



SRI ARUNODAYAM
Home for Mentally Challenged Destitute

CELEBRATING

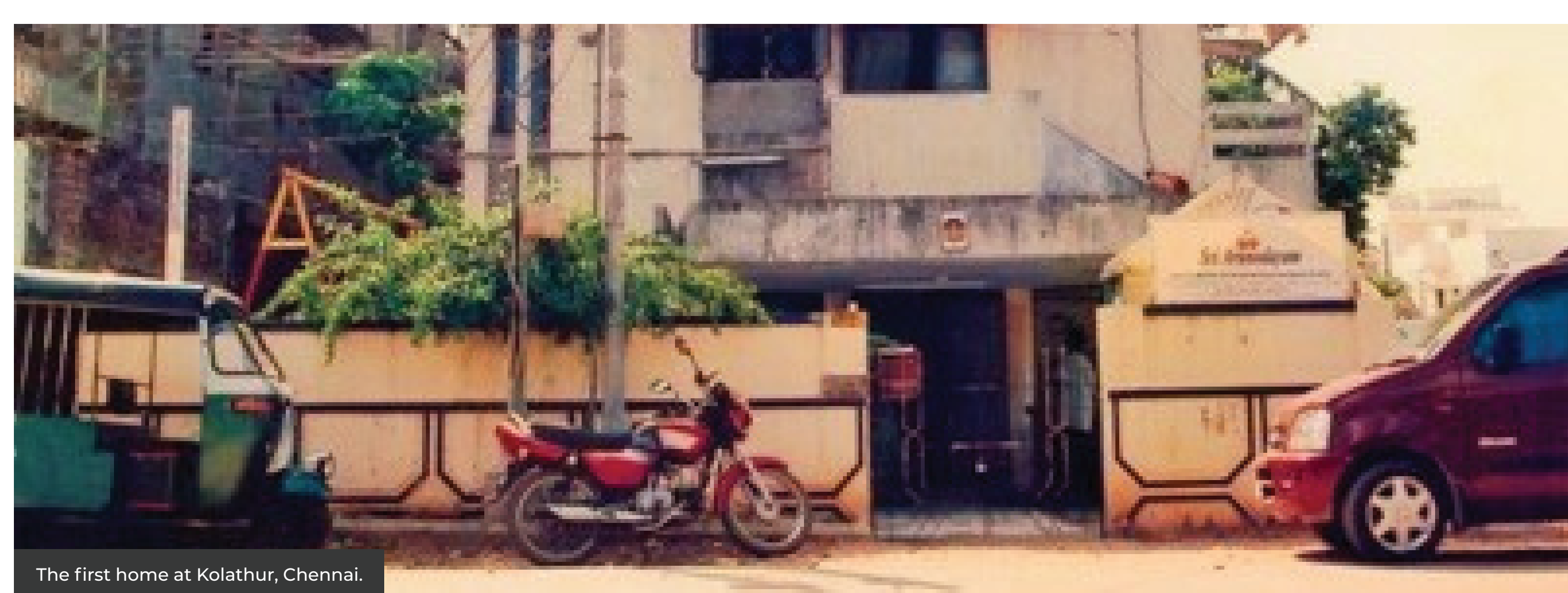
20 YEARS

OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

Iyyappan's Story

ONLY A LIFE LIVED FOR OTHERS IS A LIFE WORTHWHILE - **Albert Einstein**

Twenty years ago, a young lad, barely out of his teens began a life of service to abandoned children with intellectual disabilities (ID). He could have pursued a lucrative career or set up his own business – things he saw his friends do, but he chose to follow his heart instead.



The first home at Kolathur, Chennai.

And his heart was calling him to a life of service to society's most abused and most vulnerable members.

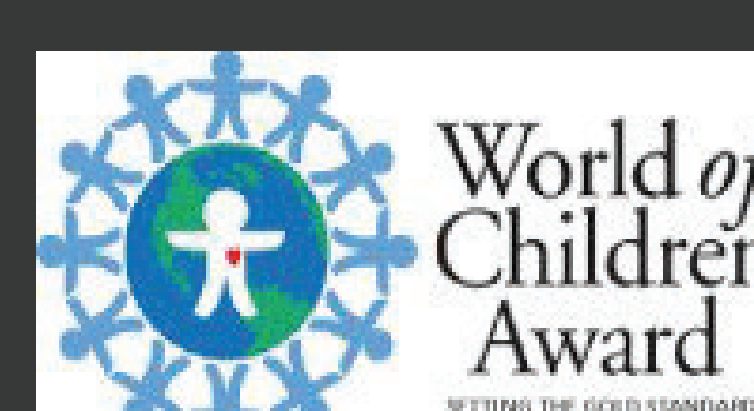
Having lived in a remote village in Tamil Nadu back in the '80s with an older brother with Down syndrome, Iyyappan grew up especially sensitive to the challenges families of children with ID face, including severe social stigma. He decided to do something to help such children.

His journey into serving them commenced in 1999 as a Special Educator Trainee at MITHRA, Chennai, when he was just 19 years old. Then, on February 26, 2002, he founded Sri Arunodayam Charitable Trust – a home to provide care, protection and rehabilitation for abandoned children with ID.

