



HANDI-CARE INTL.

A Canadian Registered Charity dedicated to serving the
Poor, Disabled & Destitute since 1992.

Revenue Canada Reg. # 88094 6397 RR0001

Website : www.handicareintl.org E-mail : handicare@rogers.com

19th Annual Fundraiser for Persons With Special Needs October 15, 2011

Co sponsored by Agraharam Productions
Presenting "Iravā Varam Thārum"
A Stage Play





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PRIME MINISTER . PREMIER MINISTRE



I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the annual fundraising gala hosted by Handi-Care International.

Since its inception in 1992, Handi-Care International has worked to create educational and recreational opportunities for impoverished disabled children and youth in developing countries. Tonight's event offers a chance to support this worthwhile cause and to take satisfaction in the remarkable difference it has made in the lives of hundreds of young people.

I would like commend the event organizers, as well as all the volunteers and sponsors, for providing disadvantaged children with the tools they need to lead happy, healthy and fulfilling lives, and to become productive members of their communities.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I wish you a memorable evening and every success in reaching your fundraising goals.

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.

OTTAWA
2011



Premier of Ontario - Premier ministre de l'Ontario



June 13, 2010

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to everyone attending the annual fundraiser of Handi-Care Intl.

Since 1992, the dedicated men and women of Handi-Care have worked tirelessly to raise awareness and improve the lives of those living in poverty or with disabilities. I commend this fine organization on reflecting the care and compassion so valued by Ontarians — and for reminding us that community does not stop at our country's borders.

This year's event offers those in attendance the chance to enjoy the many talents of the Panwar Music and Dance Academy, while lending your support to Handi-Care's humanitarian projects. I would like to thank everyone here tonight for your generosity. Take pride in knowing that your efforts will make a real difference in the lives of many individuals and their families.

Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable event.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Dalton McGuinty'.

Dalton McGuinty
Premier



WELCOME TO THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY SOUVENIR OF HANDI-CARE INTL.

711-168 Bonis Ave, Scarborough, on, M1T 3V6 Tel: 416 293 3994

Charity Registration # BN 889046397RR0001

www.handicareintl.org e-mail: handicare@rogers.com

DEDICATED TO SERVING THE POOR, DISABLED & NEEDY SINCE 1992

Dear Friends, Donors and supporters of Handi-Care Intl.,

It is with immense gratitude that I begin this message to all of you. Handi-Care Intl. was started in 1992 with a zeal to empower children and youth with disabilities, mainly in India, with education, rehabilitation vocational training, with an end goal to place them in suitable jobs. Now, 19 years have passed and when I reassess my initial goal, I find that little has changed in my zeal and drive and a lot has changed in the outcome. Has HCI achieved its goals? Yes, it has to a large extent. HCI has transformed lives of 100s of disabled children. It has helped the employment of a number of disabled youth and adults. The success of HCI is directly connected to the organizations we work with, who are committed and are meticulous in offering the services.

We added a Canadian perspective to our endeavor in 2003 by training and placing student volunteers which are extremely successful. Our students come back enriched with knowledge and experience to become future special educators, professionals in the medical or healthcare field and so on.

Another major initiative that HCI started in 2004 was to help form and register "India Health Initiative" at University of Western Ontario. Since its inception, almost 10 medical student volunteers are placed each summer at our partner projects in rural settings. Among other things they are involved in research leading to "Prevention" of developmental disabilities among rural poor. This has been extremely successful as many possible deformities have been prevented in the past 4 years.

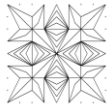
I extend my sincere gratitude to each one of you and to all those serving selflessly on the HCI board since you are the reason for all the achievements of HCI. At this juncture, I request more members to come forward and get involved with HCI. Today, we can humbly boast the "Rebuilding of Thonithurai" in Cuddalore dist., after the Tsunami; building the centre of excellence, "Centre For Special Education" at Amar Seva Sangam for 110 developmentally challenged children; seeing 82 of our disabled youth placed in jobs after their training; celebrating the successful rehab of 53 young disabled children; currently supporting the education & rehab of 180 such children & 28 youth; sponsoring the rehab of spinal cord injured young adults and so on. With this encouraging statistics, I find myself committed to the cause for years to come. Knowing that you are all on my side, makes that commitment stronger than ever.

Thank you,

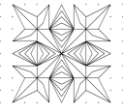
Sulo Krishnamurthy, President, HCI

October, 2011





WELCOME TO “Fund Raiser 2011 ”



PROGRAM

Presenting “Irava Varam Tharum” Full length stage play in Tamil

About Agraharam Productions

By Dr. V. Raghuraman

It all started in a small way. In 1994, a group of actors came together to perform skits in basement parties. But they grew within a short span of one year into formal production, which performed in front of bigger audiences. Agraharam Productions has since then produced 12 plays in the last 17 years and staged them to a total of 34 times for enthusiastic audiences in our own community and beyond. A total of 50 members from our community have participated in our productions.



Top L to R : Ramesh Raman, Partha Sankara, Raghu Manjappa, V. Raghuraman, Sam Subramanian
Bottom L to R : S.S. Krishnan, Bhuma Krishnan, Vidya Ramakrishnan, V. Venkatesh, Duraikannan.

We are grateful for the support offered by associations such as M.A.C.A., Bharathi Kala Manram, Handi-Care Intl, Tamil Sangams in Ottawa, Detroit and Chicago who have encouraged our regular participation. So far we have presented varied comedy themes but this time in a new twist we hope to present an eternal human issue - of course in a lighter vein.

Today we are premiering “Irava Varam Tharum” our 13th play for the specific purpose of raising funds for the handicapped children and we take this opportunity to thank Handi-Care Intl for that. We appreciate your continued patronage and wish you all a pleasant evening.

