

We've reached our

15<sup>th</sup>

Milestone!



**SRI ARUNODAYAM**  
Home for Mentally Challenged Destitute

**Sri Arunodayam Charitable Trust,**  
Plot No: 35, Sivananda Nagar,  
Kolathur, Chennai - 600 099 (TN), India

Tel : 91-44-26511450 / 26511803

Mobile : 91-9962280037

Iyyappan : 91-9444915803

Althea : 91-9840350120

Email: [sriarunodayam@gmail.com](mailto:sriarunodayam@gmail.com)

Website: [www.sriarunodayam.org](http://www.sriarunodayam.org)

FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

FEBRUARY 26, 2017

## Sri Arunodayam completes 15 years of dedicated service to the Differently Aabled!

*This is an epic moment in our history! Divine grace has assisted us through the years and continues to guide us as we care for these little ones. Thank you dear donors, volunteers and well-wishers for playing a significant role in this journey. Your care, support, and constant encouragement to our cause keeps us moving boldly forward. Stay blessed!*

### Our journey began in 2002

Back then, a young boy deeply concerned by the plight of abandoned mentally challenged children made a life-altering decision to dedicate his life to their cause. Instead of opting for a lucrative career, he decided to do his very best to protect them and eradicate the social stigma attached to them.

Iyyappan Subramanian founded Sri Arunodayam (a Registered Charitable Trust) in February 2002 and began his critical work with a single abandoned mentally challenged child on May 22, 2003.

And that's how the journey commenced, as he threw open his doors to all mentally challenged children abandoned by their families.

(Read the story [here](#).)

### Relentlessly pursuing a vision

Iyyappan's journey is one of incredible courage, conviction, perseverance and love. It inspires hope against all hope when examined against a backdrop of ignorance, social stigma, and indifference meted out to the mentally challenged in India around 15 years ago.

It must have certainly taken a lot of courage to leave his village and familiar surroundings and head for the city to pursue his cause. He completed his studies and with no support or financial aid from anyone, registered his Trust in 2002 with just Rs 1500/- in his pocket! There weren't any known homes for the mentally challenged at that time, and opening one entailed a lot of legal ramifications.

But soon enough, abandoned children kept trickling in and Sri Arunodayam rescued over 320 children over the years, of which 78 were reunited with their families and 56 were transferred to other homes for specialized care.

It's only in recent times that homes for the mentally challenged have opened up and Government grants are being extended for this work. But when Iyyappan started back then, this was not the case. It was an uphill climb with no rewards or recognitions in sight – undeniable proof of his steadfastness in what appeared to be a hopeless situation.



Sri Arunodayam's first home back in 2002



One of the first children to enter our home



Iyyappan with his children in the early 2000's

## Serving with love

The condition of the children arriving at the home is always pitiful to see. Having endured rejection, abuse and unimaginable hardships, many of them have serious medical conditions that require immediate attention.

At Sri Arunodayam, they are fed, clothed, nurtured and comforted. Their rehabilitation process is a life-long one. You'll get a quick round-up of how we nurture them into becoming as self-reliant as possible, at: <http://sriarunodayam.org/what-we-do/> and <https://sriarunodayam.org/development-programs/>

## And the recognitions pour in...

Today, Sri Arunodayam is widely recognized in South India as one of the pioneering, high caliber homes of its kind, which has received many endorsements and recognitions.

- Recognized under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act 2006, as a Children's Home for the Mentally Challenged Destitute
- Recognized by the Government of Tamil Nadu (under the Juvenile Justice Act by the Department of Social Defense) as a Reception Unit in 2008
- Registered under the National Trust Act 2000
- Declared a fit institution by the Child Welfare Committee, Chennai, Government of Tamil Nadu
- Registered with Credibility Alliance, Mumbai
- Recognized by Give India Foundation
- Recognized by Global Giving Foundation, USA
- Proud partner of Global Fund For Children since 2010
- Registered under the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995
- Given 12 AA and 80 G tax exemptions by the Income Tax Department under the Income Tax Act 1961
- Registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act 2010 to receive overseas donations
- Licensed under the Food Safety & Standards Act 2006

On the personal front, Iyyappan's ground-breaking work with the mentally challenged has been recognized both nationally and internationally.

- Nationally, his work has been recognized and awarded several times by the Lions, Rotary, and Round Table Clubs
- Internationally, he was nominated by International Youth Foundation as a Global Fellow in the Youth Action Net Global Fellowship Program in 2008
- Nominated as a Changeloom Fellow in 2008
- Was invited to the United States by the U.S. State Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs, for the International Visitors Leadership Program in 2010
- Is the recipient of the World of Children Humanitarian Award for the year 2016

## Celebrating our 15<sup>th</sup> year!

We always have reasons to be thankful. It adds to the joyous mood at the home. We encourage the children to celebrate every good thing – whether it be a selfless gesture by a volunteer or a festival or a personal milestone. Having a lot more to be grateful for this year, we celebrated the 26<sup>th</sup> February with a variety entertainment program and a sporting event, to mark our epic journey. Mrs. Jayalakshmi (District Social Welfare Officer Chennai) and Mr. Santhosh Muruganantham (Founder, Kolapasi Restaurant) were our chief guests who gave away medals and prizes to the children, who participated with much excitement. Over 50 donors and well-wishers attended the function.

*“Thank you dear friends for taking this memorable journey with us over the past 15 years. As we commence our 16th year, we look forward with hope to reach out to more children as you continue to partner with us - helping bring light into the lives of the destitute, and hope into the hearts of the hopeless.”*

