Dear Friends,

Greetings from Sristi Village Community!

Each quarter of the year, we look back at our journey and feel overwhelmed not just for the extra mile we travelled but for the immense support we have had from everyone whom we met worldwide-supporters, parents, staff, partner organizations, family, friends everyone showed so much faith and loyalty in us all along, trusted us which allowed us to take all the risks and we took the risks because we were so sure of the support we have from you to step forward.

A humble journey, which started in 2013, with a commitment to make meaningful interventions in the empowerment of people with disabilities in rural villages, has progressed far beyond our expectations.

It gives us immense pleasure to present the 22nd Edition “The Creations” newsletter, which highlights the impact of our programs and reuniting 12 individuals in the mainstream society.

We are able to make this difference because of your support in diverse ways for our vision. We work relentlessly to make sure every member in our community is getting the opportunity to live, learn, work and generate income to lead a meaningful life in the mainstream society.

With gratitude

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Program Highlights

BACK TO MAINSTREAM SOCIETY

Sristi’s vision is to give intellectually disabled people the opportunity to learn some farming skills in order to practically apply these skills to generate their own income, become self-sustaining and independent in order to lead a dignified and holistic life. Our aim is to empower disadvantaged and disabled people to live dignified and self-supporting lives in a new and innovative way.

Our second batch of students (12) who have successfully completed their Adult Independent Living training in our Sristi community and undergone Hospitality Management Course in Swami Vivekananda Rural Community College, Puducherry. We are proud to present our 12 students with intellectual and developmental disabilities who got placement in and around Villupuram District.

By seeing them stand independently and taking care of their own lives gives us confidence and inspires us and makes us understand that disability is not a barrier it’s a step to success. Their willingness and capability inspire us and motivate us to take charge to change many more lives and to create opportunities to make their lives better.

TOWARDS INCLUSIVE

Sristi Special School has left nothing unturned from academic excellence to life skills, order to work independently, free choice to be self-reliant individuals in their own community. All these are beautifully woven in our curriculum to create an art for each child, the art called Independent Living. Today we have a team that helps children with special needs to understand the world around them to push our limits and move towards excellence with this energetic and enthusiastic team.

In this term, after the lockdown relaxation our children explored their new classrooms, understood their routine and met new friends, teachers, caregivers who support them in their class. Children are enjoying learning through play, both in the indoor and outdoor learning opportunities. These opportunities enable the children to explore, play, investigate and make connections in their learning. We have planned to construct an accessible therapy park for children with special needs and to focus on developing outdoor learning through play.

EFFORTS THAT BORE FRUITS

Sristi’s biggest dream is to cultivate sustainably fresh organic vegetables and fruits for our community members from our own farm throughout the year and now it is happening. In this season we harvested a bounty of fresh vegetables including: juicy tomatoes, spinach, lady’s finger (okra), radish, pumpkin, bean varieties, snake guard, bottle guard, turkey berry, brinjal, drumstick, spinach varieties.

To create a healthier eco-system, we have initiated various eco-friendly projects like Miyawaki and live fencing project which comprises indigenous species in our 10 acres of land. In the past three months we have seen excellent growth. Summer is definitely another busy season for our farming community. In summer our farm team works hard to ensure crops are hydrated and protected from potentially harmful elements not only the plants but also our community.

Sristi was once a barren land now we feel blessed and so happy to have an abundance of fresh produce to provide for our community members. We wholeheartedly thank our farm workers and our energetic members for their tireless work.
PONGAL o PONGAL- THE HARVEST FESTIVAL

We Sristi celebrated PONGAL, the four-day harvest festival with great enthusiasm with our community members, parents, volunteers and supporters. Pongal is not a random celebration for our farming community; it is an emotion we exhibit our gratitude to the exquisite Mother Nature for her endless benediction throughout the year but also express our gratitude to donors for their loyalty and trust they have placed on our vision.

