

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Southerner,

We started the month of August by partnering with the District to raise awareness of the importance of breast feeding.

We had 2 firesides this month, one in Renjit's place, and another in Sujeesh's house. Rose outdid herself and the barbeque was outstanding at Sujeesh's place. A 3rd fireside snuck in (last minute) in the guise of Onam at Shyamala's house. Great times!

A trip to Athirapalli Falls and Guruvayur temple organized by Saravanan turned out to be a much-needed break from our routine and the bonding was wonderful with plenty of fellow SIP.

As it is Madras month, Madhu organized a line-up of five of our members to speak on 8th August, who were all fantastic. Suresh's act had us all in stitches. Towards the end of the month, Anu Uberoi had us all enthralled as she spoke on the Punjabis in Madras since the Partition up till now.

Three more schools were sponsored for counseling sessions. The Interactors of St. Anthony's School, Saidapet had their installation. Asan College of Arts and Science also had their installation for Rotaractors.

On 26th August, RCMS celebrated the completion of 500 paediatric heart surgeries under the 'Caring for Little Hearts' Project. It was very grand, well-attended and heartwarming.

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CELEBRATING A MILESTONE – CFLH 500



'The Caring for Little Hearts' project is a flagship project of the Rotary Club of Madras South, (RCMS) assisting in completing paediatric surgeries for children in the age group one month to 18 years suffering from Congenital Heart Disease (CHD). The project was launched in 2017 with the first surgery commencing in August of that year. The program was funded through a fundraising program of RCMS and with the support of many Rotarians from the Club itself. The first phase of the project saw the completion of 75 successful surgeries through the Soorya Hospital in Chennai.

The project reached its landmark completion of 500 surgeries in May 2023. The club arranged to celebrate this landmark. On 26th August 2023, with DG Ravi Raman as Chief Guest and J Sreenivasan, CSR Head, Ford, Dr Rajiv Srikumar, COO Soorya Hospitals and with a large gathering of Rotarians and stakeholders and with some of the beneficiaries present, the event was celebrated. Some of the parents of the children who went through the surgery are doing well. They spoke on the challenges they faced in getting treatment for their children, and many an eye in the audience turned moist.

The project enabled hassle-free medical treatment for their children and gave their children hope of joy, happiness and healthy living, and removed their daily worry about their children's health. President Bina Boaz welcomed the gathering and spoke of the importance of the project to RCMS. Chairman of the Project PP Rtn K Saravanan spoke about how the project evolved and thanked all sponsors, stakeholders and Soorya Hospital for the support. Rtn R Srikanth spoke on the challenges that the parents faced and how the project had removed the challenges. DG Ravi Raman assured support from the District for the program.

Rtn R Srikanth

PROJECT KANMANI – SAVING THE EYES



KANMANI is our Club's unique signature project for the Rotary year 2023-24, where men/women needing eye care surgery for retinal defects will be offered free treatment and or surgery. Timely treatment can prevent blindness in those who have retinal issues. The project will be done at VHS Hospital and our Club President Bina Boaz signed an MoU with the hospital on 1st August. Two surgeries have already been done so far. Not all cases referred to the hospital require surgery.

RO PLANT INAUGURATED AT GOVT. BOYS HIGH SCHOOL, SAIDAPET



Our Club along with Rotary Clubs of Metropolis, Chennai Capital, Chennai Amethyst, Chennai Metrozone and the Kalpavriksha Trust installed and inaugurated a 500lph Water RO Plant at the Chennai Boys' High School in Saidapet. The school serves 1500 students from 6th-12th standard. Thanks to the project, now the students get clean drinking water, and the run-off water from the RO Plant is used for hand washing and washing vessels.

YOUTH SERVICE PROJECTS INAUGURATED

August is usually a busy month for our Club with several Interact/Rotaract clubs being inaugurated. We kick-started the installation of Interact Clubs at St. Antony's School, and counselling sessions at Dr. Nirmala Girls HS School, spoken English classes at Mary Clubwala Jadhav School, and Sacred Hearts School, among others. These projects bring about a positive change in the lives of these students. The Rotaract Club of Asan Memorial Arts & Science College was also installed during the month.



Dr K K Nirmala Girls HS School



Sacred Heart School

RAISING AWARENESS OF BREAST FEEDING

Our Club participated in the World Breast Feeding Week 2023 function organised by Government Children Hospital, Egmore, jointly with the Rotary District 3232 Community Service Health team. Our Club was represented by President Bina, who gave away gifts to lactating mothers at the hospital. Anns Kusum Gupta and Rajeena Magdoom were also present.



A MEMORABLE TRIP TO ATHIRAPALLY FALLS

On August 12th, around 18 Southerners flew out of Chennai on an outstation trip to God's Own Country for a couple of days. Rtn. Saravanan had meticulously planned the entire trip and ensured that every one of us had a blast.

