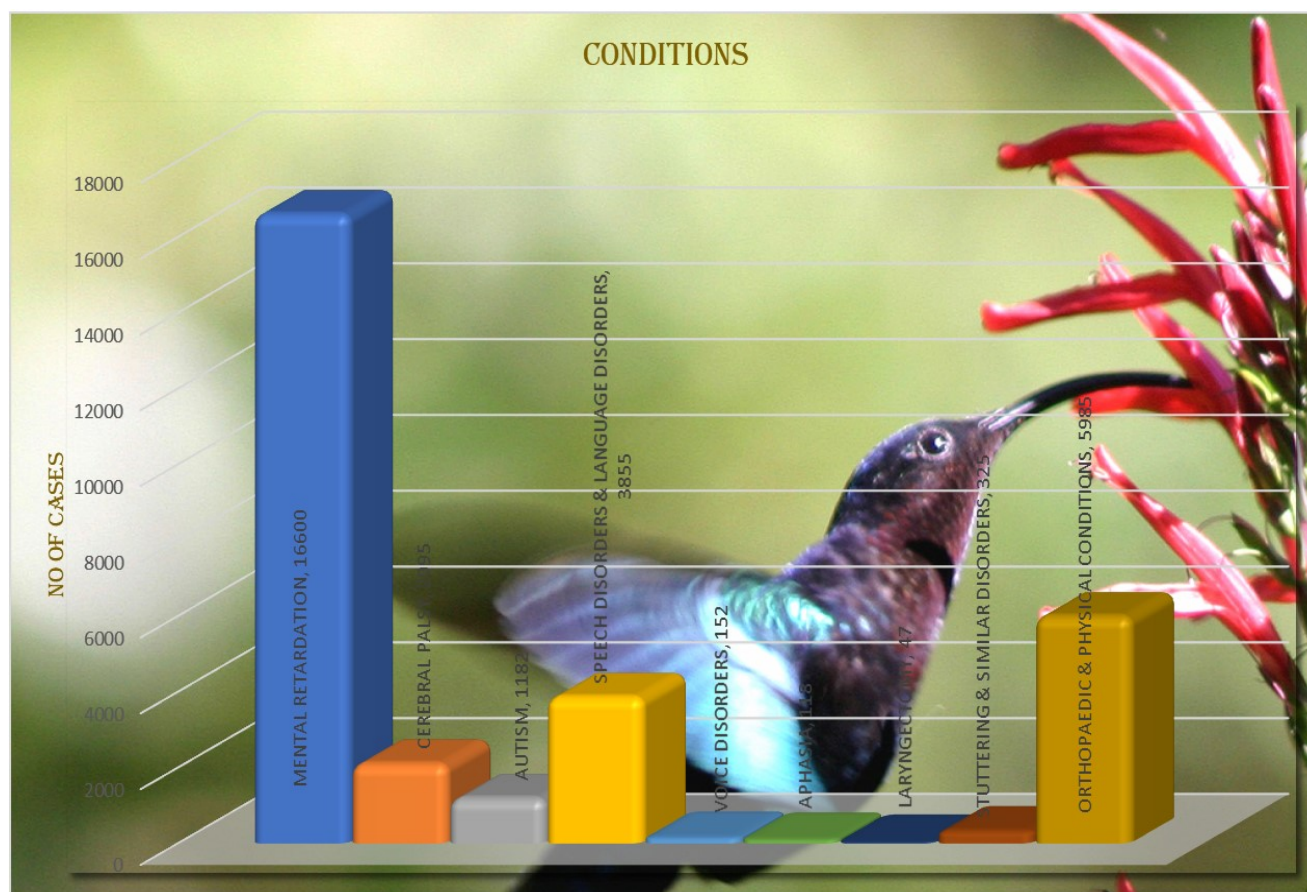
**PATHWAY'S TEAM OF  
SPECIALISTS INCLUDES**

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





CONDITION	NO. OF CASES
ACCIDENT	1182
CARDIAC	1066
EAR/THROAT	1388
EYE INFECTIONS	1162
FEVER	5452
FRACTURE	1989
GASTRIC CONDITIONS	3992
GYNIC	1000
INFECTIONS	9800
INJURY	1441
JAUNDICE	816
MALARIA	1328
RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS	3198
SKIN	1427
TYPHOID & OTHERS	1243
DYSMENORRHOEA	630
ARTHRITIS & ORTHOTIC	2061
MYALGIA	1666
DIABETES	1430



Examples of successfully rehabilitated and integrated patients:

- ❖ Nearly 50% 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

Disabled Population in India as per census 2011 (2016 updated) – In India out of the 121 Cr population, 2.68 Cr persons are disabled which is 2.21% of the total population. Among the disabled population 56% (1.5 Cr) are males and 44% (1.18 Cr) are females. In the total population, the male and female population are 51% and 49% respectively.

Majority (69%) of the disabled population resided in rural areas (1.86 Cr disabled persons in rural areas and 0.81 Cr in urban areas). In the case of total population also, 69% are from rural areas while the remaining 31% resided in urban areas. The number of disabled persons is highest in the age group 10-19 years (46.2 lakhs). 17% of the disabled population is in the age group 10-19 years and 16% of them are in the age group 20-29 years. Elderly (60+ years) disabled constituted 21% of the total disabled at all India level.

The Intellectual Disabled pose a unique challenge toward rehabilitation, as cultural biases in India shun those with retardation, and jobs are scarce. The Indian government in 1977 had reserved jobs for the Disabled but had included only three categories like locomotor disability, blind and deaf. This continued for about 18 years. In 1995, reservation was extended to all categories and the definition of disability now was expanded to include people with low vision, hearing impaired and leprosy cured. The number of disabilities had risen to seven. It was only in 2016, the government introduced a bill increasing the number of disabilities from 7 to 21. After enactment in 2017 the government has worked out the specifics in January 2018. The reservation from 3% has now risen to 4% for jobs for the disabled.



Pathway has continued to successfully place many rehabilitated children and adults in workshops and small businesses and provides employment within its own centers.

More than 16,855 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 2018-2019 a total of 75 children participated in the Homebound Program

## VARIOUS INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED BY OFFICIALS DURING THIS ACADEMIC YEAR

- ❖ C W C meet was conducted on the 12.06.2018 regarding the ICPS implementation to update on web portal. This training was attended by our PRO and Asst. Accountant
- ❖ There was an inspection on 05.07.2018 by Mr Mukilan from AMS who required details of the organisation which was submitted to their good office for Social Auditing.
- ❖ On the 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2018 we had an inspection from the Juvenile Police Department represented by three policewomen regarding the school and hostel
- ❖ On the 26<sup>th</sup> July we had another inspection meet which was attended by our principal conducted by the EMIS department
- ❖ We had an inspection on 07.08.2018 by our DDRO Mr Ravi Joseph regarding the working of school and vocational unit at pathway
- ❖ An inspection team member from CWC Ms Kala visited the centre and checked the records of children who are under the age group of 18 years and come under the JJACT on 09.08.2018
- ❖ On 31.08.2018 inspection was conducted by the DCPU unit for the purpose of the Home matter and all the mandatory certifications.
- ❖ On the 12.09.2018 we had another inspection by our DDRO who checked the records necessary for grant approval.
- ❖ On the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 we had a member team arrive from CWC for inspecting all the records and registers maintained by the organisation. They were headed by Dr Krishnaraj, Mr Alagappan and Mr Suresh.
- ❖ On the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018 we had yet another inspection from the Department of Disaster Management team by two members regarding the various licences, certificates
- ❖ We had an inspection by the District Level Inspection Committee on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019 regarding recognitions, registrations and all the registers pertaining to the home by three members- Mr T. Alagappan, Ms Priya and Ms Malathi
- ❖ 6<sup>th</sup> of May we had a review meet for CCI attended by our PRO regarding the monthly reports , the review meeting format and ICP filled format
- ❖ Various Parents meetings were conducted on 20.04.2018, 04.06.2018, 13.04.2019

## SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME SUPPORTED BY CHILDREN'S CARE EMMAUS

The purpose of The Children's Care Emmaus association (IN THEIR OWN WORDS) mainly is inspired by the motto: "Serve the most needy first". It makes no distinctions between confessional, political or other views and has the purpose:



- a) To help children in difficult circumstances mentally, spiritually and materially and to allow them school attendance or professional education;
- b) To realize in this sense own aid projects and to promote existing diverse projects of development cooperation (sponsorships, family aid, building projects, project sponsorships, health and hygiene programs etc.);
- c) To cooperate with other local, national or international organizations with similar purposes.

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 above esteemed organization. All the children are disabled. While some of them are destitute, the others are below poverty level. We are indeed very grateful to this wonderful supporter.

## 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	18
GREETING CARD: HANDMADE	8
JEWELLERY MAKING /PAPER MACHE	8
SPECIAL ARTIFACT WITH BEADS	15
BAKING	8
MAKING OF PRESENTATION ITEMS	10
GARDENING	12
SELLING VARIOUS PRODUCE	4
PACKAGING	2
HELPERS	6
CLEANING & BOOK BINDING	5



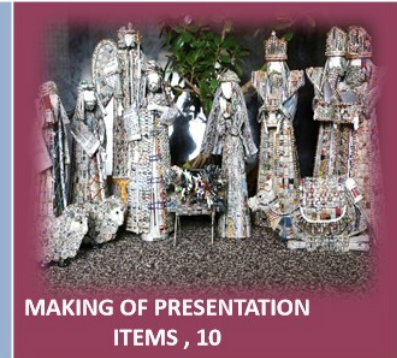
## NO. OF TRAINEES



WEAVING , 18



GARDENING , 12

MAKING OF PRESENTATION  
ITEMS , 10GREETING CARD:  
HANDMADE , 8

BAKING, 8



HELPERS, 6



SPECIAL ARTIFACT WITH BEADS , 15

JEWELLERY MAKING /PAPER  
MACHE, 8CLEANING & BOOK  
BINDING, 5SELLING VARIOUS  
PRODUCE , 4

PACKAGING , 2



## THE WORLD YOGA DAY

Time and again a question with a curiosity look pops up asking- What is Yoga? In general, people outside India, associate yoga with a complex amalgamation of different twisting and turning postures that are believed to provide some kind of mental and physical benefit. Very few people are aware of the fact that yoga in Sanskrit basically means “union”. It is an experience where everything in our conscious and unconscious state of mind becomes one. It is form of science which helps to enhance a human beings ability to perceive and realize his ultimate nature.





The declaration of World Yoga Day is marked as a big victory for India on the international platform, where the resolution for declaring 21st June as World Yoga Day was passed with an overwhelming majority. The events leading to this declaration can be traced back to the year 2014, when PM Narendra Modi in his address to the UN General Assembly on 27th September 2014 said, "Yoga is an invaluable gift from our ancient tradition. Yoga embodies unity of mind and body, thought and action." Following this speech, a resolution was proposed by the United Nations proposing a dedicated Day for highlighting the virtues of practicing Yoga. This resolution was endorsed

by a total of 177 countries out of 193 member countries within a sphere of 100 days

- ❖ The next question would be why we need to do Yoga ..
- ❖ It aims to develop the habit of meditation among youngsters so that they can enjoy more peace of mind and self-awareness, which is essential for a stress-free existence.
- ❖ It helps to keep the internal organs in the body to function properly by increasing the oxygen and blood flow. Proper oxygen and blood supply to all the vital organs helps to diminish the occurrence of major diseases related to the heart, lungs, kidneys and other vital organs.
- ❖ Yoga practitioners believe that when a person connects with Mother Nature with both his mind and soul, he achieves a greater level of consciousness which helps him to be at peace with his surroundings. This level of consciousness would invariably lead to world peace as more and more people starts practicing Yoga.
- ❖ Practicing yoga would lead to stronger bonds between people from different background, irrespective of caste, religion or language barriers. It would help to promote the feeling of communal harmony and create a conjugal atmosphere for global peace.
- ❖ International Yoga Day aims to make the practice of yoga popular among people in different parts of the world, so that people are able to have a correct opinion about this form of well-being, which is not only easy to practice but is also extremely effective on a long term basis.



One can further describe the basic fundamentals of Yoga as –

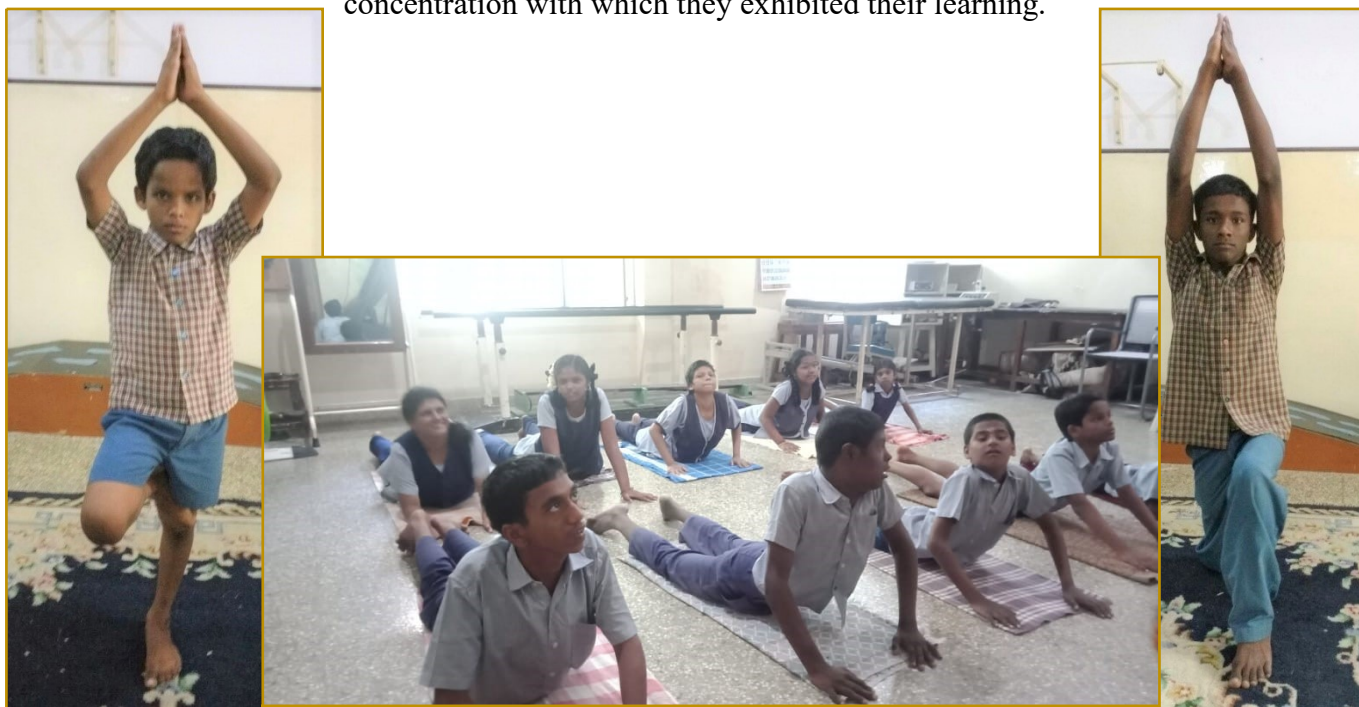
- ❖ Folding of both hands in the logo Symbolise Yoga, the union, which reflects the union of individual Consciousness with that of universal Consciousness, a perfect harmony between mind & body, man & nature; a holistic approach to health & well being.
- ❖ The brown leaves symbolise the Earth element, the green leaves symbolise the Nature, blue symbolises the Water element, brightness symbolises the Fire element and the Sun symbolise the source of energy and inspiration.
- ❖ The logo reflects harmony and peace for humanity, which is the essence of Yoga.