The event was designed in a manner to evoke and expose the community members inner talents and to enjoy to their fullest. The celebration started out with a pongal message by our special guest Shri. E. Vallavan, IAS (Puducherry). Followed by sweet Pongal prepared by parents, community members and volunteers in a new earthen pot. Traditional games, dance, music were performed which boosted everyone's energy.

Every year Eaton India Pvt., Ltd., would celebrate the day with us and provide a grand lunch. The Pongal festival celebration in our community is a true manifestation of our rich culture and tradition. We were able to experience it vibrantly.

REACHED 100+ POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES THROUGH THERAPY ON WHEELS

The Covid-19 pandemic has in flame the crypt limitations of healthcare system mainly for children with special needs in deep rural villages. During the covid-19 relief work we realized that the awareness about developmental disabilities among parents is low in Villupuram district. Corresponding to that social stigma coupled with overcrowded government health facilities pushed parents of children with special needs in difficulty to receive proper medical and therapeutic intervention.

Through labor, we witnessed that early diagnosis and continuous therapy helps in curing disabilities up to 90% level and enrolling such children in normal schools. With all these positive impacts, we initiated Sristi Mobile Therapy Unit as a pilot project in Mailam Block in the month of August 2021 to support hundred potential beneficiaries in 13 blocks of Villupuram district.

With the support of committed Community Rehabilitation Workers, we have started to screen and identify children with special needs in the mid of October and completed the process at the end of February by screening 2089 children and identified 155 children in 88 villages, 47 panchayats and filtered it to 105 beneficiaries who are eligible to receive our service.
BUILDING OF JOY!

9 years ago, we Sristi started with a single thatched hut which was the only place to learn, eat and sleep. As we grow, we love to upgrade our village infrastructure which allows the community and its members to improve their comfort and capacity. We are adding one more sustainable eco-friendly building to our disabled-friendly community which is a safe and secure environment that enables effective learning and prepares our young adults with intellectual disabilities for future endeavor’s towards service.

We wholeheartedly thank Dr. Sasikala Akka, Vishnu, Srishti, Gokul, Dr. Anand, and the whole family for your generous support and we are extremely thankful and grateful for our long-lasting relationship. The building was inaugurated in the presence of Dr. Anand and Mr. Gokul.

IT’S ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY SAFETY

Sristi strongly believes that a safe and secure environment is a prerequisite for effective teaching and learning for that we constructed a security cabin which will assist the community to create a welcoming experience for everyone with a maximum safety. In addition, In Sristi for power, we have solar panels and bio-plantation for 80% of the usage yet we need electricity to run the community 24 X 7.

To ensure the safety of our community members we constructed a proper electrical room to provide safe operations and maintenance of the equipment and create a significant impact on distributing the electrical power.

“Actions speak louder than words and today you have shown this to be the absolute truth. Thank you Dr. Sasikala Akka for being so kind and considerate. The electrical wiring and connection support was done by Eaton India Pvt., Ltd. We are immensely grateful Eaton India Pvt., Ltd., for your loyalty and continuous long-term collaboration over the past 4 years.

DISABILITY PREVENTION AWARENESS PROGRAMME

Sristi Collaborated with National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities under Govt., of India and organized a two day flagship programme which includes disability awareness and training for families of people with disabilities in Sristi community and in a Rural village. 100 people actively participated in this programme. We came together to provide opportunities and a better life for PWDs who are still excluded from societal life.

Resource persons Mr. Gurumoorthy (Rehabilitation Officer), Mr. Robert Richard (Social Worker) and Mr. Muthukrishnan (Principal of Sristi School) promoted an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. Special Guest Shri. E. Vallavan, IAS gave awareness on Disability Prevention.

