



**"Be The Change You Want To See In The World" - Mahatma Gandhi**

**Dear Friends,**

**Greetings from Sristi Village!**

This is an important milestone in the life of Sristi as we are stepping into the 10th year "A million thanks to all of our amazing donors, volunteers, parents, staff, government and partner organizations for your continuous support and trust on our Vision".

Back in 2013, I was refueled with the aim to find a way to create opportunities for children and adults with intellectual disabilities to be more independent, to be taught a skill, and to enable them to generate their own income. To bring my vision to life Sristi Foundation was established; to build an inclusive village where every person feels valued and can lead a dignified and holistic life.

It gives us immense pleasure to present our newsletter **Volume 9 Issue 3 of October 2022 "The Creations"**, which highlights our community members individual accessible residence inauguration, sristi village activities and community members involvement in organic farming.

Sristi wants for our community members a happy and fulfilling life for that we have emerged as a community to create a strong sense of self- worth and the determination to persevere all our dreams. We are grateful sristi family for your participation in our journey of empowering people with disabilities. We couldn't have done it without you.

**With gratitude**



**#Sristi Foundation**

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



**Karthikeyan Ganesan  
Director, Sristi Foundation**

**Contact Number: +91 90 477 87 887  
[sristivillage@gmail.com](mailto:sristivillage@gmail.com)**

# Program Highlights

## YOU'RE ALL INVITED



Dream becomes reality with new disabled friendly accessible home. We at Sristi have been working for the past 10 years to build our dream home for our community members and finally it has come true.

Our main aim is to provide a sustainable lifestyle for our community members to enjoy the luxury of choice.

We are building five individual accessible eco-friendly residences for our community members which can accommodate 50 individuals and one director's residence.

Our **Honorable Governor of Tamil Nadu Shri. R. N. Ravi** has graciously accepted to inaugurate the newly constructed residential homes for people with disabilities.

We are glad to extend our invitation to our SRISTI FAMILY on **October 27th Thursday 2022 at 10:00 am** and the inauguration ceremony would be from 11 am to 12 pm in sristi campus Konamangalam Village, Tindivanam Taluk, Villupuram District, Tamil Nadu – 604 304 proceedings will continue till 12.30 pm.

We look forward to your presence and blessings on the occasion of our community residence inaugural for a life changing project.

We are grateful and wholeheartedly thank **LEOPOLD BACHMANN STIFTUNG Foundation, Switzerland** and **STICHTING ZIJN Foundation, The Netherlands** for helping us to construct five adult independent living residential homes and one director residence for making our dream come true. Thank you all for your thoughtful donation. We could not do this without you. We and those we serve sincerely appreciate your generosity.



## TRANSITION WITH A SCIENTIFIC APPROACH

Sristi is kick-starting a new expedition on research and development. We are happy to welcome our accomplished research team **Dr. Srilatha Juvva (TISS, Mumbai)** to Sristi village for the first research study; On the other hand, we are elated to see **Dr. Siva Mathiyazhagan, Researcher at Columbia University, New York)** on board with us in research.

Our approach to community living, vocational rehabilitation, and extensive placement with post-employment support for the people with disabilities have been into the light of research study.

We would love to share our gratitude and support for our research team for their phenomenal collaboration and substantial work.



## PREPARATION IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS

We have received mentoring support from **Dhwani Foundation, Bangalore** 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 organizations from all over Tamil Nadu and sristi is one among them. The duration of the program was one year.

Like Lighthouse Dhwani teaches every non-profit organization that when the massive waves arrive, no one would be able to help but we have to battle on our own and navigates down the ideal route to win the battle. Working with Dhwani Foundation has really helped to build our organizations development, sustainability, unleash our potential and our personal well-being.

Our participation has given us the unique opportunity to take a critical look at our organization and identify the components

we need to strengthen and approach challenges in new and creative ways. Dhwani Foundation has taken Sristi Foundation to the next level through **Niranthara** program by boosting our organization growth, sustainability and resilience and we are so grateful.

At the end of the 18 month completion program Dhwani conducted assessment for 161 parameters which includes compliance, governance, MIS, finance and accounting, fundraising, leadership and marketing to build organization transparency. Among the 32 organisations from Tamil Nadu, Sristi scored 100% and become **Top Performer** of the **NIRANTHARA** program.