Understanding the above we at Pathway have embraced the world yoga day celebrations. Across all the centres we have introduced yoga. 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 staff and students were made to realise that the benefits of practising yoga was manifold. In short Yoga can enhance the ability to focus, able to keep one in state of happiness, it can relax your system, aids in boosting up self confidence which leads to a healthy lifestyle and also aids in maintaining one's health.

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.





## VOCATIONAL WORKSHOP TRAINING



There was one day training for special educators to use the training material kit at Navajyothi Trust



institute of mental retardation on 27.07.2018 from 10.00a.m to 4.00p.m. Ms Priya attended this workshop. There were people who were drawn for this workshop from various districts like



Trichy, Nagapattinam, Ariyalur, Thiruvarur, Pudukottaai, Vellore, Coimbatore, Perambalur, Villipuram, Kancheepuram And Cuddalore.

They were trained in the use of light engineering spare parts assembly. A training manual was supplied for the same.

## KERALA FLOOD

During the mid evening on 8<sup>th</sup> august 2018 we viewed the news flashing regarding Kerala State which had been hit with severe floods due to unusually high rainfall during the monsoon season resulting in dams filling to capacity. In the first 24 hours of rainfall the state had received 310 mm

Almost all dams had been opened since the water level had risen close to overflow level due to heavy rainfall, flooding local low-lying areas. For the first time in the state's history, 35 of its 54 dams had been opened. The deluge has been considered an impact of the global warming.



Famed for its tea plantations, beaches and tranquil backwaters, Kerala is frequently saturated during the annual monsoon. But at this time the state of Kerala witnessed the worst flooding in 100 years which it will take months, if not years, for the state to rebuild itself. The effort will need a million hands and an estimated Rs 20,000 crore. People across India have already risen to the cause - volunteering in rescue efforts and relief camps, donating money and materials towards those in need.

8

**MYLAPORE TALK**

## Lending helping hand

| TALK TEAM |

Dr Dathu Rao Memorial Charitable Trust is a neighbourhood based organisation founded by Dr A D S N Prasad. A press release said, he has been running three organisations which serve children below the poverty line including the differently abled for the last 40 years in Chennai and Kancheepuram district.

'Our services have been free and of the highest quality in rehabilitation and education. Being sensitive and feeling for the misery faced by flood victims of our neighbouring State Kerala, our staff and differently-abled employees extended aid to the people of Kerala by donating Rs 76,000,' it said. For details, contact 9840121859.

and urging others to do the same.

My thoughts immediately turned back to a few years from now during the month of December 2015 at Chennai when we had faced first time flood in our history of work. My mind raced back to the time when this natural calamity had hit us and untold misery had unfolded in front of our eyes. The hardships that were faced then flooded our memory. Looking back we can be very grateful that we survived the same with no major problems in terms of health or loss of lives except for losing materials.

It was a payback time for us this time, The Pathway's entire staff force decided to give their mite to help. Each one of them parted with their



salaries with a grateful heart and marvelled at God's mercy which had kept them safe in the floods that we had witnessed not long ago. The centre contributed a sum of Rs. 75000 which was acknowledged by the government of Kerala.

Today we were witnessing another calamity which overnight had affected hundreds of villages, destroyed homes, roads, lives etc. it took a while to digest the destruction which was unfolding in front of our eyes. India's southern state of Kerala was suffering its worst monsoon flooding in a century, with more than one million people displaced, and more than 400 reported deaths. Aid agencies and government groups set up more than 4,000 relief camps, while rescue personnel made their way to submerged villages in helicopters and boats, bringing supplies, and evacuating those they can find.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Happiness spreads around the day when the Independence Day approaches. All major government buildings are decorated with lights. The tricolor flag is hoisted on houses and other buildings. Independence Day, August 15 is a national holiday, the holiday of this day should be commemorated by remembering the sacrifices made by brave freedom fighters to every citizen. A week before Independence Day, the spirit of patriotism is encouraged by organizing special events and programs. Programs related to this topic are broadcast on radio stations and television channels. Films about martyr's stories are shown and stories and reports related to national sentiment are published.



Independence Day is celebrated throughout India as a national holiday in India. On August 14, at 8 pm, the President sends messages to his countrymen, which is broadcast on radio and television.

Every year India celebrates 15th of August as Independence Day. This day is significant for the Indian. After the slavery of years, India got independence on the same day from British rule, 15 August 1947. This day has been declared as a gazetted holiday throughout India to honor the great sacrifice of our countrymen.

On August 15, 2018, India celebrates the 72nd Independence Day. This year, Independence Day celebrations had a very special message from our Prime Minister. who addressed the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort. The main event begins with the hoisting of the national flag by the PM, which is synchronised with an honorary 21 gunshots and followed by a moving rendition of the Jana Gana Mana – (India's National Anthem). To remind his people of the country's struggle for freedom, the PM addresses the nation and reminisces on the events leading up to India's independence and ends his speech with a note on the country's future.



His powerful speech covered many aspects like-

- ❖ Acknowledging with pride about six women officers of the Indian Navy who circumnavigated the globe
- ❖ Ensuring social justice for all
- ❖ Assuring the tax payers that their money was being put up for good use
- ❖ Eradicating of black money
- ❖ Uplifting nearly 5 crore Indians from jaw of poverty
- ❖ Introduction of loans under Pradhan mantri mudra yojna
- ❖ Trying to ensure peace across the nation
- ❖ Working hard to bring exceptional reforms in agriculture sector
- ❖ Bringing out new schemes which will provide health assurance to crores of families across the country

Later in the day, celebrations include patriotic parades and pageants focused on honouring the freedom fighters; a march-past led by the Indian Armed Forces and Paramilitary Forces and performances by school children.

We at Pathway centre welcomed this day with full patriotism. 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 demonstrate 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 bands using the appropriate ribbons to design our National Flag. The badges designed by them were given to students, staff and directors 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 her next order. Our Principal, Mrs Jeyseeli was requested to unfurl the national flag. She and the General Secretary 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 with rapt attention. The unfurling of the flag showered down the soft fresh petals of marigold, jasmine and ofcourse the rose petals. The gentle breeze spiraled the florets and petals gently down to the ground was a lovely sight to watch. The flag by right seemed to stand up to its full potential, gently swayed by the breeze, seemed to make a conversation with the cloud filled blue sky. The assembled group sang the

national anthem in unison. By the time the national anthem ended the last of petal had rested on the ground creating a kaleidoscope of colors upon mother earth, nature showered incessant rain down on us. This sudden shower was not going to come in our way of enthusiasm hence everybody lined up to the new assembly hall at the back. It was going to be an indoor activity this year

The dignitaries took their seat to watch the kids performance. It started with a drill. Nature had its own way to show her happiness by raining gentle showers on us. We all re assembled in our newly built activity hall where the remaining programme was conducted. A skit was presented by these children regarding unity to be the prime irrespective of which religion one belongs to. The entire event was played by Sandhya, Iyshwaria, Dhanam, Vani, Rani and TajNisha, Sivachandran, Tamilmani, Pratap, Chandru, tarun, Madhavan, Vardarajan, Joseph, Arun, Joshua and Harish. Children also enacted the role of our Father of Nation by Vasanth and Chacha Nehru's role was played by Kishore. The event came to close with distribution of sweets and special lunch for the day.

The trust board members thanked the staff and children and immediately drove down to the agro farm to oversee the celebrations at the farm.



The Independence day celebration at the Pathway Agro Farm for Children was a highly colourful feat this season. The grand display of talent were eye catching and awesome by the children of the Pathway-Pamela Martinez Matriculation School and adolescents of the Pathway-Sabin Centre for Education and Rehabilitation of Disabled. Over 200 children of the Pamela Martinez Matriculation School were seen to be rehearsing for this big day for almost a fortnight. They had prepared a long programme of nearly three hours to be presented on the eve of the Independence Day. Similarly, boys of the Sabin Centre were also seen to be practising many programmes which they were planning to showcase on the D Day.



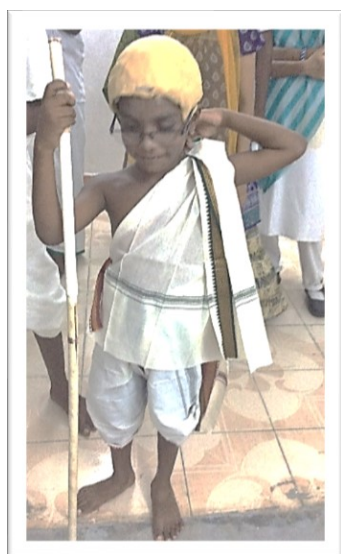
The Independence day celebration were planned fairly elaborately in the grounds of the school where a special flag mast is permanently installed. It is the rule of the organization that every day as all the children assemble for their morning assembly and morning prayers there should be hoisting of our national flag with the singing of national anthem this was done to inject a sense of ownership and patriotism amongst the children right from the beginning of their lives.

On this special day the flag mast was well decorated with colourful paper and the entire area was decorated with colourful buntings and tiny flags. The area around the mast had ornamental variety plants and a tastefully decorated rangoli by the girl children added beauty to the entire background. Every child was found to sporting with a small Indian Flag that was affixed on the lapel of their shirts. All the staff and



all invitees were encouraged to affix such flags. The entire show was very well choreographed and organized to the minute detail.

The show started with an impressive march past by nearly 230 children comprising of able and disabled children of the Farm. They marched with precision driven by a rhythmic band that was played by two senior boys. Even our youngest kindergarten children was a part of this march past. All the children in their neatly pressed clothes and neat footwear marched perfectly and went past the saluting base and the Flag mast where the President was present with the principal to take the salute. Each class lead by its leader marched past the saluting base in perfection saluting the flag with reverence. The march past culminated in orderly assembly of all children in their slots and with this the day was set to unfurl the national flag. The President was requested to unfurl the tri-colour by the principal and the leader of the school. As the flag was unfurled there was copious sprinkling of petals of roses, jasmines and various flowers showered on her and others. This signalled the singing of national anthem which was rendered with great poise and decorum.



The children of the Pamela Martinez Matriculation School and Orphanage presented a huge variety of programmes consisting of drill which also had elements of yoga asanas, using hoops to emphasize the colours of our national flag. The boys showcased their talent using dumbbells and topping it with a pyramid show where the inner most circle of this human chain moved in a beautiful circular formation and the apex of the human pyramid depicting the national flag with a salute. Similar more different formations were displayed by the boys of various classes. The girls not willing to remain behind showed their prowess too in the separate drills they performed like a human pyramid taking the salute under their guidance of their teacher and guide- Ms Sailaja. The exercises also

involved using of lazems.



This was followed by a speech in Tamil by Deepapriyan and Lavanya, a Tamil poem explaining “before and after freedom” of India by Abnisha of VIth grade. A speech in English by Kishore Kumar of ninth grade and a description of our national leaders and their role in Independence was outlined by Murugeshwari of ninth standard. A fancy dress, that is, children dressed up like national leaders who were responsible to gain independence to our country was displayed by our very tiny tots which definitely brought a thunderous applause from their school mates and all others present. This was followed by a mime which was truly executed well by the

senior boys depicting the theme- UNITY IN DIVERSITY The entire show was full of great educational value and truly delightful. The songs and dances presented by the children were particularly spectacular and grand. The tiny tots dance to the tune of –“ I LOVE MY INDIA”. IV and III std children performed a dance to the lyrics of a patriotic song penned down by Bharathiyyar and finally the VIII and IX std children sang “ Vande Mataram “ to everybody’s delight.

The children with special needs from the Sabin Centre for Education and Rehabilitation of Disabled did not lag behind in any sphere. Apart from being a part of the main marchpast they also showcased highly enjoyable and loveable programmes comprising of songs and dances with the theme of independence. They also performed the different yoga postures and their benefits which drew great amount of appreciation. This three hour grand programme ended with a closing message by the Director followed by distribution of chocolates, pastries and a sumptuous lunch.

## DISTRICT LEVEL SPORTS MEET AT ST LOUIS

The district level sports meet on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2018 was conducted in the grounds of St Louis school working with the deaf and the blind.

Twenty three children and four 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 Beena 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 Bharath, Beena, Dhanam, Sivachandran and Priya were the recipient of first prize in ball throw, Tajnisha 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 Madhavan. The third prize winner was Bhavani 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 Vani and Madhavan have been selected

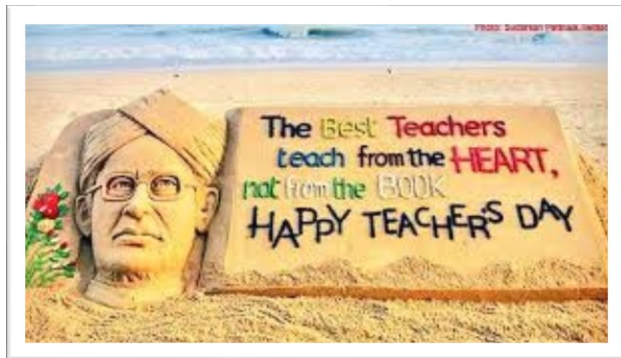
for the same. We applaud these children who show that courage and determination are the only two words which prove that irrespective of any disability the motto WE CAN is possible. Even the word possible is hidden in impossible. We salute them.



EVENT	1ST PRIZE	SECOND PRIZE	3RD PRIZE
	BHARATH	MADHAVAN	TAMILMANI
	BEENA	TAJNISHA	VANI
	DHANAM		BHAVANI
	SHIVACHANDRAN		TARUN
			PRASANNA
	PRIYA		VANI



## TEACHERS DAY

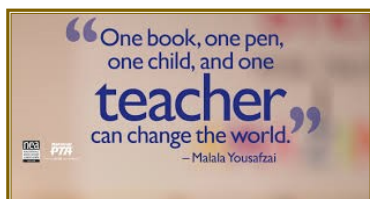


The birth date of the second President of **India**, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, 5 September 1888, has been celebrated as **Teacher's Day** since 1962. When some of his students and friends approached him and requested him to allow them to celebrate his birthday, he said, "instead of celebrating my birthday separately, it would be my proud privilege, if 5th September is observed as Teachers' day". From then onwards, the 5th of September has been observed as Teachers Day, in India. On this day, teachers and students report to school as usual but the usual activities and classes are

replaced by activities of celebration, thanks and remembrance.

Teachers Day holds immense importance for every individual throughout the country. Teachers impart knowledge and motivate the students in the right direction, enlighten them and create responsible citizens and good human beings. They are the cornerstone of our future. Teachers Day is an occasion to pay reverence to the teachers and convey them that they hold special respect in our hearts. Celebrating Teachers Day is acknowledged by UNESCO and fairly popular in several countries across the globe. Students look forward to Teacher's day with great enthusiasm and zeal due to the sheer spirit of the occasion.

