



## **"Do Small Things With Great Love" - Mother Teresa**

**Dear Friends,**

### **Greetings from Sristi Village Community!**

Sristi's main aim is to manifest the potential of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and thereby to find fulfilment of life through socio-economic rehabilitation to be achieved by them on their own merit and to live independent and meaningful life. Our community members have a clear purpose of their life at sristi. In an enabling and loving environment our community members encourage them to explore their limitless potential and identify their skill based on their interest. Our committed educators are a pillar of strength to us.

We facilitate our community members moving ahead to become independent resulting as a powerful individual in the mainstream society. We wholeheartedly thank our worldwide-supporters, parents, staff, partner organizations, family, friends and everyone who showed so much faith and loyalty in us all along to achieve sristi's vision.

It gives us immense pleasure to present our newsletter **Volume 9 Issue 2 of July 2022 "The Creations"**, which highlights our community members first month salary, a unique trip to Rameswaram, initiated group home- a community living space for young adult women with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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**



**#Sristi Foundation**

**[www.sristivillage.org](http://www.sristivillage.org)**



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# Program Highlights

## DONEE BECOME DONOR

Sristi witnessed and found out that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who have moved from institutions to community-based settings are happier, healthier, have control over their lives and most importantly able to function independently.

To set example, our second batch of students (12) who have successfully completed their Adult Independent Living training and Vocational Training in our Sristi community got placed in different jobs based on their personal interest and potential.

We are proud to announce our students with intellectual and developmental disabilities who got placement in and around Villupuram District received their **FIRST MONTH SALARY**.

Two of our community members named Shiva Sankar and Bharanidharan sponsored food for our whole community with their first salary made us so emotional and feel proud of seeing them as a powerful individual in the society.

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

Through this opportunity we can see the valuable contribution people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can make in their own community and also to ensure to express their views in all matters affecting them.



## COMMUNITY LIVING FOR ADULT WOMEN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – GROUP HOME

Sristi initiated an assisted and Independent Living for Young Adult Women with Intellectual and developmental disabilities. A first-of-its-kind initiative in Puducherry a group home is just that – a home. It may have rules about how it needs to run, but it helps disabled adults live in a real community in a real house with a real continuity of people around them.

We are so much excited about our first group of girls who already enjoying their life along with their friends. We feel blessed to collaborate with **"Satya Special School"** for being with us in every step, also helping us in therapeutic support, vocational who also enhance the quality of the project, and **"The Banyan organization"** - our knowledge partner.

We would like to give special thanks to **Betsy** for giving us knowledge on Social Role Valorization-SRV, it adds lots of value to our work. We wholeheartedly thank **Dr. Sasikala** for supporting this life-changing project for adult women with intellectual and developmental disabilities.





## SRISTI VILLAGE TO RAMESWARAM – The Unique Travel Experience

Sristi's long-term desire of taking our community members to another district to give a taste of travel experience in train finally happened. We started our straight 11-hour journey to Rameswaram from Sristi Village. The boys enjoyed themselves and had a thrilling experience of a train crossing on **Pamban Bridge** above the sea. The most memorable experience was the head towards **Ramanathaswamy Temple** which has 22 wells, poosari drew out water from the wells and doused us in clear sacred water. Our boys felt so refreshed and left the temple after getting blessings from the elephant.

From there we went to **Dhanushkodi** – reaching this place was a pleasant trip, as the road approaching this place passes between the sea water from both sides. We stopped by and took a walk to the beach. The place was destroyed in the cyclone in 1964, one of our life skill educators from Rameswaram explained the stories to our community members to experience the present condition. We saw a **Roman Catholic Church** with a sea view constructed with corals which was an amazing place that made us feel the history of what happened 60 years ago.

From there we went straight to our former president **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Memorial** which has been arranged in a manner to offer a glimpse into his life. All our boys were overwhelmed by seeing his place. During the stay we had fresh seafood and cooked for two days by ourselves. We enjoyed cooking a lot together with our dear boys.

We went to the Rameswaram beach, We the whole team were able to feel and enjoy a moment of pure bliss as they felt the sea waves on their bare feet, took a breath of fresh air, collecting sea shells, building sand castles, relax and rejuvenate with heartfelt smiles and can be seen overjoyed to play by the shore. So, our day in Rameswaram ended, we returned to our community with complete satisfaction by seeing the happiness in every member's face. It made our tour all worthwhile.

We wholeheartedly thank **Ms. Doris Tour, Switzerland** who supported this wonderful train journey, it was a lifetime experience for our community members to travel by train over the sea and meet new people in the train, interact with them and people got the chance to know about them and how intelligent and kind people with intellectual disabilities are!





## BIO-DIVERSITY PLANTING

We believed and witnessed that planting more trees can provide a habitat for birds and bees, protect against pests and environmental hazards which leads to improved water quality and protect soil and become more fertile. In 10 acres of land, we have planted 3000+ trees, 100 percent of the trees are surviving which motivates us to plant 75 coconut trees in half acre of land. Besides providing a massive availability of food for our community, it offers to give them a therapeutic means of livelihood.

