Dear Well Wishers and Friends,

Greetings!

I am happy to address you all again after a sigh of relief from the deadly virus. Covid-19 – had to be demonized as it caused a pandemic bringing damage to almost every human being on the earth. All know!! how we humans suffered the impact of Covid – many succumbed to the virus, some went jobless and the rest were emotionally disturbed........ To save us all, adequate steps & measures were taken by WHO and other Health organizations all over the world and now we stand almost succeeded.

All this was done to save the humans, but what about the animals, birds and life in the sanctuary? Were they not affected by covid? Did we really care about them? Were they put under lockdowns or did we vaccinate them? We have not heard of any such activity on animals and pets. Don’t we need to give them due attention they deserve as they have been giving us unconditional love all along?

Yes, at Udavum Karangal we also care for the birds and animals besides destitute humans. The campus is pleasantly surrounded by shady trees, water bodies and animal lovers. This place not only serves as a home for the less privileged children, destitute but also home to domestic animals and birds. There is an exclusive shed for cows and even donkeys are taken care.

There is a saying “When a donkey's needs are met and he is properly cared for, they make excellent pets”. Yes, there is a donkey too well taken care of.

Many such animals and birds are well nurtured, and even medically treated by a Veterinary Doctor. One such beautiful creature is the white geese. Usually wedding functions of the resident girls take place at Shanthivanam unit at Thiruverkadu and believe it or not, a battalion of geese walk and lead the marriage procession in the front. This shows how this group of geese (gaggle) enjoys a fearless atmosphere and feel they too belong to Udavum Karangal's family. It is also Home for Country hens, Black hen (Kali Masi), Cuckoo, love birds, rabbits and parrots which are loved by the resident children. All these animals and birds are also residents of Udavum Karangal family which is endless. To be joyous and happy, let us lead a joint family with animals and birds.

I wish the Well wishers, friends and supporters of Udavum Karangal a good year ahead.

Regards,

S. Vidyaakar, Founder Secretary
Mr. Pandian, Sivaganga District, Tamil Nadu (Missing for 21 years)

On 5th December 2021, Mr. Jacob, Social Worker of Udavum Karangal found a person, aged around 50 years, lying near Ambattur bus terminus, completely starved, old and flies all over (his right leg seemed to be almost broken). Mr. Jacob brought him to Home – Shanthivanam, Thiruverkadu. He was then taken to Udavum Karangal's Hospital – Gayathri Hospital Thriverkadu and was diagnosed with Proximal Tibia fracture communed by the Ortho Doctor. He was also referred to a Psychiatrist Dr. Karthik, who diagnosed him with depression.

As a first step, he was operated upon his leg and was fixed with 8 hole locking compression plate. Udavum Karangal spent around Rs.1.6 lakhs for his operation. Slowly Mr. Pandian started providing some information about his family. That he is from a village called Illayangudi, Paramakudi Taluk, Sivaganga
District. Based on the information Mr. Srinivasa Rao contacted his family. Mr. Kathiresan, father of Mr. Pandian, along with a relative immediately rushed to Udavum Karangal on Pongal day (14-01-2022). His father was happy and thanked Udavum Karangal and said that he was missing for 21 years.

Mr. Vidyakar, Founder Secretary donated him a Wheel Chair and a Walker and also given him free medicines for his psychiatric problem and medicines as prescribed by the Ortho Doctor.

**Mr. Chamansha, Uttar Pradesh (Missing for 22 years)**

On 19th February 2022, Thiru S. Vidyakar, Founder of Udavum Karangal rescued Mr. Chamansha safely along Social Workers Mr. Jacob and Mr. Mohan. He was taken to our home at Thiruverkadu and he was referred to Dr. Karthik, Psychiatrist, who found him to be having symptoms of psychosis with delusions. He prescribed psychiatric medicines and there was some improvement in his condition within a few days.

Mrs. Chandrika, Social Worker of Udavum Karangal tried to talk to him and got some basic information. During interaction, the only information he said was “Sharif Nagar”. With this clue Mrs. Chandrika, was able to locate Sharif Nagar in Uttar Pradesh in Bareilly District on the border of Uttrakhand. Finally, she was able to connect to his family over phone and came to know that the name of the person is Mr. Chamansha who was missing for the past 22 years i.e. from January 2000.

