

DAAN UTSAV @ SRI ARUNODAYAM

October 10, 2016

THE JOY OF GIVING

'Daan Utsav' - is India's own festival of giving, celebrated every year from October 2-8. It is also known as the "Joy of Giving" week.

From auto rickshaw drivers to CEOs, school children to celebrities, homemakers to opinion leaders and media personnel, millions of people from all walks of life come together during this week to give their time, money, resources, or skills back to society!

At Sri Arunodayam, we make it a point to celebrate this week every year. It's a great way to teach our children that there's more joy in giving than in receiving. And they are learning very well indeed :)



IT'S IN GIVING THAT WE TRULY RECEIVE!

This year, Sri Arunodayam celebrated DAAN UTSAV by sharing "time, talent, and treasure" with the less fortunate - spreading and receiving tons of joy in the bargain! Here's a quick recap of programs we ran from Oct 2 – 8, 2016.

Share a Meal – Feeding the Homeless

Every day, from the 2nd to the 8th, our young adults and caregivers cooked and distributed hot meals to the homeless in Kolathur and Red Hills. Both the givers and the receivers shared warm and happy moments together!

"If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one."

– Mother Teresa

Rally for a Cause - Creating awareness about the mentally challenged among the public

On the 3rd, our children and staff conducted a rally at the Pudhur Bus Stand helping educate the general public on mental retardation. It attracted the attention we hoped to stir as people kept coming up to ask questions and initiate conversations.

Outreach across Chennai – Educating the Educated

Every day, from the 2nd to the 8th, we conducted information campaigns by setting up stalls at Olympia Tech Park and IOC Bunks carrying our literature, and products for sale made by our young adults at *Prayatna*. We just wanted people to know that the mentally challenged are perfectly capable of becoming productive members of society with a little care and help!

"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all." – Aristotle

Outreach to Village Homes – Raising rice for underprivileged people in surrounding villages

Through our "Power of 1" campaign, we collected 3000 kilos of rice during the Daan Utsav week, which was distributed to orphanages and old age homes in villages. We chose these homes because they have critical needs which remain unmet just because they lack the visibility! (Special thanks to all our good donors and to the Lions Club and Lioness Councils for making this program a huge success.)

Teach a Skill – Sharing skills with young mothers in distress

On the 5th, our youngsters from *Prayatna* visited the Cancer Institute and taught 40 mothers of children with cancer, how to make lovely paper bags. It was a great sharing and learning experience for the mothers and our boys as well. Thank you Chennai Volunteers Team and Rinku Suri Mecheri for providing this wonderful opportunity!

*“Tell me and I’ll forget. Show me and I may remember.
Involve me and I will learn.” – Benjamin Franklin*

Fruit on Friday – Sharing fruits with Gypsy and Irular Children

On the 7th, we distributed fruit to gypsy and Irular children who come from very impoverished backgrounds. Without good nutrition it is difficult for these children to actually get through school. Although what we did appears to be a drop in the ocean, on the 7th, every child had a stomach full of healthy fruit!

*“No man stands so tall as when he stoops to help a child.”
– Abraham Lincoln*

Other good things happened too!

Koyambedu fruit and vegetable vendors join our campaign!

On the 4th, we took our campaign to the fruit and vegetable vendors at Koyambedu (one of Asia's largest perishable goods market complexes, spread over an area of 295 acres) who willingly swung into action and donated fruits and vegetables. Although we were a bit apprehensive to approach them, almost all of them said it was for a good cause and generously donated all their rations for that day!

What goes around comes around!

- While we were busy giving to others, others gave back to us! In an act of kindness, SRM Dental College conducted a free dental check-up for our children on the 4th. Good dental health ensures that every other part of the body becomes healthy!
- Our little girls were invited to see Navaratri Golu at a wonderful benefactor’s home. They were very excited by the colourful lights and the arrangements, and had a nice meal of sweet payasam and spicy sundal. Thank you dear friend for the lovely gifts too!

*“Give and you shall receive, much more than you ever thought possible. People who give will never be poor.”
– Anne Frank*



“Fruit on Friday” Program – Sharing fruits with Gypsy and Irular Children





"Share a Meal" Program – Feeding the homeless



The Only Special Need That I Have is To Be Loved And Accepted Just The Way i Am!

"Rally for a Cause" Program – Creating awareness about the mentally challenged among the public



i Am Like A Butterfly With A Broken Wing. i Am Just As Beautiful As Others But i Need Help To Spread My Wings.

Disability is Not Contagious. Ignorance is!

i Am Not A Statistic, Not A Number, Not A Diagnosis, But A Person With Different Abilities!

When A Flower Does Not Bloom You Fix The Environment In Which It Grows, Not The Flower.



"Outreach to Village Homes" Program – Raising rice for under-privileged people in surrounding villages



"Teach a Skill" Program – Sharing skills with young mothers in distress



Koyambedu fruit and vegetable vendors join our campaign



GET INVOLVED

No act of kindness, no matter how small is ever wasted!

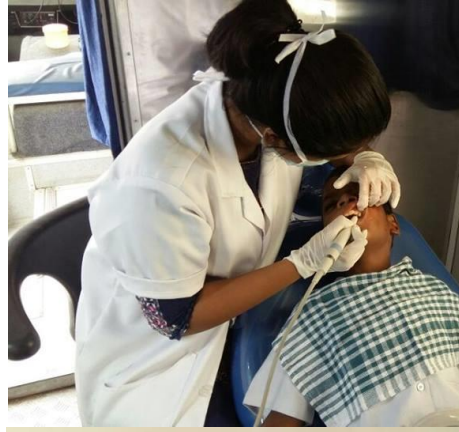
And we know this to be true.

From the very beginning we made it a golden rule at Sri Arunodayam, to give just as much as we receive. And we are richer for it; blessed beyond our wildest imaginations!

Blessings don't always come in the form of cash or material gains but in the form of richer and deeper relationships that spring from the heart.

Not only during Daan Utsav, but all-year-round, we conduct programs at Sri Arunodayam with the help of wonderful volunteers and benefactors. You are always welcome to join us!

Do visit our home, see what we do, and get involved. There are truly worthy causes to support, and compassion and love to give to those most in need. Come, be a part of the solution.



SRM Dental College conducting a free dental check-up for our children



SRI ARUNODAYAM
Home for Mentally Challenged Destitute

Sri Arunodayam is a Registered Charitable Trust recognized by the Government of Tamil Nadu (under the Juvenile Justice Act by the Department of Social Defense).

All donations are tax exempted (12 AA and 80 G) by the Income Tax Department under the Income Tax Act 1961.

Registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act 2010, Sri Arunodayam is authorized to receive overseas donations.

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Thank you dear donors! Your generosity has helped us make this year's Dann Utsav program a great success!