



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sri Arunodayam announces the 15 Finalists of its unique 2018 'Special Mom' Award

Kolathur, Chennai, India – May 3, 2018: Sri Arunodayam is pleased to announce the winners of its 2018 'Special Mom' Award. The winners are mothers of special* children who were vetted through a stringent selection process by eminent panellists, from over 100 applications received from across South India.

In launching its 'Special Mom' Award last year, Sri Arunodayam decided to promote and honour the values and contributions made by mothers of 'special' children within their families and communities. The award recognizes these mothers whose progressive abilities have made a significant impact on the lives of their children, and who demonstrate an ability to be positive role models of parenthood for others in their community.

The winners for 2018 are:

1. **ANURADHA K**, mother of Leelavathi (20 years), Chennai
2. **JAYARA**, mother of Imran (20 years) and Jamalia (18 years), Chennai
3. **KALAISELVI**, mother of Vasantha Kumar (17 years), Cuddalore
4. **KAMALA V**, mother of Gokul (32 years), Chennai
5. **KANNISELVI G**, mother of Esaki Muthu (22 years) and Megala (18 years), Chennai
6. **KRISHNAVENI G**, mother of Gokula Krishnan (37 years) and Likesh Sharma (31 years), Chennai
7. **LALITHA DEVI CHIMA KURTHI**, mother of Bharathkumar (22 years), Ongole, Andhra Pradesh
8. **MEERA BALACHANDER**, mother of Krishna (41 years), Chennai
9. **MURUGESHWARI T**, mother of Divya (23 years), Madurai
10. **PREMAVATHI BAI**, mother of Megala (37 years), Kumbakonam
11. **SENTHAMIL SELVI B**, mother of Dinesh (28 years) and Balu (25 years), Chennai
12. **SHARADHA DEVI**, mother of Ganeshkumar (31 years), Chennai
13. **USHARANI**, mother of Shanmugapriyano (23 years) and Padma Priya (20 years), Chennai
14. **VEDAVALLI V**, mother of Suresh (31 years), Kasthuri (30 years), and Prakash (29 years), Chennai
15. **VISHALI KEMISETTI**, mother of Mallika (14 years) and Madhulika (8 years), Warangal, Telangana

The winners will be honored at a special ceremony to be held on **Mother's Day – May 13, 2018** in Chennai, where Sri Arunodayam's long-standing donor partners will present them with:

- (1) A Certificate of Excellence, and a special Trophy
- (2) A Cash Award of INR 15,000/- each
- (3) A special gift hamper
- (4) A Special Lifetime Pass entitling them to a host of free support services from Sri Arunodayam Charitable Trust

Sri Arunodayam Charitable Trust

No: 35, Sivananda Nagar, Kolathur, Chennai - 600 099 (TN), India
<https://sriarunodayam.org>



Through these awards, Sri Arunodayam aims to share positive family life experiences, and provide hope and inspiration to mothers all over the country, encouraging them to continue extending unconditional love and care towards their 'special' children.

[For more information on the upcoming event, please visit: <https://sriarunodayam.org/special-mom-award-event/>]

About Sri Arunodayam's Special Mom Award

Sri Arunodayam's 'Special Mom' Award is a unique, first-of-its-kind event in India that honors and supports mothers of 'special' children.

When the organization conceptualized this program back in 2016, its vision included the desire to start a transformation in the way society considers and responds to 'special' children and their families who are most often misunderstood, discriminated against and judged. This Special Mom Award is only the beginning of a modest yet potentially powerful type of advocacy that brings to light the heroic nature of families living with 'special' children, refusing to abandon them. Such heroism comes with daily sacrifice that often goes unnoticed. Which is why Sri Arunodayam created this unique award to recognize the integrity and commitment of mothers of 'special' children who remain society's unsung heroes. Award winners serve as inspirational role models who uphold true family values in an ever increasing materialistic and self-seeking environment.

[For a roundup of 2017's event and finalist stories, please visit: <https://sriarunodayam.org/special-mom-post-page/>]

About Sri Arunodayam

Sri Arunodayam is a home for abandoned intellectually challenged children in Kolathur, Chennai. Over the past 16 years, the home has provided a safe and caring environment for these children most of whom were abandoned in hospitals, crowded public places such as railway and bus stations, and even in dustbins. The organization works with the Department of Social Welfare, Child Welfare Committees, the Police and ChildLine in the rehabilitation of such children. Sri Arunodayam tries to give these children what they have lost – a home and a family!

[For more information on the home, its children and its various programs, please visit: <https://sriarunodayam.org/>]

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**Children requiring special educational requirements as they suffer from any of a wide range of physical disabilities, medical conditions, emotional problems, and mental retardation and intellectual difficulties such as autism, ADHD, cerebral palsy, down syndrome, epilepsy, including deafness, blindness, dyslexia, learning difficulties, behavioral problems and a host of other conditions.*

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