On 22-2-22, Mr. Salman Ali, son-in-law of Mr. Chamansha, brother Mr. Jagir and uncle son Mr. Islamshah, came to Udavum Karangal. They all thanked Udavum Karangal and the Social Workers especially Madam Chandrika for finding their family and safely handing over to them. They were given guidance for further psychiatric treatment and also one month free psychiatric medicines.

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**Donations**

*(Giving to make a difference)*

**Donated Mobility Aids/Accessories to Anna Nagar Government Peripheral Hospital**

Based on the request by the Superintendent Dr. Kani Shaikh Mohamed, MD, D.M of the hospital. On January 6th 2022 Udavum Karangal donated the following Mobility Aids/Accessories to Anna Nagar Government Peripheral Hospital.

1. Wheel chairs - 5 nos.
2. Stretcher - 5 nos.
The total cost of these items is estimated to Rs.1,35,000/-. 

The above items were handed over by the Founder Secretary Thiru S. Vidyaakar to Dr. Kani Shaikh Mohamed, MD, D.M. Superintendent and Professor, Govt. Peripheral Hospital, Annanagar, in the presence of Doctors, Nurses and the Social Workers of Udavum Karangal Mr. Jayaveeran & Mr. Mohan.

**Distribution of Rice bag (10 kgs) to daily wage families of Thiruverkadu**

The people living in Anbu Nagar suffered a lot due to flood waters around their houses and there was no way for the water to recede. Considering the plight of these hapless citizens, Udavum Karangal provided them 10 Kgs Rice bag to each of the 450 families living in Anbu Nagar on 28th January 2022 at RVN School premises. The recipients thanked Udavum Karangal for this kind gesture.

**Donation from Cavinkare Pvt Ltd, Chennai**

Cavinkare Pvt Ltd –Ambattur, Chennai, donated the following items to Udavum Karangal.
- Sanitary items
- Vegetable cleaners
- Floor cleaners
- Room sprays
- Body sprays etc.
All these items will be very useful for our residents. The same were handed over to us by Mr. D.J. Prasad, Manager of Cavinkare on 19-01-2022.

**Well Wishers donation towards Ms. Lahari Vidyaakar's marriage**

Well Wishers viz., Mrs. Sangeetha Karthike and Mrs. Hemalatha, donated all the items required for our resident girl Ms. Lahari Vidyaakar’s wedding on 6th February 2022 (Silk sarees, Thali, Household articles, cot, etc). Udavum Karangal thanked both the donors for their generosity and for the blessings they have showered upon Ms. Lahari Vidyaakar for a happy married life.

**Polio Camp, Thiruverkadu**

Based on the instructions received from the Municipality Commissioner, Thiruverkadu. Udavum Karangal organized a 3 day Pulse Polio Camp for the children. The camp was organized at Gokulam Home, Thiruverkadu on Sunday the 27th Feb. The Social Workers and Volunteers went a door to door campaign. The Children were identified and given the Polio vaccine drops. A total of 700 children were given Polio vaccine during the 3 days camp.

**Spoken English Class for JCC Students**

Communication is a very important tool in our life required for exchange of ideas and thoughts. So to improve social life & career prospects of JEEVAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, student’s English proficiency Courses are conducted.
Ms. Jerusha Pearlin of CGLD School of counseling, Martin Luther Christian University, Shillong, Megalaya as a part of her Internship undertook to teach spoken English to the JCC students on 01-02-2022. The Session was for 3 hours which involved tricks and playful orientation of spoken English fluency. The entire session was very much interactive and the students gained much knowledge in proper pronunciation, spellings and grammatical knowledge in English. The session was very useful to the JCC students.

Free Diabetic Camp @ Gayathri Hospital

Diabetic Camp was conducted on Sunday the 13th February 2022. The camp was conducted with the aim to reach out and deliver basic care to the needy people. Dr. Suresh Kumar, M.D Diabetology with his team of nurses and paramedical staff were examining the patients for vital signs, (blood pressure, height and weight) Random blood sugar and final consultation with Doctors. Around 95 patients both male and female availed the services rendered free of cost by Gayathri Hospital.