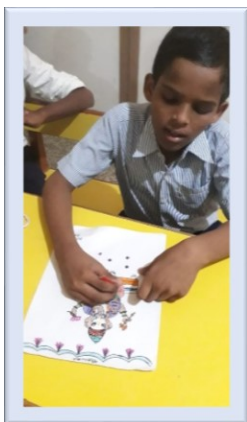
On this day students realize what it means to be a teacher and what responsibilities a teacher bears when it means to control the future of several students. Teachers on this day are reminded of their school days when they were at the student's desk and feel nostalgic. It is an equally special day for them. They get to know how much they are liked and appreciated by the students. Teachers Day is another way to provide encouragement and support to the teachers to make them feel their devotion towards students is appreciated. The celebration is enjoyed by both students and teachers with great zeal and enthusiasm. Some schools also reward the teachers for their priceless efforts towards the student's betterment. All of us have been students someday and have benefitted from our teachers. Celebration of teacher's day is a wonderful opportunity to show our gratitude to our teachers. Apart from the fun-filled activities Teachers Day is also to remember and get inspired by Dr. Radhakrishnan, who showed immense love for the teaching position.



In all the centres this event has been given importance and the day has been celebrated by children honouring their teachers. A fun event filled with games, skits and cultural events conducted by both the groups mark the occasion. Children are absolutely delighted to see their educators enjoy their

hospitality for a change. They also honoured their teachers with beautiful handmade cards professing their love and regards and respected for them.

## GANESH CHATURTHI



Ganesh Chaturthi also known as Vinayaka Chaturthi is one of the important Hindu festivals celebrated throughout India with a great devotion. We at Pathway centres celebrated this festival on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018. This day is celebrated as the birthday of Lord Ganesh, the elephant-headed son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. Lord Ganesh is the symbol of wisdom, prosperity and good fortune.

This festival is celebrated by Hindus with a great enthusiasm. People bring idols of Lord Ganesh to their homes and do worship. The duration of this festival varies from 1 day to 11 days, depending on the place and tradition. On the last day of the festival the idols are taken out in a colorful and musical procession and immersed traditionally in water.

As per Hindu mythology Lord Ganesh is considered as "Vigana Harta" (one who removes obstacles) and "Buddhi Pradaayaka" (one who grants intelligence). This festival is very important for students, they worship Lord Ganesh to illumine their minds



The children of all the centres enjoyed doing the various activities pertaining to the festival in the form of making mud idols, drawings of Lord Ganesha .



## SWATCH BHARAT

Swachh Bharat Mission or Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is a campaign run by the government of India as a massive mass movement to initiate the theme of cleanliness all through the India. This campaign was launched in seeking the way to create a Clean India target by 2019, 2nd of October means 150th birthday anniversary of the Mahatma Gandhi. The father of nation, Mahatma Gandhi was dreamed to make India a clean India and always put his hard efforts towards swachhta in India. This is the reason, why Swachh





PATHWAY CENTRE FOR REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION  
OF THE INTELLECTUAL DISABLED  
**SWACHHTA PARTICIPATION DAY**  
06.09.2018  
DRAMA - HYGIENE



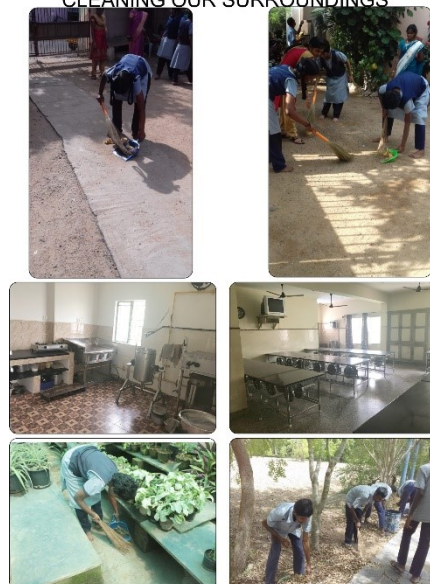
Bharat Abhiyan was launched on 2nd of October (the birthday of the Mahatma Gandhi). To complete the vision of the father of the nation, Indian government has decided to launch this campaign.

The aim of the mission is to cover all the rural and urban areas of the country to present this country as an ideal country before the world. The mission has targeted aims like eliminating the open defecation, converting insanitary toilets into pour flush toilets, eradicating manual scavenging, complete disposal and reuse of solid and liquid wastes, bringing behavioural changes to people and motivate health practices, spreading cleanliness awareness among people, strengthening the cleanliness systems in the urban and rural areas as well as creating user friendly environment for all private sectors interested for investing in India for cleanliness maintenance.

PATHWAY CENTRE FOR REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION  
OF THE INTELLECTUAL DISABLED  
**SWACHHTA PARTICIPATION DAY**  
06.09.2018  
DRAWING COMPETITION



PATHWAY CENTRE FOR REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION  
OF THE INTELLECTUAL DISABLED  
**SWACHHTA PARTICIPATION DAY**  
06.09.2018  
CLEANING OUR SURROUNDINGS



What seemed to be different about the Swachh Bharat Mission was a defined goal, with a time bound approach that involved everyone right from gram panchayat to state governments to work for a common goal – building toilets and putting an end to open defecation. Challenges were many, from age-old mindset to topography to tenancy laws, different places had different issues to grapple with. But with 19 states having accomplished the task of providing toilet access to everyone and many more like the southern state of Tamil Nadu all set to join the Open Defecation Free (ODF) league soon, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan seems to have had more impact across the country than any of the previous sanitation programmes.

This mission has an interesting theme of inviting nine new people by each and every involved people in the campaign and continuing this chain until the each and every citizen of India gets involved in this campaign.



Tamil Nadu has improved its rural sanitation coverage by more than 50 per cent in four years. Today, the rural areas of the state are on the brink of becoming open defecation free.

All the district magistrates in the state were asked to regularly monitor the progress made on the sanitation front from day one. Several NGOs, self-help groups and local people have contributed immensely to the rural sanitation success of Tamil Nadu, said State Rural Development Director K. Baskaran.

Pathway has always believed in cleanliness and has tried to inculcate this habit among the children from all ages. We make it a point to take a pledge every year to continue this great work. As per the government we followed the Swachda Pakwada Calender activities from first September to 15<sup>th</sup> September in the following format as shown below.

PATHWAY CENTRE FOR REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION  
OF THE INTELLECTUAL DISABLED  
**SWACHHTA WATER SAVE DAY**  
12.09.2018



## MAKING OF THE NATIVITY



Christmas is the time that reinforces the values of giving and sharing. At Pathway centre for rehabilitation, we aim not only to inculcate these values in the children but also help them learn to implement these in innovative but ecologically responsible ways. Our latest figurine crafted

MAKING OF NATIVITY BY SPECIAL HANDS ESPECIALLY FOR YOU





by the children is a prime example of this.

The special children at Pathway vocational centre have hand-made a twelve-piece Nativity figure-set which is a brain child of Chandra Prasad the Hony. Director and Co-Founder of this institution. What is different about these particular figures compared to the already existing ones, you may ask – this entire set is made completely from newspaper.



Previously, a similar set had been made but it had been made with beads. This was sent to all overseas patrons of Pathway.

The children, under the guidance of expert team of vocational teachers -Ms Linda, Ms Radha, Ms Porkodi, Ms Priya and Mr Ashirvatham, enthusiastically jumped at the idea of trying something unique and novel. The children's willingness to try something new is commendable. The first set took little over four months to be completed. Twenty five number of children were







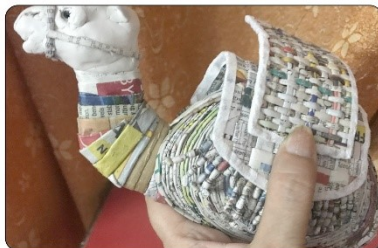
involved in the making of these dolls. The staff are confident that the next sets will be processed quicker – the children are quick learners and are quite proud of their accomplishment – as they rightly should be.



The hand-made nativity scene depicts the scene of the birth of Baby Jesus couple of days after he is born when the three wise men visit him. An angel has

announced the birth of infant Jesus to the shepherds who then visit the humble site of his birth – the stable where he is found lying in a manger. This scene comprises of the new-born Baby Jesus, Mother Mary, Joseph, a camel and a sheep in the stable, three wise men, who come bearing gifts and the shepherd.

These figurines are all made from and decked out in newspaper. The size of the dolls are around 11 to 12 inches. The clothes for the three wise men are also made from paper but what enriches them is that they are woven to give it a rich-look. The faces are made with paper mache moulds to give them a life-like appearance and each face has an individuality that makes it stand apart from the others.

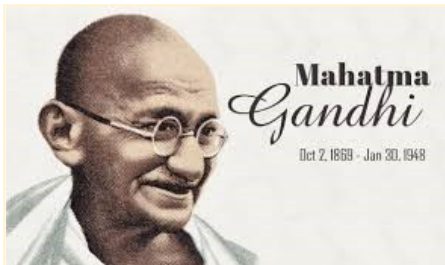






The children eagerly await Christmas this year – it is a wait that we all are impatient for; to see the fruits of their labour being enjoyed and appreciated by everyone.

## GANDHI JAYANTHI



*Non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man. ---MAHATMA GANDHI*

This year, on October 2, India did celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary is celebrated every year as Gandhi Jayanti to commemorate his ideals of peace and non-violence as well as his immense contribution to India's freedom struggle.

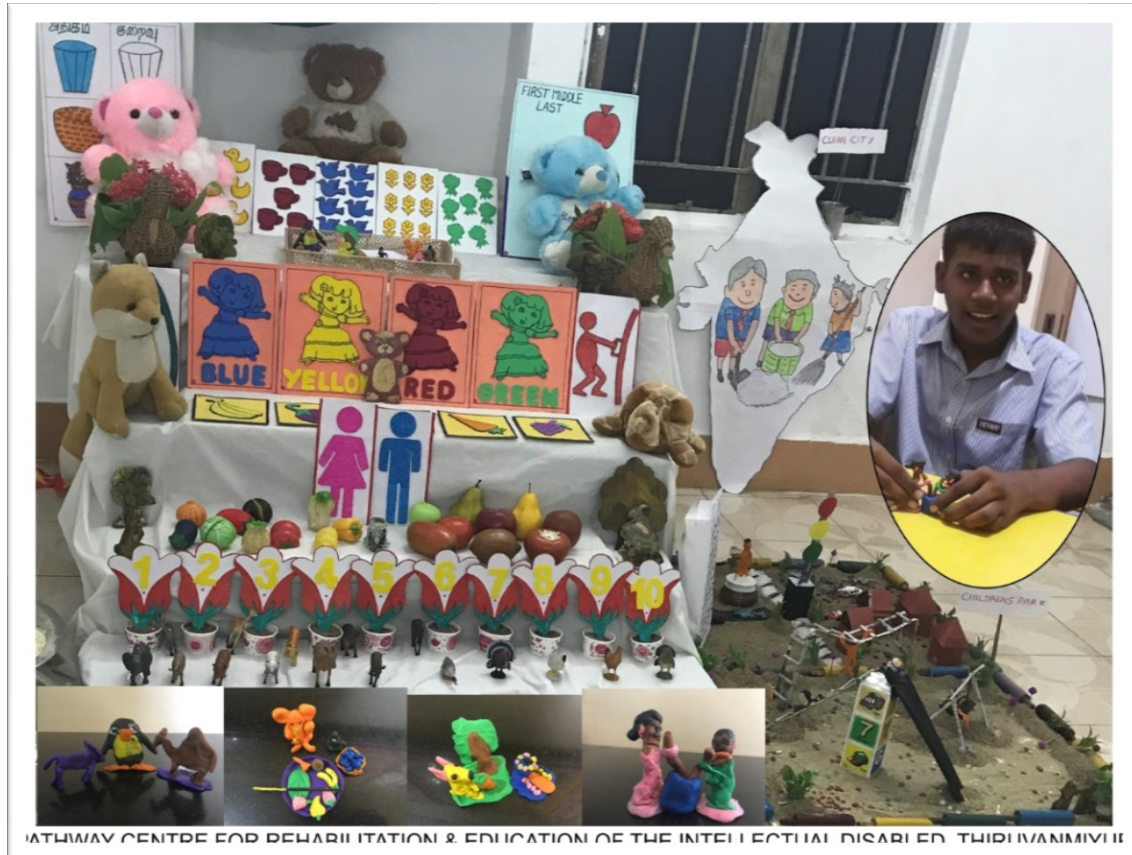
On 15 June 2007, The United Nations General Assembly announced that October 2nd will be celebrated as the International Day of Non-Violence.

Gandhiji had a natural love for 'truth' and 'duty'. With his complete dedication and confidence, Gandhi freed India from the British Rule and proved the world that freedom can be achieved with non-violence. Even today his teachings are encouraged to stay away from violence and find peaceful solutions to conflicts. For Gandhi, Truth and Non-violence was his entire philosophy of life. Gandhiji was one of the biggest contributors to India's freedom movement and his methods for achieving it shaped the country greatly. He is even called the Father of our Nation. That is why his legacy is honoured, not only in India, but all over the world.



The President and the Prime Minister, along with other political leaders, pay homage at Raj Ghat, the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi in New Delhi. To honour Gandhi's respect for all religions and communities, representatives from different religions take part in the prayer meeting held at Raj Ghat. Prayers and Verses are read out from Holy books of all religions. Mahatma Gandhi's favourite song 'Raghupati Raghava' is customarily sung at all meetings associated with him.

NAVARATHRI



This was achieved by a group of children leaded by Naveen an Autistic child who with his creativity involved the group to mould the clay into different forms and shape.





## AWARD



The National Integrity Cultural Academy under Global Achievers Council held a Convocation and Award ceremony on the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at Patrician College. They awarded the **BHARATH JYOTHI**

**EXCELLENCE AWARD** to Chandra Prasad, the



Hony Director of Pathway Centres.

This event was presided by Dr R Selvam who is the Chairman of Global Achievers Council. The guest of honors were - Hon'ble Justice K SwamiDurai, Hon'ble Justice V Vaidyanathan, Makkal Tv Dr. C R Bhaskaran, Dr. A Ameerkhan - Member of CACL

Ministry of Shipping, Govt of India, Dr Himmath A Hussain -Asst Honorary Consular of Netherlands to Maldives at Embassy of Netherlands along with The Director, Associate Editor and President of Patrician College.

The entire staff were present for the same.





## INTER SCHOOL ART AND MUSIC COMPETITION

A drawing competition was conducted under the able leadership of St Louis School.

The children were excited about the same since their love for this kind of art form gives way to their



emotions and express more. children the event along members.

The most is to watch the totally competition other to draw ability. We are committed staff their work with dedication. their abilities do their best as quotient in in their work.

motivate and cheer each other not minding who wins or fails.



are able to More than 21 participated in with four staff

beautiful sight tutor and taught engrossed in the helping each out their best proud of our who perform utter Irrespective of and ages they a team. The I always missing They seem to



Zentangle seemed to be Harish's, Prathap and Priya's favourite art form. They also performed a group song. THREE children received cash awards to the tune of 1500, 1000 and 800 and ten children received a cash prize of Rs 500 each. The proud winners in the respective order were Vasanth, Leander and Madhumitha. Our other participants received gifts as motivation. Our special children were treated to a sumptuous meal at the end of their competition.

## DIWALI

This year Diwali fell on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2018. 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. In northern India they celebrate the story of King Rama's return to Ayodhya after he defeated Ravana by lighting rows of clay lamps. In all interpretations, one common thread rings true—the festival marks the victory of good over evil.



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.

This Diwali started with a small project on -SAFETY FIRST conducted by the school involving firemen from our district who demonstrated the safety measures to be used while playing with crackers and the use





of fire extinguisher. The interesting image is of our security guard (dog-Brown) who is listening with rapt attention about the fire safety.