On landing at Cochin Airport, we were driven to a very scenic traditional resort in Chalakudy called Rasa Gurukul which is located literally on the banks of the flowing Chalakudy River. Once we had checked in, we set out to visit the largest waterfall in Kerala "Athirapally Waterfall". It was such a fascinating experience to see the waterfall in full gusto. Truly referred to as "The Niagara of South India". After spending a considerable amount of time clicking pics in and around the waterfall and on the Rope Bridge, the evening was spent with a lot of spiritual fellow-sip and fun moments.

The following morning, we visited Guruvayur Sri Krishna Temple and the Mammiyur Sivan temple to have a quick darshan of the lord and headed back to Rasa Gurukul for some local toddy that was waiting for us with a sumptuous lunch served on a banana leaf in the true Kerala traditional Sadhya style.

The same evening, we visited Chimmini Dam, also known as the Earth Dam. A few adventurous folks went on a spin on the Coracle Boat, whilst the rest just hung around to click pics of the scenic surroundings.

A wonderful fun trip and great camaraderie among the RCMS members and their spouses.

Rtn Devan Thuppali



A FIRESIDE TO REMEMBER

PP Rtn Renjit and Ann Rose played warm and wonderful hosts amidst a night of fun and laughter, at August's first fireside featuring an epic feast.

The snacks just did not stop flowing with Rotarians, Annes and Annettes left awestruck by the vast, lip-smacking spread prepared singlehandedly by Ann. Rose.

Once everyone had their fill, the club's fellowship (fruit) baskets were handed over by Rtn. Renjit and Ann Rose to Rtns Suresh Arunachalam and Anuradha Uberoi.

The cherry on the cake was the dessert prepared by Ann Rose, combined with a delicious surprise coconut drink generously handed over to all by Ann Rajeswari.

A truly memorable evening that was a testament to the Southerner's spirit and the basket that keeps on giving.

Rtn Sarvesh Shyam



Note: Another Fireside was held on 19th August at RtnSujeesh's beach house in ECR. The fellowship basket has since moved from Rtn Suresh to Rtn Jenson Peters

MADRAS DAY HAPPY STREET

Corporation of Chennai, along with The Times of India newspaper and Rotary Clubs in Chennai celebrated Madras Day in several parts of the city. On Sunday 27th August, a "Happy Street" programme was organised at Anna Salai stretch from Spencers to LIC, and our members led by Ann Chitra Elumperiyar and her team did a terrific job of creating a rangoli depicting the landmarks of Chennai. President Bina was present along with a few other Southerners to cheer Ann Chitra and the team.



SPEAKER MEETINGS IN AUGUST



Date : 8th August, 2023
Speakers : Rotarians Sheila Sriprakash,
Anuradha Uberoi, R Elumperiar,
Kalpana Kumar, Suresh Arunachalam
Topic : Chennai – What I like about it,
What I dislike about it



Date : 29th August,
2023
Speaker : Rtn Dr Anuradha
Uberoi
Topic : Punjabis in
Chennai

A SOUTHERNER HELPS SAVE A LIFE

On 9th August morning, Ann Kala Balasundaram saw a small group standing around a man (Mr Sridhar) in his late 60s, at the Elliots Beach, who had collapsed and was totally unconscious with a low pulse. As a trained volunteer in emergency response, she got into action and stopped a walker from giving him water. With help from another friend and the paramedic from the Ambulance stationed nearby, she ensured that Sridhar got the



required first aid before he was taken to a nearby hospital.

After giving the staff and family very anxious moments for nearly a week, Sridhar has fully recovered from a near-death situation and is back home. As the doctors in the hospital commented, "But for the timely aid provided by the good samaritans in the beach and the paramedic, it would have been difficult to save the life of Sridhar"

NEW MEMBER INDUCTED



K Parasuraman was inducted as a member of RCMS at the meeting held on 8th August. He is a Management Training Consultant. His spouse, Ann Jaishree, was also present. Southerners welcome Rtn Parasuraman and wish him a memorable inning as a Rotarian.

Southerners may be aware that Kala is the founder of ALERT, an NGO that is a first responder's network in case of an emergency. Kudos to Kala and her team for the yeomen service they are providing to society.

Rtn R V Rajan

....Continued from President's Message

Along with Kalpavriksha Trust and 4 other Clubs, RCMS installed an RO Plant in The Chennai Boys' High School, Saidapet, to provide them with clean drinking water.

We rounded off the month with many of our members attending the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of our Inner Wheel Club which was very classy and grand.

We have some wonderful plans for the coming months. Would love to see all members come out and participate more.

Yours in Rotary

Bina Boaz

WITH BEST WISHES FROM
A WELL WISHER

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