Sastha Tamil Foundation Presents
Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas
6th Annual Fund Raising Dance Musical Event

LIVE FROM GRANVILLE ARTS CENTER
300 N 5th ST, GARLAND, TX 75040
DATE : SEPTEMBER 24, 2016
TIME : 03.00 PM

Beneficiaries

www.STFNonProfit.org
www.facebook.com/SasthaTamilFoundation
Email : STFTicketing@gmail.com

CONTACT:
Visalakshi : 214 212 3464
Radhika : 972 895 2695
Humble gratitude to our Plano Tamil School Teachers.

Thank you for your tremendous support towards Sastha Tamil Foundation and its many charitable activities as we at STF, celebrate our 6th year Anniversary.

Best Wishes to all the volunteers!

Thank you!

Proud Supporters of STF, Ramya Velu and Ramu Velu
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STF's 6th Annual Fundraising Event – Sep 24th 2016

About STF

- STF was founded in 2010 by Visalakshi Velu and Velu Raman.
- Thirukkural Competitions have been successfully conducted for 9 years now, with around 200 children reciting 7000 Thirukkurals.
- Last year, we were able to conduct a national competition at FeTNA for children all over the United States. This year, we are excited to announce our 10th annual Thirukural competition soon!!
- Avvai Amudham, Pechu Potti and Katurrai Potti have been conducted since 2014.
- In efforts to support our local community, STF has conducted Thanksgiving Basket Brigade for 8 years now, with over 60 baskets donated in 2015.
- To create a sense of contribution for our young children, STF has been conducting Child-To-Child Harmony Pen Pal Sponsorship program for 8 years now, supporting 30 Udavum Karangal children.
- STF prides in honoring accomplished industry leaders and visionaries from the Tamil community in North America for their services, stewardship and success.

Sastha Tamil Foundation (STF) is a nonprofit organization based in Dallas, Texas, USA with a mission of promoting volunteerism, serving our local community, and bringing the Tamil community together while providing quality education in Tamil language.

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## STF Fundraisers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event Title</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Aayiram Karangal Neeti Dance Drama</td>
<td>Aided to build the first phase of the psychiatric wing in Thiruvannamalai for Udavum Karanagal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Valliyin Kaadhal Dance Drama</td>
<td>Aided to build the second phase of the psychiatric wing in Thiruvannamalai for Udavum Karanagal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Anubhavam Pudhumai Musical Dance Drama</td>
<td>Aided to perform several weddings of Udavum Karangal girls, and to purchase a Sanitary Napkin making machine for the women of Udavum Karangal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Thaandavakonae Charity Musical Event</td>
<td>Aided to sponsor building up to 4 classrooms for the Ramakrishna Vidya Niketan School of Udavum Karangal, Chennai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>5i Charity Musical Event</td>
<td>With your generous support and contribution, together we will be supporting the ICU unit equipments purchasing for Gayathri Medical Mission Hospital that Udavum Karangal is building for the underprivileged in and around Thiruverkadu, Chennai.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sastha Tamil Foundation

So, what is a non-profit organization? Why do we need it? How did this one, Sastha Tamil Foundation come to existence? What does it do? How is it possible?

For sure, those who have lived here in Plano, Texas for the last decade or so, very well know about the first Tamil School in this area. As the Tamil speaking community expanded in number, there was thirst for teaching the children mother tongue. Plano Tamil School was born in 2001. From day one, this effort is running on the sheer foundation of volunteerism. It is an undeniable truth that this ancient language is versatile to reach several levels of human being – life style, morals, quest and wisdom. Naturally, a school that has taken the task of teaching a significant language has to pass on that versatility to the next generation. As a result of the continuous support from the community, Plano Tamil School started focusing on this grass root movement. How about practicing what is taught?

Sastha Tamil Foundation came into play by 2010. The remarkable team effort resulted in yearly charity events, Child to Child Harmony program, Basket Brigade and Thirukkural competition. The people who genuinely love their mother tongue, the rich heritage and life lessons are the lynchpin of this great movement. Each one of us are blessed with unique talents. A non-profit organization could never get overwhelmed with each one of those volunteer’s contribution. It grew with massive creativity, planning and execution of memorable events. Collectively, Dallas metropolis Tamil speaking community proved the value of collaboration.

Six years later, as the foundation is gearing up for this year’s event, one can see those many new faces that keep coming year after year to join their hands together for a greater cause beyond their personal life. It becomes clear that it is what a non-profit organization is all about! Where people put aside their personal agenda and work tirelessly for a worthy, common purpose and find tremendous satisfaction at the end! These are people who inspire their friends and bring them on the fold as the legacy continues! This is exactly how it is possible to be a non-profit organization with grandeur plan time and again!

