

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Southerner,

It was the dawn of 29th June when I got into the activities of our Rotary club as committed during the installation. The inauguration of interact clubs in AKG

Pallikaranai and the new community interact club (at Steps Home) gave us exposure to wonderful children who are extremely talented and knowledgeable.

We also had the inauguration of some schools for the Spoken English course which gave us an awesome experience of speaking in English with some children. The children introduced themselves and started speaking about their future careers which were very fascinating to hear. The pleasure of being the president and going through the experience is amazing. I must confess that if this is "the" lovely beginning I don't want to see my year coming to a close very soon as I want to prolong it.

We had a beautiful fireside hosted by Rtn Devan when we all had "a whale of a time". I profusely thank our green Rotarian for hosting the fireside. The cricket fellowship was enjoyed by all the Rotarians and we unearthed some very good talent. I am proud to say that we have a good cricket team that can compete with the best. There is a demand for having one more cricket fellowship by our lovely Rotarians. We are going to have many more fellowships this year.

....Continued on Back page

AN EMOTIONAL BUT INSPIRATIONAL VISIT



So far, the Caring For Little Hearts project (which aims to perform surgeries to correct congenital heart defects among children) has completed over 400 surgeries in five years or so since it was launched. This would not have been possible without the grace of god and the support of so many kind-hearted people.

One thought that always used to linger with us (the core team) was to check on these kids after two or three years post-surgery and see how they were doing by a visit to their place of residence.

Data showed that Villupuram district had most kids that had gone through corrective surgery. With the able support of the staff of Sooriya Hospital and led by Chair of the project Rtn Saravanan, the visit was planned on 24th July.

Around 40 kids with their parents turned up at the community hall where the camp was being held. This was a big deal as most of the parents were daily wage workers and missing a day at work could mean that there may be no food at home.

We could not recognize them (the kids)! We had pictures of them pre-surgery and all of them have grown up healthily. Every parent that narrated their stories had to run from pillar to post (hospital to hospital) - and just could not find the right hospital that would solve the problem. This project has now given them a permanent solution. And will give to many more in future.

Our visit was very fruitful... it was a clear affirmation that kids continue to do well post the surgeries and lead a normal life.

My thanks to Rtn Saravanan, Rtn Bina Boaz and Rtn Suresh - besides the visit, we had such a good bonding through the travel talking and learning about so many things ... A lovely Sunday.

Rtn R Srikanth

SOUTHERNERS BOND THROUGH CRICKET

On 23rd July, Southerners got together for a friendly (tennis ball) cricket showdown at Whistle, Nungambakkam. Around 30 Rotarians, Anns and Annettes, split themselves into groups of two, for two consecutive matches. Though not competitive by any means, you could see the vigour and fierce passion in the eyes of each of the players. For round 1, the teams were captained by Rtns Mukund Vedapudi and Vijay Menon, the members evenly split between the two. The Anns and Annettes showed exemplary sportsmanship, both while playing, as well as while cheering on their fellow members. All Rotarians exhibited their hidden skills and talent in the sport, without allowing the ugliness of competition to seep in.



After the first match, we were treated to puffs and other snacks, and a scrumptious dinner of sandwiches and thattu idlis, ironically without a 'thattu'. Since the night was still young, we prepared ourselves for round 2. With the thundering rain, delightful company, and wonderful display of sportsmanship, it was an unforgettable night, filled with laughter and fun. Though we were not maintaining score, President Jawahar Nichani, ensured each one of us went home feeling like a winner. Each member present was awarded a small trophy as a token of their enthusiasm and their sense of camaraderie. The Cricket Fellowship was a true delight for all the members who took part, and we look forward to having more such fun events in the future.

Annette Shruti Menon

A RANDOM VISIT TO KATTUR



During a random visit to our Community Learning Centre in Kattur village on 14th July, we were pleasantly surprised to find nearly 30 students, from LKG to Std.VIII, arriving for (tuition) classes. The teacher, Ms Sukanya, was a pleasant, good-natured lady. She had a warm smile and answered all our questions politely and courteously. The toilet was clean and well-maintained and there was running water. This is a Centre that RCMS should really be proud of.