## SRISTI CELEBRATED 75TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Sristi celebrated the 75th Independence Day on 15th August 2022 with our community members with great patriotic fervor and zeal. We invited former **Rotary Mid- Town President Mr. Peter** to hoist the National Flag. India achieved its freedom from the British rule.

Our Special Educators briefed about the freedom fighters, Independence Day and why it is celebrated. The spirit of Patriotism and enthusiasm of our community members had to be seen to be believed.

We conducted sports and distributed prize to motivate them to achieve more in life. The program ended with the thank you message and a good lunch.





## SEED FESTIVAL – RESTORE TRADITIONAL PRACTICES

Young farmers' collective of Puducherry bio-region organized Seed Festival event on 31st July. Farmers from various districts participated in this event. Over 500 seed varieties were showcased. Apart from the seeds, organic produce, cotton textiles, bio- inputs and eco-friendly products were on sales. We were one among the 50 stalls.

We are so proud to be part of the event, thanks to **KSR Dinesh** for this great opportunity, our community members were standing with pride and broad smile and selling all their organic products produced by them at Sristi Farm. It was a great moment for us and for our



community members to meet amazing people who really cares the environment and sustainability. Our heartfelt gratitude to **Young Farmers' Collective Puducherry Bio Region and Tagore Arts and Science College.**

## AAZHI CHILDREN'S THEATRE GROUP

**Mr. Velu Saravanan, Child Theatre Artist and Bal Puraskar 2017 awardee** gave a surprise visit to sristi. When he appears in front of the children in the semblance of a clown, cheers were raised.

He spent 25+ years of his life with AAZHI CHILDREN'S THEATRE GROUP, Puducherry to keep all the children happy, enlightened and to create an environment for creativity through his work.

**He said:** "A child's world is an endless nightmare. A child's mind is a mind that exults in approaching expansive imaginations without inquiry. Only those who feel themselves as children at heart can unite with them and be at par with them. Even at the age of 51, artist Velu Saravanan feels that way".

He enacted the most famous play "**KADAL BHootham**" which was loved by all the children. Our community members, staff and volunteers enjoyed a lot and burst into laughter. We all became a child at that moment.



We are very grateful for your presence **VELU MAMA** (the way children like to call him) with your team. Keep up the great work and we are excitedly waiting for your next visit.

## BETTER TEETH BETTER HEALTH

Sristi foundation in collaboration with **Swastya Dentique, Puducherry** organized a free Dental diagnosis and Consultation camp on 3rd August at Sristi village. Every community member of sristi and staff was screened and got consultations from doctors.

A team of doctors along with post-graduate students and auxiliary staff rendered health care at the camp site comprising dental screening and treatment for the patients with respective illness. We sincerely appreciate **Dr. Selvanathan** for arranging the dental camp.

All treatments were provided free of cost, which included oral cavity examination besides oral health talk, oral hygiene instructions, tooth restorations, oral prophylaxis, tooth extractions and medicines.





## SOCIAL ROLE VALORIZATION 4.0

**Key Stone Institute India, New Delhi** organized “**An Invitational Course on Social Role Valorization (SRV 4.0)**” which was held on May 4-7 in Delhi. This body of knowledge was offered in India for the first time in 2016, and the impact was immense. SRV theory is influencing the development of inclusive lives for people with disabilities in powerful ways.



So many strategies have been adopted to uplift those who lead lives full of deprivation because of the judgements of their fellow citizens. Many have failed us, and often it is difficult to sort out helpful ways that individual and societal circumstances can change. Social Role Valorization (SRV) gives us powerful insight into the experiences of marginalized and oppressed people, and its response framework opens up the possibilities for change. This is a residential certification course offered only to selected leaders and emerging professionals, family members, and advocates. Our team member Ebenica participated SRV 4.0 one-week course. We would like to give special thanks to **Betsy Neuville** and the whole team for giving us knowledge on Social Role Valorization-SRV, it adds lots of value to our work.