As a resident, observer and participant – I wish this legacy would continue to set an example for that simple purpose with which Sastha Tamil Foundation is started. May this promise to help the less fortunate with utmost humility, continue to keep the community instilled with higher goals for generations to come! May the versatile language stand to live for another five thousand years not just as a language but as a way of life!

- By Rajeswari Prabhakaran
Dear Friends,

Greetings from all of us at Udavum Karangal! It gives me great pleasure in sending this message as all of you have once again come together for the STF’s 6th Annual Fundraiser event to extend support to the various projects of Udavum Karangal, especially those relating to the children.

In our journey of service, you are our faithful companions. Your continued support makes us work with courage and respond without hesitation to the thousands of desperate cries for help.

We work with the poorest of the poor, with those on the downward spiral of life due to mental illness, abandonment, homelessness. They lie on the road; people hurry past averting their eyes but it is our noble calling to restore their humanity.

In all our ventures to make a positive difference in their lives, you have supported us. The Auditorium in Ramakrishna Vidya Niketan is a great place for the school celebrations and other Community activities. Ramana Rehabilitation Centre in Thiruvannamalai gives refuge and treatment to men and women affected by mental illness. The Flood Relief made a big difference to poor people who had lost everything during the heavy rains last November and December. On behalf of all the beneficiaries we convey our heart-felt thanks.

The Feather on the Cap is the Child to Child Harmony (C2C) Programme which has given an impetus to the children of Udavum Karangal in helping them speak their mind with their peers who are pen pals from the children of the STF Community. This is a major breakthrough in bonding human relationship on a secular mode.

The construction of the Gayathri Medical Mission Hospital is progressing. For the people of Thiruverkadu where the hospital is located, it will be a big boon. Medical care is expensive and is beyond the reach of the poor. The GMM hospital will definitely improve the quality of their life. Thank you for sponsoring the ICU equipments.

Your program 5go, will definitely have an impact and convey the message of caring for the Earth. We appreciate all your initiatives. What a Creative way to be charitable! We wish you success.

With Thanks and God’s Blessings,

With sincere appreciation and Wishes from the children and residents of Udavum Karangal!

Regards,

S. Vidyaakar

Head Office: Udavum Karangal, Chennai # 460, N.S.K. Nagar, Chennai – 600106, India
Phone: +91-44-2621 6321, 2621 6421, 262 22161; Fax: +91-44-2626 7624;
Locations: Chennai, Coimbatore, Thiruvannamalai, Madurai
Email: Udavum@vsnl.com Website: www.udavumkarangal.org
At the outset I would like to extend my gratitude to Sastha Tamil Foundation (STF) for giving me the opportunity to present 5i (Ainthu I) a dance drama on September 24th, 2016. My name is Kalpana Ravishankar and I run a dance school “Eshwar Natyalaya” in Plano, Texas. I have been studying ancient Tamil literatures searching concepts and themes for a theatrical presentation. In the literatures that referenced the lifestyle of ancient Tamil’s in the five forms, I found an opportunity to conceive a theatrical presentation and also in the process could unearth the that fact the this is not a mere concept but was a representation of life style, culture and discipline of Tamils in those periods. Coincidentally STF gave me the opportunity to present a dance drama and I pitched this concept around the five forms that was to my delight accepted by STF. I further developed this concept, narration and presentation to convey this core message in form of a dance drama.

The songs in this program are based on ancient Tamil literature has been written by Dr. Raghu Raman a popular lyricist from Chennai and a Professor. The music has been composed and rendered exclusively for this production by Mrs. Vanathi Raghu Raman. I would like to take this opportunity to convey my sincere thanks to these wonderful couple.

The concept of 5i is based on Ainthinai that collectively represents the five land forms, two divisions and several disciplines. The five land forms are kurunji, mullai, marudam, neythal and palai. There are two divisions – outward and inward.

Outward – The external happenings in the life of
ancient Tamil people – war, politics and the discipline that went along.

Inward – In the cycle of life, as the man and woman go through various emotions, they continue to live an honorable life with discipline. The 5i dance drama brings forth these emotions of togetherness, waiting, misunderstanding, longing and separation.