We are so thankful for your presence. We wholeheartedly thank Special guest Mr. Iyyadurai (Primary School Correspondent), Ms. Suba Nadarajan (Ward Member), Ms. Brindhasakthi Murugan (Panchayat Head) for your presence and Mr. Sathyamoorthy for coordinating the event.
WHEEL THE WORLD

Stepping out of your comfort zone when you have a disability is so much more than just having the confidence to explore many. Sivagami and Anand Raj are a couple born and brought up in Pondicherry District. Both are affected with polio and cerebral palsy but that does not limit them from achieving great things.

Currently both of them reside in Sristi as a residential staff as a care giver for children with special needs. Their dedication towards taking care of the children has shown in childrens progress.

Recently, NIPMD under the Govt., of India organized a state level exhibition for people with disabilities to display products made by people with disabilities at Madurai which paved a new way for them to explore and experience without depending on anyone.

They usually travel with friends or family but always with assistance but for the first time as a married couple with his wife a wheelchair user travelled to a new place by train. This trip made them to fall in love with travel and showed them that there’s so much out there in the world.

Sivagami said: “If you can’t stand up, stand out”, I am living with this mentality daily. I might not be able to stand physically but I can stand for anything that I wish to.

LOCAL LEVEL COMMITTEE MEETING

We Sristi Conducted the Local Level Committee meeting under the chairmanship of Shri. D. Mohan I.A.S District Collector cum Magistrate. LLC is a district-level committee to provide guardianship for persons with autism, cerebral palsy, intellectual disability, and multiple disabilities under the National Trust Act 1999. Sristi Foundation is an authorized LLC-NGO member of the committee to implement the LLC activities in Villupuram District.

During this meeting, the committee approved 6 applications from the qualified applicants. Soon, we will issue the Guardianship certificates. Thanks to District Differently Abled Welfare Officer for his co-operation and support.

SRISTI STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE YEAR 2022 - 2025

We are pleased to present Sristi Strategic Plan for the year 2022-2025. It sets out the blueprint for action for the organisation for the next three years, giving the community and the Sristi team direction and inspiration to continue as a leading provider of support for the Empowerment of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in rural villages.

Our 10 years of service in the terrain has an impressive legacy, and this plan will continue to build on the remarkable work we have already achieved. Our services touch the lives of many, making a significant impact on the quality of life and opportunities for our young adult with intellectual and developmental disabilities and children with special needs.

We thank all our current partners who demonstrated their willingness to learn and adapt and shared with us the realities and limitations of work in the field in our sector.

Our special thanks go to Dhawani Foundation for their enormous support to build the Strategic Plan for Sristi Foundation and for their support to build the capacity of our organization through the pioneering of Niranthara Programme.

To understand our Strategic Plan Scan:
GROW FUND

We are delighted to share that Sristi Foundation has been selected as one of #GROW’s100 – a collection of stellar grassroots organizations from across India!

The GROW Fund is a first-of-its-kind initiative by Edel Give Foundation aiming towards building a resilient civil society and strengthening 100 grassroots organizations from across India over a period of 24 months. We are glad to be one of them!

“INDIA LIVES IN VILLAGES”- Mahatma Gandhi

Most of the Indians live in rural villages where they lack access to their basic rights as compared to urban analogue. We need a paradigm shift in our approach for the vision of real development of India. To bridge the injustice that rural people face, Youths of India stepped forward beyond the chamber and started to find opportunities to work with the communities from the grassroot to create a real impact.

We received 17 vibrant youths from Teach for India Fellowship for a day exposure at sristi village community. Teach for India aims for educational equity in rural India. They worked in different areas of sristi projects which allowed them to interact with community members and professionals to view real life experiences and hard work to build a sustainable community.

The students and professors enjoyed conducting various games and dance for our community members and distributed gifts to encourage them. They left the community with full of positivity and expressed a desire to serve the society.

Youth is responsible to build the nation, to make society noble. If youth understand his responsibility, a large number of crimes may reduce within one day.

POWER OF THE YOUTH

“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future”. We received 17 youths with full of energy and desire to learn from St. Joseph College of Arts & Science, Cuddalore studying commerce came for a day exposure at sristi village community. They explored in different areas of sristi projects which allowed them to interact with community members and professionals to view real life experiences and hard work to build a sustainable community.

