



It is impossible to love deeply
without sacrifice.
- Elizabeth Elliot

Date : April 2, 2022
Time : 10.30 am
Venue : Quality Inn Sabari,
T. Nagar, Chennai

Our 4th Annual Special Mom 2020 Awards ceremony was held on April 2, 2022 where we celebrated the lives of 15 incredible Mothers of Special Children.

They each received a Cash Award of INR 15,000/- and a Special Lifetime Pass entitling them to free services from Sri Arunodayam.

Sri Arunodayam is grateful to:

Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI), Mr. Jagadeesh Babu, Mr. Ravi Kumar, and Mrs. Karpagam.

A Special Mom's mission is unlike any other!

Sri Arunodayam's 'Special Mom' is a mother who refuses to abandon her special child despite being encouraged to do so by family and community. That she has stoically resisted and trodden a new path toward self-discovery and commitment to her child speaks of the calibre of woman we seek to honor and support. The award recognizes a special mom's progressive abilities that have made a significant impact on the life of her child, demonstrating her ability to be a positive role model in her community.

We specially thank our Chief Guest, Dr. C Aacha Arumugasamy, Founder and Director of Sri Kumaran Health Centre, Kolathur, Retteri, Chennai, Special Mom families, special guests, donors, sponsors, well-wishers, and friends for making our 2020 Special Mom Awards ceremony a grand success! Introducing 15 incredible Special Moms each year inches us forward on our journey toward creating an inclusive society. It is said, "*Water cuts through rock not because of its strength but because of its persistence.*" Sri Arunodayam's persistence in hosting this honorable program year upon year despite the many challenges we face, and special families living out their love for one another, persistently holding up a mirror to a love-starved society, will one day bring about the change we are all seeking. We faithfully plant through this program knowing that the harvest, when it comes, will be everything that we hoped it would be.

Due to the pandemic we could not host this wonderful program in 2020 and 2021. Now that it is deemed safe for public gatherings, we celebrated the fourth occurrence of this unique event with a small gathering of well-wishers and friends. We hope to get up to speed quickly as we have more amazing women to present to the world!

Our 15 finalists for 2020 include: Geetha N – mother of (deceased) Santhosh (19) and Ananya (12) from Pondicherry, **Kalaiselvi** – mother of Jothikalai (19) from Chennai, **Kaveri Palanisamy** – mother of Gowsalya (20) from Coimbatore, **Mala S** – mother of Sathish Babu (24) and Jayanthi (18) from Thiruvallur, **Mariyammal S** – mother of Anitha (19) and Gayathri (14) from Tenkasi, **Mythili N** – mother of Vishwanath Kannan (36) from Madurai, **Nirmala P V** – mother of Prem (29) from Coimbatore, **Rajeswari L** – mother of Guruprakash (22) from Kancheepuram, **Revathi** – mother of Chandrakanth



Sri Arunodayam's Special Lifetime Pass is carefully thought out to provide a lifetime of free services to each year's finalists and their children.

- **Automatic membership to Sri Arunodayam's SPECIAL MOM FORUM** – a project aimed at empowering all special mom finalists through regular training programs to help them advance in caregiving and personal areas of development. Such empowerment will help shape them into powerful agents of change in society.
- **Free short duration stay for their children in an emergency:** The mothers are entitled to leave their children in our care for limited periods of time when they may be required to travel and have no one to care for their children during those periods.
- **Sri Arunodayam as custodian and official guardian of their children:** Understanding their anxiety concerning the future of their children on their demise, Sri Arunodayam offers the parents an option to appoint us as custodian and official guardian of their children. Sri Arunodayam will either induct or network with peer organizations to enable a safe home for the children on their parent's demise.

(11) and Rithagayathri (9) from Tiruvannamalai, **Roobi Xavier P** – mother of Ashwini (13) and Ashika (9) from Kanyakumari, **Sankari C** – mother of Bharathwaj (52) from Chennai, **Sathyalakshmi A** – mother of Sravanthi (19) from Tirunelveli, **Savitha S Chavgule** – mother of Sumit (15) from Goa, **Shanthi G** – mother of Stella Mary (24) from Kancheepuram, and **Vasantha Selva Kumari R** – mother of Mahalakshmi (15) from Chennai. These amazing women were welcomed into our Sri Arunodayam family.

Each year we capture the awardees stories on film and present them during the ceremony. It's always a moving experience to witness their many trials and challenges. There are also many wonderful moments when their true character and calibre shine through. It's these heartening experiences we want to share with the world. The awardees said that they were grateful to Sri Arunodayam for helping them see their true worth.

The high emotion of the films were well balanced with scintillating performances by children with disabilities, and the afternoon ended with a grand lunch for all.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

The Special Mom Award is an annual event seeking applicants from across the country for the 15 most deserving finalists.

Sri Arunodayam received applications from mothers across Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Goa, and a group of eminent panelists carefully screened each application to arrive at the 15 finalists for 2020. More information on the Special Moms and their stories are available at:

<https://sriarunodayam.org/special-mom-award-2020/>

Welcoming our Guests



The Show Begins



Honouring our Special Moms



Entertainment Highlights



Sharing a Meal Together



"I'm proud to be the Chief Guest of this very special program. Some parents are ashamed of their special children and tend to hide them behind closed doors. But these moms are so proud of their children. You can see the love shine through their eyes. I am truly honored to be part of this wonderful program that is touching and honoring lives in a unique way."

- Dr. Aacha Arumugasamy, Founder and Director of Sri Kumaran Health Centre, Kolathur, Retteri, Chennai

"I specially thank Iyyappan Subramaniyan for considering me to be a 'special' mom. While receiving the award, I forgot the pain I've been experiencing through society's ill treatment of my child. While watching the films I realized many of the mothers suffer far more than I do. My special child is the reason for my elevation as a 'Special Mom' and I value this award more than anything else I've been recognized for."

- Mrs. Vasantha Selva Kumari, Special Mom 2020 Finalist

