



### SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

More than 60% of students are supported through **Education-Sponsorship** by committed donors from USA, Switzerland, and Germany. With a monthly sum of Rs 2,500 a child is funded to receive education and everything that comes along with it: school fees, school supplies, school uniforms, transportation, a lunch meal for all children, regular monthly checkup and treatments, emergency family support, and cultural activities.

Our sponsored children face the challenges of **extreme poverty and family heartbreak** on a daily basis. Societal pressures often make it hard for them to stay in school. Through the School Sponsorship Program, classroom teachers and the school principal offer regular counseling to help students cope with these difficulties and graduate successfully. Sponsor children are selected on the basis of talents, abilities, motivation of students and their parents' educational support. Donors are provided with the name and current photo of the sponsored child and regular updates of his or her development.



### PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

A passed school exam, nowadays is not sufficient to fulfill requirements and expectations of employers with regards to quality of work, personal expression or specific job skills.

Having passed school exams, most of the young people are not in a position to continue their studies at college, or get a job or apprenticeship in the industry. Their parents, often illiterate or unemployed themselves, would not be able to financially support them, but rather expect that they now contribute to the family income. In addition, employers raise the bar for applicants, because they are faced with a large number of job-seeking people, and government agency support is scarce.

In 2001, the first graduates of the Secondary School formed the **Professional Training Program (PTP)**. More than 80 rural villages in the Tiruvannamalai district are covered by this program, where only 15% of high school graduates pursue higher education. Participants can choose from an **array of professions** such as paramedical, technical, handicraft at local institutions, or business administration, information technology and natural science at a college or university like the Arts College, Indian Technology Institute, Poly-Tec colleges in Vellore, Chennai, or Bangalore.

Besides **counselling** in social, psychological or financial problems, excursions to business sites, **courses** in English language skills, communication skills, computer skills, project management, general knowledge, job application training, and 6-12 month corporate mentoring programs are regularly offered **by professional experts** who do this work free of charge. Students are thus connected with professionals who are software engineers, mechanics, teachers, and scientists sharing their valuable work experience. Through partnerships with individuals and corporations around India, this exchange is further enhanced.



**Specific private PTP Sponsorships** are provided for young and deserving students to attend higher education or receive vocational training to fulfill their dreams of a professional life. With a sum of monthly Rs 3,700 you can sponsor a child for a better future.

A panel of experts defines criteria and **each year selects applicants** for sponsorship, based on their focus, motivation and aptitude. **More than 1100** students have participated since 2006, and many more are waiting for sponsors. Financial support is offered for college or vocational training fees, learning materials, transport, and special events.

## GIVING BACK



*I am Rajiv Gandhi, a former school sponsorship student. I am an example of this. After graduating from the Sri Ramana Maharshi Matriculation School, I entered college with the full sponsorship support of Shanthimalai Trust and completed a Bachelor's degree in English Literature. Every Saturday throughout my college years, I participated in sessions with other sponsorship students who were doing their own higher studies in different places.*

*All these interactive sessions were held at the Trust. Sometimes, we also engaged in social work like cleaning the Girivalam Road or contributing to other social awareness programs. Education has made a progressive path in my life; I can't imagine how my life would have been without Shanthimalai Trust.*

*As no college in my district offers post-graduate work, I went to Chennai for my post-graduate studies. With a full Professional Training (PTP) scholarship from Shanthimalai, I joined the M.A. program in English Literature at Presidency College. During this time, I had a lot of opportunity to develop my spoken English, and took every seminar I could to further these skills.*

*Currently I am working in a school called the Sri Srinivasa High School in Adiannamalai Village. In this school the majority of students are orphans and the rest come from economically disadvantaged families. It's like they come from a slum area, and what they need first is love and caring, and then, secondly, education. I feel happy to be a teacher for those students and know that I will play an important role in their lives. Education is the only thing that can remove all their obstacles.*

**"Everything I am, I am because of Shanthimalai. It's because of them and their training program that I came to this profession. Out of gratitude, I will be first in line to help them within the local community."**



Mr. Palani (owner of Sri Ramana Engineering Works) was a young man in 1988 when he learned to make and repair agricultural equipment through a Shanthimalai training program. He took over this operation and has since turned it into the region's market leader. Today this vibrant community business provides work for 100 full-time employees. Constant referrals from happy repeat customers keep his business growing. His success

stems from focus, hard work and constant investment into manufacturing and distribution of high quality agricultural machines all over Tamil Nadu.





## MEDICAL AID FOR VILLAGE PEOPLE

Shantimalai Trust supports blind, deaf and dumb, physically challenged persons, patients with seizure disorders, HIV, senior citizens above 60 years of age, sadhus and sannyasins, and mentally retarded children. Chronic patients like end-stage renal failure undergoing routine dialysis, psychiatric cases, hemiplegic cases, neurological disorder cases are referred to higher institutions for further treatment. **Most of the charges for treatment are borne by the Trust.**



## PENSION SCHEME

Villagers are often unable to take care of their aged parents and others as they do not have proper means to take care even of themselves. For this reason, aged people often suffer a terrible destiny of negligence by their family members and often live in unworthy conditions.

**Shanthimalai Trust has a monthly pension scheme** to help these people. More than 50 old and disabled persons are helped by providing them cash amounts ranging from Rs 300 to Rs 500 per month. This way, also their relatives get reminded to recognize their duty and render support to their own families.



## WOMEN'S COOPERATIVES

In India, women are the backbone of society. They do most of the household chores and help with all farming work in the villages. With great inner strength they keep the families together and raise their children. But when family problems or financial difficulties arise, they quickly run into poverty and social isolation.

Taking care of disadvantaged women and widows faced with severe material and psychological hardship, is the focus of the women development at Shanthimalai Trust. A new **Counselling Center** was opened to support clients with regards to financial, medical, social and legal advice which they otherwise could not afford: e.g. application for state pension, contacting a lawyer, help for the children in educational matters, improvement of the housing situation, or simply to listen to their pressing needs and searching for practical solutions.

In their **Fair Trade training center in Tiruvannamalai, Shanthimalai Handicrafts offers more than 300 widows and destitute women a safe place to work, a steady income, free medical care, and educational support for their children.** It was founded in 2001 by Shanthimalai Trust and then handed over to the people running it.

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- Give a child the gift of education through our **School Sponsorship Program**. Education is essential for a better future - both for an individual child and for an entire region. For this reason, School Sponsorship is at the heart of our work. For an **Education Sponsorship**, sponsors are requested to donate Rs 30,000 per annum or Rs 2,500 per month for each sponsored child, over a period of minimum 5 years.
- Donate a sponsorship for the **Professional Training Program (PTP)** to enhance students' education, and their entry into business life to generate income for their families. For a **PTP Sponsorship** the contribution is Rs 3,700 Rs per month or Rs 44,000 per annum, over a period of minimum 3 years.
- **Help those in crisis.** Your contributions here provide financial support for the poorest of the poor.

**Your generous support opens the door to a new life.**



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