Handi-Care Intl. takes pride in recognizing the monumental effort put forth by **Agraharam Productions (AP)** to make this play possible and thanks each member of the AP team immensely for their time & energy committed to the noble cause of raising funds for disabled children. AP is partnering with HCI for the third time and needless to say that the first 2 were roaring success, leading to major project completions. We are rest assured that this event will be a great success as well and all the proceeds from this event will go to support our on-going commitments with a special focus on “Rehab of the Spinal Cord Injured”. Please take a moment to read thru the following pages of the souvenir edition to get more insight into our projects.

We take this opportunity to thank the other supportive individuals and companies – Sultan of Samosas for the delicious unique samosas, Iyyappa Sweets & Snacks for the authentic South Indian delicacies, Sri. Chandramouli Sastrigal for the scrumptious hors d'oeuvre and Rubicon for the juice boxes. We thank all the advertisers, sponsors, donors and all of you for your unflinching support which enables us to carry on with our mission !!

Handi- Care Team

An Intro to Handi-Care Intl.

711-168 Bonis Ave, Scarborough, ON, M1T 3V6 Tel: 416 293 3994
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Handi-Care Intl. (HCI) is a Canadian registered charitable organization, formed in 1992. HCI takes pride in the fact that it is among the top few in Canada that strives for empowering the poor rural disabled, primarily in India. HCI is run by dedicated volunteers who donate hours of devoted service. This has enabled HCI to consistently achieve a disbursement of **97% or more** to charitable programs.

VISION

Develop communities that accept and support persons who are differently-abled and to create an integrative environment for education, employment and community living.

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A hundred years from now, It will not matter...
What my bank account was,
The sort of house I lived in, The kind of car I drove
But the world may be different because I was important,
In the Life of a Child.
.....Author Unknown

MISSION

Rehabilitate, educate and empower disadvantaged persons of South Asian descent by promoting awareness, effective partnerships and fund raising.

Target Population: Rural poor physically and developmentally challenged children & youth; children subjected to child labor.

Service rendered:

- ♠ Education & Life skill training for the physically & mentally challenged.
- ♠ Rehabilitation of the target population to achieve reasonable independence.
- ♠ Vocational Training, tailored to individual capacity with a goal for job placement.
- ♠ Rural development through adult education and infrastructure building.
- ♠ Training Canadian Youth Volunteers and placing them at project sites to promote service, volunteerism and goodwill

Target area of service: All current projects are in rural India.

People behind HCI:



L to R ; Balan Manian – Director, **Meena Suppaiah** – Vice President, **Sulo Krishnamurthy** – President, **Gita Sankaran** – Director, **Srini B. Srinivasan** – Secretary, **Sundra Rajan** – Treasurer (Missing; **Arun Luthra** – Asst. Treasurer)

Sulo Krishnamurthy: President. Sulo always had a vision to help the disabled. Her empathy found an expression in 1992 when she started Handi-Care International, motivated by two extraordinary men who from their wheelchairs conceived and built Amar Seva Sangam in India.

Meena Suppiah: Vice President. Meena has been a volunteer & strong supporter of HCI since 1998 and joined the board in 2000.

Srini B. Srinivasan: Secretary – Donor & supporter since 1995, he joined the board in 2000.

Sundra Rajan: Treasurer : Donor & supporter since 1993, he joined the board in 1997.

Arun Luthra: Asst. Treasurer: Joined in 2003 and been an active member since.

Gita Sankaran: Director: Donor & supporter since 2000, she joined the board in 2008

Balan Manian: Director - Donor & supporter since 2002, he joined the board in 2007

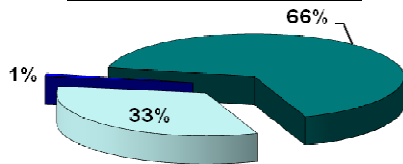
Aneal Thansingh : Auditor

Dr. T.N. Krishnamurthy & Latha Sukumar LLB – Advisory members

What have we done with your donations

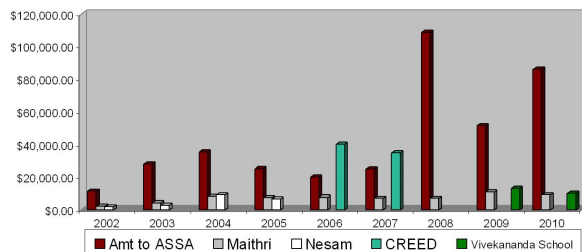
HCI funds highly reputable, totally dedicated and accountable Non Governmental Organizations for chosen projects that fall under the mandate. HCI also develops initiatives and ventures for NGOs through the implementation of attractive and viable schemes which are detailed within this booklet.

Allotment of funds to Partner organizations Based on 2003-2008 Data



- **66% Education, Rehabilitation & Vocational Training at Amar Seva Sangam (ASSA), Nesam & Maithri.**
- **33% Buildings- Centre for Spl. Edu. & Post Tsunami.**
- **1% Other**

9 year Data: 2002- 2010



Handi-Care Intl. has consistently maintained its operating expenses at an average of below 3% .

- A total of about **\$682,300** has been disbursed to rural projects in India since 1992
- **\$116,000** has been disbursed from 2005 to 2008 to build Centre for Special Education at ASSA.
- **\$80,000** was disbursed to CREED to rebuild Thonithurai village after Tsunami.
- **\$195,300** in endowment deposits towards our *Adopt A Child & Meal For A Day* programs.
- **\$1,00,000** was disbursed from 2004- 2010 to support the higher education of almost 125 disabled youth and 82 of them have completed studies and are employed.
- **\$76,200** was given out for yearly sponsorships of children at ASSA, Maithri & Nesam
- **\$38,000** was disbursed (2009-2010) for the intensive rehab of spinal cord injured at ASSA.
- **\$41,000** was given to ER High School, Trichy, Vivekananda School, Seva Sadan & for misc. projects.
- **\$30,000** has been spent (1993-2009) on building a rehab centre (1993), Polio Eradication, Prevention initiatives, Counseling of parents, providing support devices for the elderly & for eye surgeries for the blind.