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. As usual the multi colored Rangoli depicting happiness and ushering good tidings were a part of the childrens handiwork. They also were involved in making the diyas with their bare hands which was lovingly lit around their campus. 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.



Children of Chennai centre and Sabin had made models of their favourite crackers and sweets and ofcourse their special Rangoli design for the occasion. 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.



## CHILDRENS DAY CELEBRATION

*"The children of today will make the India of tomorrow. The way we bring them up will determine the future of the country."* ----- JAWAHARLAL NEHRU



The 14th November day which also happens to be the 130th birthday anniversary of India's first prime minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is celebrated as the Children's day.

It is a reminder that every child deserves education,

nurturing and the best of everything. They are the building blocks of the nation and hence, the future of the nation depends how well they are brought up. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru real message was to provide our children with a safe and loving environment in which to grow as well as giving them ample and equal opportunities through which they can take great strides and contribute to the progress of the nation

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was a great person, leader, politician, writer and speaker. He loved children so much and was a great friend of the poor people. He always understood himself as the true servant of the people of India. He worked hard all through the day and night for making this country a successful country. He became the first Prime Minister of the Independent India and thus called as the architect of modern India.

Chacha Nehru was a person having great vision, honesty, hard labour, sincerity, patriotism and intellectual powers. His great love for roses as well as children is a well-known fact. In fact he often compared the two, saying that children were like the buds in a garden. They should be carefully and lovingly nurtured, as they were the future of the nation and the citizens of tomorrow. He felt that children are the real strength of a country and the very foundation of society.

He was the giver of a famous slogan as "Aram Haram Hai." He became the first chairman of the National Planning Commission and two years later he started a National Development Council in order to improve the living standard of the Indian people to make better quality of life. The first Five Year Plan was launched





and implemented in 1951 under his guidance. He was very fond of the children so has created many ways for the growth and development of them. Later Children's Day was declared by the Indian government to be celebrated every year for the wellness of the children on his birthday anniversary. Currently, another programme named Bal Swachhta Abhiyan has been launched by the Indian government to be celebrated on his birthday anniversary. He always gave the priority to the improvement of the untouchables, people of weaker sections of society, right of women and children welfare. "Panchayati Raj" system was launched throughout the country in order to take great step in the right direction for the welfare of the Indian people. He publicized the "Panch Sheel" system in order to maintain the international peace and harmony with India and made India as one of the leading countries of the world. 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. This year the staff all dressed in the favourite color of our leader's choice conducted various competitions for the students like drawing, Rangoli etc. The most eye catching Rangoli was of Our Chacha Nehru in Rangoli form created by Harish with support of his class teacher. They also educated the children with our national leaders in form of speeches and a fancy dress.. Choosing our late prime ministers favourite flower rose they showed their love for him by handing it to every staff. There was also a musical chair event After the end of session, prizes were distributed and the entire group was given snacks and sweets along with a gift which they cherished. It was time for fun and frolic, a day of celebration, as the staff and children of Pamela Martinez School and the Sabin centre prepared for Children's Day, a day to remember Jawaharlal Nehru, free India's first prime minister, with



love and fondness. The excitement grew as the enthusiastic children all assembled to celebrate the event. Ably led by principal Annadurai and a team of dedicated teachers, great treats were prepared for the children. The faces of the tiny tots from kindergarten beamed as they saw their favourite snacks dangling before their eyes. The favourite snack was tied with a thread and the winner would be the one who could eat the entire piece of the treat. Loud cheering and claps urged the tiny tots to give their best shot. The next game was the balloon game where the contestant had to blow them till they burst and variation of

the game was to sit on the blown balloon till it bursts. A mix of shyness, curiosity and every other expression was evident on their faces. After the girl babies it was the turn of the boys. Their younger peers

watched with amazement the beautiful colors of the balloons blooming into greens, purple, yellow and pink with a dash of white too. There were some surprise extempore too from these tiny tots. The mike seemed to be larger than the speaker. The next interesting activity was standing at a distance and throwing the ball into the basket. The one with the maximum number was the winner. There was another fun game added to this event. A play activity involving the paper cups where the contestants had to blow the balloon in a paper cup and then the paper cup along with the balloon had to be placed into another paper cup. This process was to go on and the winner would be the one who could make the biggest pile of the papercups in tower formation. The next very interesting activity was pinning or drawing a tail of the donkey drawn on the blackboard being blindfolded. The entire group would break into tingling laughter when their peer fixed the tail other than the correct space.. Some of the kids cheered and some just enjoyed the experience. The girls not to be left behind took part in the same activity. This followed by a group dance Children took part in various games, mime shows, puzzles, painting, and singing. Children from Sabin centre - Ashok and Murugappan presented a short but sweet play. At the end of the day the children appeared to be exhausted from their activities while thoroughly enjoying their cakes and traditional Indian sweets. Such childhood delight made the adults realize that children are indeed precious gems and are divine gifts from above!

We do believe in the following quote made by our leader-

"CHILDREN DO NOT  
THINK OF  
DIFFERENCES  
AMONGST  
THEMSELVES."



## ROTARY PARALYMPICS -SPORTS MEET FOR SPECIAL CHILDREN 2018

This event was conducted on 17th November 2018 at Sai Ram Engineering College. This year we were expecting 1400 participants from 75 organisations with over 100 events to be conducted. More than 50 students along with our staff attended the meet. There were three categories the children were divided into- namely- Mentally challenged, cerebral palsy and the learning disabled. The further classification was based





on age groups of 6-10 years, 11-14 years and 15-18 years. The children participated in the following events- Running race-50 mts, Running Race-100 mts, Frog race, Cricket ball throw-soft ball and Cricket ball throw. The winners who received the gold medals were Anitha for running and Madhumitha for frog race. Remaining ten children received the participation certificate and gifts for all present

The entire group force were treated to sumptuous breakfast followed with lunch and every participant and staff member were honoured with small gifts



## 26TH ROTARY TALENT COMPETITION



The silver jubilee celebration of this cultural programme was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 along with their co-sponsor "Neeta Memorial Charitable Trust" at Kamarj Hall in Chennai. The main objective of this programme was to discover and promote the hidden







talent in children. This would encourage integration and sense of belongingness in them. As per the rules of the event we registered all the participants for different events like- Group Dance, individual or solo Dance, Talent competition, Group and Individual singing and last but not the least the drawing competition. The children were also treated to various entertainments of which the magic show, candy stall stole their heart.

On this day a total of 42 kids along 5

staff members reported at the venue by 8.00 in the morning. As imagined they were ready before the deadline and waited for their transport service to take them to their destination. The bigger children as per the rules seated the younger kids along with some extra napkins, snacks, and not to forget their First Aid Box. After the initial round of seating arrangement they waited for their instructors and then boarded the buses. Their other peer group cheered them on and wished them with smiles. Its so heartening to see these innocent and pure hearts which bear no shred of selfishness. Everytime we witness this scene my heart and soul get humbled.



The excitement of the bus doors closing brought a twinkle to their eyes and spontaneous music filled the air. Each child was looking forward to the event and wanted to give their best. The buses weaved through the city roads and were in time for the event. It was definitely hard to control the childrens excitement who on seeing the venue were already on their toes to rush out. The staff always has a hard time to rein this excitement but their assuring confidence brings a calming effect and the kids are easier to control. Once out of the buses, the children were escorted by a group of volunteers for a light breakfast and then led into the venue for participation.

Around ten children were led by their special educators Bindhu and Pavithra for group dance. They got busy with their costumes and make up. They were to enact a beautiful folk dance. In the other designated



area Sivagami their special educator drew them to the place where Rangoli competition was to be held.

A pinch of rangoli powder is taken using the index finger and thumb. As the rangoli is a







coarse powder of special soft white stone, it can flow freely when slowly released from the pinch of index finger and thumb.

To make a rangoli on floor, following steps are used –  
The surface on which the rangoli is to be drawn is prepared by cleaning it thoroughly. Traditionally, the surface was smeared with cow dung, and after it dried, rangoli was drawn on it at specific locations. In the ancient times it was a practice to daily sweep and sprinkle every doorstep with cow dung and draw rangoli. A design or auspicious symbols or signs are selected for drawing. After the selection, the required numbers of points are created on the floor using the Rangoli. Then these points are joined with the appropriate



design shapes, lines, curves, etc. Lastly, colours are filled in the rangoli as per the design recommendations.

Sandhya and Bhavani took their group of 8 children for the skit that they had prepared. Sindhuja another special educator collected her group of 4 children to participate in the drawing and painting competition and also the special talent competition. Our solo dance enthusiast- Madhavan could be seen practising his steps for the final call. Some children who had come as helpers to this group of participants helped and aided the staff. Every nook and corner of the venue was bustling with activity. Their concentration and the urge to do their best brought sincere applause from the volunteers and the organising committee. We are proud to

I. DRAWING (INDIVIDUAL)	III.SOLO DANCE	V. GROUP SINGING
1. HARISH	1. MADHAVAN	1. PRATHAP
2. NAVEEN		2. R. BALAJI
3. PRIYA		3. HARISH
4. ANITHA		4. SIVACHANDRAN
5. MADHAVAN		5. ANITHA
		6. GURUBHARAN

II. COLOURING	IV.GROUP DANCE	VI. SKIT
1. PRATHAP	1. PRATHAP	1. SIVACHANDRAN
2. VASANTH	2. HARISH	2. HARISH
3. THARUNRAJ	3. LEANDER	3. PRATHAP
4. SIVACHANDIRAN	4. CHANDRU	4. VISHAL
5. MADHUMITHA	5. VISHAL	5. PRIYA
6. LEANDER	6. SIVACHANDRAN	6. CHANDRU
7. AJITH	7. PRIYA	7. THARUNRAJ
8. BALAJI	8. MADHUMITHA	8. LEANDER
9. GOWRI	9. VANI	9. ANITHA
10. YUVASHREE	10. DHANAM	10. JOSHWA

announce that Naveen and Anitha participated in the clay modelling and Naveen as expected received the first prize. This is no less achievement for an autistic teenager. We are absolutely proud of him. Children came home tired but happy since they received individual gifts, treats and a name for themselves.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED-2018

### STATE LEVEL MEET FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED CHILDREN

December 3rd of every year is celebrated as the World day of the Disabled all over country and the entire world. India at the national level and Tamil Nadu at the state level celebrates this day appropriately honouring the differently abled who excel in various walks of life and honour those who serve the disabled. Pathway joined the festivities in several ways, in participating in the events organized by the state government as well as many organizations, such as Chennai Special Olympics. Sports and various cultural events and competitions marked the occasion. Pathway participated this year by sending a large contingent of 60 children and 9 adults from Pathway Centre, Chennai as well as 42 adults from Sabin Centre, Agili, to partake in the grand march past, sports, dance and musical events. This event was conducted at Anna University. The Honourable Social Minister Dr V Saroja, Mr C. Vijayaraj Kumar, IAS ( Principal Secretary to Government ), Tmt B Maheshwari- State Commissioner for the Differently Abled, did the honors.



The freeing of pigeons and releasing balloons of our national flag color indicated the start of events. Anitha and Vani were selected for state level sports for long jump and potato gathering respectively participated in the events. Sabin centre







represented



Kancheepuram district. Pathway received special appreciation for its dance depicting a popular folk dance. The participants were Vani, Rani, Joseph, Madhavan, Priya, Chandru, Prathap, Sivachandran, Tamilmani, Dhanam, Anitha and Yamini. These participants received flasks as gifts for the above.

## CHRISTMAS

It was a glorious Christmas celebrated with fervour and prayer in the heart. There was great excitement in the air as children from Pathway, Chennai, the Pamela Martinez Matriculation School and Orphanage and the Sabin centre for the disabled joined together to showcase a grand



show on the 21.12.2018 at the agro farm.



*All throughout history a few men and women so profoundly touched the world that centuries later humanity remembers and celebrates their contribution to our happiness and welfare.*

*Such was the impact Jesus had on the world. We are about to celebrate His divine birth. Why would a large part of the world bother, more than 2,000 years later, to celebrate such a birthday?*

*We celebrate His divine birth because what He promised us was simple yet profound, was self-centered yet it was meant to serve others, was practical yet was transcending. Didn't He say that the meek will inherit the earth, that the pure in heart will see God, that the peacemakers will be called the children of God?*

*I hope that each one of us will find ways to emulate the goodness and example of the One whose birth we celebrate with you.*

*May God's almighty blessings be upon all of you.*

*We send our deep love and affection*

*The Butel's*



Children from the Pathway Chennai centre travelled by bus to the farm for this event. It was a very joyous group which arrived the venue in the afternoon. The programme was due to start only in the evening. To add to the festivities the Pathway Alumni too joined to be a part of this wonderful festive occasion. It was indeed a sight to watch the entire family of Pathway meeting at one area. Though each one was from different walks of life today but their mingling with each other only showed that they were bounded to each other by being a Pathwayian at heart. The sound of laughter, joy, animated talk and chatter filled the air.

It was indeed a sight to see hundreds of children dressed in colourful attire especially gifted to them to celebrate the birth of our Saviour. This special event was attended not just by students of the entire pathway family but also included the children from community rehabilitation group and their parents and care givers.

*Chandra,*

*You and all of the dedicated Pathway team bless us through your wonderful work among our underprivileged and handicapped brothers and sisters in India. For the extended Benac family and I am sure for every member of this board, our involvement in Pathway gives greater depth and increased meaning to our Christmas holiday and to the Savior's call to reach out to those in need with pure religion - to cloth the naked, feed the hungry and uplift and educate the downtrodden.*

*That we are eternal friends and that you and our sweet Prasad have been so dedicated for decades to God's great work is humbling for the rest of to even consider. May the great god of us all be with you and protect and uplift you, your family and the children, staff and friends of Pathway and give you spiritual and physical strength every hour of every day is our prayer for you in this wonderful and auspicious new year.*

*With love, affection and admiration...Bill and Barbara Benac*

The



stage preparation was done with the help of the Pathway alumni which fixed the beautiful background banner painted by the children AND Sabin centre boys were added attraction who

enacted the entire Nativity. The programme started with a opening hymn and prayer. This was followed by the director's welcome speech and some excerpts from our benefactors who so graciously sent the Christmas message. There was a welcome dance and skit by the school kids followed by dances to the tune of Feiz Navi Dad and Away in a Manger.





The staff from other centres sang for the benefit of the children with the final programme being Nativity.



The entry of Santa Claus was the highlight since one could see all the children clapping with glee, their eyes shining bright and excitement lit in their hearts since they knew he was their bearer of gifts according to their wish list. It was a scene of pure joy. The following words are so apt in the President quote below-

*"Let us make Christmas real. It isn't just tinsel and ribbon, unless we have made it so in our lives. 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. It is peace because we have found peace in the Savior's teachings. It is the time we realize most deeply that the more love is expended, the more there is of it for others."*

---President Thomas S. Monson

## TRADE FAIR

'Tourism and the Digital Transformation', was the theme of the 45th India Tourism and Trade Exhibition 2019. The exhibition began on Island Grounds on January 09 to March 23rd.. A model of the tallest building in the world and a marine aquarium are among the attractions at the 45th India Tourism and Trade Fair, inaugurated by Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami at the Island Grounds here on Wednesday. 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. It has an entertainment park for children and cultural programmes in the open-air theatre every evening. Stalls and exhibits from 28 State government departments, 16 State PSUs, two Central government departments, four other government departments, the Indian Red Cross Society and 60 private players are on display







Ministers and officials were present during the inauguration.