## SRISTI SPECIAL SCHOOL – TOWARDS INCLUSIVE

“**Every Child has the right to live in an inclusive world**”. Sristi is preparing our day care children with disabilities the right support to include in mainstream school. We witnessed that placing a child with those without disabilities has significantly shown positive social and academic effects. Child without disability will act as a model for their specific concerns. Child with disability will imitate the behaviors of their friends which in turn helps them learn social skills. We started our initiative in our local Balwadi Centre. Special Teacher will sit right next to our students throughout the hours and tune teaching methods as per the child's mode of learning.



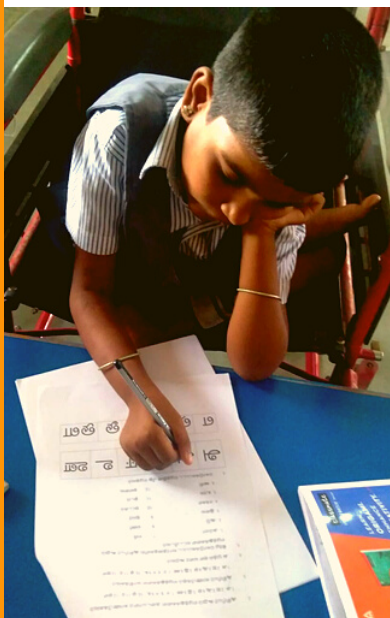
This becomes possible with committed professionalism, accessible environment, equal opportunity, positive attitudes, acceptable and available technological intervention.

In the month of September, we evaluated the children's progress. Once in three months our school team will visit every child's home after evaluation to know parents' involvement for their child growth. Special Educators shared the evaluation result and educated the parents on shared responsibility.



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 wholeheartedly thank **Pondicherry Engineering College Alumni** members supporting us with physiotherapy equipment, now we are able to provide service more effectively.





## EMPOWERING DISABLED PEOPLE THROUGH ORGANIC FARMING

Sristi Created an inclusive space for young adult with intellectual and developmental disabilities providing adult independent living skills and vocational training which aims to enable opportunities for our community members for integration into the mainstream society and live a better way of life independently through organic farming. Agriculture provides great education and employment potential. In a supportive and loving environment, our members learn to manage and work in an eco-farm. Our sustainable farming practices are helping to regenerate the environment.



Sristi's biggest dream is to cultivate sustainably fresh organic vegetables and fruits for our community members consumption and income generation from our own farm throughout the year and now it is happening. In this season we harvested a bounty of fresh vegetables including: Brinjal, lady's finger (okra), bean varieties, turkey berry, drumstick, spinach varieties.

To create a healthier eco-system, we have initiated various eco-friendly projects like Fruit Forest, Coconut Farm, Miyawaki and live fencing project. In the past three months we have seen excellent growth. 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 relentless work.

### TOGETHER WE MADE A DIFFERENCE

Many children who are immobilized, have never been outside their home, never stood their first step, never spoken a single word are slowly changing, with the continuous intervention and participation of our committed team. Children started to walk, spoke their first word, and stepped out of their locked room.

We approached **Auxo Hub** external evaluators to evaluate the project to describe and illustrate the width and depth of this impact as we aspire to scale up this project for the benefit of many children with disabilities. We have reached the most service needed families of children with special needs through our Mobile Therapy as a Pilot Project by providing special education, physiotherapy and other



medical services. As a result, 100% of all families reported seeing some improvement in their child after continuous services through our project. Small changes in the family due to the child's improvement, has ignited larger hope among the parents.

We wholeheartedly thank the entire **Intellect Design Arena** for understanding our vision to reach the unreachable of such isolated and discriminated people with disabilities of our society backing them and giving them strength to be self-reliant and fight for their well-deserved rights. 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.





# VISITORS TO SRISTI

## AMAR SEVA SANGAM – SURPRISE VISIT TO SRISTI

**Mr. Sankara Raman, Secretary of Amar Seva Sangam** (MTP Project's knowledge partner organization) a wheelchair user affected by Muscular Dystrophy, and a Chartered Accountant practitioner visited Srستی Village on 18th August 2022. He left his lucrative practice at Chennai, joined Amar Seva Sangam in 1992. As a professional his dream was to build a “**Valley for the Disabled**” with Shri. S. Ramakrishnan.