HCI's Achievements

- ❖ Building "**Centre For Special Education**" in 2009, which is offering services to **110 developmentally challenged children**.
- ❖ Re-built an entire village in India that was demolished by Tsunami. The project involved construction of 17 homes and resettlement of the families.
- ❖ Successfully trained youth volunteers in the GTA, placing between 5-10 volunteers a year since 2003 at project sites in India. (For more information about volunteering opportunities, visit our website: www.handicareintl.org)
- ❖ **190 children** are under "Adopt a Child" sponsorships at Amar Seva Sangam, Maithri & Nesam, in addition to **53 children** who have completed rehab and integrated back to society or moved on to higher education.
- ❖ 25 - 30 disabled youth are sponsored yearly for higher education / vocational training
- ❖ **82 youth have completed studies & are successfully placed in jobs since 2005.**
- ❖ The "Meal for a Day" endowment has reached to 237 days, to date.

Our Partner Organizations

1. Amar Seva Sangam (ASSA)

ASSA offers:

- Rehab facilities, Medical testing, Physiotherapy & Speech therapy, Special Care Units
- School education to Grade 12 for the disabled
- College and University level education for the disabled
- Vocational training for disabled youth in various faculties viz. computer applications, mechanical repairs, sewing, handicraft etc.
- Village based rehab prevention measures, literacy programs focused on the youth and the elderly

With the dictum "**By the disabled – for the disabled**" , ASSA is a premier organization started by a quadriplegic, Mr. **Ramakrishnan in 1981** and is ably managed and directed by Mr. **Sankara Raman**, a bright Chartered Accountant confined to wheelchair with muscular dystrophy. **ASSA's motto is "Disability to Ability"** and its vision is to ensure every physically challenged person is given a good opportunity for an independent life. ASSA continues to succeed in its quest, supported by charitable foundations world-wide, with *Handi-Care Intl. (HCI)* being a major funding agency.

Dr. S. Sumathi, a professor of Commerce, also in a wheelchair, joined ASSA in 2000 and is currently in-charge of the school & the higher education programs. Enrollment to college & university education has more than tripled since then.

The various divisions reach out to the needs of the rural population within a 1200 sq.km area. **The beneficiaries are children, youth, women and elderly people of that rural district. The main focus is on physically and mentally disabled children and youth. The total number of recipients of aid and care well exceed 2000 within the campus and well over 20,000 in the area serviced.** Additionally, ASSA focuses on **community based rehabilitation and rural development.** ASSA has spearheaded & developed **89 self help groups** in the surrounding area.

Both Ramakrishnan & Sankara Raman are winners of such esteemed awards as:

- ◆ **Dream Maker in Mumbai Marathon-Mar. 2011**
- ◆ **Seva Rathna Award by Desikan Swamigal – 2011**
- ◆ **Best Institution Award by State Govt.- 2000, 2009 & 2010**
- ◆ **Super Idol award by CNN IBN - 2010**
- ◆ **Award from Chief minister Karunanidhi - 2009**
- ◆ **CNN Hero finalist -2008**
- ◆ **Ashoka Fellowship -2007**
- ◆ **National Award by Social Welfare Ministry - 2006**
- ◆ **President of India's national award -2000 &2006**
- ◆ **And 60 more coveted awards – see website for update**



Sankara Raman receiving an award from Dr. Abdul Kalam- Former Prime Minister of India

Dr. Sumathi, (in WC), Director of Educational programs at Amar Seva Sangam, gives a tour of the special education facility to Shaji from Canada



Super Idol award to Mr. Sankara Raman from Bollywood actor Aamir Khan

2. MAITHRI EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Confined to a wheelchair, this man of terrific confidence and drive – R.Shridhar, established an education model whereby children who are put to child labour are sent to regular schools while their parents receive compensation and counselling. Established in 1991, Maithri has seen several children go through graduation; several of them hold good jobs in the Middle East, today. Besides assisting 140 young students, Maithri conducts eye camps assists the poor pay for surgeries, donates sewing machines, prosthetic aids. HCI has been sponsoring 45 children's education thru Maithri since in 2003.

3. Other Partners

- **Nesam** – Offers education and rehab services to severely developmentally challenged children.
- **CREED** – Partner for rebuilding the village after Tsunami.
- **Vivekananda School, Seva Sadan, Bangalore, ER High School, Tirchy.**



Raja Durai (far right in WC) receives top rank medal in Gr. X

Our various viable schemes

1. ADOPT A CHILD



Through sponsorships, children with mental and/or physical disabilities are provided with education and rehabilitation geared to their individual needs. The school and rehabilitation program empowers them with life skills and vocational training in order to integrate them with mainstream society. Handi-Care Intl has sponsored **177 children, with 132 children at Amar Seva Sangam, 5 at Nesam and 40 children at Maithri.** In addition, **53 children**

have successfully completed the educational and rehabilitation process and proceeded to higher education or vocational training. They are promptly replaced by new deserving candidates. In essence your donations are supporting about 200 disabled children

The two options for sponsorship are:

- ♣ **\$1800 - one time payment to create the endowment**
- ♣ **\$350 per year to cover the expenses of the sponsored child**

The endowment sponsorships are permanent. We require 3 endowments of \$1800 for each disabled or developmentally challenged child. The interest earned on deposit of the endowments from each segment (apprx. \$120) is applied to 3 categories viz; (1) Food and Clothing expenses (*Amudasurabhi*); (2) Education and Recreational expenses (*Srividhya*); (3) Medical and Rehabilitation expenses (*Dhanvanthri*), until the child completes high school and progresses to college or vocational training. The sponsorship will then be transferred to another child. The endowment fund created in your name will remain for ever to brighten the lives of many needy children. However, certain children with mental challenges, may never reach the stage to receive professional training and hence may need to be supported for life.

This type of sponsorship began in **1993** and since then **53 children** have successfully completed school and are currently either working or pursuing higher studies.

- ♣ **16** have finished high school and are currently enrolled in University degree courses
- ♣ **9** are currently undergoing vocational training
- ♣ **28** have found jobs or set up their own small scale business in their villages after high school.