Ann Sheela Mukund

RTN PARVEEN HONOURED



Rtn Parveen Sikander received a Business award from the Tamil Nadu Young Entrepreneurs Association. The event was watched by Trade & Commerce ministers in 7 countries. It was a packed hall at ITC Grand Chola with a lot of our ministers and dignitaries present. Southerners congratulate Rtn Parveen on this achievement.

AKG PUBLIC SCHOOL INTERACT CLUB INSTALLED

On 16th July the Interact Club of AKG Public School was installed at the school premises in Pallikaranai. President Jawahar and Secretary Ajit were present on the occasion.



SPOKEN ENGLISH COURSE INAUGURATION

After a gap of two years (post-Covid), our club's Spoken English Course project, which aims to develop soft skills among the students of the targeted schools, was inaugurated on 19th July in the following schools:



Mary Clubwala Girls Higher Secondary School, Egmore



MCN Higher Secondary School, T Nagar



Chennai Girls Higher Secondary School, Saidapet



INTERACT CLUB AT STEPS HOME

A new Community Interact club under the RCMS banner was installed at STEPS HOME in Korattur, Chennai on 13th July. As already reported in an earlier issue, the Home is an orphanage for girls started with a vision to be different from most orphanages that come to our mind.



RTN RAJENDRAN INDUCTED

P R Rajendran was inducted as a member of our club at the weekly meeting held at Hotel Savera on 12th July, 2022. PDG Rtn Nagoji, who was also the speaker for the evening, formally inducted him. Rtn Rajendran is the Co-founder/CEO of Nextwave Multimedia Pvt Ltd. His wife, Ann Kalpana, is a Data Analyst/promoter in the same organisation. They are blessed with two sons, Siddarth and Shri Vishnu.



FIRESIDE AT DEVIL'S DEN!

Sunday, the 17th July, saw a good bunch of fun-loving Southerners gather for a fireside at the "Devil's den" - Rtn. Devan Thupalli's villa off the East Coast Road. It was a lively afternoon with plenty of drinks, jokes and bellowing laughter. The highlights included some delicious biryani, a picture shoot by the 'kalluvandi' and IPP Renjit's attempt at blowing a trumpet. Two adorable four-legged friends, Lucky and Snowy made for excellent company, capping off yet another warm and memorable afternoon for the Southerners family.

Rtn Sarvesh Shyam

WEEKLY MEETINGS IN JULY



Date : 5th July, 2022
 Speaker : PDG Rtn A Subramanian
 Topic : 'Imagine Rotary' RI Theme for 22-23



Date : 12th July, 2022
 Speaker : PDG Rtn N Nagoji
 Topic : My experiences as a Rotarian and Rotary Governor



Date : 19th July, 2022
 Speaker : Dr Pravesh Sampath
 Topic : Hearing loss and its impact

ANNADANAM



On 30th July, the first Annadanam of the current Rotary year was offered at East Eden Foundation. This marks the sixth year since this project was started. The service is done on the last Saturday of every month. The project is done by collections from individual members. Contact IPP Rtn Renjit Joseph for more details.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL NITE



An opportunity to meet and interact with Rtn Jennifer Jones, RI President, who visited Chennai recently. At a gala event at ITC Grand Chola on 26th July, (from left) Rotarians Devan, Rajendran, Jawahar, Shyamala, Kalpana, Bina and Ashok participated, representing RCMS

....Continued from President's Message

We had a good board meeting and looking forward to doing some good projects for education in government schools and government-aided schools for special children. The project, 'freedom through education' was started in February when Rtn Mukund and I travelled for about 1200 km to find schools to support them. God gave us 9 schools that also have special children and with occupational therapy, they join the mainstream with other children for further education. I profusely thank Rotarians Mukund,

MC Srikant, Satya, Ashok and Prakash for their wonderful support for the above project. We will be seeking support from our members for this awesome project. As they say "EDUCATION IS THE PASSPORT TO THE FUTURE, FOR TOMORROW BELONGS TO THOSE WHO PREPARE FOR IT TODAY"

Yours in Rotary
Jawahar Nichani

With Best Compliments From



Editor Rtn. PP R Seshadri | rtnsesh@gmail.com

The Southerner is published by Rotary Club of Madras South for private circulation and is Printed by Multicraft (2431 0419)