Dear Friends and Well Wishers,

Greetings!

I take great pride in commemorating The Mahatma, who exactly 100 years back in September 1921, at Madurai, made a radical alteration in his dress, when he wore a Dhoti and called it the “Attire of His Identity”. Similarly, he was very compassionate towards leprosy patients and was a big crusader against leprosy, making people aware that it was least infectious disease. He invited them to his home and cleaned their wounds, gave them food to eat, and heard their life stories on how they survived in the open. So Leprosy Day is observed in India on 30 January, which marks the Martyrdom Day of Mahatma Gandhi.

Inspired by Mahatma’s life mission towards the leprosy patients, I too, had a thirst to serve the society, and started my journey by joining a Hospital in Chennai which was treating Leprosy patients. My personal experience in serving them for over 3 years helped me realize their sufferings.

When Covid struck, we did an extensive survey of all the Leper Colonies located in Chengalpattu, Kanchipuram, Ponneri and Thiruvallur areas. Immediate relief measures like providing them an essential kit containing 25 kgs of rice, provisions for 2 months, mobility aids like crutches, wheel chairs, walkers and even white washing of their old houses were undertaken. We could reach out to around 400 such patients spread in these colonies. Similar assistance was also given to two tribal community viz., Irulas and Narikuravas to whom daily food and assistance were distributed. My appreciation goes to Social Workers, RVN School & JCC staff, Drivers, Multipurpose staff of Shanthivanam for their dedicated efforts in reaching out to the suffering leprosy patients.

Immediately on release of lockdown, we could rescue more than 30 of the destitute patients from the streets and gave them all care in our Homes. We were also keen in taking care of our own patients in the Homes by organizing Vaccination camps, Dental camp, General Health Camps and also an Eye Camp by Sankara Nethralaya. Our children are staying healthy and we are proud to record it here that we have surpassed the 185th mark in the marriages of our resident girls.

As regards infrastructure projects, we have helped the Government Primary Health Centres at Thiruninravur & Sorrencherry and also commenced construction of class rooms for a few Schools situated at Vizhupuram District under our Community Development Projects - School [CDPS]. The construction of Jeevan Community College and LPG Crematorium projects are progressing well.

I take this opportunity to thank all the Donors, Well Wishers, Volunteers, Staff and my residents & children, in making known to the world what TEAM EFFORT is all about, especially when we are engaged for a noble cause – “SERVICE TO THE DISTRESSED”.

Thank you once again for all the support,

Regards,

S.Vidyaakar
ENCOMIUM FROM AN ACTOR LEGEND - Mr. SIVAKUMAR

Popular Actor Mr. Sivakumar, while writing a blog (Thirukural Kathaigal) in “The Hindu –Tamil” has mentioned about his long time association with Mr. Vidyaakar, Founder - Udadum Karangal. He has also shared his memories having come to Udadum Karangal on various occasions of birthday celebrations of his children, viz., Surya, Karthick and Brinda for serving food to the children. He has written an essay paying rich tributes to Pappa with reference to the Thirukural Verse No.226.

காலங்கள் - பாகி

1953-இல் பாப்பாவுக்கு பிறந்து விளங்கியதற்கு தமிழ் திரைக்கல்வை தொடங்கினார். பாப்பாவின் சிறு வயதில் தமிழ் திரைக்கல்வை தொடங்கினார். பாப்பாவுக்கு பிறந்து விளங்கியதற்கு தமிழ் திரைக்கல்வை தொடங்கினார். பாப்பாவுக்கு பிறந்து விளங்கியதற்கு தமிழ் திரைக்கல்வைதுடன் தமிழ் திரைக்கல்வைதுடன் தொடங்கினார்.
Ms. Mantra Vidyakar, has been with Udavum Karangal right from her infancy. She completed her Degree and got married to Mr. T. Ganesan on 29.10.2020. She delivered a boy baby on 14.08.2021 and she has named him “Sasti Kumaran”. Pappa was proud to receive and bless the child on the eve of Manthra’s 1st year Marriage anniversary celebrations. Baby Sasti Kumaran is the 250th grandchild of Pappa Vidyakar, having completed the marriage of 195 of the resident girls of Udavum Karangal.