1) Togetherness – happiness, natural abundance, devotion to Lord Muruga in the land of Kurunji surrounded by hills
2) Waiting – rearing cattle, devotion to Lord Krishna in the land of Mullai surrounded by forests
3) Misunderstanding – farming, abundance, celebration, festivities, devotion to Lord Indra in the land of Marudam dominated by agricultural fields
4) Longing – fishing, devotion to Lord Varuna in the land of Neythal with the women praying for the well-being and safe return of father/brother/husband who have gone to the seas.
5) Separation – dry lands due to hot Sun, men travels to foreign land to earn as agriculture is not possible in dry land that is Palai.

Togetherness, longing, misunderstanding, expectation, separation – All of them are fundamental disciplines. For centuries, these emotions have been dominating human life. It is important that everyone understands and acknowledges that these emotions are part of one’s life journey. Joy and sorrow, happiness and sadness and adversity are unavoidable in life. We should aspire to accept this nature of life and continue to live a disciplined life. Stand to face the adversity when it comes because it is temporary and Happy Times are ahead! We hope 5i inspires you to this end!

- By Kalpana Kamaraj
  Director, Eshwar Natyalaya
  Translation Courtesy – Rajeswari Prabhakaran
சாஸ்தா அறக்கட்டநையின் 10ஆம் ஆண்டு சிறக் குறள் வாழ்வு

தமிழ் அறக்கட்டநையின் குறளங்கள் அறிய வந்து வந்து!

10ஆம் ஆண்டுத் திருக்குறள் வாழ்வு, சாஸ்தா தமிழ் அறக்கட்டநையின் குறளங்களுக்கு அரியப் பயணம் வந்து வந்து (பி.பாக்ராண்) தற்போது அன்று 28-முதல்-2017 வரை நடைபெறுகின்றது! சிறக் குறளங்களிடையே விளக்கம் வந்து வந்து, தமிழ் தொல்லியல் குறளங்கள் தான் விளையாடப்பட்டுள்ளன!

மூலம் இந்த அறிய பயணம் வந்து வந்து சிறக் குறளின் வாழ்வை உறுதியாக உள்ளேற்ற வன்று!

சிறக் குறளங்கள் வாழ்வுச் சிறக் குறள் வாழ்வு கல்விகளை நடத்துவதற்குப் பயனினால்க பட்டியல்:

- சிறக் குறளங்கள் வாழ்வான விளக்கங்கள் நடத்துவதற்கு
- குறளங்கள் வாழ்வு மற்றும் தொடர்பு நடத்துவதற்கு
- குறளங்கள் வாழ்வு குறட்டுப் பயணங்கள் நடத்துவதற்கு
- தமிழ் குறளங்கள் வாழ்வு குறட்டுப் பயணங்கள்

- குறளங்கள் வாழ்வுச் சிறக் (சிறக் குறளங்கள் வரை): 11-பிப்ரவரி-2017 (சாச்சிக்கிழமை)
- இடம்: Allen Public Library Auditorium, 300 N Allen Dr, Allen, TX 75013

வந்து வந்து!

வந்து வந்து!
Thirukkural Experience

Even thought my children participated in the Thirukurals and Avai Amudam competitions, it has given other family members thoughts to ponder on and reflect on their role in society. My children were 11 and 6 at the time of participation. As parents, we searched the best thirukurals to teach them. But no, you cannot choose a few, as all of them provide invaluable lessons for life.

I would say, such an event only increased my passion to seek these Gems. My 6-year-old recited Aathichoodis and the deep meaning is those few words. He is a student at Plano Tamil School and it did not surprise me that he understood the meaning of aathichoodis.

Your experience participating in the event.

Learning about each kural, took me on a flash back of life's moments where I wish that kural influenced my decision at that time. I know by enrolling them in this event, I have given my children a glimpse of my rich heritage.

By their participation, my children felt a sense of accomplishment and I am very grateful to STF for bringing this event close to home.

These literature texts need to reach and inspire future generations. Such events need to occur more often and reach a wider audience.

- By Lakshmi Subramanian

Learning Thirukkural has added alot of moral and values in our children Sita & Sahana's lives and ours and has guided us in our day to day activities.

It has greatly increased the memory power and presenting skills in our kids which helps in school as well.

We are very thankful to STF for conducting the Thirukkural competitions and thus creating a platform for the kids and providing the golden opportunity to participate and learn the invaluable Thirukurals. We will cherish these happy moments throughout our life!!

