

A Generosity of Spirit Runs Rampant at Chennai Hotel
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Courtyard Chennai, India Gives Back to Its Community Through Marriott's Spirit to Serve

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http://media.marketwire.com/attachments/201106/TN-75961_MAAACY.jpg Ideally located in the central business district of Chennai.

As one of the premier [Chennai business hotels](#), the Courtyard by Marriott, Chennai welcomes thousands of business and leisure customers every year to the bustling business district. The hotel's associates are experts at serving diverse guests from around the world. The team has an enthusiastic Spirit to Serve attitude that extends to their community, where their service experience and generosity of spirit enrich the lives of many.

Through their association with an organization called Rising Star Outreach / Marriott Home, the hotel team helps deliver vital services to people affected by leprosy living in the nearby Bharatapuram colony. The [I Nagar hotel](#) team works closely with members of the Women's Indian Association to raise funds for the colony; provide educational opportunities for adults and children, focusing on English instruction and computer literacy; and introduce business training and concepts like micro-credit, which have helped turn the poverty-stricken hamlet into a thriving colony.

To help make an even more positive impact on their community, the [Chennai, India hotel's](#) general manager, executive committee members and leadership team formed a Spirit to Serve Committee. Every month, the committee meets to plan community service activities that support Marriott's S.E.R.V.E. initiatives outlined below.

Shelter & Food. The hotel has helped raise funds for Scope International, an organization that works to improve the standard of living for orphans in Chennai. As part of their participation in the 2010 Joy of Giving Week, a nationwide "festival of giving," the team partnered with Down Syndrome India NGO to feed 3,000 special-needs children at an event at Nehru Stadium.

Environment. Associates recently visited Kids Central School to educate the children about the importance of Rain Water Harvesting. They also celebrated Environmental Day by visiting the children of Marriott Home, bringing a buffet lunch and fun activities, including the planting of saplings, to educate them about the importance of preserving the environment.

Readiness for Hotel Careers. Members of the leadership team deliver guest lectures at local Hotel Management Colleges on a variety of topics designed to help students plan a career in hospitality and to highlight Marriott as one of the best employers in the industry.

Vitality of Children. Every month, the hotel's associates race to board waiting buses that will take them to Marriott Home. The agenda is almost always the same -- spend time with the children, play games like cricket and badminton, and share delicious food prepared especially for the children by the [Chennai restaurants](#) hotel's chefs. Associates also make time to help the children improve their communication skills.

Embracing Global Diversity and Inclusion. The team is dedicated to creating awareness in the greater community about Rising Star Outreach in order to help the colony's residents feel more a part of the mainstream society and to eradicate the social stigma of leprosy. They recently hosted a fund raiser evening called "Pain To Paint," where paintings of Austrian artist Werner Dornik were auctioned. They also helped the members of the colony's Bindu Art School, a rehabilitation center that is home to about 60 people, most of them over 60 years of age, sell their art work. The exhibition attracted over 100 visitors and media, and raised Rs.1 million.

"Every associate in our hotel is passionately involved in our Spirit to Serve initiatives," says the [Chennai hotel's](#) General Manager Karan Berry. "We believe that giving an hour of our time, a helping hand, or a shoulder to lean on demonstrates unconditional love and respect. When the people we serve gain the feeling of acceptance in society, we feel we have won some small victory for humanity."

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