Mr. S. Vidyakar, Founder of Udavum Karangal, handed-over Medical equipments and Mobility aids, like BP Apparatus, Infrared Thermometers, Hot water dispensers, Room conditioners for Special Wards, Printers for medical prescriptions and Wheel Chairs, on 22.07.2021, to Dr. Kani Shaik Mohamed, Supdt. And Prof., Govt. Peripheral Hospital, Anna Nagar East, Chennai, in the presence of Dr. Karthika Sai, Dr. Karthik and Dr. Chandrasekar. The total Cost of the items is Rs.3.35 lakhs.
Essential kit to Narikuravas (Minjur & Ponneri)

Due to Covid-19 second wave in Chennai, the Narikuravas (around 300 people) of Minjur and Ponneri, have been vastly affected. They were literally starving and they contacted Thiru. S. Vidyaakar to help them out. On 26th and 30th July 2021, Udavum Karangal with its team reached out to their places in Minjur and Ponneri and distributed to them 25 kgs. of rice and provisions, which would help them with feeding for 2 months.

Irula Community, Kanchipuram District

The fifteen families of Irula Community, who are traditional rat and snake catchers live in a place at Padur, Uttaramerur Taluk, Kanchipuram District.

They literally live inside the forest area where there are no inhabitants. Now during corona lockdown their livelihood has come to a standstill and they have no earnings.

Mr. Mohan, Social Worker of Udavum Karangal, on receiving the information about the plight of these families, rushed to Padur along with volunteers with the Essential Kits consisting of 25 kgs. of rice and provisions/groceries and distributed to these 15 families.

Donated Walker

Based on the request from Mr. Hariharan residing in T. Nagar, Chennai, Udavum Karangal donated him a walker for his ailing, aged mother on 15.07.2021; he happily received the walker, and thanked Udavum Karangal.

Distribution of Essential kit to Leprosy Patients

Thiruvallur District

Under the National Leprosy Eradication Program, Disability prevention and medical Rehabilitation Camp was held at Periyakuppam, Thiruvallur, by the Dy. Director of Medical Services (Leprosy), of Poonamalle Taluk. The function was presided over by the District Collector of Thiruvallur, Dr. Alby John Varghese, I.A.S. and during which time Mr. S. Vidyaakar, Founder of Udavum Karangal distributed 150 Essential Kits (@ a cost of Rs.2000 each) consisting of 25 kgs. rice and Provisions, Wheel Chairs, Walkers, and Crutches, Lungis and Nighties to the 150 Leprosy Patients who assembled at the venue.
Chengalpattu

Essential kit consisting of 25 kg rice and provisions were distributed to 90 families of persons affected by leprosy in the following areas on 2nd August 2021:
1. Kalvari Nagar -31 families
2. Solomon Nagar-19 families
3. Bethel Nagar (Indian Leprosy Colony) -28 families
4. Bharathapuram (Anai Therasa Leprosy colony) - 12 families

The kit were distributed in a Community Hall at Alapakkam and over 90 families were benefited by the support. All the beneficiaries are aged between 60 to 80 years. In addition, 50 of them were also provided with mobility aids like hand stick, crutches, wheel chairs and walkers.

Ponneri

Similarly, on 18th August 2021, Udavum Karangal team led by Mrs. Lara Anitha Mary visited a place called Kummankulam in Ponneri, to distribute the Essential Kit to 27 families (Leprosy People). They received it with gratitude and thanked Udavum Karangal for the noble gesture.

COVID RELIEF CAMP AT COIMBATORE

The Covid Relief Camp was organized at Udavum Karangal’s campus at Myleripalayam, Pollachi Road, Coimbatore on 25.08.2021 in the presence of Mr. Ratan, Facility Administrator and Social Workers Mr. Mohan Kumar, Mr. Manoj, Mrs. Elzabeth, Mr. Uvais, Mrs. Saranya and also the caregivers and Volunteers of Udavum Karangal.

Udavum Karangal distributed Essential kits to 76 families in its operational areas. The kit contains ration approximate for 1 month with 25 kgs rice and provisions.