- By Balaji & Shanthi
வள்ளுவம் பழகிய நான்கு மாதங்கள் என்ற திருக்குறள் மபாட்டியின் பற்றி நான் எழுதிய சிை வரிகமள டாைஸில் வாழும் தமிழர்கமளாடு எனக்கு அறிமுகத்ணத ஏற்படுத்தித் தந்தது. அப்தபாழுது மபாட்டி பற்றிமயா மபாட்டியில் கைந்து தகாள்வது பற்றிமயா எந் தவித எண்ைமும் இல்ணை. மனனம் தசய்வது கடினம் என்று ஆங்கிைம் முதன் தமாழியாக இருக்கும் நாட்டில்   என் மகள் 75 குறள் ஸ்ரான்ன மபாதும், அதற்கான முயற்சியின் மபாதும் ததரியவில்ணை. பள்ளிப்பருவத்தில் மனனம் தசய்தது, பை ஆண்டுகள் கழித்து நிணனத்துப் பார்க்கமவ வானளாவி நின்றது. முதலில் 100 குறள் படித்மதன், 2 மாதங்கமளம் பிரிக்க அவசிய திகழ்கர்; உரிய பக்ஜான்ன வரை யார் என்று. கிருத்தம் மும்பூடு தொம்பி மாதங்கமள துறைக்கு வாய்க்பாட்டிலியை, யாருக்கு மறைவு சந்திக்க விளக்காக எந்தடி. அமலும் துறைக்கு பாதப்பிரிப்பூட்டுத்தேற்ற பிரிவுகள், பாதுகாப்பு மாமிய தந்து பிரிவுகள், யாரின் பாதப்பிரிப்பூட்டு முயற்சிகளின் விளக்கம் மாதும், முழு தொடர்ந்து புரிந்து வந்து பின் குறணளப் படித்து மனனம் தசய்திருந்தாலும், அணத எல்ைாம் தாண்டி என்னுள் இன்னும் வியப்ணப நிறுத்திக் குருதிருப்பது வள்ளுவனின் வார்த்ணதப் பயன்பாடு. ஒரு வார்த்ணதணயப் படித்த பின் அணதத் மதடிக் குறள் படிப்பணத மறந்திட்ட மநரமும் உண்டு. எனமவ திருக்குறள், படிப்பவரின் உள்ளதில் ததளிவான எண்ைத்ணத ஏற்படுத்தும் என்பது என் நம்பிக்ணக. மற்றும் ஒரு நல்ை மனிதனாக, நல்ை மனத்துடன் வாழ்வதற்குரிய ஆழமான கருத்துக்கணள விளக்கத்தின் வாழ்த்துமவாம்! வள்ளுவன் பழ(க்)குமவாம்.

10 ஆவதாம் ஆண்டில் சாஸ்தா அறக்கட்டணளயின் திருக்குறள் மபாட்டியின் 10 ஆவதாம் ஆண்டில் சாஸ்தா அறக்கட்டணளயின் திருக்குறள் மபாட்டி இந்த வருடம் சாஸ்தா அறக்கட்டணளயின் 10 ஆவது ஆண்டு திருக்குறள் மபாட்டி மிகப்தபரும் விழாவாக நடக்கிறது.  குறளுக்கு ஒரு டாைர் பரிசு என்பமதாடு எத்தணன குறள் படிக்கிமறாமமா அணவ தரும் கருத்துக்கள் ஒவ்தவான்றும் கிணடத்தற்கரிய பரிசு!!! எனமவ இந்த வாய்ப்பனபப் பயன்படுத்தி வள்ளுவன் வாழ்த்துமவாம் நம் குழந்ணதகமளாடு நாமும் …

- சித்ரா மஷ், Ph. D
Plano Tamil School - *The Accreditation Journey*

Plano Tamil School obtained the coveted accreditation during the course of school's 2015-16 academic year. The School had an incredible journey towards accreditation which was received from AdvancEd a conglomeration of Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI) and the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI). Accreditation is a quality assurance certification that Schools can voluntarily obtain by going through a vigorous process that ascertains the school's operations, governance, processes, instructional methods, long term plans, vision and leadership. AdvancEd is recognized by Texas Education Agency which requires all charter and private schools to be recognized by an organization like AdvancEd.

The school leadership have been studying the nuances of accreditation and its benefits since 2013 and have been laying the ground work for the core team to build upon. One of the foremost benefits anticipated from the accreditation effort is to increase the possibility of school districts like Plano ISD or Frisco ISD awarding foreign language credit (referred to as LOTE - Language Other Than English) to our middle and high school children. While accreditation does not automatically guarantee such a recognition it certainly provides a path for such a recognition for our children from the school districts so that the effort put in by our children are suitably recognized and awarded. A core team of nearly 25 volunteers worked for nearly 2 years beginning in the summer of 2014.

