



Babu, Mala & Kavitha

Children Story

Manjula, 40 years old widow from remote village near Tiruttani, Tiruvallur District. She has 3 children and finds it difficult to feed the children with her meager daily wages. Very often neighbours quarreled with her and suspected her moral character. So, she has decided to vacate the village and migrates to Karnataka to work in stone quarry.

In this situation she has been referred to Children's Home by the local volunteers. She has been admitted in the Women's Home run

by IRCDS and her children were admitted in the Home. Now all her three children Kavitha (7th Std) Mala (9th Std) & Babu (6th Std) are admitted in the nearest school. Now Manjula is also very often staying in the children's Home and supporting all the children in their day to day activities voluntarily.

The next step : Creation of a Financial Adoption Program "Friends of the Home of Perambakkam"

After finishing of the construction of the Home building in August 2011, a financial adoption fund "Friends of the Home of Perambakkam" has been created in Belgium on the initiative of Mr. Bruno Vander Stichele. The goal of this fund is to gather some extra financial resources in order to allow for better food and clothing, appointment of tuition teacher, educational expenses and educational trips for the residing children. Please note that this financial adoption project is open to everyone and is getting the support of many individual persons (family and friends, including also individual Lions members).

This financial adoption fund initiative has been recently officially recognized by the Belgium based NGO CAW "Het Welzijnshuis" at Willebroek, Belgium and as such, all contributors in Belgium will get a fiscal tax reduction on their contribution for this project.

Financial Contribution from the friends of the Home of Perambakkam:

In May 2012 the Home has received a first financial contribution of Rs.41,264 through the Belgium based NGO Centrum voor Algemeen Welzijn (CAW) to meet the gap of Govt.'s support for running the home. As explained earlier, the contribution is mainly being used for the better diversified food, appointment of tuition teacher, educational expenses and educational trips.

Sincere thanks and gratitude to the contributors of the construction of the Home for abandoned children and to the contributors of the financial adoption fund

"Friends of the Home of Perambakkam"

Members of LC- Klein Brabant

LCIF

CAW Het WELZIJNSHUIS vzw, Belgium, Willebroek,

Many individual well wishers from Belgium

LC Perambakkam

LC Perambakkam Children's Home

Background :

Tiruvallur district has been identified as one of the backward interstate border districts in India by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). In this District majority of the people are living below poverty line and they are in most cases landless agricultural labourers.

Since Tiruvallur is closer to Chennai city and Andhra State border district, more children were detected as neglected children. The reason for this higher detection rate is that Tiruvallur well connected with train service. So children from nearest district and state are also coming by the train because of a conflict with the parents or with stepmother or caretakers. Sometimes, due to frequent conflicts between father and mother, the children will get upset and run away from the house. Due to acute poverty situation of the vulnerable families, these children cannot be taken care any more by the single parent. When police, social work organisations, volunteers, community based organisations, schools find this category of children, they are referred to Integrated Rural Community Development Society (IRCDS) for counselling, care, protection and education.



The following categories of children between the age group of 0 - 18 years are admitting in this Government approved home :

- Abandoned / neglected children
- Parentless children
- Orphan children
- Semi orphan children
- Street children

The following services are provided to the children

Counselling

Food, accommodation, care & protection

Education through regular schools and evening tuition classes

Recreation and games

Career guidance & counselling

Child Story

Anitha aged 13 years from Andhra Pradesh State and settled down in Ekkadu village. Her father is addicted to alcohol and due to this his liver is affected and under medical treatment. Her mother is found difficult to manage their two children. So through one school head master Anitha recently referred to Home and studying 8th standard. Her brother Arjunan also staying in the Home and studying 5th Standard. **Anitha says "actually my mother has planned to drop me from the school and send for brick moulding work where I can earn money for our family livelihood. When I got a chance to meet the head master I shared my pathetic situation then he counseled my mother and referred to this Home. Because of the head master and this IRCDS Home today in school otherwise I will be in the brick kiln child labour"**



Anitha

Joint Initiative of Lions Clubs and IRCDS:

IRCDS organization is a local NGO which has been officially approved by the local Indian government for running a Home for abandoned children in Tiruvallur. At the moment 32 children present in the Home, but, until recently, these abandoned children had to be spread over different locations (actually one location for the girls and another one for the boys) as there was no suitable single building available for the Home. In that context, Lions clubs and IRCDS have decided to join forces in providing a permanent solution for the lodging problem. For that specific purpose, a local Lions trust organization, Lions Trust Perambakkam Children's Home (LTPCH) has been created by the local Lions Club Perambakkam (LC Perambakkam) in association with Lions Club Klein-Brabant from Belgium (LC Klein-Brabant)