Mrs. Palaniammal, who is undergoing treatment under Parivartan for epileptic complaint says that “She was very much thankful to Mr. Vidyaakar for his service to the poor and needy people by giving costly medicines at free of cost and timely help on distributing quality essential kit for survival”.

Distribution of Face Masks and Oximeter to RVN School
There are 1500 students studying in RVN School, Thiruverkadu and as the Government ordered to open the schools from 01 Sep 2021 for classes 9-12 this will be a foremost step in helping out the students those with high temperature. Founder and Correspondent Thiru S. Vidyakar donated Masks and Oxymeter for Ramakrishna School in Thiruverkadu.

Wheel Chairs to Special Children of Jeevan School

Udavum Karangal has been donating mobility aids like walkers, wheel chairs, crutches, etc to the Govt. Hospitals and recently, wheel chairs have also been given to leprosy patients at Thiruvallur District, in the presence of Collector.

Similarly, Wheel Chairs have been given to the students of the Jeevan School for Special Children, who suffer from mobility problem. Two of the students viz. Ashwini and Kishore who reside in Thiruverkadu and study in Jeevan School were given wheel chairs on 15-09-2021.

Rajasthan Cosmo Club

The Rajasthan Cosmo Club on its Annual Day function held on 26th September 2021 at Taj Hotel, Nungambakkam, donated 50 nighty, 40 churidhar, 25 Sarees to the residents of Karunai Illam. Mrs. S. Jothi, In-charge of Karunai Illam received the donations from the Club in the presence of Health Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu.

Repainting of Leprosy Patient’s houses at Ponneri

Udavum karangal has been helping the Leprosy patients in Chengalpet, Thiruvalur and Ponneri Colonies by giving them Essential kits and Mobility Kits. On a survey of the colonies of Ponneri (Leprosy colonies), we found that the houses in Indira Nagar (Kumangalam Colony) are in a very bad shape / condition and they requested Udavum Karangal to paint their houses. We identified 8 houses for repainting at a cost of Rs. 2.69 lakhs. Udavum Karangal deputed their Painters and the painting work for all the 8 houses was completed on 21-09-2021 and houses were handed over to the residents.

Media - Dinamalar
Anna Nagar Times

Udavum Karangal rescues Tamil destitute from Haryana

By S. Vidyokaar

On July 7, while sipping my morning coffee, I got a call from one Kush Barghava from Haryana about a psychiatric person from Tamilnadubounced in a destitute home in Fatehabad (Haryana).

He said that the man was rescued from the street in an emaciated condition, and could speak only Tamil. When I spoke to the man, he was incoherent but said his name was Jayakumar. He gave the phone number of his sister Chandra living in Namakkal. Chandra confirmed that Jayakumar was her brother, but refused to take him back, stating that he was unmanageable due to his mental condition and would only give her trouble and run away again.

His parents are no more and he has one more sister who too shrugged away from the responsibility. I decided to take care of him which meant bringing him down to our home in Thiruvuruladu. One of our social workers Srinivasa Rao travelled to Fatehabad on July 16 and managed to bring him back after a sleepless 30-hour train journey during which he had to keep a constant vigil to ensure that he did not run away during the travel as he was schizophrenic and also displayed streaks of violent behaviour.

Of the 5,500 rescues of destitute persons done by Udavum Karangal in the last 37 years, this was from the furthest place and also one of the most challenging.

After two days of medication and counselling, Jayakumar revealed that he had been working as a cleaner with a transport company and his wife Nithya had separated from him due to his mental condition. His psychiatric condition worsened after he suffered head injuries in an accident in 2017. We will take care of him until he becomes normal and then counsel his sisters to accept him back.

*Vidyokaar is the Founder of the NGO Udavum Karangal with its administrative office in 460, 25th street, NSK Nagar, between Shanki Colony and Anna Arch, Arumbakkam, Ph: 99401 88011 / 2821 6321.*

PHC – Before Painting work

PHC – After Painting work


Painting of all Iron/Steel items in PHC like Iron table, Room Cupboard, Ramp handle, Compound wall Grill, Room Grill, Main Gate & Side Gate, Room Entrance Gate, Small Grill, Backside Gate, Front & Back Shed Work and Parking Shed.