Please visit the website and follow links to "Adopt A Child" to view details on "Waitlisted" & sponsored children. There are several deserving children on the waiting list. You may choose a child from



here and chose either the endowment or yearly sponsorship. **Please see chart A on pg.15 for a listing of currently sponsored children.**



2. SPONSOR A YOUTH (SAY)

A number of disabled youth are enrolled in College or University degree courses or undergo vocational training, which will enable them to find jobs. Degree courses are offered in Computers, Accounting, Commerce

and arts. Vocational training is offered in book binding, tailoring, domestic appliances repair, cycle repair, handicrafts etc. The youth are provided hostel facilities and meals during their training period. They have extended hours of access to the library and computers to enhance their education. **It costs a mere \$600 for 1 year of training for a youth.** It covers the complete cost of boarding & lodging, books, fees, physical rehab program and skills training for a year. 6 batches of youth have completed computer training at various levels ranging from 1 to 3 years. 90% of them have found jobs and are leading independent lives. Interestingly, a number of the disabled trainees themselves have become instructors for new students.

Since 2004, we have sponsored the higher education of 25 disabled youth per year under SAY. Today, **82 of them have successfully completed studies and are gainfully employed.**



Disabled youth undergoing vocational training in Tailoring

3. LIVELIHOOD TRAINING INITIATIVE

Youth graduates from under "SAY" are eligible for this program. Between graduation and job placement, there is a very challenging, arduous process of preparing the physically challenged for the rough world outside. Adapting to / finding suitable accommodation & transportation are the 2 major challenges, yet next to food & sanitation. Amar Seva Sangam is tackling this issue by implementing a one year program of "Livelihood Training for the physically challenged" by providing secure accommodation, meals & transportation, in an office at Chennai, while giving them "on the job" training on various projects. The young ladies and men are adequately trained to take up a job by the end of one year. Since HCI has vested interest in successfully placing our sponsored youth, we would like to support this initiative. The cost is **\$1500 per year per candidate.**



4. MEAL FOR A DAY

With a **\$160** donation, an endowment will be created that will be used to provide meals for 25 disabled residents at Amar Seva Sangam for one full day. This is an affordable, tangible and very effective program where the name and special date of the donor are immortalized. For example, a birthday, wedding anniversary or even a death anniversary of a loved one gets honored, year after year.



5. CAMPUS FEEDING

With this program almost **550 persons** at ASSA campus will receive a special full meal on a particular chosen date for a donation of **\$250**. Most popular choices have been, 1) Wedding Day 2) Special Wedding Anniversary 3) Special Birthday 4) Death Anniversary and so on.

PLEDGE FORM

*Name _____

*Address _____



*Phone: () _____ - _____

*E-mail: _____

* Must provide, as tax receipts are electronic and are e-mailed.

Date of Donation: _____

Cheque # _____ Amount \$ _____

Program selected: _____

- ☐ General.....Any Amount
- ☐ Adopt A Child Endowment.....\$1800
- ☐ Adopt A Child –Yearly support.....\$350
- ☐ Sponsor A Youth- yearly support....\$600
- ☐ Livelihood Initiative – One year.....\$1500
- ☐ **Campus feeding (550 people).....\$250
- ☐ **Meal For A Day Endowment.....\$160
- ☐ Support A Spinal Injured....Any Amount

**Name to be fed under: _____

**Occasion for feeding: _____

(Eg: Wedding day, Special birth or death Anniversary, Birthday, any special occasion)

Cheques payable to Handi-Care Intl.

Tax receipts issued for donations of \$20 and more.

Mail to :-

**Handi-Care Intl., 711-168 Bonis Ave
Scarborough, ON M1T 3V6**

Phone: (416) 293 3994

E-mail: hci@rogers.com

Website: www.handicareintl.org

On-line donations are available through our website.

6. Support For Spinal Cord Injured



Amar Seva Sangam, launched a new initiative in 2007 – "Centre for Spinal Cord Injured". This project was launched after much consideration, based on the dire need for such a service in the rural district. Rural, poor individuals who encountered unfortunate accidents and sustained severe spinal cord injuries, needed a rehab centre with quality service by dedicated trained staff. Most of these accident victims have become Quadriplegic (paralyzed from neck down) or Paraplegic (paralyzed from waist down). With proper care and intense physiotherapy, the recovery could be remarkable, to the extent that they can have the use of their arms, learn computer applications and eventually become fit for employment. Amar Seva Sangam has taken

huge strides in achieving this. The success rate is remarkable. **Since 2007, 21 SCI patients have been rehabilitated and discharged, all of whom are self employed.**

The cost of rehab is **\$4000 per person per year**. The seemingly high cost is due to:

- Escalating cost of medicines, physiotherapy equipments & maintenance.
- Salaries paid to personal attendants (one on one), therapists, 24/7 nursing care, doctor's visit on a daily basis.
- Almost all patients suffer from chronic bladder infections and use of catheters is imminent. Hence antibiotics and preventive treatment protocols are an expensive necessity.
- They also require special meal plans that would be nutritious, slimming, easy on the digestive system and promote smooth elimination.
- Almost all them suffer from mild to severe bed sores and treatment is very expensive.
- Given the scenario, ASSA offers the best treatment for the lowest cost possible. Please consider adopting a patient. The average duration is 1 to 2 years per patient from admission to ASSA to discharge. They are discharged after adequate rehabilitation and with some vocation at hand for them to pursue.



R. Sivakumar aged **31 yrs**, is a Paraplegic. He is from Coimbatore. He was a truck driver. In 2008 while he was driving, he met with an accident and injured his spine at C5 and C6 levels. He was admitted to Ganga Hospital in Coimbatore and treated for 15 days; he lost mobility of his lower limbs. After being discharged he couldn't afford continuation of treatment. He developed bed sores and his condition started to deteriorate. He is married and has a daughter aged 7 yrs. He lives with his parents, his father works as a security guard and supports him and his family. He has two elder sisters who are married; he does not receive any support from them. He was admitted to Amar Seva Sangam in **May 2011** and since then he is showing remarkable improvement. He receives 3 hours of physiotherapy per day and he is enrolled in Vocational Training appropriate to his skills and ability.