The first fruits of success to our efforts were achieved during the 2014-15 academic year at which time AdvancEd sent Dr. Judy Johnston to perform an assessment of Plano Tamil School and its readiness to subject itself for accreditation. We passed this milestone with encouraging feedback and were declared as being Ready for Accreditation. This achievement motivated us to double down in our efforts to obtain accreditation. The School was optimistic and was keen to submit itself for formal accreditation which involves detailed audit of the school from multiple perspectives by a team of academicians. However AdvancEd guidelines required us to wait until the beginning of the 2015-16 academic year. In the meantime, as per AdvancEd guidelines the school conducted surveys with its key stakeholders and obtained overwhelming scores. The highlight of the survey was that almost 90% of the parents responded to the survey, which was exemplary by any standards and a reflection of unstinting dedication of parents to institutionalize Tamil language in their adopted country!
A team of four academicians lead by lead auditor Dr. Barbara-Jane Paris along with Dr. Lakshman Tamil, Dr. Ram Natarajan and Mr. James Michael Paris conducted a detail assessment of Plano Tamil school on Oct 11th 2015. The assessment was carried out to determine the Index of Education Quality (IEQ™) that provides a holistic measure of overall performance based on a comprehensive set of indicators and evaluative criteria. Plano Tamil School scored 348 as against the network average of 278. The remarkable scores were an indication of the high levels of Tamil language education we are imparting to our children.

Since obtaining accreditation the school board has been in discussions with school districts for setting up a process for facilitating foreign language credit. The school board with the help of parents is looking forward to obtaining this benefit for our children. As we say everything we do and every success here at Plano Tamil School is due to the dedication of our volunteers, staff, teachers, students, parents and our wellwishers. Accreditation is no exception!

By Sriram Krishnan
Gold Sponsor

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STF’s 6th Annual Fundraising Event – Sep 24th 2016 www.STFNonProfit.org
“நல்லாளி நல்லாளிப்பகுதி நபரு நல்லாளிப்பகுதியில் நிற்பெறும் அனைர் பெரியர்”

நான் வாழின்படி, இயற்கை நுழைவின்றி நான் உதகின்றேன் புரே, அவர்கள் ஆண்டுக்கு புனேததும் நட்ருமின்றி வேளுகள் பிறந்து போன்று அவர்கள் நன்னைப்பாரச்சாலை பயன்படுத்துவது மனமார்ந்த நன்னை.

நன்னை,

பிரச்சர்கோப் & ஆனை
7 Regional Competitions in US and Winners meet in Dallas, TX for Nationals
Vocal, Instrumental, Dance Contests, and Performance Tracks

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Venue Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
<td>DL Parsons Theater, 11801, Community Center Dr, Northglenn, CO, Sep 17, 2016, 9 AM to 8 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Jersey, NJ</td>
<td>Crossroads North Middle, School, 635, Georges Road, Monmouth Junction, NJ, 15-Oct-16, 9 AM to 8 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
<td>Hindu Temple of Atlanta, 5851, GA-85, Riverdale, GA, 15-Oct-16, 9 AM to 8 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>Countryside Church, Unitarian Universalist, 1025, N Smith St, Paladine, IL, 24-Sep-16, 9 AM to 8 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chantilly, VA</td>
<td>IAACM Studio, 14240, Sully Field, Circle #U, Chantilly, VA, 16-Oct, 9 AM to 8 PM</td>
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<td>Bay Area / Northern CA</td>
<td>Bala Ganesan (510-789-8323) Shirdi Sai Parivaar, 1221, California Circle, Milpitas, 22-Oct-16, 9 AM to 8 PM</td>
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Dallas, TX (Gulf Coast Regional)
4501, Legacy Church, Plano, TX
19-Nov-16, 9 AM to 8 PM

Saptami 7, Nationals
4501, Legacy Church, Plano, TX
20-Nov-16, 9 AM to 8 PM

Vocal: Geetham, Varnam, Krithi, Manodharma, Concert Competition
Dance: Bharatanatyam, Group, Other Dance Forms as applicable in certain centers
Instrumental: All categories of Vocal, String Instruments, Wind Instruments, Percussion Instruments

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Arun Shreevas & Bhuvana Arun

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Generosity is what keeps the things we own from owning us
Best wishes to STF
- Trisha Anand and Siddharth Anand