Cost of the project = Rs. 67, 210/-

*COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT SCHOOLS [CDPS]*

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

1. Government Primary Health Centre,
   Thirumuravur, Thiruvallur District.
   - Painted two rooms
   - Colour painting work completed (interior and exterior) for the entire PHC building
   - Compound wall colour painting completed

   Cost of the project = Rs.2,75,640/-

*GAYATHRI HOSPITAL*

Free Treatment to Mr. Sivalingam

During the medical checkup at Amma Nagar, Poonamallee for Narikuravas, the team noticed a person by name Mr. Sivalingam, aged 60 was unable to walk due to the wound underneath his foot (right leg) started protruding on the upper side of his foot
below the ankle. He took treatment at KMC (Kilpauk Medical College & Hospital) where doctors said that his leg has to be amputated.

Gangadaran, after which the Doctors decided to perform a Dynamic Hip Implant surgery for him. The surgery will be a challenging one considering his age, comorbidities and low cardiac ejection fraction.

During the distribution of breakfast to Narikuravas, Mrs. Gomathy, Social Worker along with the medical team dressed up his wound daily. The Founder Secretary Thiru S. Vidyaakar saw the pathetic condition of Mr Sivalingam and he immediately recommended him for treatment at Gayathri Hospital, Thiruverkadu - a unit of Udavum Karangal, free of cost. He was treated and now he is able to walk on his own.

Mr. Sivalingam and his family placed on record their profound thanks to Mrs. Gomathy, who took personal care on a daily basis and also Mr. Vidyaakar Founder-Udavum Karangal not only for treating him for his wound but also for providing food and other amenities to the whole family during difficult times.

**Dynamic Hip Implant Surgery to a senior citizen**

Mr. Gangadaran, 92 year old male senior citizen rushed to Gayathri Hospital (A unit of Udavum Karangal) as he skidded and fell down in the rest room and had an unbearable pain in his hip.

On admission to the hospital, the Doctors completely examined and diagnosed Mr. Our Doctors’ team explained the challenges of the surgery and gave hope and made his family comfortable, to undergo the surgery at Gayathri Hospital. Surgeon, Anaesthetist and the surgery team assessed the patient and planned for surgery but unfortunately he got haematuria at the time of shifting to the operation theatre. So the surgery was postponed to obtain clearance from the Urologist.

Urologist examined the patient and treated him for haematuria. After receiving the clearance from Urologist, the Surgery was fixed and procedure performed. Post operation, all investigations were found to be normal. Patient responded very well after the surgery.

Founder Secretary Thiru S. Vidyaakar visited the hospital and greeted Mr. Gangadaran for a speedy recovery. This surgery was one of the milestones of Gayathri Hospital, since an implant surgery was performed for a 92 year old male.
Another Mile Stone at Gayathri Hospital

Mr. Selvam, aged 37, from Bangalore had fallen from the terrace of his residence under the influence of alcohol. His wife took him to a nearby hospital and treated based on the CT (Face) scan report. But she was told that a surgery is required and it would cost around Rs. 6 to 7 lakhs.

Mrs Selvam started searching for a good hospital with affordable treatment /surgery cost. As the time was running she lost her hope of finding a good hospital. Luckily she happened to meet Dr. Arunandian, who suggested “Gayathri Hospital”, Chennai which would provide best treatment and care for the patient at affordable cost for the needy people.

She then immediately travelled to Chennai and admitted Mr. Selvam in Gayathri Hospital. The Doctors upon diagnosing (CT Scan) the patient found that Mr. Selvam has Fracture of Base of Skull resulting in Leakage of Cerebro spinal fluid from the Brain for which a major surgery needs to be performed.

Doctors explained the challenges of the surgery to his wife and gave her the hope for the success of the surgery. After getting the consent from his family, the surgery was performed by a team of Doctors (Neurosurgical & Oro Facio maxillary Surgical). Patient was then shifted to ICU and monitored.