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.

Our children also participated in a fancy dress much to the delight of the elite guests. They went round our stall and were amazed at the products displayed especially our newspaper nativity set. Pathway 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. In this fair, state government departments showcase their services, alongside entertainment activities and amusement rides.

The Island Grounds constitute a vast empty space on the island where fairs and exhibitions are held on a regular basis. Anna Salai is one of the major roads of Chennai. It originates on this island running mostly in the southwest direction towards the south. From the year 1975, the annual India Tourist and Industrial Fair, which is popularly known to the locals as the trade fair, has been conducted on this island by the state government of Tamil Nadu during the months of January to March. The fair was open to visitors from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays and on Sundays it will be open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.





## PONGAL



If mid-January is an important time in Tamil Nadu, so also it is 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. These



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 Shalini, and there after the Principal explained about the meaning and concept of

these three days significance.

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 religions celebrate the pongal festival. This is a harvest festival - the Tamil equivalent of Thanksgiving.

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 watched 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

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 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 Citibabu followed by Srinivasan. 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. This exclusive award was won by Murugappan our Sabin centre student. 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.

At the Chennai centre children were dressed in their most beautiful attire. They all joined together swept the frontage paving way for a beautiful



set of harvest images which included a overflowing pot of sweet rice, the symbol cow which denotes kamadhenu and sugarcane. Their principal Mrs Jeyseeli patiently explained the meaning of the festival .



The children listened with rapt attention. To the utmost delight of the children the staff performed a folk dance. Every student present there cheered their favourite teacher with beaming smiles. In turn the children enacted the entire harvest festival in dance form using various props so preciously made by their special hands.



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.

## ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY OF THE KANCHEEPURAM DISTRICT SELF FINANCING SCHOOL'S ASSOCIATION

On the 19<sup>th</sup> January the Kancheepuram District Self Financing School Association honoured our school in the –THE FIFTH AWARDS CEREMONY' for hundred percent result for the tenth standard for the year 2017-2018. We were awarded with



a plaque and certificate which was received by the Hony Director Chandra Prasad on behalf of the school along with the entire team of the school headed by the principal.

The chief guest was Sri Dr V Irai Anbu, IAS who is



the *Principal Secretary & Director Entrepreneurship Development and Innovation Institute, Govt of TamilNadu*. The other elite members were Dr V C R Murugan, *Director of School Education, Govt of Tamilnadu*, Dr S Kannappan- *Director of Matriculation Schools, Govt of Tamilnadu*, Dr G Arivoli, *The Director, State Council of Educational Research and training, Govt of Tamilnadu* and Sri R Dandapani, *The Director of Engineering, Zoho Corporation*

## IMPRESSIONS OF A VISITOR

(in their own words – 09.07.2018)

In February 2018 my family visited both the Chennai & agricultural facilities of Pathway and were greatly impacted by the experience. It was a particularly special experience for me to see how much Pathway has grown since my first visit over 20 years ago. A few things that stand out:

-- Everyone has a job to do that contributes to the success of the whole: We observed this in so many ways. The staff are busy and consistent with the children. The older youth know that they are models for the younger ones. The young children know what their next job is and where they are supposed to be. It became clear to me that Pathway has somehow learned how to teach the principle of industry. Also, the children perform to the high expectation that is set for them because they know the privilege and opportunity that they have been given. What a powerful combination gratitude and industry make.

-- Generational influence: In the days leading up to the Pathway Excellence Awards ceremony, we had the opportunity to get to know many of the Pathway alumni who had returned to renew friendships and prepare the campus for the festivities. They were self organized and worked hard. They were cheerful. I spoke to these good young people for many hours and found them to be rare examples of compassion and optimism. They had worthy goals and realistic plans. I could see the students watching the alumni. It was clear they see the path forward brought to life by the decisions the alumni are making in their lives.

-- The quality of education: The teachers are clearly invested in the success of the students. The material was challenging. We observed lectures and saw many detailed science presentations on advanced topics in fields such as anatomy, power, astronomy, and computer science.

On a more personal note, it was through a small miracle that I realized a young friend I had made 20 years ago was one of the disabled adults now at the vocational training facility. The discovery was made while I was sitting next to him participating in one of their training tasks. It was a moment of pure joy. I've reflected often that it is pretty hard to catch one of the disabled adults without a smile on their face. A real lesson for the rest of us.

Our visit to Pathway has quickly become a cherished memory in our family history. It awoke within us a great desire to help. I believe that anyone who spends any time with the good people & children of Pathway could not help but feel the same. The closer you get, the more you become aware of the harsh reality of the need being filled, and the efficiency of the inspired structure that is in place. Our goal as a family is to not falter in showing our love of Pathway through our time and means. Thank you so much for the opportunity to visit.

\*\*\*\*\*TIM, KAREN, CAMERON, AIDAN, RILEY, AND KALISTA FEWKES

(in their own words - 21.01.2019)

As you know we are privileged to have recently visited Chandra and Pathway in and near Chennai. What an amazing and wonderful thing this is. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to more fully understand what Pathway is and how it is truly saving and transforming lives. Chandra was a most gracious and welcoming hostess. We so regret that we were not able to know Dr. Prasad. He must have been a wonderful human being, as is she.

God bless you and the entire organization for your efforts. Would that we were in a position to assist. The children are so very precious. We will never forget their eyes, their faces, their smiles.

Thank you again for the opportunity.

\*\*\*\*\*GRANT & JEANETTE HURST

## REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS



Republic day in India is celebrated every year with great pride on 26th of January to honour the Constitution of India as it came into force on the same day in the year 1950. It had replaced the Government of India Act, 1935 into the governing document of India. On this day, national holiday is declared by the Indian Government. The new Indian Constitution was sketched and approved by the Indian Constituent Assembly and decided to celebrate it on January every year as India became a republic country.



Government of India organizes a major event every year in the National capital, New Delhi. The event begins with the Prime Minister of India laying a wreath at the Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate, commemorating all the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country. Soon, a 21 gun salute is presented, the President unfurls the National Flag and the National Anthem is played. This marks the beginning of the parade. The President is accompanied by a notable foreign Head of State - who is the invited Chief Guest at the celebration.

After the flag hoisting event, Indian Armed Forces parade and various other activities are held in front of the India Gate. People start to assemble at Rajpath in early morning to witness this great event.





A parade of all three wings of Indian Armed Forces starts from the Vijay Chowk which also displays the advanced warfare capabilities of the country. Military Bands of all the regiment, NCC Cadets and ex-army men also take part in the parade. Tableaus from all the states are also displayed after the parade showing the rich tradition of India. Folk dances and various stunts are also exhibited by the participants and army personnel on Rajpath.

Soon after, awards and medals of bravery are given by the President to the people from the armed forces for their exceptional courage in the field and also to those civilians who have distinguished themselves by their different acts of valour in different situations. After this, helicopters from the armed forces fly past the parade area showering rose petals on the audience. The military parade is followed by a colourful cultural parade. India's rich cultural heritage is depicted in the form of tableaus from various states. Each state depicts its unique festivals, historical locations and art. This exhibition of diversity and richness of the culture of India lends a festive air to the occasion.

Tableaus from various government department and ministries of India are also presented displaying their contribution towards the progress of the nation. The most cheered section of the parade is when the children who have won National Bravery Awards ride past the dais on elephants. School-children from all over the country also participate in the parade showcasing folk dances and singing to the tunes of patriotic songs.

The parade also includes displays of skillful motor-cycle rides, by the Armed Forces personnel. The most eagerly awaited part of the parade is the fly past, put on by the Indian Air Force. The fly past marks the conclusion of the parade, when fighter planes of the IAF roar past the dais, symbolically saluting the President. Beating The Retreat officially denotes the end of Republic Day festivities. All-important Government Buildings are beautifully decorated with lights every evening from 26th to 29th. Beating the Retreat ceremony is conducted on the evening of January 29, the third day after the Republic Day. The ceremony starts by the massed bands of the three services marching in unison, playing popular marching tunes. The drummers also give a solo performance (known as the Drummer's



Call). Followed by this the drummers play **Abide With Me** (which is also said to be Gandhi Ji's favourite) and the chimes made by the tubular bells, placed quite at a distance, create a mesmerizing ambience.

This is followed by the bugle call for Retreat, the band master then marches to the President and requests permission to take the bands away, and informs that the closing ceremony is now complete. The bands march back playing a popular martial tune **Saare Jahan Se Achcha**. At exactly 6 pm, the buglers sound the retreat and the National Flag is lowered, and the National Anthem is sung, bringing the Republic Day celebrations to a formal end.

Republic day was celebrated with the same pride 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. The entire frontage of the centre was decorated with our national flag and tri color balloons. A beautiful Rangoli ushered and welcomed each one. The children were dressed smartly in white uniform. As the children were called to attention, Chandra Prasad our Director was requested to unfurl the national flag. With this the children, staff and everyone assembled sang the national anthem in unison.

The programme started with a group dance with hand held props in form of paper fans once again depicting the colors of our national flag on the beat of our most popular patriotic song- Sare jahan se achha. This was followed by a drill. The interesting props used were bamboo sticks which were deftly used by the students. Every spectator and audience were treated to chocolates and a hearty breakfast at the end of the ceremony.

After completing this formality the trust members drove down to the farm to partake in the event there. Children at Pamela Martinez and the Sabin Centre group were not to be left out. The show started with an impressive march past which included all the children from every class including the Sabin adult group. 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 President of our Trust.

The flag hoisting was done by our President Dhuli Patnaik. The programme started with a welcome dance by our tiny tots, followed by a meticulous drill by the boys group. They showed their prowess in the different drill and exercises like pyramid formation which was followed by resounding applause from their peer groups. The children put up a show which showed their expertise in drill, lazem, dumb bells, hoops having our national flag color, followed by a pyramid construction which had many variations. And finally followed by a circular wheel which depicted the angle of progress in all spheres of life as a nation.

The younger group enacted a small skit dressed in various costumes of different religions to showcase unity in diversity followed by a dance sequence by higher class girl students who used the tri colors of our flag in form of dupatta as props.

The children also had formerly painted and drawn drawings related to this day which was eagerly viewed by all the assembled guests, peer groups, staff and well-wishers. In all the children practised their best to win the hearts of their trainers and audience alike. The girls were not far behind. They too showed a display of their skills in pyramids followed by variations in their techniques. They left the arena after saluting the flag and taking a bow. It was indeed a sight to watch that the Sabin Centre was not left far behind. When they took the stage to perform the entire students and their peer and every person present there cheered and welcomed them. A very confident group walked up and displayed their prowess. They performed a skit





which was keenly watched by all. They too did the pyramids and added a special touch with Amarnath upholding our national flag high.

Speeches were carefully prepared by students in local and English language which were read out by Nivetha, Srimathi, Murugeswari, Priya and Haripriya. The older students kept the audience enchanted by a mime show depicting our Indian army who guard our nation to their best of ability and ended the show with a heartfelt gratitude sign. This was followed by a group of dancers from VII and IX standard kids who depicted in their performance the different states of India. The Director gave the vote of thanks and children were treated with the chocolates followed a special lunch and later a TV show of the days event being telecasted from the national capital.

## UNIFIED SPORTS

***“Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.”***

***-The Special Olympics Athlete oath***



The special Olympics Bharat TamilNadu along with round table 10 west conducted unified sports a mega bocce event at Jawaharlal Nehru indoor stadium on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

It was founded in 1987 as **Special Olympics India**, and changed its name to **Special Olympics Bharat** in 2001. it is recognized by the government of India as a National Sports Federation for the development of sports opportunity for the people with intellectual disabilities.

The events conducted were as follows



Below 7 years – bocce, 8-11 yrs –25mts run, 12-15yrs- 50mts run, 16-20yrs- 100mts run and so was run conducted for above 22 years.

This event was declared opened by our TamilNadu Governor- Thiru Banwarilal Purohit who was the chief guest. The list of children who participated in the above is shown below

The concept behind Unified Sports was first introduced in the United States in the mid-1980s to provide a new level of challenge for higher ability athletes and to promote equality and inclusion. Today, the initiative extends to virtually every

Special Olympics sports discipline, and Unified Sports competitions have come to be an important part of the Special Olympics World Games, as well as local, state and national Games.

The concept of Unified Sports is to **brings together persons with and without intellectual disabilities**, to train and compete as teammates. Unified Sports helps athletes improve physical fitness, sharpen skills, challenge and compete and have fun in a variety of sports ranging from basketball to golf to figure skating. It helps strike bonding between players on and off the sports field. Unified Sports is considered a strong and effective tool for promoting Inclusion.

Unified Sports helps athletes: to learn new sports, enjoy new competition experiences, develop higher-level skills, experience meaningful inclusion as each athlete is ensured of playing a valued role on the team, socialise and make new friends through the Unified Sports forum of positive social interaction between teammates, interact with the community and gives them choices outside of the Special Olympics.

Pathway children were present at the venue by 9.30 in the morning by the courtesy of transport and lunch being organized by the organizers. and participated in all the events .

The children came back home with 9 gold medals, 5 silver medals and 6 bronze.





## ARULIN MOZHI OR THE VOICE OF GRACE – PERFORMANCE GIVEN BY 200 DIFFERENTLY ABLED



Pathway believes 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 too. Pathway joins hands with this wonderful organisation known as RASA to allow our children to grow in this sphere. RASA is a unique organization which focuses on the holistic development of each individual through experiences of music, dance, drama, story telling, Arts and Crafts. This structured methodology is called Theatre for Holistic Development (THD), and was developed by Rasa's Founder-Director, Dr. Ambika Kameshwar, after intensive research and successful application. They believe in the unconditional sharing of love between the 'able' bodied and the 'dis'abled based on the belief that every single person is born with tremendous potential and to fulfill a specific purpose

Children at the Pathway Chennai centre were absolutely ecstatic about the final creative drama which was fast approaching on the 28th February 2019. Past seven months they had been practising twice a week . A total number of 31 participants were chosen for the above. In total there were 7 organisations drawn from the city totalling to around 200 children for the dance drama The preliminaries were conducted twice before the D-Day. Excitement and the sparkle in their eyes was a sight to behold. As the day approached the confidence that they enthused was remarkable. They behaved like a professional



troupe going to perform. An audience of more than 1500 was expected to witness this beautiful production.

The day did dawn. One did not need to remind the kids to have an early lunch and to get ready with their belongings to board the buses. Absolute care was taken to pack their necessary items to the last detail. They waited for the buses to roll into the campus. A wave of happiness and cheer were the indicators when their transport arrived. In a flash the kids boarded the buses trying to get the best seat possible and waited eagerly for their teachers to give the thumbs up command to the bus driver for their destined spot.

It was an half hour ride into the city. As soon as they landed they were ushered by the volunteers to the green room for their costume dressing. The teachers along with the make up artistes and the costume supplier went into action. It was going to be a mammoth task of getting 250 children into their costumes, along with the necessary jewels and hair do's and outfits. The entire place was alive with laughter, smiles and above all a confidence which would pale a professional artist. During this period of getting ready, snacks in form of biscuits, juice and burgers were supplied to the entire troupe. Every kiosk had minimum 20 to 30 children to adorn their costumes and make up. There was not a soul there who wasn't busy. Each had something to add to the scenario. An hour and a half was required for this team of 60 volunteers along with the staff members to get everyone dressed.

