

# Handi-Care Intl.

A CANADIAN REGISTERED CHARITY DEDICATED TO HELPING THE NEEDY

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**E - Newsletter 32: November 11, 2004**



From: Sulo Krishnamurthy on behalf of Handi-Care Intl. board and volunteer members

**I have just returned from India after a short trip. It was packed with activities at all the 3 NGOs we support, partly due to the Dasara festivities and mainly due to the half yearly exams that were just finishing at schools and colleges. Here is a short sum up:**

- I visited Maithri the day following my arrival at Chennai. That happened to be the day of quarterly distribution of funds to parents for school fees, uniforms etc...I watched the humble parents presenting the quarterly reports and discussing the progress of their children before receiving their payments for the next semester. HCI's name showed up for every 3rd child and I was duly introduced. Some children had come as well and I spent a good part of the day in conversation with parents/ children/ Sridhar. That afternoon, I accompanied Sridhar in his visit to 2 schools and watched him meet the teachers/ Principal and discuss the progress of the Maithri children attending that school. The teachers took time to explain to me how the kids' lives have been turned around by Maithri. They proudly showed off the awards and prizes won by kids. By the end of the day, I came away with the conviction to help Maithri in as many ways as possible.
- 3 days later, I made a trip to Nesam - a heart wrenching experience- The day was spent in visiting the 2 campuses where Nesam runs care centres for children/ youth afflicted by Cerebral Palsy and mental retardation. I was literally in tears as I watched a 10 yr old child with the growth of about 2, being rolled on a ball to keep his nerves stimulated and a teen age girl's clothes being tied to her body so she won't remove them and many such sights.
- 2 days later I was at Amar Seva Sangam (ASSA) and spent 8 days there. It was bustling with enormous amount of activities, too many to cover here. There has been tremendous progress in all areas, most heartening being the success of the Disabled Youth training (DYT) program. There are 53 DYT's .. some of our sponsored have become eligible for merit scholarships by Govt., making room for new comers. Each youth's story is heart warming as was each child's at the home/ outreach. The mentally challenged day care kids have grown to 40 from 12, in 2001 - a sad place to visit. Overall, it was a heart warming visit to see such progress in all areas and to be greeted by happy, smiling children.
- Please watch out for photo updates on our website.