Doctors’ team has confirmed that the surgery went on well and the patient recovered successfully. He will be completely alright within 2 weeks. Mr. Vidyaakar, the Director of the Hospital visited the patient to greet him with a bouquet for the successful recovery and gave him hopeful words. The credit for the successful Surgery goes to both the Consultant team & the Anaesthetist. Our Duty Doctors, Staff Nurses, Supervisors, Bio Medical Engineer, Pharmacists, OT Technician, and other Paramedical Staff also played their part in the successful recovery of this patient.

It is yet another mile stone towards successful surgery conducted by Gayathri Hospital.

Health Check-up for Drivers of Indian Oil Corporation

M/s Indian Oil Corporation approached and requested Gayathri Hospital to conduct a Health Check-up Camp for their Drivers at Chembarambakkam Outlet. Based on the approval from Director, Gayathri Hospital, team was formed. The Camp was conducted on 16-09-21. Basic Health Check-up like Height, Weight, BP, Sugar etc, was tested for 50 drivers. It was very useful and M/s Indian Oil Corporation thanked the team and the Director of Gayathri Hospital.

PROGRAMMES

Vaccination Camp at Udagum Karangal Units.
DENTAL ORIENTATION PROGRAM

In memory of her mother, Dr. Santo Grace, Dentist of Gayathri Hospital, wanted to sponsor dinner for the children of Shanthivanam. So with that, she and her team also wanted to conduct an awareness program on “Maintaining Dental Hygiene”

Residents and staff of Shanthivanam attended the program which was arranged in the Church. The skit performed by them was funny as well as meaningful. A speech was also given by Dr. Santo Grace in maintaining healthy teeth with an interesting story. The session was conducted not only with useful information but with more different examples where children could understand it in an easier way. Finally a dance with few steps was taught for them. At the closing ceremony, dinner was served for all the residents.

MEDICAL CAMP AT THIRUVANNAMALAI

A Free Medical Camp was organized by Dr. Monica at our Thiruvannamalai Unit for all the patients (both male and female) on 16th August 2021. Tests results of all vitals were analysed by her and she has prescribed medicines accordingly. This was done by her voluntarily.

Construction of Crematorium by Udavum Karangal at Annanagar-Velangadu

The Covid-19 pandemic which has brought unprecedented deaths all over the world has also not left Chennai from this malady. There has been a long queue at the Crematoria all over the city with suffering relatives of the dead waiting for hours together to cremate their dear ones.

On August 22, 2021 7.30 AM, Founder of Udavum Karangal Mr. S. Vidyaakar performed Bhoomi pooja at Velangadu Crematorium, Annanagar East, Chennai 600102 for the construction of a LPG crematorium with equipments by the NGO to make
it more environmental friendly Mr. Vidyaakar said, “We believe that this project will be helpful not only for the local population residing in and around Anna Nagar but also for the neighbouring areas and the users will also have all facilities and the look and feel of the Crematorium will have a soothing effect on the bereaved families.”

The cost of the Project is Rs.3.35 crores and will be completed by September 2022.

Eye Camp by Sankara Nethralaya

A community eye screening camp was conducted in the premises of Udavum Karangal by The Sankara Nethralaya Academy (TSNA) on 24th and 25th September 2021.

On the first day, a team of 11, comprising the Principal of TSNA – Dr. Anuja R Singh, 2 clinically experienced faculties, 4 post graduate students, and 4 fellows of Clinical Optometry performed the examination. A total of 85 residents of the psychiatric wing were examined on the first day. On the following day, a larger team of 14 Optometrists which included 3 more post graduate students examined 132 residents.

The camp provided knowledge and an extensive learning experience to the students and fellows. It also instilled a sense of service to the needed among the entire team of young optometrists. TSNA team is grateful to Thiru Vidyaakar, Social worker and Founder Udavum Karangal, Admin manager Ms Chandrika Krishnan and the team of volunteers from the organization, for the excellent hospitality and the immense support and help provided to the visiting team to attend the residents with care and concern.

**MARRIAGES AT UDAVUM KARANGAL**

Marriages conducted during the period July 2021 to Sep 2021, to the resident girls of Udavum Karangal are as follows:

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