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FOUNDATION FOR A STRONGER TOMORROW

Sristi always looks for opportunities to improve and enhance its ability to achieve its mission and sustain itself over time. We have partnered with Dhwani Foundation which envisions and strives to make the development sector more efficient and transparent to create a huge impact in the society through visionaries. Dhwani surveyed and selected 32 organization’s from all over Tamil Nadu choosing the right organisation to provide training.

Through Niranthara program, Dhwani helps to build the capacity of the organisation, for compliance, governance, MIS, finance and accounting, and fundraising and marketing. The program aims at empowering organization’s to perform better internally and towards the community we serve. As a part of the program, they conduct regular assessments to build organisation transparency and during the compliance assessment we fulfilled 96% of our compliance and are in the second position.

We wholeheartedly thank Dhwani Foundation for understanding our vision and dream for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and supporting us to improve sustainability, strength and scalability of our organisation.
SRISTI IN THE SPOTLIGHT

PROF. YESHWANTRAO KELKAR YOUTH AWARD 2021

We want to express our sincere appreciation and thanks to Vidyarthi Nidhi Trust and Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad for recognizing Sristi for the outstanding service we are doing for the People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in rural areas with the 2021 Prof. Yeshwantrao Kelkar Youth Award and One Lakh Cash Prize in memory of Prof. Yeshwantrao Kelkar who inspired thousands of students and youth for undertaking social work as a “Jeevan Drishti (Vision of Life)”. I feel humbled to receive the award from the great eminent person Nobel Peace Laureate Mr.Kailash Satyarthi an Indian social reformer who campaigned against child labor in India and advocated the universal Right to Education. It is clearly a great honor for us to receive this special award from Mr.Kailash Satyarthi which shows us that we are on the right track on building a nation without disability.

ULHAVAN AWARD 2022

We are deeply pleased and honored to receive the Uzhavan Award 2022 and the One Lakh Cash Prize from Uzhavan Foundation, Chennai. We sincerely thank Actor Karthik, Suriya, and their family members for their amazing hospitality, love, and support. We are so impressed with their social commitment.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all the people who made this happen. We take this opportunity to thank all our donors and supporters for your continuous help and we are very grateful for the trust you've placed in us.

ALERT Being Award 2021 for – THE UNSUNG HEROES

We want to express our genuine appreciation and gratitude to ALERT organisation for recognizing Sristi Foundation with the ALERT BEING AWARDS 2021 for the outstanding service we are doing for the People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Rural areas.

It was really humbling to receive the award from the great eminent person Thiru. MA. Subramanian, Honourable Minister- Health and Family Welfare Government of Tamil Nadu also in the presence of Dr.J. Radhakrishnan, IAS – Principal secretary to the Health and Family welfare Government of Tamil Nadu which shows us that we are on the right track on building a nation without disability.

GLOBAL EXCELLENCE AWARD 2022

Global Excellence Award is an award presented annually on International Women's Day by the Global Trust, Cuddalore working for the persons with disabilities that recognizes and acknowledges invincible potential of women who have contributed to the society by their great work.

Our Joint Director Ms. Lakshmi Karthikeyan, ChildBirth Educator received Global Excellence Award 2022 for her initiative MAGAVU (Child Birth Education Centre) which aims to empower and provide a mindful birth experience to all pregnant women and to create a healthy generation. It is a place where many families are getting educated through evidence-based knowledge by providing information for childbirth.

Also, by collaborating with Sristi Foundation Mobile Therapy Project she is raising awareness in 88 villages for the rural women on how to have a healthy pregnancy and disability prevention.
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**YOU HAVE THE POWER TO HELP**

Make A Difference!

**WE APPRECIATE YOUR KINDNESS**

It takes a certain kind of person to make a difference in the world who choose to help others.

Thank You for being one of them!