Sankara Nethralaya Visit

The Sankara Nethralaya Academy (TSNA) is the academic wing of Sankara Nethralaya, the leading super specialty eye hospital based in Chennai. The academy offers series of educational programs ranging from certificate to doctoral level programs in various fields including allied health sciences. The Principal Ms. Anuja visited RVN School on 26-02-2022 with her team to give an awareness and guidelines on the courses available in their college. She gave a clear idea and the scope of education and the fee structure. This program was organised by Ms. Chandrika Admin Manager, Shantivanam.

Karpin Kanalee Seethai

RVN School student Parvathy Mirdhula of class seven participated in the elocution contest conducted by Manavar Kambar Kazhagam, Chromepet, Chennai. 14 Students have participated in the category of their age level between 6-9 standard. She got selected in the first round on 27-02-2022. She will be meeting the other contestants in the final round to be held in the Google meet with the title “Kambanin Manam Kavarndha Kathaapathiram”.

Rewards For Discipline Students

RVN School students from class VI-XII has been awarded for their regularity and discipline for the month of January-March. As a reward and token of appreciation they had been awarded with small badges. This was organised by High school
Asst.Headmistress Ms. Gajalakshmi & Ms. Indra and Teachers. The students felt happy and encouraged when finally HM surprised the teachers by awarding them with her energetic words and badges.

Socomec, a leading Global specialist in LV power management solutions, is celebrating its 100th Annual Year of operation. The Management representatives and staff of the organization, visited Udavum Karangal’s Home Karunai Illam, Maduravoyal and provided sumptuous (Veg. Biriyani with sweet) food to 120 persons in the Home. The staff served the food to the residents and also performed some songs and dance to entertain the patients. Ms. Chitra Devi, the Chief of Staff, thanked Ms. Jothi for having well organized the celebration.

**SRVM School, Coimbatore**

Sree Ramakrishna Vidya Mandir Matriculation School students participated in Environmental Studies activity, Water Day (Pledge) and Yoga.
Republic Day Celebration

On the auspicious morning of 26th Jan, RVN School celebrated Republic day in the school premises. It was a matter of great pride for all of us. Needless to say, the whole school had worn the appearance of a beautiful bride.

The Headmistress, Teachers and the Students didn’t want to leave any stone unturned in making this monumental day a memorable one. The message of Headmistress conveyed that India would not tolerate the terrorist activities in the country and our brave soldiers were ready to fight terrorism tooth and nail. Then there were speakers who through their speeches invoked the precious contribution of great freedom fighters. With a couple more cultural items, the function ended with national anthem. Towards the end, all the people flew colored balloons symbolizing prosperity and peace.
Downtown Skills and stitches

The gift of a livelihood

Candle Media

27-01-2022

THE MINDU

A lockdown initiative at Uducum Karangal promises to gain great demand.
Happy endings bring cheer

Udavum Karangal, an NGO in Chennai, painstakingly pieces together details of missing persons, traces their families and reunites them with their loved ones.

Fate took a kindly hand in the life of a seemingly chal-

en-aged man of about 50 years who was wandering aim-

lessly in Chennan’s Aruna area, carrying a huge bag of waste material. He was spotted by a social worker attached to Ud-

avum Karangal, an NGO working with destitute and mentally ill people. Social worker Jacob took charge of the disoriented man, who seemed to have been starving and yet he was admit-

ted in the NGO’s Thiruvalluvar facility in August last year.

A few psychiatric treatment and counselling for around three months, social workers at Udavum Karangal were able to get the man to recollect and share some personal details. He disclosed that his name was Sathyarayanan, and he comes from Malda, West Bengal. Attempts were made to trace the man’s relatives through the English Bazaar Police Station in Malda, and when they failed Udavum Karangal uploaded a picture of Sathyaraynan’s picture on Facebook. In the course, the photo came to the attention of Pappa Vinodu, who identified Sathyarayanan as his uncle.