MUNUSAMY

Child Story

Munusamy 16 years old belongs to dalit (Dalit is a lower caste) community native of Palavakkam village in Tiruvallur district. The parents obtained pre employment advance from the Rice mill employer and staying in the work place premises with inadequate facilities. The family is under debt bondage (Note: a situation where debt needs to be repaid to an employer, and where the family, due to lack of funds, repays by working on the rice mills for a strongly reduced salary) and subsequently receiving less than minimum wages. The parents have 7 children (3 daughters & 4 sons) all the six children are working with the parents as child labourer.

With the guidance of one social worker, Munusamy's mother took initiative to enroll her son in the Home run by IRCDS. He is staying in the Home from 6th Standard. Now he is studying 10th Standard. **Munusamy says "I am the first educated child in my family". After my studies I will release my entire family from the debt bondage situation". This Home made a turning point in my life i.e prevents me from the bonded child labour. I will make aware other child labourer to become school goers".**

LTPCH has acquired a land with the cooperation of IRCDS and with the full support of the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF), LC Klein-Brabant and LC Perambakkam permanent building for the "Home of the abandoned children" was constructed in August 2011. LTPCH will be the full and sole owner of the land and the construction of the Home built upon this land. The building is put in to use from January 2012. IRCDS has taken responsibility for the day to day management of the home with the support of local Government.

Now the best possible conditions of housing and education for the children are now available for the children residing in the Home with the support of local Government, the Local Lions Club LC Perambakkam and the Belgian Lions Club LC Klein-Brabant, friends / colleagues and local community.



Relationship with other activities of IRCDS, Lions Perambakkam and Community:

IRCDS promoted community based organization; *Vasantham Federation of Persons with Disabilities* has mobilized some note books and uniforms for Children from the staff of local company SSL- TTK Limited and local elected panchayat (Panchayat is a name for a local group of villages) representatives.

As as staff member of IRCDS, Mr. Palani visits the home daily at evening and spends time with the children helping them with their home work and conducting tuition classes for these children. However IRCDS is looking forward to appoint a local girl who better in English, Science and Maths subjects to teach the children in the evening.

During the last six months period, 14 days (either noon meal/ breakfast/dinner) for children was directly provided by the Perambakkam Lions Club members and local women SHG members and local elected panchayat representatives.

As frequent cut of power supply in the local area, the Inverter which was donated by Mr. Bruno Vander Stichele and Ms. Ann was highly helpful for the children during the examination times.

Annual Examination results - May 2012

Out of 32 children Stayed in the home 29 Children were went to school. Out of 29 Children 27 children has been promoted to next class. Two children detained in Maths and science subjects.



Saravanan

Child Story

Saravanan, aged 13 coming from Ammayarkuppam village in Tiruvallur district. His father is a heart patient and undergone surgery by borrowing multiple loans. He is

not able to work anymore. This parents have 3 children. The mother finds it difficult to feed the children with her single agricultural labour wage. In this situation, with the referral of one visually impaired person Sarvanan has been admitted in IRCDS Home before 2 years. Now he is studying 8th standard. Other two children are in two different hostels. **Saravanan said that "my first and foremost aim in my life is the wiping the tears of my loving mother by studying well".**

Day to day or special activities of the children:

6.00 am	Wake Up
6.00 to 7.00 am	Morning Duties
7.00 to 8.00 am	Studies
8.00 to 8.30 am	Breakfast
9.30 am to 4.00 pm	School
4.30 pm	Arrival from School
4.30 pm	Tea and snacks
4.45 to 5.45 pm	Playing
5.45 to 6.00 pm	Refreshment
6.00 to 8.00 pm	Studies
8.00 to 8.30 pm	Dinner
8.30 to 9.30 pm	Recreation and Middle High school children will do writing works
9.30 pm	Sleep



Thiyagarajan

Child Story

Thiyagarajan, is a 15 years old boy studying 9th standard. His mother died and his father remarried and living with his second wife in an unknown place. In this situation, Thiyagarajan was taken care by the grand mother. After some time grand mother was not able anymore to educate and manage this child with her single wage earning. So with the guidance of a women SHG member Thiyagarajan was admitted into the Home. During the past 3 years he is staying in the Home. **Thiyagarajan said "as I have no parents, this Home is my own house and all the inmates are my brothers and sisters".**