He spent half day with us, visited our mobile therapy project beneficiaries – interacted with the families and shared his 40 years of experience working with people with disabilities with our team. We gained lots of insights from this eminent person. We feel blessed to collaborate with Amar Seva Sangam.



## MR. ROLAND FRUTIG – OUR MENTOR, FRIEND and SUPPORTER



It's been three years since you visited srستی and we believe you have witnessed lots of changes in our farming land. Your mentorship has been an invaluable gift for us to cherish.

We would not be here without kind, thoughtful and caring people like you who thinks for the development of our intellectual disabled community members.

Your valuable advice has guided us to reach this distance. It's really an immense pleasure that you came all the way to Srستی Village to guide us.

It really means a lot to us, the three gap experiences you shared, the way forward you suggested will definitely help us in our farm project which is the treasure of Srستی Village.

We are very grateful **Roland** for your continuous extensive knowledge sharing on Agroforestry which is helping us to create an eco-friendly and sustainable source of food for all of our members.

## THE POWER OF SOCIAL CHANGEMAKERS

A group of changemakers from Kanthari 2022 batch participants who have the zest to contribute and help change the world visited our organisation to gain exposure on our work for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Kanthari in Trivandrum, Kerala, South of India, offers a 12-month leadership program for visionaries who have overcome adversity and who are keen to drive ethical social change.

Our director interacted with the participants and shared his 20+ years' experience in disability field, how kanthari transformed his life talk motivated them not to give up no matter what. Thank you, **Sabriye and Paul** for cultivating and building a community of change leaders who transform different cultures and organizations so they make change for the good of society throughout the world.





## SHWETA NAGARIA, INDIA FELLOWS SENIOR ASSOCIATE, ACUMEN ACADEMY – HER OUTLOOK ON SRISTI



I had the fortune of visiting Sristi Village in July and spent 2 days at the residential space. It was an extremely humbling experience. The community members made me feel welcomed and at home.

Karthikeyan's audacious dream to make people with disability 'employment ready' is a far-off reality for them as individuals and overall, as a country where differently abled people are not considered employable. He is breaking that pattern. The organization and the team are helping them live a dignified life, feel love and dream.

When the students come into the residential space, they have a structured routine. They are taught the basics of taking a shower, changing clothes, hygiene routine which we as abled individuals take for granted. To take these members (eldest being 47) to the employability stage in 3 years is not at all easy but the team is doing it. Each member at Sristi possesses a unique talent.

Many of them find agriculture and related activities highly engaging. Recently, they had 12 community members leave Sristi and get their first pay Cheque. It fills me with tears and joy as I write this. I met many community members at Sristi who made me believe and shift my perspective about differently abled individuals. **"An inclusive world is truly possible with passion, grit and consistency"**.

We would like to express our gratitude **Shweta** for coming such a long way to visit us. We truly value the time you spent with our community members and grateful for your kindness.

### OUR SRISTI FAMILY WELL - WISHER

Women with intellectual disabilities face discrimination and are considered incapable in all aspects also face struggle even more to lead a decent life and have no independent means of livelihood and their social isolation and dependence magnifies their consequences. Sristi strongly believes a disability should not limit anyone's strongest attributes and skills.

Through **Sristi Girls Group Home Project for Young Adult Women with Intellectual and developmental Disabilities** attempts to tackle the persistent issue that of leading unproductive life, being dependent in the entire life, marginalized from the mainstream society by creating a new opportunity to lead a meaningful, productive and independent life in a sustainable way.



Here the environment makes them feel welcome and give every individual an opportunity to participate. It is an approach to provide quality and accessible inclusive learning for women with disabilities who remain excluded from the society.

We wholeheartedly thank **Dr. Sasikala, USA** for supporting this initiative to increase sensitization on the fact that, disabled women are capable of leading their own lives. Thank you for visiting Group Home and for spending a day with our cheerful women members. The members had a great time and we cannot thank you enough.

### NEVER STOP LEARNING

Sristi received 16 early middle-aged women with full of energy and desire to learn and explore from **The Spastics Society of Tamil Nadu (SPASTN), Chennai undergoing Diploma in Special Education (Cerebral Palsy)** for a day of exposure at sristi village community. SPASTN is a Not-for-Profit Community Based Organisation that endeavors to be a Centre for Excellence for persons with disability. They empower and equip the disabled helping them reach their full potential.