"Best Wishes!!!"
Anwita, Aarav, Gayathri & Prabhath.
### 50th Performers & Volunteers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Director</strong></th>
<th>Kalpana Ravishankar</th>
<th>Keerthi Shanmugam</th>
<th>Vel Dhandapani</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dance Choreographers</strong></td>
<td>Kalpana Ravishankar</td>
<td>Kirthika Iyer</td>
<td>Vetri Selvan</td>
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<td>Hemamalini Gnanavel</td>
<td>Krishna Prabhakaran</td>
<td>Vikram Ezilmani</td>
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<td><strong>Lyricist</strong></td>
<td>Prof. Dr. S. Raghuraman</td>
<td>Lakshmi R. Annamalai</td>
<td>Yashka Vontimitta</td>
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<td><strong>Music</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Vanathy Raghuraman &amp; R. Sucharithra</td>
<td>Lalitha Natarajan</td>
<td><strong>Villu Paattu</strong></td>
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<td>Lasya Lingamaneni</td>
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<td>Rajakrishnan Rajdasamy</td>
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<td>Sameer Parameshwar</td>
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<td><strong>Dance Performers</strong></td>
<td>Akilan Gnanavel</td>
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<td>Akshaya Saravanan</td>
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<td>Abarnaa VS</td>
<td>Sweta Karthikeyan</td>
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<td>Arunkumar Suryanarayanan</td>
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<td>Vinodh Ramadoss</td>
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<td>Visalakshi Velu</td>
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Welcome Speech
Subramoniam SV

Child to Child Harmony Coordinators
Ramya Velu
Uma Muthiah

Vote of Thanks
Velu Raman
Visalakshi Velu

Logistics & Transportation
Velu Raman
Visalakshi Velu
Balaji Palanisami
Murali Radhakrishnan
Prabhakaran Thangavel
Radhika Narayanan
Uma Mahesh Iyer
Vinodh Ramadoss

Hospitality
Muthiah Subash
Divya Rajendhiran
Palanisami Pachagownder
Thinakar Rathinasabapathy
& students of Plano Tamil School

Food Coordination
Uma Muthiah
* Thanks to all the volunteers who provided food.

Photos/Videos
Bombay Studio
Krishnaraj Kaliappan

Our advance apologies if any volunteer’s names may have been missed. Please bear with us as our volunteers have done the best to collect all the volunteers’ names.

Thank you for your understanding.

We appreciate each and every one of you who have come forward to help us, Thank you!!

Heartfelt THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!
Meet Papa Vidyakar, a social worker with 95 sons-in-law and 45 grandchildren!

Surely it must make it to the Guinness Book of World Records as Vidyakar, who founded Udavum Karangal in 1983 to serve the needy in Chennai, is about to complete conducting the weddings of a hundred adopted daughters! As I write, he already has 95 sons-in-law and 45 grandchildren!

This scribe has known these children from infancy, because, deputed by the Sai organization as a Psychiatrist-Physician team, my husband and I used to do free service at Udavum Karangal once a week, in the nineties. Once our work with the adults was over we used to go to Shishu Bhavan next door, the cleanest ever infants and toddlers orphanage I have ever seen, and all the little ones would make a beeline for my husband as he used to lift, throw up in the air and catch each of them- an exercise they loved!

The children were all adopted by Vidyakar; he was Papa and Mamma to them. When asked their name, they would proudly say, “Rajesh Vidyakar”; “Sindhu Vidyakar”, and so on. They would all get a teaspoon of honey in the morning and a weekly oil bath. The young girls who looked after them, were part of the older lot at Udavum Karangal. Many of them too carried the Vidyakar surname, and Vidyakar would somehow save money to get each of the caregiving girls a gold chain. He was truly Papa to them all. After many years when I recently went to Udavum Karangal, I found the wall plastered with ‘wedding pictures’! Then the staff told me that the girls who grew up at Shishu Bhavan, as they finished with school and college, were now getting married! In fact Papa Vidyakar was more busy these days getting his daughters married!

Vidyakar takes his responsibility very seriously. Like a typical Indian father, he starts with ads on matrimonial sites. He too puts up ads from the girls’ side. Transparency is the name of the game. Once enquiries from prospective grooms come, Vidyakar gets down to action. He screens the boy, asks for references, literally starts a dossier on him compiling date of birth, educational qualifications, hobbies, health background, present employment and salary, parents’ and siblings’ details, their attitude to those socially disadvantaged and so on. Short of horoscope matching, he studies suitability from all angles. He also visits their homes.

The boy’s family is invited to Udavum Karangal. All the girls are given pre-marital counselling. The boy and girl are allowed to meet and talk in private at the home. If his daughter nods ‘okay’ then an engagement is planned a few weeks before the wedding. This is done, says Vidyakar, so that he gets to meet with the extended family and friends. Even at the ‘engagement stage’ if he feels the chemistry is not quite alright, he calls off the match; Vidyakar is fiercely protective of his daughters!

