



# The Southerner

Monthly Bulletin

Rotary Club of Madras South

Chartered on June 30, 1960



No. 11/2016-17

Service Above Self

May 2017

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Southerner,  
Greetings. The month of April passed by quickly with all the courses started early last year being completed.

Last month we had all the 4 weekly meetings.

The counselling sessions were successfully completed in 3 schools and I am very happy to say that RCMS has continuously been sponsoring counselling sessions for the past 6 years.

These sessions have helped hundreds of students to get the right solution to all their personal problems.

RCMS' signature project, AC/Refrigeration course with the Anna University, started in November and was completed in April.

The course was started with 48 students registering but 35 completed the 6 months course.

While some students from this batch have started their own business, many have got employment even before completion of the course.

This year we are celebrating the Centenary year of Rotary Foundation.

RCMS has been contributing well to the Foundation over the years.

Thank you all for your support.

**Rtn. Asha Marina**

## EASE WITH DIGNITY

### RCMS TOILET PROJECT

"Watching people defecate in public used to make me angry" declared President Asha Marina at our Weekly Meeting on 25th April, 2017 at the Savera. This anger eventually provoked her to do something about it and led to the Fund Raising Programme "Two to Tango" held last year exclusively to fund the ambitious Toilet Project as a part of Rotary's 'Wash in Schools' (WINS)/Open Defecation Free (ODF) Project. The phenomenal success of the programme led to a nett surplus of around Rs 57 lakh, which was available to fund this dream project. Thus began the journey with the formation of a core team consisting of President Asha, Rtns Balaji, Mukund, Prakash, Nichani, Elumperiyar and Spouse Kumar who worked relentlessly in identifying the beneficiaries, obtaining quotations, evaluating options and fine tuning the execution. A total of 110 units were completed as of end April, 2017. Asha also



acknowledged gratefully the technical knowledge and execution skills brought to the project by her spouse, Mr Kumar.

While the past issues of 'The Southerner' have reported on the individual Toilet Units inaugurated at various institutions almost every month with details of each sponsor, her Power Point presentation followed by a video certainly helped in giving an overview of this mega and prestigious project of our club during this Rotary year! According to President Asha, she is overwhelmed by the kind of commitment and support from Rotarians and other sponsors for continuing this project into the next Rotary Year. The District Grant sanctioned by DG Nagoji of Rs 4.96 Lakh just last month was certainly an icing on the cake for her and has reinforced her commitment to take this project forward!

Here's wishing more power to **Rtn Asha Marina**.

## SAVING THE EARTH, THE RECIPROCITY WAY!



Reciprocity Foundation founded by internationally acclaimed Architect & Urban Designer Ann Sheila Sri Prakash seeks to raise awareness, engage minds, build networks, share success stories and motivate actions towards creating sustainable cities. She believes “reciprocity” concerns the holistic sustainability of Earth and humanity and therefore everyone is an affected stakeholder.

The Foundation organised the Reciprocity Fest as a community development event of Music, Town Hall Meetings, Workshops, Art and Exhibitions in celebration of Earth Day. The events were held at

the campus of Kalakshetra Foundation on April 22nd and 23rd. The festival beneath the beautiful canopy of trees focused on youth and public involvement.

The messages of speakers of diverse backgrounds such as NGOs, Governments, and Businesses underlined the urgent call for people to take ownership of porombokes like our streets and municipalities. Annette Pavitra Sriprakash who conducted a Workshop on Building Sustainably said, “if you segregate waste at home; keep areas besides waste bins and storm water drains clean, remove billboards from trees and write their botanical names; if you persuade apartment associations to conserve water, install and maintain



sewage treatment plants; if you participate in campaigns to reclaim lakes, clean up river fronts and beaches; if you teach children to choose right foods, learn a craft, save a turtle; if, if, IF..... Every humble act reciprocates immeasurably to earth and humanity!”

A Pledge at the Reciprocity Fest promised to “Get hands dirty, engage to solve and not berate; because only Smart Citizens make Smart Cities!

**Rtn Sriprakash**



## SHELTERING THE DESTITUTE



Mr Rajan with some inmates

**East Eden Foundation (EEF)** as some of you may be aware is engaged in saving mentally challenged destitute men from the streets of Chennai, rehabilitating and reuniting them with their families wherever possible .

