



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First-of-its-kind 'Women's Recognition & Empowerment' Program in the Disability Sector

Sri Arunodayam announces 2019 finalists to be awarded on Mother's Day

Kolathur, Chennai, India – May 2019: Sri Arunodayam, a pioneer home for abandoned children with intellectual disability, is pleased to announce the winners of its unique 'Special Mom' Award for 2019. Although there are several awards honoring mothers across India and the world, Sri Arunodayam's award is uniquely different in that it honor mothers of special* children. This has resulted in a unique platform for advocacy on issues related to mental retardation and intellectual disability. 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 this year.

In launching its 'Special Mom' Award in 2017, Sri Arunodayam committed to support and honour the values and progressive abilities of mothers who make a significant impact on the lives of their special children, families, and communities.

The 15 finalists for 2019 are:

1. **Asiyabenazir S** from Virudunagar, TN
2. **Baby R** from Cuddalore, TN
3. **Chidambaragomathi** from Tirunelveli, TN
4. **Jayanthi M** from Chennai, TN
5. **Kalavathy** from Thiruvallur, TN
6. **Lakshmi P** from Tirunelveli, TN
7. **Lakshmi Suneetha** from East Godavari, AP
8. **Nalini R** from Krishnagiri, TN
9. **Ponrajam M** from Chennai, TN
10. **Radha Nandakumar** from Chennai, TN
11. **Rajakili K** from Kanyakumari, TN
12. **Savithri M** from Coimbatore, TN
13. **Shanthi Pappa** from Marthandam, TN
14. **Usha Subramanian** from Chennai, TN
15. **Vasumathi R** from Chennai, TN

Thiru. S Krishnan, I.A.S, Principal Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu, will be our Chief Guest at a special ceremony to be held on Mother's Day – **May 12, 2019** from 5.00 pm onward, at Good Shepherd Convent, Nungambakkam, Chennai. The finalists will be presented with:

- (1) A Certificate of Excellence in Parenting, 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

Each finalist's inspiring story has been captured on film, which will be screened at the event which attracts over 800 dignitaries and eminent personalities from across disability and other sectors. Through these awards, Sri Arunodayam aims to share inspiring family experiences that could provide hope to thousands of families of special children across our country, encouraging them in their journey towards a more inclusive society.

For more information on the upcoming 2019 event, please visit:

<https://sriarunodayam.org/special-mom-award-2019-event-finalist/>

**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.*

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 Award is the beginning of a potentially powerful 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. This 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 previous event and finalist stories, please visit

2018: <https://sriarunodayam.org/special-mom-award-2018-post-event/>

2017: <https://sriarunodayam.org/special-mom-post-page/>

About Sri Arunodayam

Sri Arunodayam is a home for abandoned children with intellectual disability located in Kolathur, Chennai. Over the past 17 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 and Child Welfare Committees in the rehabilitation of such children. Sri Arunodayam tries to give them 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/>]

Press Contacts:

- 1) **Iyyappan Subramaniyan** (Founder Managing Trustee)
+91-9444915803; iyyappan@sriarunodayam.org
- 2) **Althea D'Sylva** (Head – Communications)
+91-9840350120; althea.dsylva007@gmail.com

Sri Arunodayam Charitable Trust

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