Now it was time for the participants to wait in turn for their turn to enact on the stage. We would like to inform the reader that the event was termed as ARULIN MOZHI- meaning- THE VOICE OF GRACE

The story is wrapped around a student from a school who willingly wanted to participate in the freedom movement. This takes us back to the time period of India before we gained freedom. This





character of student was aptly portrayed by Prasanna. As an observer here he witnesses an incident which took place in our history known as the **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre**. The story unfolds in front of him.

**Jallianwala Bagh Massacre incident took place on April 13, 1919**, in which British troops fired on a large crowd of unarmed Indians in an open space known as the Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar in the Punjab region (now in Punjab state) of India, killing several hundred people and wounding many hundreds more. It marked a turning point in India's modern history, in that it left a permanent scar on Indo-British relations and was the prelude to Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi's full commitment to the cause of Indian nationalism and independence from Britain.

During World War I (1914–18) the British government of India enacted a series of repressive emergency powers that were intended to combat subversive activities. By the war's end, expectations were high among the Indian populace that those measures would be eased and that India would be given more political autonomy. The Montagu-Chelmsford Report, presented to the British Parliament in 1918, did in fact recommend limited local self-government. Instead, however, the government of India passed what became known as the Rowlatt Acts in early 1919, which essentially extended the repressive wartime measures.



The acts were met by widespread anger and discontent among Indians, notably in the Punjab region. Gandhi in early April called for a one-day general strike throughout the country. In Amritsar the news that prominent Indian leaders had been arrested and banished from that city sparked violent protests on April 10, in which soldiers fired upon civilians, buildings were looted and burned, and angry mobs killed several foreign nationals and severely beat a Christian missionary. A force of several dozen troops commanded by Brig.

Gen. Reginald Edward Harry Dyer was given the task of restoring order. Among the measures taken was a ban on



public gatherings.

On the afternoon of April 13, a crowd of at least 10,000 men, women, and children gathered in the Jallianwala Bagh, which was nearly completely enclosed by walls and had only one exit. It is not clear how many people there were protesters who were defying the ban on public meetings and how many had come to the city from the surrounding region to celebrate Baisakhi, a spring festival. Dyer and his soldiers arrived and sealed off the exit. Without warning, the troops opened fire on the crowd, reportedly shooting hundreds of rounds until they ran out of ammunition. It is not certain how many died in the bloodbath, but, according to one official report, an estimated 379 people were killed, and about 1,200 more were wounded. After they ceased firing, the troops immediately withdrew from the place, leaving behind the dead and wounded.

The shooting was followed by the proclamation of martial law in the Punjab that included public floggings and other humiliations. Indian outrage grew as news of the shooting and subsequent British actions spread throughout the subcontinent. The Bengali poet and Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore renounced the knighthood that he had received in 1915. Gandhi was initially hesitant to act, but he soon began organizing his first large-scale and sustained nonviolent protest (*satyagraha*) campaign, the noncooperation movement (1920–22), which thrust him to prominence in the Indian nationalist struggle.

The government of India ordered an investigation of the incident (the Hunter Commission), which in 1920 censured Dyer for his actions and ordered him to resign from the military. Reaction in Britain to the massacre was mixed, however. Many condemned Dyer's actions—including Sir Winston Churchill, then secretary of war, in a speech to the House of Commons in 1920—but the House of Lords praised Dyer and gave him a sword inscribed with the motto "Saviour of the Punjab." In addition, a large fund was raised by Dyer's sympathizers and presented to him. The Jallianwala Bagh site in Amritsar is now a national monument.

After watching the above scene our student character in this play has last minute thought of whether to join the freedom fight movement or not.. He was totally confused and was fighting with his inner conscience whether to be a part of this movement or nor not. At this juncture he was advised to meet the saint Ramana where he was asked to join the ashram.

The entire drama was enacted by our troupe of these amazing children who had so seriously and dedicatedly taken up their roles which is evident in the pictures. To name a few of these children who participated in this great production were Gowri, Devi, Beena. Rani, Vani, Anitha, Taj Nisha, Tharun Raj, Arun, Muthu, Vartharajan, Karthik, Manoj, Tamilmani, Shivachander, Prathap, Chandru, Madhavan, Dhanakashmi, Joshwa, Bharath, Naveen, Devendran, Mohammed Salim, Jerin etc





## AWARENESS RALLY



The District child Protection unit Organized a Mass Awareness Rally 5th March 2019 at Collectorate office on the topic POCSO Act 2012 and Child Protection, JJ act 2015 and Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao around 8:30 am. A total of 5 Staffs participated in this meaningful event. Pathway has been supporting every Act which enables the safety of children under its care. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (translation: Save the daughter, educate the daughter) is a campaign of the Government of India that aims to generate awareness and improve the efficiency of welfare services intended for girls in India.

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 has come into force from 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and repeals the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2015 was passed by Lok

Sabha on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2015; was passed by Rajya Sabha on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2015 and received Presidential assent on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015.

The JJ Act, 2015 provides for strengthened provisions for both children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law. Some of the key provisions include: change in nomenclature from 'juvenile' to 'child' or 'child in conflict with law', across the Act to remove the negative connotation associated with the word "juvenile"; inclusion of several new definitions such as orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children; and petty, serious and heinous offences committed by children; clarity in powers, function and



responsibilities of Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) and Child Welfare Committee (CWC); clear timelines for inquiry by Juvenile Justice Board (JJB); special provisions for heinous offences committed by children above the age of sixteen year; separate new chapter on Adoption to streamline adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children; inclusion of new offences committed against children; and mandatory registration of Child Care Institutions.

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 deals with sexual offences against persons below 18 years of age, who are deemed as children. The Act for the first time, defines "penetrative sexual assault", "sexual assault" and "sexual harassment". The offence is considered graver if



it is committed by a police officer, public servant, any member of the staff at a remand home, protection or observation home, jail, hospital or educational institution, or by a member of the armed or security forces. The Act has come into force on the 14th of November, 2012, along with the rules framed thereunder. The Act is a comprehensive law to provide for the protection of children from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography, while safeguarding the interests of the child at every stage of the judicial process by incorporating child-friendly mechanisms for reporting, recording of evidence,



investigation and speedy trial of offences through appointment of Special Public Prosecutors and designated Special Courts. The Act incorporates child friendly procedures for reporting, recording, investigation and trial offences. The Act provides for stringent punishments which have been graded as per the gravity of offence.

The staff who took part in the above rally were- Ms Priya, Mr Vijayarajan, Bharat, Beena, Prasanna and Ashirwadam

## PATHWAY EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR 2018



Pathway Centre for Rehabilitation & Education of Intellectually Disabled, Chennai

Another memorable day was etched in Pathways diary in the form of Pathway Excellence Award on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 for the year 2018.

Preparations were made way ahead for this

prestigious function. We were looking forward to receive our august guests from abroad namely- Mr Jean-Luc Butel, President of K8 Global and Senior Advisor for McKinsey & Company, Independent Director of Varian Medical Systems and Takeda Pharmaceutical and our Indian counterparts Mr Karthikeyan





Ganesan -Founder-Director of Sristi Village Foundation, Dr Susan Hilton -Medical Director/Managing Director of Rising Star Outreach of India Mr Raghuram P-HOD, Dept. of Occupational Therapy of Sri Ramachandra University and Mr Narendran N - Regional Manager , TMB . We definitely missed our other wonderful supporters who though were absent physically were in true spirits with us. This programme was attended by children and staff of all our centres, The Community Based Rehabilitation group, parents, well wishers and ofcourse the Pathway Alumni group.

The Pathway Excellence award was conferred in an impressive but a simple function recently at Pamela Martinez-Pathway Agro farm for children, Kancheepuram district. The venue was tastefully decorated with colorful 'Shamiana' with a large newly constructed 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 eight 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 from the 50 applications received 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 Pathway believes in the following quote regarding education irrespective of any odds beautifully said by Malala- "Let us pick up our books and our pens," I said. "They are our most powerful weapons. One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world." — Malala Yousafzai,

Pathway is dedicated to serve the poorest of the poor and as Prasad says " CONVERTING THE LIABILITY IN TO ASSET". Pathway strongly believes in the famous Chinese saying" Give a bowl of rice to a man and you will feed him for a day. Teach him how to grow his own rice and you will save his life" this is exactly what Pathway is doing, educating children so that they can become independent.

It is indeed a great day for Pathway and me. Pathway after it's inception in the year 1975, with just two children has touched the lives of more than 40,500 children and adults with various needs. Our organization has been working with children and adults with mental retardation, cerebral Palsy, autism and related dysfunctions with great zeal from the past 43 years.

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 7 meritorious awardees were present to receive the honours along with two special staff from Chennai centre. 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 7 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, Pathway Chennai Centre and also the Sabin – Pathway centre. These children have not just performed well in their studies despite various challenges in their life, but also in various vocations. Some children have done exceptionally well in their scholastic performance, each one of them hailing from different parts of Tamil Nadu have performed with great zeal despite struggles. Each one of them have scored over 90% in almost every subject. Every one of them are first generation school goers and children of illiterates . Many of these children's background are highly challenging. Each awardee child received a garland, shawl, certificate, medal and a cash award.

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 [to two candidates]

The Pathway A D S N Prasad Excellence Award

The Pathway- William P Benac Excellence Award

The Pathway-Jean-Luc Butel Excellence Award

The Pathway -Pamela – Alex Martinez 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 first award being in the founder of Pathway's name --The Pathway Dr A D S N Prasad Excellence Award in honor of Dr A D S N PRASAD who believed and had an overwhelming desire to help children with or without disabilities .He believed in a bright future and most of all in happiness of a child. This very prestigious award is being awarded to **ARUNA**, Aruna, a young talented girl child. is studying in Govt. Higher Secondary School at ENDATHUR not far from here. Science being her favourite. has kindled her ambition to become a Doctor. Her father passed away untimely when she was studying in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, leaving her mother -a Tailor by profession and the only bread winner of her family. Though she was born in a poor family; she has achieved many awards. She has received 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize in State level for inspire award, 4th place in state level Chief





Minister's Cultural competition, and 4th place in quiz competition at state level.. She has participated in various other competitions and receives a Govt. Scholarship to aid her further studies. We encourage her to achieve more. Pathway salutes this great achiever .



The Pathway Judge William Sheffield excellence Award was given in honor of judge William Sheffield who sees pathway as an institution where he truly sees essence of a child and where miracles happen. He also believes that all roads always lead to pathway. this award was conferred on N VIGNESH. Vignesh is our alumni student, who has studied from LKG to 10<sup>th</sup> grade. He lost his father when he was 4yrs old; and his mother raised 3 children in extreme poverty. As he is a first child he wanted to study well and provide for his family. Today he is a budding journalist and working with us. He owes his credit to Dr. ADSN Prasad who not only is his inspiration but fondly referred as DAD. Pathway takes pride in honouring this special young man. Pathway is proud to honour this great achiever.



The Pathway-Gary Sabin Excellence Award was bestowed onto two very special differently abled children-----the first being DEVENDRAN.... Devendran has won this excellence award-2019 for his amazing talent in making Paper mats which have contributed in making our nativity set. He joined PATHWAY in 2018. And has already become a resourceful person. Born in a very poor family with one younger sister studying 5<sup>th</sup> std Devendran has shown and chosen to walk on the untread road. I mention this because with all his challenges he has completed tenth grade which will now enable him to get a job at Pathway. We are extremely proud of this young man



The next special child being NAVEEN an autistic teenager. We at Pathway have discovered his very uncanny talent of molding clay into any object that he sees in fraction of a second. Born on 2003, as a normal child, at the age of 3 he was diagnosed with ASD . Today with all these labels Naveen has made a mark in his own right and established to not only his parents but also the outside world that he too is a force to reckon with. Ladies and gentlemen and everyone



seated here kindly give him a huge round of applause. We are proud to have him and feel blessed that we are a part of his journey.

The next prestigious award was given in honor of **Pamela and Alex Martinez** who have not just given this beautiful piece of land that we are enjoying today but also are currently supporting our facility and are our supporting pillar. They run an organization today known as A Brighter Path which is a Human Services Supporting Organization in Capo Beach, California. This great award was awarded to SOWMYA L who is based in Kancheepuram district. Sowmya has won this Pathway Excellence award for her academics. She has scored 1<sup>st</sup> place in 10<sup>th</sup> & 12 grades among 151 students in the Govt. School. She has trudged kms Every day using her bicycle to reach her school. This young lady though hailing from very poor background but loving parents dreamt about being a doctor. Not being able to get selected for the same she has aimed now to be a pharmacist and help people in her own way. We salute her for her courage and wish the almighty showers her with choicest blessings for a better future we at pathway acknowledge her efforts .

The next award was in the name of **WILLIAM P BENAC**. He is not just a supporter of pathway but his entire family has served pathway over years in different ways. We are indeed indebted to him. Brother Benac has been an active member and Bishop in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We are proud to say that he has retired from his lucrative job and is now working as a supporter full time for pathway. In his honor we conferred this award on R Ebenezer from Rising Star Outreach Ebenezer is a quiet and handsome boy from the Krishnagiri Leprosy Colony. He joined Rising star in the 3rd grade. And now finishing 11<sup>th</sup> grade, studying Commerce and Computer Science His grandfather Gopal is a leprosy patient. His father G.Raja is a Painter and mother R.Nirmala is a homemaker. Mr. Raja has problem in his right eye and he is visually impaired. He is the only breadwinner of the family.. He is also doing Computer Automation Course, which being a one year Vocational Training Course. is sponsored by the Directorate of Skills Development Program, Government of India. He has learnt MS Office, basic computer skills and received the







Vocational Training Certificate, which is valid for registering in the District Employment Office. His future plans include studying Master of Business Administration and work in a bank

The final award was in the name of **JEAN-LUC BUTEL**. A French gentleman whom I met in 1996, never even imagined would be one more strong pillar of pathway. Not just for a year but three decades till date along with his family have volunteered here. We salute this wonderful soul who is today the global healthcare advisor for k8 in Singapore. He provides guidance, support and expertise in broad areas of health care. Jean-Luc also serves as a Senior Advisor to the McKinsey's Health Care practice. We are honoured to know him. This award was conferred **ANAND RAJ** is the next candidate for Pathway Excellence Award. He hails from Sristi Foundation Being a person with Cerebral Palsy and having added disabilities Anandraj has shown what passion and determination can do., Today he is working as a Member Associate in sristi foundation for the last five years much to the delight of his mentor- mr Karthikeyan Ganesan.

We also added special awards to this function by adding and recognising some of our staff at the CHENNAI centre namely our best Public relation officer Mrs Indira Achutan She has been working tirelessly over the years. Its not just her but her children and today her grandchildren who too are contributing to the growth of Pathway. We salute such a lady and pray to the Almighty to give her more strength and to continue with the same zeal and enthusiasm. The second award was presented to Mr Kannan who holds the post of a driver He has driven us safe over years covering thousands of kms to and fro between the centres which has aided us to do more work . His ever smiling face and always a positive YES has allowed us to do more beyond the call of duty We are blessed to have such a fine person in our midst.

A variety of cultural programme from all the centres was presented for the benefit of the audience. We started with remembering our founder - Dr Prasad's birthday. Starting with a hymn we moved on to showcase some









programmes for our audience which included a welcome dance by tiny tots, a classical bharatnatyam dance by Haripriya, Reena, and Dhivyapriya. Our Sabin adults performed a mime depicting the effects of Pollution and finally the Chennai centre special children presented the folk dance on Harvest.

The audience also witnessed a small video presentation of our agriculture work, preparation of our new found NATIVITY product and the school events for the year.