The man behind East Eden Foundation, Mr.Rajan , was doing this informally for a long while. About four years ago he closed his business and started the Foundation in order to dedicate his time fully for the cause of these hapless men.

During the period between April 2014 and March 2017 EEF was able to reunite 64 rehabilitated men with their families . Most of them come from the lower strata of society. You may be happy to note that the Government of Tamilnadu is actively involved in this process of reunion. The photos and available data of the destitute are posted in the website of Tamilnadu State Crime Records Bureau and a Hindi speaking Inspector of Police is designated for locating the



Jailal Anandh

families and monitoring the reunion process.

Here is a case:

*Jailal Anandh from Chhattisgarh was rescued from the streets on 7th July 2014 and was reunited with his family on 25th July 2016 . He is married and was missing for over 7 years . The picture here shows him as he was found on the streets.*

RCMS got formally associated with East Eden Foundation in July 2016. In the last ten months we have been providing for over two days food every month, thanks to the generous Southerners. However the entire credit goes to President Asha Marina as she felt the need of immediate assistance after a visit to their Home along with her spouse Kumar.

As Southerners we can be proud of the fact that we are also part of the Foundation's endeavour to save these helpless men from the streets and giving back their families. I hope and wish that we will continue our association with this fledgling Trust in the coming years; may be on a larger scale.

**Rtn Renjit Joseph**

## SETS 2017

Secretaries Elect Training Seminar (SETS) was held this year from 21st to 23rd April at Waskaduwa in Sri Lanka.



It was a fabulous programme mixed with training, networking and fun. Being away from Chennai made the programme more focused and special. Rotary's leadership team gave us a good macro view of the vision of Rotary founder and what the objectives and aim of any Rotary Club should be. Apart from Secretarial training, it also focused on key areas of Presidential Citation, Membership Development, Foundation, District Grant and Foreign Grant and District plans for the RY 2017-18.

**Rtn M C Srikanth**

*Secretary Elect - 2017-18.*

## WEEKLY MEETINGS IN APRIL



Date : 4th April, 2017  
Topic : Theatre and Life Skills  
Speaker : Mr. Freddy Koikaran



Date : 18th April, 2017  
Topic : Our Two Worlds – India and Canada  
Speaker : Rtn B B Vengatesh  
Ann Anjana Vengatesh



Date : 11th April, 2017  
Topic : Women's Empowerment, Myth and Reality  
Speaker : Ms Kirthi Jayakumar

### THE LAST MILE PUSH TO ERADICATE POLIO



As part of the Polio Plus initiative, our Club took part in the polio vaccination project at Govt. Health Centres in Kodambakkam, on 2 April 2017. More than 800 children from the area were vaccinated. Rtn G M K Raju ably coordinated the event for our Club. The second round of the polio vaccination was held on 30 April 2017.

### TRENDSETTING 'PRESIDENT ELECT TRAINING SEMINAR'



President Elect Training Seminar (PETS), was a grand affair this year, organised by our new Rotary District 3232, in the city of Twin Towers, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The DG Elect R Srinivasan wanted a trendsetting start to the new Rotary year 2017-18, especially so for the Charter District 3232, after the bifurcation of the previous District 3230. He rightly named the President Elects the "Trendsetting Presidents" and wanted to give an inspiring training to prepare the President Elects for the year ahead.

PETS Chairman S M Balaji (from RC Guindy) and his team did a marvellous job of taking 85 of us in all, and set a new standard for the seminar. World class arrangements, comparable to be in the conference standards - excellent line up of speakers, food, venue (including a dinner at KL Towers), the social arrangements and everything we could ask for at the right time - took PETS to a different level. More than anything, the bonding between the Presidents was at its best and set the right tone for the start of the year. Expect a memorable Rotary year.

**Rtn Magdoom** (*President Elect, 2017-18*)

**BEST WISHES TO THE SOUTHERNER**  
**Rtn N V BALASUBRAMANIAN**

Editor Rtn. PP R Seshadri | [rtnsesh@gmail.com](mailto:rtnsesh@gmail.com)

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