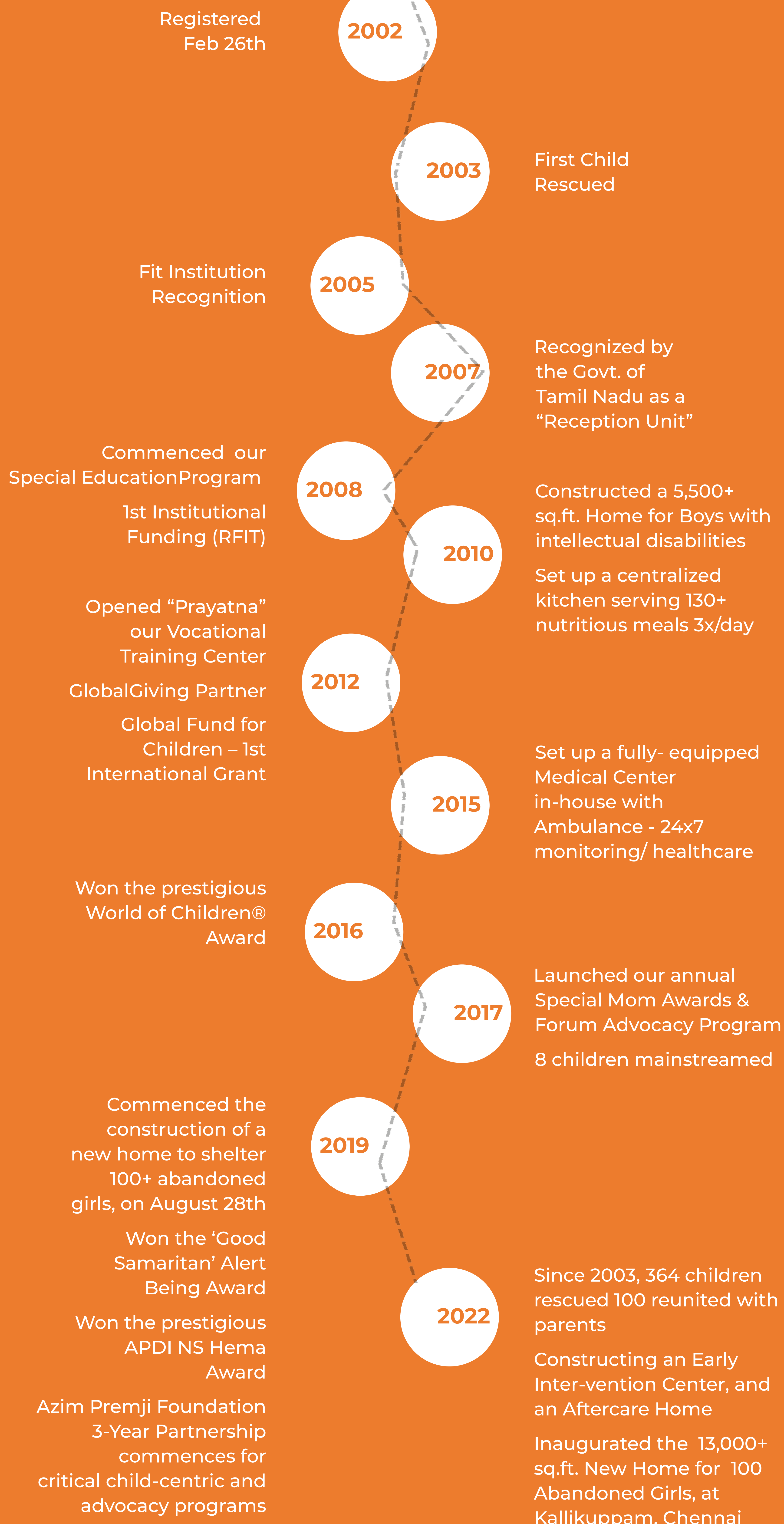
Rescue by Sri Arunodayam

Since taking in the first child, Iyyappan and Sri Arunodayam Charitable Trust have rescued 364 abandoned children with intellectual disabilities and helped 100 of them reunite with their families. When Iyyappan began his work, there was little recognition or incentive to do what he did, but he continued through some very challenging times to build Sri Arunodayam into the home it is today. In addition to the children Iyyappan has directly cared for, he has paved the way for many others to receive care from those inspired by his work.

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MILESTONES IN OUR 20-YEAR JOURNEY



A sustaining mission

Today, **twenty years later**, Sri Arunodayam is proving to be the model home that other institutions emulate. The children living here receive nutritious food, safe shelter, clean clothing, timely medical care, and developmentally appropriate education and rehabilitation programs. Most of all, they regain what they have lost – a home and a family.

Iyyappan's life is a life lived for others. His vision has ignited the hearts of many, including his staff, who walk alongside him on a journey of life that is well worth living. After 20 years of service, we know that no joy can truly equal the joy of serving others - more specially - of serving society's most forgotten.



33000+
Hours of Special Education



364
Children Rescued
100
Reunited with Family



32000+
Hours of Physiotherapy



18+
Key Recognitions

3
Residential -cum-Rehabilitation Centers