Chandra Prasad, Hony Director and Chief Functionary, Pathway, described briefly the work done by the organization for the disabled from the past 43 years and has also outlined contribution made by Pamela Martinez school and orphanage and the Agro Farm, and Chennai Centre. She said nearly 40,500 lives have been touched by Pathway over these years.

The vote of thanks was conveyed by our Vice- President Mr Abhijeet Parekh. He conveyed his grateful thanks to Judge William Sheffield, Gary Sabin, Spencer P, David Haslam, William and Barbara Benac, Pamela and Alex Martinez, Jean-Luc Butel and Jim and Karen Dossdall for their long association and for their great contributions. He also thanked all the special invitees, friends, well-wishers, doctors, staff, children, press and people from the community who were responsible for making this great event a memorable one.

## NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS 2019

The United Nations General Assembly announced 2nd April as World Autism Awareness Day in 2008. Since then the UN, with a number of other organisations have worked to spread information about Autism Spectrum Disorder which affects a major portion of population across the globe. This day aims at making healthcare and technology more accessible to people living with autism. However, the main aim of celebrating World Autism Awareness Day is to make sure that no one, including people living with autism, are left behind.

Autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder of variable severity which causes disruption in communication and





social interaction. The disorder is also characterized through repetitive behaviour and thoughts. On 2nd April every year we observe the



World Autism Awareness Day to spread information about Autism Spectrum Disorder and help the global ASD population lead a healthy social life. The UN Department Of Global Communication and Department Of Economic and Social Affairs is the main organization responsible for shaping this day. A number of other organisations working for the people with ASD are also associated with WAAD.

The theme of World Autism Awareness Day 2019 was 'Assistive Technologies. Active Participation' is the theme for WAAD 2019. The theme is derived keeping in mind that technology plays an integral role in the development of people with any form of disability including autism. Not only is technology important for development, it also ensures that people with disabilities enjoy their basic human rights and helps them tackle any issues they face as a member of the society.



However, this theme also highlights the fact that assistive technologies are expensive and inaccessible to a large population living with autism. There is also a lack of guidance about the usage of assistive technologies and their efficiency throughout the globe.

As a theme of WAAD 2019, the United Nations at its headquarters in New York will discuss the engagement of assistive technologies for people



living with autism as a tool to remove any barriers which may hamper their complete participation in the

social, political and economic aspects of the society. It will also focus on the use of technology to promote equality, equity and inclusion. Topics to be addressed through discussions with self-advocates and experts at UN today include:

- ❖ The Internet and digital communities: Leveling the playing field
- ❖ Independent living: Smart home technology and more
- ❖ Education and employment: Communication and executive functioning
- ❖ Telemedicine: Opening the doors to healthcare
- ❖ The right to be heard: Political participation and advocacy

According to the World Health Organisation one out of every 160 children is living with autism. However, there is a lack of awareness about this disorder on a whole. People living with ASD are prone to problems relating to communication and social interaction. These issues can be tackled successfully if ASD is detected at a young age and thereof managed-well. Through WAAD, United Nations aims to raise awareness about ASD. It aims to help people detect the signs of autism in children at an early age and to fight the discrimination faced by people on the spectrum.

What's more, World Autism Awareness Day goes one step further to celebrate the unique talents of those with autism, while putting a huge focus on the warm embrace and welcome that these skills deserve through community events around the globe. regarding. this above mentioned event was given importance by our staff and children who tried to spread awareness of the same. A parents meet was held to highlight about the meaning and the term Autism. To mark this wonderful day competitions were held in drawing which is shown below. This special day was also marked by children donning blue color clothes and waving blue balloons.

We have also participated in the drawing competition held by VIEWS FROM PLANET AUTISM GROUP which has been sent to Delhi where these selected artworks will be up for exhibition from April 15-17 at Open Palm Court Gallery, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The title of our artwork is as follows





## OUR 3D CREATION IN QUILLING



Like many forms of craft, paper quilling can trace its origins back hundreds of years to at least the 15th century (maybe earlier). During the Renaissance, French and Italian nuns and monks used quilling to decorate book covers and religious items. The paper most commonly used was strips of paper trimmed from the gilded edges of books. These gilded paper strips were then rolled to create the quilled shapes.

Paper quilling is a **decorative art** and is known for things like fancy flourishes and florals. Because of this reputation, it's commonly used on things like greeting cards, boxes, jewelry, and more.

Quilling is the art of taking thin strips of colored paper, rolling them into a coil, pinching them to form a shape and then gluing the shapes together to create paper designs and objects. Quilling is an inexpensive craft that once you try, you'll be tempted to make your next hobby. All you need is paper and glue to make things that are both pretty to look at as well as stunning in design.

Though our Vocational Group has been involved in doing quilling from the last few years, we decided to do something different this year. The basic quilling was already being practiced by the children but the urge to make something new and unique was playing on our mind.

We have skimmed through the web to see if we could get some ideas to add to our creation. But the inner urge to create something different has always been our hallmark

With the creation of newspaper nativity our director- Chandra Prasad decided to employ the same technique to these beautiful dolls by replacing the newspaper with quilling. Though the idea was not feasible at that time we decided to give it a try.

Chandra whose passion has been to create new unique products especially to be created by these special hands worked over her new thought for months to realise her dream. Patterns were being chalked out and the different groups were given quilling strips to create some basic patterns. Special aids and teaching methods were employed. The children were also taught to use the battery operated tool which came in handy since we had to make thousands of the basic shapes.

Once Chandra felt comfortable and believed that she could convert her dream into reality the first doll's template featuring the king from the nativity was set on trial run. As the king's dress started shaping we realized that we were on the path of a unique creation. The basic doll structure was maintained as we did in the newspaper nativity creation except for spraying it with pure white acrylic paint finish. The dresses made the difference and slowly the creation unfolded its royalty.

The next step was to create the other doll's dresses depending on the character. Colours were carefully chosen to create the same. Lot of ingenuity was applied in creating these dresses along with their accessories.

The main challenge came when we had to design the camel and the sheep. Various techniques were tried and finally our sheep and camel came to life. This is a wonderful example of a tutor and taught involvement where they learn from each other.

The sheep turned out to be real adorable and the camel showed royal lineage with his head held high feeling princely.

It is a treat to watch the efforts of the Sabin group adults, Chennai Vocational children's efforts, their trust and faith in what we make them do. There are more than 50 children and staff involved in making this first most enchanting set of nativity. We hope this will give more motivation and the confidence in the children's abilities that can create wonders if one decides to believe in the word ABILITY more than DISABILITY.

## RESIN WORK OUR RESIN ART WORLD



After the creation of our quilled nativity the sabin group and Chennai vocational kids wanted to try something yet more different. There has always been a healthy competition between these groups.

The children from the Chennai centre had visited the farm and met their peer group during the harvest time. It was wonderful to sit down watching the sunset and feeling the stock of grains gently blowing and swaying to the tune of the wind. The fresh breath of air and the lovely aroma fills your nostrils and you wish that time would stand still.

They were all seated around the edge of the field and enjoying each other's company and sharing their simple views of life as well as work. During the talk the group which had not seen the



rice grain stock Kirish proudly showed them what a rice stalk looks like and when the grains are removed from them. Eager friends gathered round to see these unpolished grains of rice with their husk on. Each one wanted to feel and actually remove the husk to reveal the rice grain inside. Their simple joy and expression of glee would gladden any heart.

Some them commented that they would like to take a few grains back home to show it to their other peer groups.

I happened to listen to their talk and suggested they could carry handful back home. It was at this point that I realised that we could showcase these grains if I could come up with an idea of keeping them pest free. By then the sun was setting and we all decided to walk back to our quarters for rest. My hand was clutching two of these stock grains and invariably I laid it down on the dining table to freshen up and set the table for dinner. On my return I noticed the grains had made a pretty pattern on my glass topped dining table. A look of surprise and happiness burst in my inner self. I was pleased with my idea of using these grains in our jewellery products. The thought of RESIN flooded my mind. It took a while before I could drift off to sleep and share my thoughts with others in the morning.



Thus was born the idea of using Resin to make various pendants, bangles etc with embedding our produce much to our delight. Now we had mementos and tiny artifacts which we could have as keepsakes or sell.

The group was as excited as me and I decided to check out the market for sourcing out the best raw material I could find. Finally we were able to procure a box of RESIN which had a ratio of 1:1 between clear epoxy resin and hardener. We used cheap disposable plastic cup along with some icecream sticks for stirring. Every time for any project safety measures and procedures are always followed. Plastic wrap along with gloves were added to our list. Instructions were followed to the last detail and we made our first basic shapes embedding the rice grains.

They turned out to be a huge success and Pathway unit had made yet another stride in the world of Vocation for these special children. We are proud to have made quality items which will give a run to the normal community too.

After our basic trial run we have entered the RESIN WORLD to create more and more variations and unique products using this wonder material.

The staff and children of both the centres have given their team effort which makes learning a very unique and pleasurable activity.



## DENGUE: CAUSES, SYMPTOMS & PREVENTION



Dengue is caused by the bite of one of the many types of mosquitoes in the genus *Aedes Aegypti*, which has white stripes on their bodies and legs. It is caused when the mosquito has previously bitten a person who was infected. The pathway which is followed in case of the incidence of dengue is 'infected person to mosquito to another person'.

The mosquito-borne viral disease dengue has become one of the worst nightmares of the country. Also called 'breakbone fever' or 'dandy

fever', it is caused by a family of viruses and is transmitted via *aedes* mosquitoes. Dengue begins suddenly, with more benign symptoms at first but which may get severe with time. The symptoms of the disease show in three to seven, and sometimes fifteen, days. They include fever, headache, joint and muscle pain, swollen lymph nodes and rashes. Recovery from dengue does not take over a week unless the condition gets severe. Mostly asymptomatic, if the condition gets critical, dengue can be life-threatening. The fever of dengue can attack anyone but those with weaker immunity are more prone to the disease getting severe when they are attacked. As it is caused by any of the five serotypes of the *aedes aegypti*, also called the yellow fever mosquito, dengue can happen multiple times to the same person. However, the person acquires immunity to the particular viral serotype which has already attacked him. A more severe form of dengue is dengue hemorrhagic fever. The symptoms of dengue hemorrhagic fever include headache, rashes and fever besides bleeding in the body (haemorrhage), formation of red splotches on the skin, black coloured stool, bleeding in gums or nose and a weakened immunity. Dengue hemorrhagic fever is life threatening and can lead to dengue shock syndrome, which is as severe and fatal.



Hearing about this dreaded condition we at Pathway immediately set out on war footing. Basically everybody was educated on the type of mosquito which cause this deadly viral infection which when not treated could lead to death. The dengue mosquito (dengue Machar) *Aedes aegypti* is one of the only few type of mosquitoes that spread dengue disease.

Every adult staff was briefed to report any warning signs of children like –



- Refusing to accept oral fluids or vomiting
- Sleepy or restless
- Bleeding of the nose and gums, especially gastro-intestinal bleeding with fresh or old blood in the vomit or stool. Old blood in the vomit looks like ground coffee ground; in the stool may be black like coal tar.
- Abdominal pain
- Skin mottling, cold sweating skin or cold hands and feet. Absence of urine in the last 6 hours

They were also informed about the basic treatment though there is no specific treatment like most viral infections, , only simple supportive care with fluids. No antibiotics are needed to treat this viral infection.

They were advised to Bring the temperature down since a very high temperature can be dangerous and can cause fits in young children known as febrile convulsions. To bring down high fever to below 39 deg C, gently sponge the child with cloth soaked in water and give paracetamol was suggested.. Avoid certain drugs, for example, aspirin, NSAIDs (not steroidal inflammatory drugs such as ibuprofen) which can worsen platelet problems and also cause gastritis leading to bleeds.

The mainstay of treatment is timely supportive therapy with fluids, oral or Intravenous route. Shock can be detected

clinically by the degree of rise in hemoglobin as the fluid leaks into body spaces.

Increased oral fluid intake is recommended. Always use oral fluids if one is able to drink.

Supplementation with intravenous fluids may be necessary if the patient is unable to maintain oral intake and / or is in shock.

Close monitoring in this critical period is crucial.

Blood products will be needed only if the patient is bleeding, usual site of bleed is the gut.

Our doctors were consulted and they all agreed that tests of platelets, hemoglobin, coagulation profile, liver enzymes. and some specific tests to detect Dengue can be taken for safety reasons.

Every member of Pathway was educated on keeping their environment clean, any open storage of water was discouraged. We also took upon ourselves to install steel mosquito meshes throughout all the centres to avoid any casualty.

We are proud to report that except for high temperatures that we witnessed in many children, we were able to contain this dreaded viral infection and apart from a few staff who needed hospitalization everybody scathed out without any serious damage. Keeping our childrens health priority we also got the government to fumigate our centres along with educating our kids through skits, talks and animation clips. Our children were also educated on identifying this mosquito by way of pictures and models. During this season light





color clothes with full sleeves was one more precaution taken. Early diagnosis Early treatment with fluids and Close monitoring became our motto.

## 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 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018. With a drastic decline in the number of polio cases across the country the government decided to complete oral polio vaccination in one phase. 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 are marked with ink on their left little finger.

In 2019, TamilNadu is stepping into 15<sup>th</sup> polio free year. As per Dr K Kolandasamy, the director of Public Health, this is possible because of successful implementation of pulse polio campaign We need to sustain this polio free status and protect a children from any possible transmission of wild polio virus according to him.



Children below the age of five years are administered polio vaccine by the Tamil Nadu government. The pulse polio vaccination, was inaugurated 10<sup>th</sup> March as part of a nationwide campaign, and involved nearly two lakh public health personnel, Integrated Child Development Services, education and other government departments and volunteers were roped in for the campaign supported by UNICEF, WHO and Rotary International.. As part of the drive, around 43,051 immunisation booths were set up across the state in primary health

centers, government hospitals, noon meal centers and schools including our centres which functioned from 7am to 5pm. The state also operated 1,000 mobile booths for children living in remote and inaccessible areas and localities that have a migrant population and atleast 1652 transit booths which functioned at major bus stands, railway stations, toll plazas, checkpoints and airports.



## OUR AMAZING TERRACE GARDEN



Gardening with children who have special needs is indeed a very rewarding experience. Creating and maintaining the ornamental plants and vegetables, plants has long been recognized as being therapeutic. Over these years of experience we feel that it is a tool to help these special children to develop necessary skills and in turn enjoy the fruit of success not just by money but also by being in nature. Our terrace garden idea was first started by the help of two then student volunteers from USA namely Bill Benac junior and Tim Fewkes. This very worthwhile thought project has yielded today a number of years of happiness in the children's life. Their motor skills have improved, working in a group has increased their social and personal skills which has culminated in further self confidence building.

We have also observed that the children have shown less aggressiveness and reduced stress and tension. Every year of work has only reaped more benefits from every angle. This year we decided to use some gardening kits designed by the Govt of TamilNadu. We needed to apply online directly to the Horticulture Department. We procured more than 15 kits costing a reasonable rate.