We were absolutely thrilled and wholeheartedly thank **France Volontaires** team who came along to assist and did such a great job of preparing the land for plantation. Special Thanks to **Intellect Design Arena Ltd.**, contributing for this project to reach one of our core values Environmental Sustainability.

Meanwhile our community is enjoying the Mango and chikku season. To enhance the productivity for sustainable farming we sristi foundation are practicing traditional agricultural techniques. Bio-diversity is not only our goal it is an asset to our farm. We not only find ways for a better harvest but also, we are working to improve and protect ecosystem and the many organisms that inhabit them.

We wholeheartedly thank our farm workers and our energetic members for their tireless work.



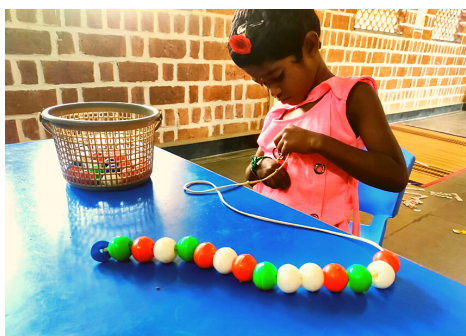
## TOWARDS INCLUSIVE

All children with special needs have equal rights to lead a better quality of life. This may be enabled with committed professionalism, accessible environment, equal opportunity, positive attitudes and appropriate, acceptable and available technological intervention. The ultimate aim of Sristi Special School, is to make children with special needs to be independent in all aspects.

Once in every three months we will set goal and by the end of the third month, we will evaluate the child's improvement. In the month of February, we set goal and in the month of May we evaluated the childrens progress. Sristi ensures every student is supported and has growth goals set. Monitoring the progress regularly, parents' co-operation is a must to reach the goal for that once in three months once we are conducting parents meeting to convey their child's status. With constant progress monitoring every child can remain on track for success this is the area we are mainly focusing to achieve their goals.

We have seen first-hand how there are no accessible basic facilities for disabled people in rural areas, one of the main constraints is Transportation. We wholeheartedly thank Rotary Club of Madras East supporting us with school bus now we were able to reach more children. Also, we visited our day care children's home to get feedback from parents to understand their understanding regarding our services provided for their children. The information will be recorded and our activities will be build based on that.

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.





## THERAPY ON WHEELS

Large number of children with special needs are left abandoned in streets or in institutional care because of their disability. Through our Mobile Therapy Project, we are sensitizing the community to prevent abandonment and also, we understood that "Poverty is not only about income poverty, it is about the deprivation of economic and social rights, insecurity, discrimination, exclusion and powerlessness" as said by Irene Khan.

Our team relentlessly work to reach the unreached of such isolated and discriminated people with disabilities in our society backing them and giving them strength to be self-reliant and fighting for their well-deserved rights.

We have reached 88 villages in 47 panchayats in Mailam block, Villupuram District, and were able to witness the evidence of improvement and progress in every child due to the team's intervention and established a strong relationship with families of children with special needs.



We wholeheartedly thank the entire Intellect Team for understanding our vision and dream for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities and supporting us to improve sustainability, strength and scalability of our organisation. On the other hand, we thank Mobile Therapy Team for bringing their best to the field to work every single day for a life-changing project.

## CONNECTING THROUGH BLOCKS

Work is an important area to lead a life which helps an individual with intellectual and developmental disability to bring out his confidence and make him feel like he is a productive member of his family. We teach our community members based on employment categories under that shelter employment training plays a vital role for members who are in moderate level.

Very recent we get a chance to meet **BAG and BLOCK Founder Ms. Paloma** from Spain who visited our organisation and introduced bags made manually and personalized by people with severe and prolonged mental disabilities.

Our members actively participated in the mini workshop conducted by the bag and block team and enjoyed making the bags. It is a joy and honor to collaborate with bag and block with the intention of providing equalization of opportunities for all level of disabilities.



## LET'S ROOT FOR EACH OTHER AND WATCH EACH OTHER GROW

Sristi always finds ways for empowering staff members to better their working performance internally and towards our community members.

Every year we send one of our staff overseas for a life-changing experience to undergo a deeply transformative learning experience that helps them to find solutions for the most pressing challenges faced by society.

This year our long-term staff Mr. Kannan, Farm Worker went to Japan for a 9-month powerful rural leadership training program by partnering with Asian Rural Institute.

We wholeheartedly thank Asian Rural Institute for hosting staff from our organization to solve problems by taking over the entire backend support for our organization in an efficient and affordable way.





## BUILDING CAPACITY IN SPECIAL EDUCATION WITH MINDZONE

Sristi always finds ways for empowering the organisation to better the working performance internally and towards our community members. One of the challenges organizations faces is capacity building in finding and retaining qualified and well-trained personnel.

By organizing capacity building training program, staff members will understand the importance of performing and completing their tasks within the given time frame and learn how to take initiatives respond to the emerging needs of our community. With the intent to offer a highly specialized training programme to the staff, we organized a one-day training by inviting Specialists from Mindzone- The Psychology Clinic.