Rising like a phoenix, thanks to love and care

Women achievers in the fields of politics, sports, business, medicine and the arts are given wide media coverage and serve as role models for those who seek the courage to step out of the shadows. But equally motivating and inspiring are the often untold stories of ordinary women, battling the scourge of poverty, mental instability and gender discrimination, to carve out lives of dignity for themselves and their children.

DOROTHY JOSEPH, Chennai

Udavum Karangal, a social service NGO based in Chennai, has reported many women who have been abandoned or abused, or who are destitute. All that the women needed was basic medical care with a bit of tenderness and a friendly atmosphere, to rise above their challenges and live with dignity. Some heart-warming stories:

Mariamma

The residents of a particular locality in Mudanur, Tamil Nadu, had become almost inured to the screams of a young woman who pierced the silence of their neighborhood every night for about three years. Mariamma had no home: she lived in the streets surrounding a temple there. She was mentally challenged and considered fair game by every drunkard in the area, young and old alike. The gift of a half-packet of bhang was all that they considered necessary to appease their conscience, and she was raped regularly. She had given birth to two babies, who mysteriously disappeared, and it was only when she was about eight months pregnant with a third child that someone thought fit to do something about it. Udavum Karangal was contacted. They took Mariamma to live in Chennai.

The city of Chennai was reeling under the impact of the worst floods in living memory. All three of the Udavum Karangal centres in the city were inundated. Nearly 300 residents, including psychiatric patients and old and terminal ill men and women, had to be evacuated. The NGO’s founder Vidyasagar, in the midst of all the chaos, found time to be present to welcome a new arrival on December 4 last year. Mariamma gave birth to a beautiful baby boy. Vidyasagar wanted to name him after the presiding deity of the temple in the area from which she was rescued, but with the simplicity and intensity of a mentally challenged person, Mariamma insisted she wanted a modern name for her son. And so he was called Sanjay.

Shoba

On the night of December 12 last year, a young woman was put on a train at the Bangalore Station by her husband. It was a Bangalore-Chennai train, but she was under the impression that it was bound for Rajasthan. En route, when she realised that she had been duped, she became extremely agitated. It soon became apparent to her fellow passengers that she was mentally unsound. So disturbed was she that she fainted, collapsing on a young man in the compartment. The man, Chandrakumar, took responsibility for her. With the help of others in the compartment he fed off the attempt of an uncogitative stranger to make a claim for the woman, and used the Internet to locate a social service organisation to take care of her. Google led him to Udavum Karangal.

When the train reached Chennai, Chandrakumar called Udavum Karangal, and handed over 20-year-old Shoba to the NGO’s staff. Thanks to his compassion, Shoba was saved from being lured by lascivious men.

At Udavum Karangal, Shoba revealed that she was originally from Rajasthan. She had been married off to a man in Bangalore.

Fareeda

Fareeda ran a nail salon in Udaipur. The woman’s plight. Volunteers found that the woman, in her early thirties, who gave her name as Fareeda Khanum, had severe fractures and wounds, and could not walk. She was also in an advanced stage of pregnancy. Despite the circumstances, she had a serenity and dignity which impressed the social workers. Fareeda had to undergo surgery costing Rs 2 lakh. She moved from a wheelchair to a walker, but now walks with confidence. She has gained confidence in many other respects as well. In May last year, she gave birth to a baby girl who was named Noorjahan by Vidyasagar.

Fareeda does not want to return to her husband in Uttar Pradesh – he had kicked her out of her marital home, and has since remarried. Efforts are on to trace her mother and brother in Mumbai.

Over the last 23 years, hundreds of women have been rescued and rehabilitated by Udavum Karangal (the name literally means Helping Hands). The vast majority of the women were tricked by their husbands and sold into prostitution, or rejected because their husbands wanted to take new wives, or abandoned because they showed symptoms of mental illness.

“What we see and deal with is only the tip of the iceberg. Many suffer within the four walls of their homes and their woes are hidden from the public, until they become homeless,” says Vidyasagar.

With a bit of compassion, understanding and loving care, necessary medical/psychiatric treatment and a friendliness that restores their dignity and sense of self-worth, women can rise from the ashes of exploitation and rejection and fly on new wings.
நீட்டம் ழவண்டின், அவ் அைபுநடெயைாடி அைபு) அைவில் இநசக்கும் எழுத்துகள் தமிழின் இலக்கணத்யதாகுப்ழ யதால்காப்பிெம்.