G. Paramasivan, aged **23 yrs** is a Quadriplegic. He was an auto driver and in 2010, due to brake failure he fell into a ditch and injured his spine at C3, C5 level. He lost the functioning of both upper and lower limbs. He was admitted to government hospital at Palayamkottai. He was treated there for two months and discharged. After being discharged he couldn't afford continuation of treatment. He developed bed sores and his condition started to deteriorate. His father is a daily wage laborer who was supporting him. He was admitted to Amar Seva Sangam in **May 2011** and since then he is showing remarkable improvement. He receives intense physio daily, along with medical treatments and counseling. Once his upper arm strength improves, he will be enrolled in Vocational Training.



V.Ravi, aged 36 yrs is a **Quadriplegic**. He used to work at building construction sites. While travelling in a motor bike in 2008 he met with an accident and injured his spine at C3, C4 level. He lost the functioning of both his upper and lower limbs. He was treated at Government hospital, Madurai, and surgery was done on his spine. He was in the hospital for 7 months. Ravi is married and has a son aged 5 yrs and daughter aged 13 yrs. He has lost his father and is supported by his mother who is a farm Laborer. He was admitted to **Amar Seva Sangam** in **May 2011**. He has shown significant progress and likely to be discharged very soon. He receives intense physiotherapy daily, along with medical treatments, counseling and play time. His upper arm strength has improved and he is training to do ironing" job. ASSA is planning to set up an ironing shop for him to enable an income.



Mr.C.Jayaraj, is a **Paraplegic**. He was rendered to this condition after an accident while he was in a student in VIth std. The onset of his condition was slow and painful and proper diagnosis was not made. 6 yrs later doctors detected a severe form of infection in his spinal cord and operated upon his spine at T4 to T10 level. After that he lost control of his legs completely. His parents are aged and does not have any support from his family. He is single and presently his mobility is on the wheel chair. He was admitted to Amar Seva Sangam in **July 2010**. He receives intense physio daily, along with medical treatments, counseling and 1 hour of play time daily. He is learning computer applications and enrolled in Vocational training. Now he is assisting with hardware related work at Amar Seva Sangam.



Mr. C.Kennedy aged 26 is a Paraplegic and came to ASSA in July 2010 for his rehabilitation. He was working as a Machine operator in a private concern in Chennai. He was also pursuing B.Com course through correspondence in Madras University. On 18th May, 2008 while climbing a coconut tree he slipped and fell about 30 feet down on the ground. He became unconscious. He was taken to the G.H at Chennai, diagnosed fracture in his spine, lost his sensation below the hip level and bladder, bowel control. He underwent spine surgery and was advised physiotherapy. Later on he underwent natural therapy which resulted in serious bedsore with acute infection. He also had dislocation of left knee joint. He was brought to Amar Seva Sangam in a very serious condition with bedsores all over his body. A further delay in bringing him to the Sangam would have cost his life. His progress has been very significant and he is enrolled in vocational training.

Functional improvements since arriving at ASSA for all patients: Average for all patients:
Please check our website for complete details on individuals

Before joining ASSA (Nov 2010 - May 2011)	Current Functional Abilities (Dec. 2009)
Severe contracture and tightness in both legs. Weakness of both upper limbs	Tightness in both legs reduced by proper positioning and exercise. Hand muscle power is improved
Bed ridden, unable to stand	Standing balance is improved and hand grip is developed. Able to walk with support of splint and crutches.
Dependent in transfers and mobility	Trunk stability is improved able to sit in a wheel chair for a number of hours a day.
Unable to work due to physical limitations	Training in various vocations, including Computer literacy.

Current treatment protocol at ASSA:

1. Physiotherapy for 3 - 4 hours daily, including stretching and strengthening exercises & skills training.
2. Yoga and meditation for 1 hour daily.
3. Play time with other residents with spinal cord injuries for 90 min every evening.
4. Vocational training

Successfully Discharged Spinal Cord Injured Patients in 2010 -11

Name , Disability Date of Admission / Date of Discharge	Condition during admission	Condition During Discharge	Present Employment Status
Mr.Venkada Boopathi.P Paraplegia 04/01/2010 / 06/13/2010	No sensation or movement below hip. Fully Dependent on others. Weak arm muscles & poor balance	Independent self care activities. He is walking with Caliper & Walker with good balance. Trained in cell phone servicing.	He is an insurance agent and plans to develop cell phone service centre.
Mr.David Paraplegia 20/10/2009 to 08/04/2010	He came with severe pressure sore with infection. Severe muscle tightness & deformity of legs	After the plastic surgery was done, the sore has healed well, Independent self care activities. Well trained in chair weaving.	Now he is earning by knitting wires for cane chairs, sofa sets and cots in his village.
Mr.Sheik Faizal Paraplegia 01/13/2009 / 04/02/2010	No sensation or movement below hip. Severe muscle tightness, unable to sit or move.	Independent self care activities. He is able to walk with caliper and Walker. Well trained in computer repairs.	He has opened a computer servicing centre at his native place.
Mr.Ajmir kaja mydeen, Quadriplegia 11/03/2009 / 08/08/2010	Lost his sensation below neck level. Poor hand function.	Independent self care activities. Independent transfers from bed to wheelchair. Hand function improved.	Not yet employed
Mr. Marimuthu Paraplegia 01/05/2009 / 07/02/2010	He came with severe pressure sore, both leg paralyzed and no sensation below hip. Poor trunk balance.	Plastic surgery Was done for his bed sores which has healed well. Trunk balance is improved. He is able to walk with support of caliper and walker for 50 mts. He was trained in cell phone service an handicraft work.	He is planning to open a shop & run cell phone service at his village.
Mr. Ashok Pandian Quadriplegia 02/25/2009 / 02/02/2011	Severe bed sores, No sensation or movements below neck. Fully Dependent on others. Weak hand muscles & poor balance. He developed abnormal opening on his urinary path way .	Now he is free from Bed sores. Independent self care activities. Independent transfer. Hand function improved. Abnormal urinary opening is corrected by uro surgery. He got trained in Desk Top Publishing and computer courses.	He works from home doing computer related work.
Mr. Mohamed Sulaiman Paraplegia 05/20/2009 / 01/05/2011	Poor trunk balance. No sensation or movement below hip. Fully Dependent on others. Muscle wasting in both legs.	Independent self care activities. He is able to walk with caliper and crutches. Trunk balance improved. He was trained in caliper repairing work and cell phone service.	He is working in wheelchair repair and caliper making section at Amar Seva Sangam.
Mr. Kannan Paraplegia 09/30/2009 / 0/01/2010	No sensation or movement below hip. Fully Dependent on others. Severe tightness of both leg muscles.	Independent self care activities. He is able to walk with splint and crutches. Tightness is much reduced. He was trained in chair weaving and small	He is doing small carpentry work and chair weaving in his home.