Soon Sathyarayanan’s younger brother Ganesan, other relatives and concerned persons arrived at Chennan. They revealed that Sathyarayanan had been missing for a previous stay in Malda since he was 17. Son’s family problems had caused some mental distur-

bance. He was in the habit of going missing for a few days at a time. The family had lost him once, thinking it would stabilize him (he has two daughters). But the mental disturbance continued, though he was under psychiatric treatment, his relatives said. He went missing in March 2010, and couldn’t be traced.

Police complaints were lodged, but nothing came of it. Sathyarayanan’s relatives said, “I have one who went to the Christian Medical College and Hospital in Vellore for treatment spotted him there. The police at both Malda and Chennan were referred, and Missing Person posters were put up by the family, but to no avail. It was luck that brought Sathyarayanan to the attention of Jacob. Sathyar-

yanan’s relatives are taking him back to Malda with the blessings of Vinodu, founder of the NGO. He has been instrumental in reuniting over 5000 people with their families in different parts of India and abroad.

Kumam’s tale is with a happy ending. Over 25 years ago, in 1996, Udavum Karangal was informed of a woman in her 30s who was living on the streets and being subjected to harassment by those around her. They brought her to the home, and she was given psychiatric treatment. She gave her name as Kumam.

Kumam responded well to the psychiatric treatment and started involving herself in various activities in our Rehabilitation Home at Thiruvalluvar,” says Vinodu, who is fondly called Pappa by the man. “She enjoyed helping in the kitchen, and was an expert in making chapattis. She was also very good at housekeeping, and even learnt Tamil.” However, Kumam refused to divulge more personal details and resisted attempts to trace her relatives. “Pappa gives us good clothes, food and everything I want, even a make-up kit. Why should I go home?” she would ask. One of the social workers, Chandrika Krishnan, took it as a challenge to learn more about Kumam. She would talk to her every day, and gradually got some details, such as the name of her native village – Bresta, in Kausani Municipality of Uttar Pradesh – and the names of her brothers. The social worker patiently followed up the details until she made contact with two of Kumam’s broth-

ers at Bresta. The men had a WhatsApp call with Kumam on January 19 this year, and real-

ized that she was indeed their missing sister.

It turns out that Kumam, who is 33 now, has six brothers and a sister. She was first married off to someone in her village but the marriage did not last even for a couple of months. Later, her family got her mar-

ried to another person, working in Pune. She was subjected to abuse in her second marriage too, and eventually returned to her parental home. She fell into depression and developed psychiatric prob-

lems. One day, she left home without informing anyone, and boarded a train to Chennai. The family had not heard from her since.

Kumam’s brother in his native village contacted another brother, Phoolchand Yadav, who is now based in Bangalore, and he immediately rushed to Chennan. He was thrilled to see her long-lost sister looking healthy and happy. The siblings shed tears, hugged each other and reminisced about their life in the village when Kumam was a teenager. Phoolchand thanked Pappa Vinodu and the team of social workers for taking care of his sister for the past 25 years, and made arrangements to take Kumam back to her native village.

Kumam (face circle) after being reunited with her brother Phoolchand (to her right). Others in the picture are (from left) Chandrika and Srinivasa Reddy, social workers, Apala, housemaid, and Vinodu.

People of the forest of belonging...

Continued from page 8

It eliminates the possibility of human-wildlife coexistence.

Fragmented forests

Wild animals are rarely restricted within the predefined boundaries of parks. Around Raj-

giri, there areincreasing instances of human-wildlife conflict between 2010 and 2011 alone. 222 wild animals were killed due to speeding vehicles on National Highway 74 in the Handawa forest division. For example, elephants regularly leave the Shyamrup forest range at dusk to cross the river into town and return by dawn. Across the river one finds patches of vegetation on the other side.

As soon as the mango (rice) season comes, wild animals come for grains (watergrains). They take a round at least once in fifteen days,” said Belagum Sujeet. These wild animals, whose fields are raided by elephants. Jeeranna is worried that ruins from elephants and other wild animals may increase in the future and they could lose access to grazing his cattle in the forest. “This area has already been declared as a buffer zone [for conservation]. When and if the Forest Department decides to relocate the Gujjaris, the for-

est will become void of humans and their cattle. Soon, the traffic of wild animals to our fields will increase.” He says that about 15000 affected residents of Shyamrup and Lal Dinda have made protests in the past.