இலக்கணம் வகுக்irkumந்தும் இருக்கமுடியும்.

யசால்வைம் இருப் து தமிட்டு தமிழில் குநறந்த எழுத்துகள் யகாண்டைாற்றத்தழு எழுத்துகள் இருப் து கண்கூடு. ய ாத்தம் இருநூற்று இருக்கின்றன. சங்கப் ாடல்களில் ஈயைழுத்துச் யசாற்கள் ட்டும் ஐம் துக்கும் ழ ல் இப்ம் ாடல். இரும்புக்காலத்தைநை விளிக்கிறது கற்காலத்நதயும் காலத்தில் நகயில் வாளுடன் ழதான்றிெ மூத்தகுடி, இவ்விைண்டுக்கும் இநடப்ட்டவியும் ழைைம் நகெைவு அகலத்தில் கல் ழதான்றி, நவெகம் சூழ்ந்த ழ யைாலி யகாண்ட கடல்நீர் முன்ழதான்றி மூத்த குடி! வாயைாடு 

கல்வதான்றி  ண்ழதான்றாக் காலத்ழதநவெகம் ழ ார்த்த வெங்யகாலிநீர் ய ாய்ெகல ைாளும் புகழ்விநைத்தல் 

அநை, ஒரு, இரு  ாத்திநை (கண்ணிந  அல்லது 

நிகநத் தமிமழ!}

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எனழவதான், திைாவிட ய ாழிக்குடும் த்தின் பிற் டுத்தப் ட்ட ய ாழிொகழவ  ார்க்கப் டுகிறது.

தநலவிெர் ஊடல் யகாள்வழத இதன் ய ாருள்.

ைத்நதெரிடம் ைாட்டம் யகாள்வதால் அவர்தம் உேவர்ய ரு க்கள் யசல்வச் யசழிப்பில் ண் ாக ஊடல்

தநலவன் வரும்வநை ஆற்றாந யுடன் இருப் தும் ாடுகநை ழ ெவிட்டுக் காத்திருப் தும்,

ண்புகைாக யதால்காப்பிெம் கூறுகிறது.

முல்நலக்கும், இைங்கல் (ஆற்றாந )

ாநலக்கும் யதய்வம் உண்டு; அது

காட்டப் டுவழதன்?  ருதத்தின்

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STF’s 6th Annual Fundraising Event – Sep 24th 2016 www.STFNonProfit.org

References:
1) ஏனைவைவாலியார் தேல்லை தேல்லை மையமாரில் (http://www.tamilvu.org) நொறுகை அன்று புதுகை மையமாரில் (http://www.tamilvu.org) நொறுகை மையமாரில்

2) ஏனைவைவாலியார் தேல்லை தேல்லை மையமாரில் (http://www.tamilvu.org) நொறுகை அன்று புதுகை மையமாரில் (http://www.tamilvu.org)
“Because I like the kids responding to my teaching which is the greatest appreciation in my teaching endeavor. My energy comes when the kids raise their arms on any of the question and are very enthusiastic in their response.” By Sundar Ramamoorthy

“I love to volunteer because it makes me happy to teach our mother tongue to the younger generation. I personally feel that every one of us has the responsibility of passing on our culture to the next generation and language is the best tool. Value add: I have learnt to accept that each kid is different and unique and talented in their own way. This has made me be less critical of my own daughter.” By Sulakshana Natarajan

“To give back something to Tamil community. Since I am teaching in Tamil school, I know how to give them practice at home and my kids are benefitting from that.” By Amudha Navaneedhan

“I LOVE Volunteering because it’s a great way of giving back to our community with love and compassion. As Mother Teresa says, “Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” By Sudha Kumar

“It provides an opportunity to develop new skills or build on existing experience and knowledge. Getting to know and love the children I worked with. and I’m very thankful to be able to say I’m part of it. Great program! Volunteering does make a difference - slowly but surely. I should have done it years ago. Keeping me responsible... new friends... new environment etc.” By Anuradha Sathiyachalam

“Love to teach kids and admire their smartness.” By Mahalakshmi Sathya

“I like meeting the Tamil community and spending time with the little ones in Mazhalai level. So Volunteering” By Srividya Sundar

“Major reason for me to volunteer is - create impact on young generation in understanding the significance of their mother language, and showing my own kids the value of giving back to the community. 'Sense of purpose' is the value I gain by volunteering” By Hema Gnanavel

“The satisfaction after completing a task is immense. The opportunity to even venture on unknown areas is thrilling. The chance to know our potential is satisfying. I am able to meet people now and ready to start a conversation.” By Radhika Narayanan
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