Chart A – 138 Children Currently under Sponsorship



Padmadevi.
M (Cerebral
Palsy)



Esakki Muthu
(Cerebral
Palsy)



Asirvatham
(suffers with
Cerebral
Palsy)

Sponsors Name	Child's Name
Aarthi Sankaran – 3 Children	Ambeth Raj.M, Asivatham, Shanmugasundaram
Ananth Padmanabhan	Mohamed Anushu. K
Ananth V.S & Girija	Sangeetha.N
Anil & Shanti Menon – 6	Mariselevam, Karthikeyan, Rajadurai, Sakunthala, Vignesh, Indhumathi
Annam Ganesan	Shahul Hameed.A
Arun & Neelam Kapoor – 2	Muthumari.M, Kamala.K
Axis Pharmacy - 2 Children	Meeran. A & Sakthivel. I
Bhavana & Mahendra Shah	Vignesh
Cadambi & Kalpana Sriram	Gokul.K
Cadambi Sriram – 3 Children	R.G. Moorthy, Ramachandran, Lakshmi. S
Cindy & Grant Smith	S. Ananthi
Dinesh & Kavitha Krishna	Gokul.K
Dr. & Mrs. Shantaram – 2	Jeya Bharathi, Sivan.K
Dr. Pon Sivaji	Maridurai. M
Dr. Anusha Raghuraman – 2	R.Ganapathy , Karthgaikumari.P
Drs. Vaidyanathan - 2	Karpagavalli. M & Patturaj
Dr. Saradha Prasad	Santhanapandi. K
Dr. Yegappan	Sankaramoorthy. A
Georgina Roche	Iyappan. T
Gita Sankaran – 3 Children	Shenbaga Devi, M, Muthusamy.M, Patturaj
HCI, Canada (Direct) – 7	Abdul Samathu, Sudha, Arumugam, Muthukumar, Anandhi, Iyyappan, Mariappan,
Jaikumar & Lakshmi Chinnakonda	Indira.M
Janani & Ramachandran	Rajadurai. M
Jasusa Tan	Akthab. M
Jayashree Subramonia -2	Esakkimuthu.D, Alagu Sundari
Kalavathi Sarma	Santhiya. N
K.N.Venkataraman	Thaslima Banu.M
Kishore	Karthick S.P.
Lakshmi Balasubramanyan	Poovammal
Latha Sukumar – 2 Children	Thathabir & Kannan
Lalitha & Shankar	Jeya Bharathi
Merle Jacob & Dr. Srinivasan	Jeya Bharathi
Meena & K. Suppiah – 2 Children	Bavani.I & Kesava Prasad
Mike Machado	Zuhail Ahamed
Mitesh Parikh – 7 Children	Arun Countralam, Janishya, Balakrishnan, Anushu, Rajadurai, Ramachandran, & Malu
Moen Pederson	Nithya. N
Moveo Sport and Rehab.Centre – 2 Children	Vasanth Kumar, Anusubha.D
Muralidharan J	S. Sakthivel



Ananthi

Sponsor Name	Child's Name
Shaji Nada – 34 Children	Mala. N, Malathi, Geroje Riyance, Moh.Danish, Moh. Thameem, Poosai Durai, Padma Devi, Padmapriya, Murugan M, Arunkumar.C, Janarthanan, Muthu bhavani, Afrin Fathimal, Jothiram, Sudalai Muthu, Sakthi, S.Irfana, Sri Harini, Alagu Karthika, Lameena, Rajaguru.M, Sangeetha.M, Suresh.B, Aieda Sowndarya, Karthikeyan. P, Keshava Petchiraj, Madhu Balan, Malathi.M, Manikandan. P, Standly Davidson, Venkatesh. G, Ram Kumar.K, Ulaganathan. P, Nasrin Shipana

Sponsors Name	Child's Name	Sponsors Name	Child's Name
Nara Manickam -2	Bavida, Petchikumar	Nargiz Dava	Parameswari. T
Padma & Krishnamoorthy	M. Balamurugan	Peter Masci – 3	Iyyapparaj.S, Muthumari, Shanthi.C
P.I. Arasu	Sudervel.B	Ramani Ramakrishnan – 2	Prabhakar. G & Mohamed Reyas
Raj & Vasantha Valliappan	Sundar.S	Robyn Smith	Sankara Gomathi.E
R.K & Sugantha Moorthy – 2	Thangaraj. M & Margaret	Raj Kanthaiah	Ramesh. M
Sashidhar Eranki	Syed Oli Bathusha	Sarla Bhuta - 5	Keerthana, Senthilkumar, Madankumar, Nandakumar & Parthiban
Shilpa Parikh	Thangasudali	Shruthi Bhalla	Paysalya
Siddharth Sankaran -2	Sakthivel. I, Sakunthala. M	Sulo & T. N. Krishnamurthy	Sahul Hameed.A,
Sunil Ghai	Alagu Sundari	Ulrich Vorpal	Paysalya
Unni Raja	Banupriya. P	Usha & T.K. Ramachandar	Maruthupandi
V. Panchapakesan	Arunkumar. K	Vamini Selvanandam	Lakshmi. S
Varsha & Gaurang Shah	Dhanalakshmi	Vasundara & Raj Tuppal	A. Indhumathi