Exclusionary conservation

The logic that remains unmentioned is Conservation for whom? Is it for tourists who drive in, or fly in, with the roads and airports running  into forest? Is nature merely a spectacle, or is it something that communities like the Van Gujjaris or the forest-dwelling Adivasis need to use and protect, and find a way to participate in?

It is so rare to see knowledge that challenges proven. Most often it is seen as the role of critical social scientists. It is funny that the ecologists and conservation biologists over the years who have looked at the impact of Van Gujjaris on the forest, are not so vocal when it comes to the impacts of large-scale infrastructure, tourism-related infra projects, or the Kundali Medal in Siolim on the forest. It seems to me that the idea that the forest is a place that is for tourists is the idea that is subsidized by a lot of government policies and private investor interest in forest tourism.
A depressed wandering youth from Bihar, reunited with family by Udagum Karangal on 12th Feb. 2022
The Crying need for mental health care
Rescue of a destitute mentally ill woman from a busy area at Coimbatore by Mr. Ratan and Team of Udavum Karangal.
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT SCHOOLS [CDPS]

Under CDPS, the facilities provided by Udavum Karangal are as follows:

1. Panchayat Union Middle School, M-Pudupakkam
   - Constructed 2 new class rooms
   - Constructed 2 new rest rooms
   **Total Cost of the project – Rs 22,06,600/-**

2. Panchayat Union Primary School, Cheiyankuppam
   - Constructed 2 new class rooms
   **Total Cost of the project – Rs 19,58,800/-**
- Laid a concrete pathway between two building
- Renovation of staff rest rooms
- New Cycle stand (including Flooring work)
- New grill gate for computer lab

Total Cost of the project – Rs 8,66,090/-

4. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Lakshimpuram, Kolathur
- SS Bench & Desk for students – 70 Sets

Total Cost of the project – Rs 11,06,840/-
5. Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Trichy (Blind School)

- Renovation of rest rooms (first floor)

**Total Cost of the project – Rs 49,175/-**

**AWARD**

Ms. Gajalakshmi, a recipient of this year’s Best Teacher Award “from JCI Erode Excel Pathipagam, Erode joined RVN School as a KG Teacher on 27-09-2000. She has completed her M.Com B.Ed. Through her dedicated service of 22 years she has been elevated as Asst. Headmistress of the Higher Secondary School. She is an asset to the School and she is an expert in bringing up the shy child who is lacking in self confidence to the forefront. She is an inspiring confident lifelong learner.

**FEEDBACK (FROM WELL WISHERS / DONORS)**

**Mr. Chinny Krishna, Cofounder and Chairman, Blue Cross of India**

Dear Papa Vidyaakar,

This is much more than just a formal note to thank you for your generosity and regular donations of rice to feed the animals we all care for. And you have shown, once more, that for all genuinely humane people, it is never a question of “people OR animals; it is always “people AND animals”. 
Please forgive us for not properly acknowledging your donations. I was a cofounder, in 1959, of the group we registered in 1964, as Blue Cross of India. As you know, till 1987, we were a totally volunteer group with even our 24x7 ambulances driven by off-duty Indian Airlines pilots. Even today, we are fortunate in having a group of professionals who donate their time and efforts on a purely honorary basis to look after much of the administrative work and special events. While this ensures that donations will reach the intended beneficiaries without being eroded by “administrative expenses”, it sometimes leads to improper acknowledgement of generous donations like yours.

Once again, my apologies and sincere thanks on behalf of those we serve.

With warmest regards

Chinny Krishna
Cofounder and Chairman
Blue Cross of India

MARRIAGES AT UDAVUM KARANGAL

Marriages conducted during the period Jan 2022 to Mar 2022, to the resident girls of Udavum Karangal are as follows:

Ms. Lahari Vidyaakar
with Mr. P. Mukesh Karthik

Ms. Preethi Vidyaakar
with Mr. J. Arvindan

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