THULIR TRUST

Project Office:
Sittilingi Village, Theerthamalai PO, Dharmapuri Dt., TN 636906

Regd. Office:
Post Box No.20, Gudalur, The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu 643212

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Email: thulir@gmail.com

Annual Report 2017-2018
We had a very good academic year with many activities. All our children are very happy to come to school and it is good to see them learning and growing in a supportive environment. We currently have 53 children, aged 4-9, coming from 7 villages to our school.

**Construction Updates**

The school buildings are progressing fast. We hope to shift to the new school sometime this year. The classrooms have been designed so that they will stimulate the children's curiosity, creativity and learning.

The walls and roofs of all the classrooms are finished. The classrooms will have steel grill doors and windows so that there is more openness, light and air inside. These are being fabricated on site by the Thulir alumni.

The buildings have been built completely by our ex-BT course students. In addition, two young architects – Muthu and Dinesh – are at present interning on the building site. Other architects and architecture students have been coming in for shorter durations to learn practical skills on site.

**Government Approval**

We have started the initial steps for obtaining government approval for the new school. We met the D.E.O in Dharmapuri and the A.E.O in Harur in this regard. The A.E.O visited our school. As advised by her, we have got the UDISE number for the school and EMIS numbers for the children. We were invited along with other schools to a meeting in Dharmapuri. We will be able to move ahead in the approval process once we complete 6 classrooms, an office room and toilets and get the building stability certificate.

**Water Conservation**

We had a prolonged and scorching summer, which led to a severe water scarcity in the valley. The hospital team initiated meetings in the villages to talk to people about water conservation measures. The Thulir team also took part in the de-silting of the check dams in Moola Sittilingi and Mullikadu villages.

**Organic farming**

We harvested Samai in October and planted Urad dhal, Sesame, Horse gram. Vegetable gardens created by our kids and Sakthivel are fully functional supplying Tomatoes, Ladies finger, Chillies, ridge & bottle gourds, to our kitchen.
**Tree Planting drive**

With the help of children from Marudam Farm School, Thiruvannamalai, and The Forest Way, a drive was held in September to plant tree saplings brought from Thiruvannamalai on the new school site.

Last year, we had planted around 100 indigenous tree saplings. Of these, 90 have survived despite the tremendously hot summer and water shortage. This year we also made rainwater collection ponds and bunds. This has helped to recharge our well.

**Visitors and Volunteers**

Niru Ramasamy volunteered in Thulir for a month in September and again for two months in February and March. Niru taught the teachers some counseling techniques and conducted sessions with the children about mental health and well-being. She also did various craft activities with both teachers and students.

Dr. Sridhar Santhanam from the Christian Medical College, Vellore, visited Thulir and interacted with the team. He spoke to the teachers about the effect of cellphones and other technology on children’s development. He also took the children bird-watching.

Mr. Thomas from Chennai, did a Ventriloquism show at Thulir.

Maya Muehlemann volunteered in the school for a period of three months. She conducted several English classes.

**Farmer’s Meet**

Our children did a short song and dance performance for the annual meeting of the Sittilingi Organic Farmer’s Association (SOFA).

**Visit to Dadampatti**

We visited the hamlet of S. Dadampatti during the last week of December. The purpose of this visit was to try and understand the backgrounds from which our children come. The teacher team interacted with the parents and elders in the village.
Swetha Nambiar visited for a week in February and helped anchor a project where the children did artwork on the walls of the new SOFA meeting hall.

School Visits
Children from Little Grove Learning Centre, Hyderabad, Shibumi School, Bangalore, CFL School, Bangalore, Payir School, Thenur, and Marudam Farm School, Thiruvannamalai, visited us this academic year.

ASHA teacher training workshop
ASHA Chennai conducts a teacher training workshop every May. Rajammal had attended it earlier and this year Ravi participated.

Poornima’s Teacher Training Workshop
Poornima from Marudam Farm School conducted a workshop for the teachers. It was an interactive session, in which she taught a number of games and activities.

Yoga classes
Yoga Vahini from Chennai conducted a fifteen month yoga course for the nurses in the hospital and three of the Thulir teachers. In October, Parthasarathy, Mrinalini and Priya of Yoga Vahini did a yoga session for the children as well. At the end of the course, a graduation ceremony was held on June 24th at the Anna Centenary Library in Chennai. Chintamani, Ravi, Rajammal and Anuradha attended the function.

Bharathanatyam Performance
Ms. Jyotsna and a team of dancers from Shamkaram, Chennai, held a Bharathanatyam performance in the meeting hall of the Sittilingi Organic Farmer’s Association. Ms. Jyotsna also spoke to us about dance and the performing arts in general.
The Shamkaram team has offered to teach dance to our students and teachers. As a first step, Rajamma and Sasikala visited Shamkaram campus, Chennai, during the first week of May and learned some basic classical dance steps.

**Participation in the Craft Week at Marudam Farm School**

Two teachers and 13 children attended the craft week at Marudam in November and learned various crafts. Sakthivel went as a resource person to teach bamboo craft.

**Auroville Marathon**

Sakthivel took a group of seven runners to participate in the Auroville Marathon on February 11th.

**Sittilingi Run**

The Sittilingi Run -- initiated last year -- was held again on the 7th of January this year. There were about one hundred signings for the 4km and 10km runs. A group of runners from Runner’s High, Bangalore, two Stanley Medical College Alumni and three runners from Thekampattu also participated.

**Palmyra Leaf Workshop**

Thangammal & Esakkiammal from Kanyakumari conducted a workshop in December on making handicrafts using Palmyra leaves.

**Summer Dance Camp**

Sri. Mohan from Thiruvannamalai conducted a folk dance workshop from May 8th to May 15th for government and private school children as well as the nursing students from the hospital. Following this, the students put up a street performance in the village on the last night.
Sri Mohan conducted another workshop on rural folk song and dance forms from April 4th to 7th. The teachers and children learned the Paraiyattam, Oyilattam, Karagam, Kummi, Kolattam, Kazhiiyalattam and Villupaatu forms.

**Cultural Evening**
Following the dance workshop, a cultural evening was held where the children displayed all that they had learned to an audience of parents, villagers and staff of the various organisations in Sittilingi. The teachers also performed alongside their students.

**Education Trip – Sathanur Dam**
Students and teachers went on a one-day trip to Sathanur Dam.

**Pongal Celebrations**
Pongal celebrations were held this year, with wall paintings and *kolams* by the children. Most of the colours used for the wall painting were derived from natural materials.

**Sports day at Thulir**
Our annual sports day events were held in March. Both children and adults participated in the various events.
Parents' meetings

Four Parents' Meetings were held this academic year: one each in June, September, January and April. In addition to discussions with the parents, student performances were also held in these meetings.

Thank you for supporting us through all this.

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## Support Us!

Donations can be transferred directly to Thulir’s State Bank of India accounts.

### Indian donations:
- Account no: 31799396966, State Bank of India, Kottapatti Branch [Kottapatti, Dharmapuri District, Tamil Nadu 636906 India]
- IFSC code: SBIN0006244

For donations from foreign countries, please mail us for details.

Donations in India are tax exempt under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act.

Please visit our website [http://www.thulir.org](http://www.thulir.org) for more details of our programmes.

### Regular updates of our activities are also made in the blog site [http://www.thulir.org/wp/blog/](http://www.thulir.org/wp/blog/)

We welcome your Comments; Please mail us at thulir@gmail.com

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### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2018

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<tr>
<th>RECEIPTS</th>
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<th>PAYMENTS</th>
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### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2018

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