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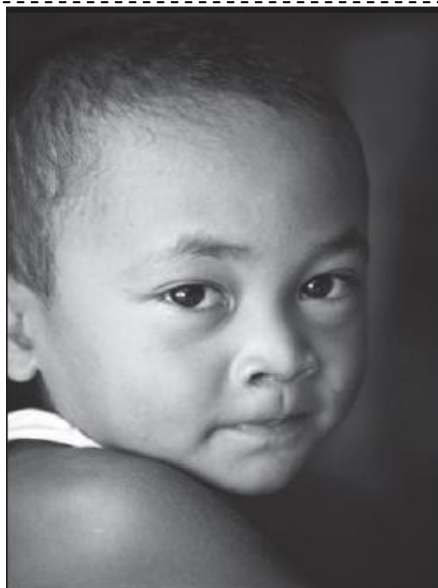
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Chart B – List of successfully completed and employed youth from our SPONSOR A YOUTH Program

Disabled Youth Sponsored between 2004 & 2010 by HCI			
#	Name	Courses Studied & completed	Current Status
3	Sangeetha, Kaleeswari, Vanitha – Gold medalists	Degrees in Sciences	Employed in MNCs
3	Chellammal G, Thangapappa V, Wilson.S – Gold medalist	Masters in Comp. Applications	Employed in BPOs at Chennai & Bangalore
5	Arunmozhi, Mohammed Sha S.A- Gold medalist , Siva Prasad G, Radha - Bronze Medalist , John Britto	Bachelors In Comp. Applications + Other	Employed in various companies as programmers at Thirunelveli, Tenkasi, Chennai & at ASSA
6	Antony Rani M, Ramalakshmi E, Subbu Lakshmi T, Jeyanthi S, Padmavathi, Sumathi	B.Com, MS-Office, DTP, PGDCA	Employed in various companies in Coimbatore, Chennai & Madurai
36	Ayisha Siddika.A, Jabakani.M, Jamal Fathima.A, Antony M, Balamurugan G, Jeya P, Muthunatchiyar V, Sivakumar.M, Kanniammal, Parameswari M, Selvaraj P, Veni V, Priya – Silver Medalist , Subramanian.M, Udayakumar, Velmurugan, Jagannathan, Matha, Murugesan.S – Gold Medalist , Samsath Begam, Selvi, Saraswathi G, Seethalakshmi, Shiranthi T, Fathima Beevi, Arumugathammal, Mariselvam, Cheirmaraj, B. Ramalakshmi, P. Saraswathi, Sonia, Subaitha Beevi, Sri Devi, Loganayaki, Arimurugan, Sumathi, Murugan. P	Ms-Office along with one or more of the following: DTP, Typewriting, C Language, DEO, Tally	Employed in various computer related occupations in different neighbouring towns or in large cities like Madurai, Chennai & Bangalore, Puliyanakudi, Kadayannallur / Doing Online Data Entry / Higher education at Tirunelveli. Employed in private hospital
17	Mariappan.S.K, Chinnathambi G, Jeyalakshmi S, Marimuthu A, Chinnandu I, Jeyalakshmi R, Paramasivan.S, Gomathy, Jeyan.M, Kalpana, Krishnakumar.M, Vasantha, Arokiyasamy, Essakkiammal, Meena, Murugan V, Jegan	DTP, C' Language, DEO, Typewriting, Hardware, Photoshop	Employed in various computer related occupations in different neighbouring towns or in large cities like Madurai, Thirunelveli, Tenkasi & Chennai and at ASSA
10	Ezhil Arasai, Mariappan.K, Packiaraj K, Mahesh, Selvam – Gold Medalist , Baby, V. Devendran, Arumugam, Priya, Kannan. M,	Tailoring, Handwork	working at tailoring shop / Started own shop / Employed at ASSA / Employed in Tiruppur
2	Uma Soundari, Mohamed Ali	B.Sc Nursing, B.Sc Art	Employed in Tirunelveli Hosp / Started Own shop

Total 82 youth are listed above. Besides these several are completing this semester and will be placed soon.



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Deepa Sundar, Age-10



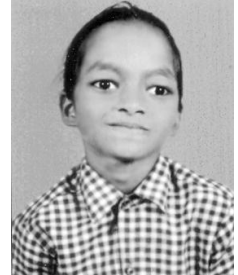
Kanagalakshmi, Age-14



Mahendran, Age-10



Mahalakshmi, Age-9



Mariswari, Age-10



Naveen Shankar, Age-12



Nidyashree, Age-11



Ponmanickam, Age-10



Praveen, Age-12



Aruna, Age-11



Muthu, Age-10



Ramasubramanian, Age-10



Muthukumar, Age-11



Subash, Age-8



Esakkimuthu, Age-4



Giri Dayanandh, Age-5



Sakthi, Age-7



Kishore, Age-4



Alagu Selvam, Age-6



Jothi, Age-5



Rakshitha, Age-5



Paneer Selvam, Age-7



Subash, Age-7



Sakthi Gokul, Age-7



Vijaya Mallika, Age-7



Muthu kumar, Age-5



Abdul Rahuman
Masood, Age-9



Esakkiammal, Age-13



Kabilan, Age-10



Mohana Priya, Age-6



Muppudathi, Age-14



Pavithira, Age-10



Patta Muthu, Age-11



Jayaram, Age-12



Karthika, Age-6



Mahendran, Age-10



Sudhan, Age-8



Thanga Raj, Age-12



Sathish Kannan,
Age-10



Sudalai Muthu,
Age-6

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Volunteer Training and Placement

HCI has successfully been placing volunteers in India since 2003. The feedback we have received from both the students and the organizations shows us just how beneficial these programs are to all involved. Placements are all year round and applications are welcome.