All the staff members actively participated in the training programme related to Behavior Modification, Zero Punishment and Team Building. We wholeheartedly thank Mr. Sunil Kumar, Mr. Kumaran, Ms. Uma Maheswari for conducting a powerful training.



## BUILDING INCLUSIVE WORKFORCE

CII Puducherry under CSR and Affirmative Action Panel partnered with Satya Special School, Sristi Foundation and Grundfos organisation and organised a sensitisation session on Building Inclusive Workforce in Puducherry. We Sristi have witnessed that people with disabilities have abilities and can be productive employees if they are placed in jobs based on their potential with some support from the organization to perform independently.

We consider this as a powerful step, where the organizations will not hire individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through the eyes of charity motive but will see them as powerful employees for their organization which paves way for permanent placement to lead an independent life in their own community.

By proving this statement, Mr.N.K Raganath, shared his direct on-hand experience of integrating people with disabilities into the workforce and how they become an integral part of the organization. Adding to that Shri.E. Vallavan, IAS shared his personal experience of working with people with disabilities and their abilities and providing opportunities to make them self-reliant.

We wholeheartedly thank Chitra Sha and CII Puducherry for giving us the chance to share our experience in providing training, placing them in jobs, and field-level challenges in identifying jobs for them.

***“Creating an inclusive culture is not difficult, but does require some forethought to open the doors for People with Disabilities”.***





# SRISTI IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## INDIA ACUMEN FELLOW 2022

Our leader is a person with an indomitable spirit committed himself to create an inclusive world for the persons with disabilities where they should enjoy their human rights to live independently and their skills valued and are included in the mainstream society and to bring them out from the institutions to expose their special ability and potential. To achieve this vision our leader is someone who is continually seeking knowledge, and growth and is committed to constant learning to level up as a leader to serve others.

Our sristi team is happy to share that our leader got selected for INDIA ACUMEN FELLOWS 2022 which is an intensive leadership development program cultivating a pipeline of tomorrow's social changemakers. His dedication, enthusiasm, and insight are really inspiring our team and motivating us to move forward to work for the betterment of people with disabilities.



## SPIRIT OF HUMANITY 11th ANNUAL AWARDS 2022

We are honored to win both the National Level and Regional Level Spirit of Humanity Award 2022 with One lakh Cash Prize and a trophy and a certificate of excellence. I want to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to Americares India Foundation for recognizing Sristi under Disability category.

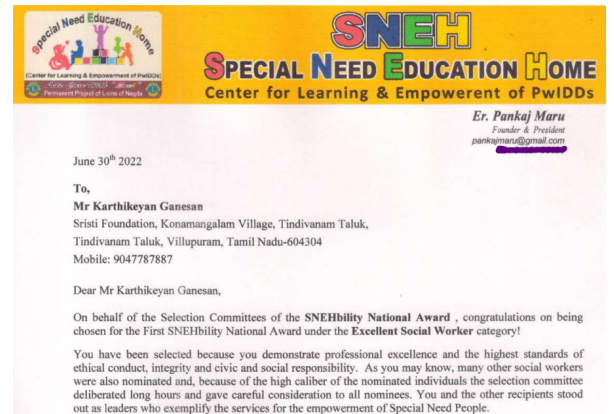
It is truly fascinating and gladden our hearts when our efforts and initiatives get recognized. It is recognition of the hard work put in by our committed team, donors, supporters, and volunteers for the true dedication and determination towards Sristi's vision. Without your support, the organization could not have gone this extra mile. The award ensures we are on the right track to building an inclusive community.



## SNEH EBILITY NATIONAL AWARDS 2022

We want to express our genuine appreciation and gratitude to SNEH organisation, Madhya Pradesh for recognizing Sristi Foundation with the First SNEH Ebility National Award 2022 with Cash Prize under the Excellent Social Worker category for the outstanding service we are doing for the People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Rural areas.

We are very excited to receive the award on July 10th 2022 in Madhya Pradesh. 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 support and we are very grateful for the trust you've placed in us.



## BEHIND WOODS

We sristi would like to express our sincere gratitude to Behind Woods for making a beautiful video of A Day at Sristi Village which gives hope for many parents of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and answers the question "What will happen to my Child after me?". The team did an amazing job! The whole sristi watched it and it made us experience how far we have come and what we have achieved. Once again Thank you to Behind Woods for your hard work and endless hours both behind the camera and in the editing room. AMAZING WORK!

In this video, we specifically focused on unpacking why inclusion at all levels is important and how we are preparing our community members for Adulthood and Work-life to enable opportunities for integration into the community to live a better way of life.

To watch the video [CLICK HERE](#)

தமிழ்நாட்டில் இப்படி ஒரு இடமா!





# YOU HAVE THE POWER TO HELP

## Make A Difference!

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Account Number : **39966172441**  
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SWIFT Code : **SBININBB104**  
Branch Code : **00691**  
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### For Indian Donors

Name of the Account : **Sristi Foundation**  
Account Number : **33435575197**  
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## 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!**