The Kit has the following components:

1. 20 Sealed Polythene grow bags ( size 24×18 inches) with 2Kg Coco peat / bag
  2. Polythene spreading sheet, 4×4mt (400gsm)
  3. Water soluble fertilizer
  4. Bio fertilizers
  5. Bio pesticide
  6. Bio fungicides
  7. Hand sprayer (1lit)
  8. Rose cane(5lit)
  9. Digging fork (Small)
  10. Trowel
  11. Seedling trays
  12. Vegetable seed kit(10 kinds)
  13. DIY kit
- Manual booklet





After going through the manual thoroughly the vocation staff did a task analysis and broke the steps further down to help children understand the concepts and work in the garden. We decided to grow more of vegetables this year in comparison to flowers and fruit trees saplings this year. The aim was to have year round supply of fresh fruits and vegetables., To reduce expenditure on purchase of fruits and vegetables, Effectively utilizing space available at the roof top and supplying toxic free fruits and vegetables., with benefit of growing ones own favourite vegetables. Also allowing Space to grow unavailable vegetables in the roof garden.



Once done we had to rework on the outlay. This led to to us rearranging the nursery to give it a added dimension and think of new plants which can be experimented and planned for.

As per the provided kit we received the following vegetable seeds like

<b>Brinjal</b>	<b>5gm.</b>
<b>Tomato</b>	<b>55m</b>
<b>Chillies</b>	<b>5gm</b>
<b>Bhendi</b>	<b>20gm</b>
<b>Cluster beans</b>	<b>20gm</b>
<b>Bush beans</b>	<b>20gm</b>
<b>Raddish</b>	<b>20gm</b>
<b>Amaranthus</b>	<b>100gm</b>
<b>Coriander</b>	<b>100gm</b>

Ash blocks were bought and rearranged in a new pattern to allow proper drainage and accessibility for children to grow their favourite plants. The choice was

varied since it involved a group. Each one had their favourite and this interest was used as a motivator to be a part of this gardening club. Apart from our usual Bonsais, orchids, pineapples, egg plant, tomatoes all types of greens, green chillies, sapota, lemon, Roses, Jasmine, Bougainvillea, Litchi, Orange apple, Cactus, Crotons, Papaya, Drumstick,

Banana, Lxora, Curry leaves, Coriander, Rangoon creeper, Betel leaf creeper, Tulsi or Basil, Heart ring



creeper, Begonia, the list is endless the above vegetables seeds were added. This was definitely an experiment to see whether this method yielded more than what we were already doing.

As mentioned earlier the task analysis and break up of activities was planned by the staff was put into action. They took up the action of preparing the grow bag first. The sealed polythene grow bags were laid out and then the upper portion was cut just below the seal with the help of scissors. A next group led by another staff member removed the cocopeat bricks which was allowed to soak for 5 to 10 minutes in fresh water. It was like magic to the kids to watch these cocopeat bricks expanding upto 4 to 5 times their size. They were overjoyed to see this sight unfolding in front of their eyes. 4 holes were made at the side walls nearer to the bottom of the bag for



draining the excess water. The next step was to Mix the biofertilizer (Azospirillum and Phosphobacteria) and bio fungicides (Pseudomonas and Trichoderma viridi) with the compost. After adding 1 Kg of mixed compost to 1 bag of cocopeat medium, this growing medium was filled 1 inch below from the top of the plastic cover. After completing this task the children and staff attended other work since it needed 7 to 8 days for decomposition where the color would turn black.

Children waited eagerly for this time period to pass. When the day did dawn they declared the grow bags are ready for sowing or planting.

The next step in their task analysis was to separate the types of vegetable seeds into Transplanted vegetables: (For Trays) Tomato, brinjal and, chilies. and Direct sowing vegetables: Okra, clusterbean, bush lab-lab, greens, radish and coriander were separated

The Number of bags were allocated to each seed variety and depending on the instructions the pattern of sowing and planting was done,

The following was adapted-

The vegetable seeds like Okra, clusterbean, Bush lab-lab and raddish are directly sown in the growing medium and then pressed by finger. The depth of the



seed sowing was about two and a half times of the seed size and two seeds were sown. The staff instructed the students to allow the healthy seedling to grow and remove the other one after one week. For greens because of the tiny size of the seeds, 1 tablespoon was mixed with 2 parts of sand/compost and broadcasted on the growing medium. A news paper was placed flat on the surface and water was sprinkled gently. The group headed by Prasanna here were asked to remove the newspaper when germination was visible.

VEGETABLE	EACH BAG	KGS
BRINJAL	1	1.5
TOMATO	1	2
OKRA	1	5
CLUSTERBEAN	1	2
RADISH	1	1
AMARANTHUS	1	6-8 BUNDLES
CHILLIES	1	2
BUSH LAB LAB	1	2
CORIANDER	1	3BUNDLES

The next method being transplanting where the seedling for crops like brinjal, tomatoes and chillies etc., had to be raised in protrays were then transplanted in the polybags. These seeds take 30 to 35 days to be eligible for transplantation. The group incharge was Tamil Mani. In the mean time, greens were raised in the bags proposed to be planted with brinjal, tomatoes and chillies. Since the greens harvest time was a period of a month which was perfect timing for the other transplanted seedlings to grow.

And finally the Protray nursery headed by a staff with Joseph being the leader attended to it for raising vegetable seedlings. Protrays are the plug trays of 2-3" depth with a drainage hole. Initially the plugs are filled with cocopeat and one seed is sown in each plug and cover with compost or sand mixed compost. After sowing, the protray should be irrigated immediately. The protray is covered by a polyfilm till the seedlings emerge, and thereafter it is removed and exposed to sunlight up to 12 noon. There after it should move to some shady places. Most of the seedlings are ready for transplanting within one month from the date of sowing

Watering Plants was the next major issue taken up. Since we had drip irrigation we were able to manage the time and quantum of water flow since the grow bags need a lot of care and attention. The next phase was the manuring stage which would encourage root growth and the development of







vegetables, The kids were asked to fertilize only once in a week.

After 60 days when the staking phase occurred, a group of these special kids swung to action by bringing small but sturdy guava tree branches from our garden to support plants like tomato, brinjal, bush bean and clusterbean to avoid snapping or breaking during high wind.

Some children were involved in the weed Control and taught hoe to do the removal gently. This was followed by the last step of Pest and disease management by using a spray mix of garlic, ginger and chilli extract.

Our final yield has been listed below. We are confident of using this measure for more quantities now. The beauty about this nursery is that it also educates our special child, vocabulary increases, along with other skills like touch, colour and aesthetic sense etc. and concepts are benefited



## VOCATIONAL – JOB TRAINING & PLACEMENT

To meet the employment challenges of the disabled, Pathway offers the following jobs to its students: Over the years, Pathway has developed some long term, time-tested relationships with certain companies,

NO. OF JOBS	TYPE OF SKILL	LOCATION
<b>WEAVING</b>	18	CHENNAI
<b>CLEANING &amp; HOUSEKEEPING</b>	8	CHENNAI
<b>SECURITY</b>	1	CHENNAI
<b>MEDICAL UNIT</b>	1	CHENNAI
<b>JEWELLERY UNIT</b>	8	CHENNAI
<b>BAKERY</b>	8	CHENNAI
<b>HANDICRAFTS</b>	7	CHENNAI
<b>PAPER MACHE</b>	15	CHENNAI
<b>GARDENER</b>	2	CHENNAI
<b>HELPER</b>	3	CHENNAI

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, handicrafts, jewellery 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 Thiruvanniyur, 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 Dr. Sponsoring EMM of Switzerland

❖ Established under the direction late Dr. V

Shankaran, Professor of Surgery (Retd)

❖ Now located within the Pat





Centre building in Thiruvannmiyur, with funding from :

- ❖ Judge William Sheffield, USA
- ❖ Mr. Jean-Luc and Mrs. Carole Butel, USA

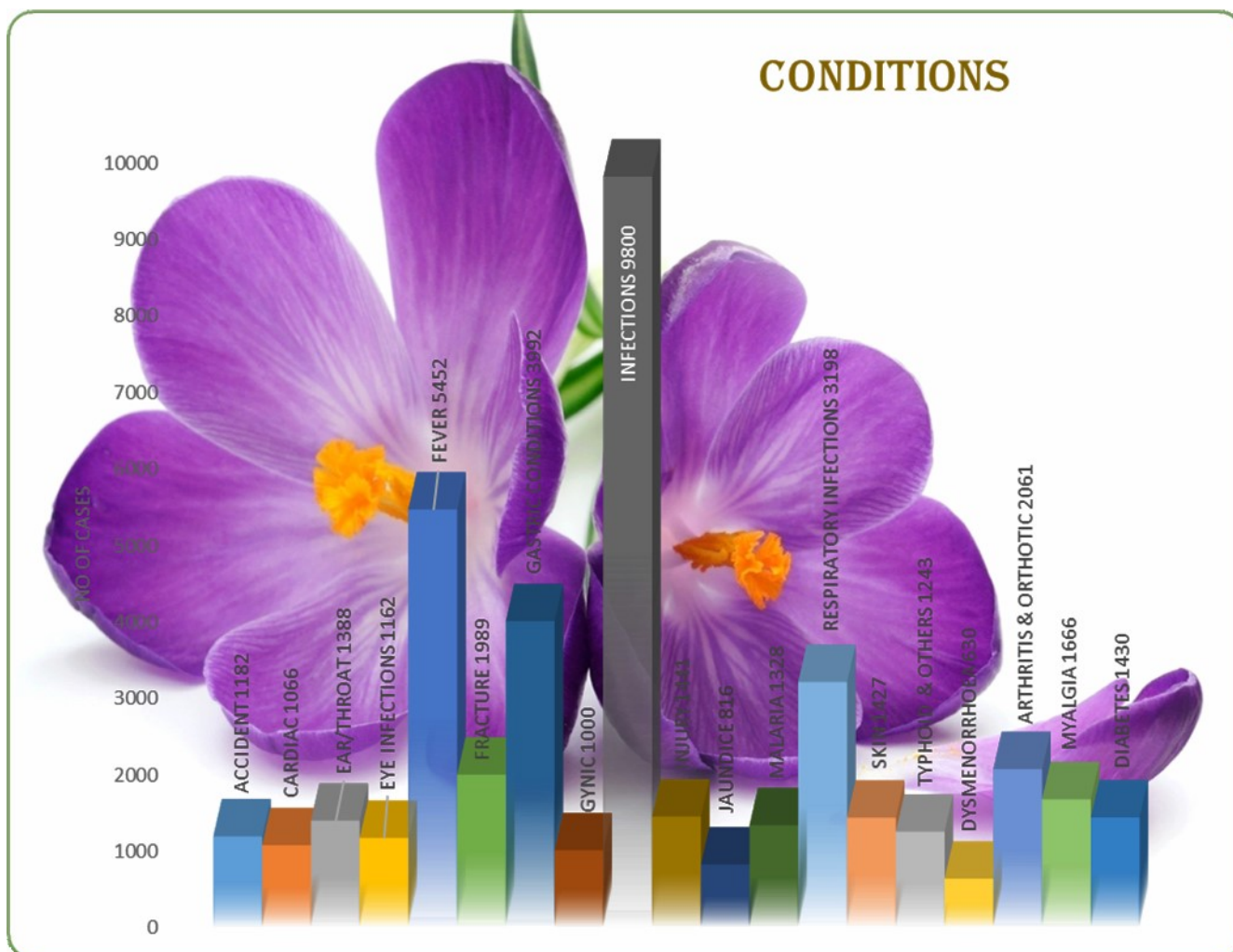
On average over 3,300 patients are treated every month at the medical facility:

- ❖ Nearly 1,200 are men.
- ❖ Over 2,100 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

Total number of cases treated is : 38,506 Men : 16,172, Women and Children : 22,332



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019



CONDITION	NO. OF CASES	CONDITION	NO. OF CASES	CONDITION	NO. OF CASES
ACCIDENT	45	EYE INFECTIONS	2504	GASTRIC CONDITIONS	2500
CARDIAC	100	FEVER	7500	GYNIC	987
EAR/THROAT	2455	FRACTURE	10	INFECTIONS	10526
JAUNDICE	545	MALARIA	350	INJURY	205
RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS	3750	SKIN	4502	TYPHOID & OTHERS	25
DYSMENORRHOEA	387	ARTHRITIS & ORTHOTIC	75	MYALGIA	1088
DIABETES	952				

## CHENNAI STAFF

Pathway currently employs a total of 49 staff members at the Chennai centre, plus 4 honorary experts

STAFF	N O.	STAFF	N O.	STAFF	N O.
SPEECH PATHOLOGIST & AUDIOLOGIST-part time	1	ASSISTANT TEACHERS	3	HELPERS	5
PEDIATRICIAN	1	OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST	1	CLEANERS	3
PHYSICIAN, SURGEON	2	YOGA INSTRUCTOR	1	ACCOUNTANT	2
DENTIST	1	PHYSIOTHERAPIST	2	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	COOK	2



## 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. We have conducted three parents teachers meet over this year

## 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. We also plan to start and participate in the CRE programmes this year.

## EDUCATING UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN FOR 25 YEARS

India's literacy rate is at 74.04%. Tripura has achieved a literacy rate of 94.65%. Bihar is the least literate state in India, with a literacy of 63.82%. Kerala has the highest literacy rate in India.

Literacy rate is one of the keys to measure socio-economic progress. For calculating effective literacy rate, population aged 7 years and above is taken into account. India had a literacy rate of around 12% at the time of independence, and through multi-tier efforts, has now attained a literacy rate of 72.99% as per 2011 census. However, the current literacy rate of India is still way below the world average of 84%.

Literacy Rate in India in 2017-2018 for the state of TamilNadu is 80.33 out of which the male literacy rate is 86.81 and female literacy rate is 73.86



Today the literacy rate in India has improved a lot, the most literate state being Kerala with 93.91% whereas the least literate state is Bihar with 63.82%. Tamil Nadu state has shown decent improvement in its literacy rate in the last 10 years beginning from 2001. More than 80% of the total population in Tamil Nadu is literates, the male counterpart showing 86.81% and the female depicting 73.86%. Government of Tamil Nadu has played a vital role in providing a better education system in the rural as well as urban areas of the state.

The current population of TamilNadu as per projection in 2018 has reached 8.24 crores

Some of the schemes introduced by the Tamil Nadu government in school education are

Computer education, Early Childhood Care and Education. Girls education, Integrated Education for the Disabled, Kasturba Gandhi Ballka Vidyalaya , Mid-day Meal Scheme, National Programme of Education



for Girls at Elementary Level, Educational satellite, Distribution of free textbooks, Distribution of free uniforms and Distribution of free bus pass. The government is continuing to give the best to its children in terms of education. But every sphere of raising standards always meets hurdles and challenges. The continuous 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 c 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. The 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 dweller fall easy prey to diseases like cholera, malaria, jaundice. During the rainy season, it is real hell for slum dwellers.

It is now more than twentyfive 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. David, who was in the 12th grade in 2015, has today successfully completed higher secondary. Some children are looking out for jobs and some are doing part time courses. Similarly, Gayathri completed her B.Com and has set out to become an account assistant and with the same degree today Kowsalya has 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.

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.

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 spite of all the good initiatives and good programmes there is still a need to educate our children through extra coaching which will help in the quality education especially where the parents are illiterate. Their offsprings face 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 0.25% in 2018. 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.





## AWARDS



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

- 🏆 Bharath Jyothi Excellence Award conferred on CHANDRA PRASAD IN THE YEAR 2018 by the National Integrity Cultural Academy under Global Achievers Council
- 🏆 Social Award on 107<sup>TH</sup> Birthday Anniversary of MOTHER TERESA by Justice S Rajeswaran and Justice M V Muralidharan of Madras High Court conferred on CHANDRA PRASAD in the year 2017
- 🏆 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

