



Joy in Service

SCHOOL FOR THE MENTALLY CHALLENGED



EVENING STUDY CENTRE



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SCHOOL FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED



MISSION OF YMCA MADURAI

To work with children, women and youth from poor communities without discrimination on the basis of community, caste or religion.

YMCA Special School for the Mentally Challenged

YMCA School for the Mentally Challenged children established in the year 2000 offers education for the poor children with mental retardation. At present we have 100 children studying in the school with different types of mental retardation. Children are trained in daily living skills, academic

skills, social and behavior development. Physiotherapy and Psychiatric assistance forms a significant role; Counseling is offered to parents and children to handle difficult situations. Students above of 15 years is trained to make paper cups and Jewellery.

- Without your support, these children would become drop-outs and work only for daily wages.
- With your investment, 80% of our children with hearing impairment go on to Higher Secondary education.

Special points of interest for future:

- Planning for Hydro-therapeutic pool for the children with mental retardation
- Planning for the construction of living block for the semi-orphaned and destitute boys

Story of Yogeswari



Newsletter,
Volume 1

Yogeswari, a 11 year old girl who is mentally challenged is studying at the YMCA Special School. She comes from a village called Uranganpatti near Melur in Madurai district. At home she lives with her parents and her elder brother(15) and one younger sister (8). She was presumed to be born as a normal child and an year after her birth the parents were annoyed due to the delayed milestones in Yogi. The illiterate parents didn't know what to do. They took her to the Government hospital and kept her at home for 7 years as there was no guidance from the doctors to admit her in a special school. The mother felt much burdened in bringing Yogi as she has to take care of her other two children and her physically handicapped husband and also to earn her daily wages to run the family. This situation prevented her mother Backialakshmi to give full attention to Yogi. Fortunately, she came to know about YMCA Special School for Mentally Challenged through one of her relatives.



Yogeswari with her Mother

In the words of her mother, "Raji

(Pet name for Yogeswari in the house) was born as a normal child like other children. During the pregnancy I didn't had any physical sickness. We were confused with her development as she could not crawl, sit, control her head, and have eye contact at the normal age. To our disappointment the doctor said that Yogeswari was not a normal child and has mental retardation.

They also said that it could be because of the blood related marriage and the mental strain I had during my pregnancy. As a family, we were dejected and didn't know what to do. I questioned God why this happened to me when I already suffer with a physically challenged husband. I had to face a lot of humiliation from my family members and neighbors. I didn't know any other alternative except feeding the child whenever she cried. Years passed and I realized the need to send her to school. As a rescue, I came to know about the YMCA special school and took Raji there. I felt relieved when I admitted my child in YMCA school. Now I am very happy to see that she is doing her basic things on her own, and getting education and care at the YMCA. I want my child to stand on her own without expecting anything from anybody. I am scared of what to do after her schooling at YMCA" says the mother with tears. "We didn't even have a proper house with

toilet facilities. But my daughter enjoys very good, clean, residence with toilet facility at the YMCA. We are very thankful to the YMCA for the change in the life of Raji. We thought it is a waste to send Raji to school. I am amazed to see that she does many things on her own. We are even sending her to the nearest petty shop to buy things without any hesitation" says Yogi's father Murugan. "Whenever Raji is in home we play together and we go out together. I like to play with my sister Raji" says Yogi's younger sister Gayathri.



Yogeswari with her family

At the YMCA school Yogi learns daily life skills such as brushing, bathing, grooming, academic, social and behavioral skills based on the consultation of Psychologist and Psychiatrist. "Yogi is one of my favorite students. I observe Yogi from the day she joined YMCA till now. She has improved so much. In class she is very active



At her Classroom

and she is now able to write small words and she can recite numbers, identify colors, objects, fruits, etc..., she will also help me in arranging the things, flashcards in the class” says her class teacher Ms. Sophie.

YMCA is providing her education and daily living skills training under the supervision of trained teachers. She stays at the school hostel with other children. With the support from the generous donors Yogi will be able to continue her education and training at the YMCA which would enable her to stand on her own legs.

“Your investment with our children is laudable”



2nd December, 2013

“With your gift
YOU transform
lives”

What Our Donors speaks..

Mr. Gobalakrishnan says “I find happiness in sponsoring one child with hearing impairment. I will help the child not only for his education but also for his future employment ”

Our Sponsor Mr. Srinivasan says, “I started with sponsoring one child now I am sponsoring two children. I pray God to help me sponsoring many children in the future. It gives me so much satisfaction in my life”

Our immediate needs for serving our children:

1. Sponsoring food and accommodation of children.
2. Educational materials
3. Laying tiles to the floor for the dining hall

Latest Event at YMCA Madurai

New disabled friendly toilets and bathrooms for the mentally challenged children construction completed and inaugurated. Mr. Jeyasuresh Jayaraj, President, YMCA presided, Rev. S. Suyambu, General Secretary, Madurai YMCA dedicated and Ms. Jamie Inman, Vice president

YMCA Greenville, USA and Mrs. Rebecca Prabakar Navamani opened the toilet for the boys. Ms. Eloisa De Borreo from APAY opened the toilet for the girls. Mr. Jose Varghese, Secretary, National Council of YMCA, India participated in the ceremony.

New toilets for the children

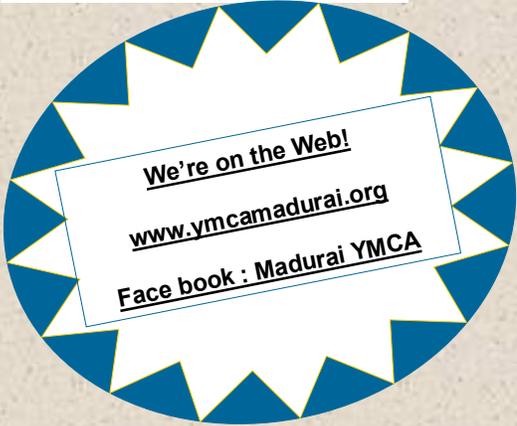


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"We care for a better Tomorrow"

Young Men's Christian Association is a voluntary, international, ecumenical movement that reflects the cultural identity of the nation in which it exists. YMCA in MADURAI serves the poor, less privileged and the differently abled through its services in and around Madurai.

For more information contact:

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General Secretary Speaks...

Dear friends,

Greetings.

I am greatly delighted to reach you through this sponsor newsletter. I am thankful to God Almighty for His merciful deeds to us in fulfilling our mission with your support.

YMCA Madurai with its commitment and dedication towards 'Service and Sustainability' is striving to reach the unreached. It is our pleasure and privilege that you are a valuable part of our services.

Though we are in 21st century heading towards a modern, technological world, still lot of people in the society believes that it's a burden to bring up children with disabilities.

YMCA Madurai has been giving excellent care and training in both academic and personal development to the poor mentally chal-

lenged, hearing impaired and destitute children.

Through this newsletter we would like to share with you how we appreciate your valuable contributions and how you have made an impact in the lives of poor children.

This issue highlights the activities of our school for the mentally challenged along with a story of our mentally challenged child Yogeswari.

It is our happiness to share with you that recently we have constructed and dedicated disabled friendly toilets for our mentally challenged children at the cost of 15 lakh of rupees. This was possible only with a support friends like you. We still have many more dreams for the benefit of children. We solicit your continued interest in our services.

I hope you would enjoy reading the newsletter and thank you for your support.



Rev. S. Suyambu

With Regards,

Rev. S. Suyambu
General Secretary
Madurai YMCA