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. Our director interacted with the participants and shared his 20+ years' experience in disability field, this motivated them not to give up no matter what. They left the community with full of positivity and expressed a desire to serve the society.





# SRISTI IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## UN GRANTS SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS TO SRISTI FOUNDATION

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations (UN) recently granted the special consultative status to our organisation working for the empowerment of people with disabilities.

The Special Consultative Status would provide access to meetings conducted by the UN, allow our NGO to make oral presentations at meetings and allow its members to utilise the facilities of the UN such as documents and libraries, according to the communication. This would help Sristi Community Model Project in becoming a "Global Change" to collaborate with other organizations to replicate the model for empowering people with disabilities to lead an independent life in the mainstream society.



## DR. NAINA MEMORIAL SNEHBILITY NATIONAL AWARD 2022

It is really a fortunate moment for us to receive **Dr. Naina Memorial Snehbility National Award 2022** for the **Best Social Worker** with cash prize of Rs.11,000 in Madhya Pradesh for the outstanding service through Sristi Foundation we are doing for the People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Rural areas.

We really value and respect this honor of receiving the award from **Indian Blind Cricket Team Captain Mr. Ajay Reddy** which shows us that we are on the right track on creating opportunities for people with disabilities.

We feel immense pleasure to be selected and to be honored by this glorious institution.



## MOVING FROM DISABILITY TO EXTRA - ABILITY

Our Director **Mr. Karthikeyan** gave a talk on **AMERICA TELEVISION** interviewed by **Mr. Siva Velayutham** about "How Farming helps People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to stand independent through our Sristi Village Community Model project" and how the life transformed when we disabled people moved from institutions to community set up are happier have control over their lives and are able to function independently.

We wholeheartedly thank America Television and the whole team for giving us the chance to expose our work to the wider community. To Watch: [Click Here](#)



## PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN INDIA

Our Sristi Foundation director Mr. Karthikeyan gave a talk in international conference on "**Promoting the Development of Inclusive Education in India**" conducted by Kodaikanal Christian College. Mr. Karthikeyan addresses the learning needs of all children with a specific focus on those who are vulnerable to marginalization and exclusion. He said: "Inclusion is not an experiment to be tested but a value to be followed". He also shared examples personally witnessed by him how peer learning creates wonders in life of a disabled person. We are elated to be part of this international conference organized by **Kodaikanal Christian College** and for giving us the opportunity to talk about sristi inclusive practices. To Watch: [Click Here](#)

## AZIM PREMJI PHILANTHROPIC INITIATIVE - DISABILITY AND INCLUSION

Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiative, Bangalore organised a Round Table Conference in New Delhi and invited organisations working for people with disabilities, 32 organisations nationwide participated and sristi is one among them to share good practices followed by each organisation.

We visited MUSKAAN organisation working for intellectual disabled people in New Delhi. Muskaan is determined to create and provide opportunities for capacity development of Persons with Intellectual Disability and their families; advocate for their rights and legal

capacity; collaborate, facilitate and promote the creation of an enabling environment and an inclusive society. We wholeheartedly thank APPI, Bangalore for organizing this event to create a better tomorrow for people with disabilities.





## OUR PARTNERS



Murugappa education and Medical Foundation



Verein Kinderlachen

**You are a Blessing!** Thank You for journeying with us to Empower People with Disabilities and to attain our Vision. Your contribution is giving our disabled community members an opportunity to achieve their potential, strengthen the bonds with the community.

**We can't do this without you!** It's a joy and honor to partner with you in an effort to support people with disabilities to stand financially independent.



# YOU HAVE THE POWER TO HELP

## Make A Difference!

### For Foreign Donors:

Name of the Account : **Sristi Foundation**  
Account Number : **39966172441**  
Name of the Branch : **State Bank of India,  
New Delhi Main Branch.**

SWIFT Code : **SBININBB104**  
Branch Code : **00691**  
IFSC Code : **SBIN0000691**

E-Mail ID : **fcra.00691@sbi.co.in**  
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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!**