Becoming a Volunteer:


Our volunteers gain valuable experience working with mentally and physically challenged children. We select and place enthusiastic and empathetic individuals willing to learn and to give to those in need. Our programs are extremely valuable for those with an interest in special education, Bio Sciences, Physio- / speech / Occupational therapies. **This has been a life changing experience for many. The testimonies from our volunteers demonstrate that they not only get admissions in the study of their choice, but gain significant life experience in dealing with various aspects.**

Areas of service covered by volunteers:

- Teaching English to disabled Youth Trainees
- Physio / Speech / Occupational therapies
- One on one interaction with special needs children
- Proposal writing and help with office staff




Robyn is a Physiotherapist from Vancouver, BC. She volunteered at ASSA for 4 months.



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“Visit to Amar Seva Sangam” by Srini Srinivasan

For a long time, Meena and I wanted to visit Amar Seva Sangam (ASSA), an organization supported by Handi-care International. But it did not materialize till this year. In January 2011, we were able to spend 8 days at ASSA; we had a wonderful time there with the kids there. We participated in a number of activities such as the Annual Day function and Annual Day Sports Meet of the Centre for Special Education, flag hoisting and morning prayers of the Integrated School, interacting and playing and travelling in a minivan to a nearby temple with a number of the children at ASSA, evening prayer songs by the children, having a number of meals with the children and others in ASSA canteen, visiting the various learning/activity centres and chatting with the staff. While we were thoroughly impressed with the way the handicapped children are being helped at ASSA to learn and get prepared for independent lives, our hearts were touched most by the Special Education children.

Every time we were there at the Sangamam School, a number of the children came very near us, leaned on us and looked at our faces making eye contact and talking without talking; we felt moved by their looks seeking our love. We spent a long time with them.

A number of physically handicapped children, just about 3-7 years old, were unable to walk; but that handicap did not stop them from managing on their own for cleaning themselves, joining others for their meals at the canteen and going to school. The images of a few of these children are permanently etched in our memories. These children were moving so fast like soccer balls bouncing on the floor and hopping on to the bench for meals and jumping on to the wagon which moved them to the school and outside as required.

We urge everyone visiting India to spare some time to visit ASSA and stay at the guest house, if possible. We are sure you will be equally impressed, inspired by the handicapped children and the great organization lead by Mr. S. Ramakrishnan, Mr. S. Sankararaman, Dr. Sumathi and other staff and feel how much of a difference you can make for them even though we are far away.



Mr & Mrs. B. Srinivasan, Secretary of HCI, visited and ASSA in Jan 2011 and participated in the Annual Day function of our Special Education Centre.

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What makes me so committed to Handi Care Intl.?

It is a pleasure to be associated with Handi-Care Intl., offering service for the disabled at the prestigious Amar Seva Sangam (ASSA) in India. HCI, run by volunteers offers dedicated service at the lowest admin cost ever known.

My family and I had great pleasure in visiting ASSA in a beautiful village called "Ayikudy" India and having the opportunity to mingle with the lovely children and staff. I was amused by the growth of this organization and the great service they are providing to the disabled of the South Asian accent. Children are very happy to be at ASSA and the opportunities they are given is limitless. Having a school in the building itself is such a

great achievement and a bundle of opportunities for the kids. They are nurtured well keeping in mind their medical conditions and emotional conditions. The rehabilitation service that is organization provides them is of great help to these children as well. It is a proud accomplishment for everyone who has made this organization a success. I take pride in saying that I am a proud donor at Handi Care Intl., a reputable organization which touches many lives. It is our privilege to be able to do something to change the childrens' lives. God bless Amar Seva Sangam and all the children. The service this organization is doing is brilliant and we wish them our hearty congrats and hope you reach even more heights."

Shajiraj Nadarajalingam
President, Ideal Group of Companies, Toronto, Canada



On September 5th, 2011, I visited AMAR SEVA SANGAM (ASSA) along with my aunt, Mrs. Sarojini Menon, and my daughter, Vidya. Although I had read comments on the website and heard from other visitors about the good work being done at the ASSA, I was taken aback when I personally experienced the wonderful atmosphere at the SANGAM. Mr. Shankar Raman and his staff welcomed us warmly and took the trouble and time to explain the purpose and goals of the organization thoroughly. We were given a comprehensive tour of the facility and witnessed the efforts being made to rehabilitate the physically and mentally challenged children and adults at the centre. The children, who either come from neighbouring towns or live in the SANGAM, are taught life skills to empower them in their quest for independence. Their improved self-esteem was evident in their willingness to demonstrate their skills: be it singing, talking or even in simple tasks like role playing daily life scenarios. The staff also showed extreme dedication, devotion, patience and diligence when working with the children and sometimes with their mothers. The facility is completely accessible to people with all kinds of disabilities and is clean and comfortable. We were also very impressed with the rehabilitation efforts and the results obtained at the Centre for Spinal Cord Injuries.

Though our visit was short (24 hours), we were so moved by the experience that we are determined and resolved to return and to try to increase public awareness and assistance for the good work being done at the SANGAM.



.....Shanthi Menon, Toronto, Canada

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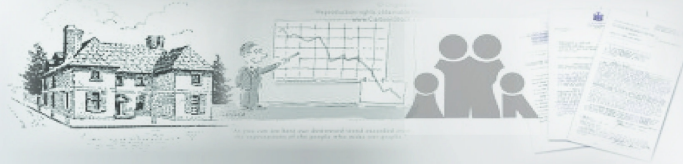
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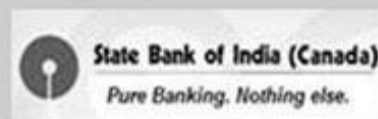


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