



GOODSHEPHERD CONVENT CHENNAI



The Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd was founded in France in 1835 by St. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier. She was born on 31st July 1796 in France. She was gifted with a deep love for humanity and revered each person in her/his uniqueness. The socially marginalized young girls and women of her time found in her a loving mother and teacher. By the time of her death on 24th April 1868, she had founded 110 Convents in 74 countries, including one in India in 1854. The Good Shepherd School in Chennai was started in 1925.

“One person is more precious
than the whole world”

- St. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier

The above words of our dear Foundress are the heart and soul of all the activities of our Campus at College Road in Chennai. We are indeed privileged and thank God for such a sprawling campus in the heart of the city, with its neatly laid roads, well kept buildings and a rather envious car park with lots of trees, giving a majestic look and providing a serene and peaceful atmosphere. It is treasured by the residents, students, parents and all those who enter the campus. Of course it creates an ambience for learning, growth and development for the young ones who are the main beneficiaries of this oasis in the concrete desert of the city.

“Through our life of prayer and services we hear the agony of our students, the marginalized and the vulnerable people and many others who we come in contact with. We respond and express our mercy and compassion crossing the socio-cultural boundaries.” These words of our dear Foundress motivate and energize 14 sisters of all ages who make up the Good Shepherd Community.

The main ministry of the Campus is education – The Good Shepherd Convent Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Chennai.



The three sections of the School - **NURSERY, JUNIOR AND HIGH SCHOOL** - while keeping their individual identity and run the daily activities independently, is officially a single Composite entity. The number of students from Nursery to 12th grade is 2306.



The School reopened on 7th June 2017 with the School assembly in each section, invoking the assistance of the Almighty and asking God's Spirit to accompany us in all our endeavors during this academic year.

One of the early programs of the school was election of the School

pupil leader and captains for the various Houses, providing opportunities to become responsible leaders and for self governance guided by the able House Teachers. At the investiture ceremony held, the elected leaders of Junior and High School Sections pledged to carry out their duties to the best of their ability and abide by the rules and regulations of the school. It was good to see the seriousness and dignity with which they took the oath of office bearers.



The monthly celebration of the Eucharist in the Junior and High School Sections and the two day retreat for the Catholic students of High School were occasions to worship, reflect, share and to inspire them to become religious and spiritual persons rooted in God. According to Pope Francis, "Holiness does not mean doing extraordinary things, but doing ordinary things

with love and faith." We inculcate these through our Eucharistic celebrations and prayer services on different occasions.

While endeavoring to make sure that our students do well in the academic front, we strive to provide those opportunities to grow as useful and contributing citizens of the country, exposed to the realities of the neighborhood, country and the world at large according to their age and receptivity in all three sections of the school.





Orange Your Neighborhood and International Girl Child Day were organized to enlighten the students about some of these social evils that prevail in our society.

The birth anniversaries of king maker **K.KAMARAJ** and **DR. APJ. ABDUL KALAM** were celebrated with meaningful prayer service and inspirational cultural program with the hope of providing the students with good role

models to become visionaries for a better tomorrow,

ON 28TH OF JULY 2017 the students from the Nursery, Junior and High School came together and celebrated the great zeal of our Foundress in building the kingdom of justice, peace and love. It was another occasion to instill in their young minds the values of loving kindness and compassion after the example of St. Mary Euphrasia.



Our students from class 6th to 8th participated in the camp conducted by the **J Team** to build up the self- confidence of these students and to empower them to face the challenges of life with courage and determination. Our junior school students had their **BULBULS** camps and outreach programs.



On 15th of August INDEPENDENCE DAY was celebrated with the hoisting of the National Flag and cultural program filled with patriotic fervor.

Good Shepherd Matriculation School celebrated the **TEACHER'S DAY** on 5th September 2017 in their own respective sections. The High School section gratefully honored this year the Silver Jubiliarians Mrs. Sashirekha, Mrs. JancyMalathi, Mrs. Christina Chatterjee and Ms. Ranjini Joseph. The day started with a prayer service by our students. It was followed by the felicitation for the four jubilarians, who then shared their fond memories. The students gifted their teacher's with saplings, conveying their gratitude.



CHILDREN'S DAY

For a change it was the turn of our teachers to appreciate and entertain the children. The spirited and highly talented teacher's team put up a spectacular show for their students. They enthralled them with a variety of performances in their respective units.





PARENT'S DAY

Parent's day celebration was held on 17th Nov 2017 for the High School with a theme 'We Rise By Lifting Others.' which emphasized that 'One person is more precious than the whole world.' The theme highlighted the core values such as dignity, integrity, justice, reconciliation, co-responsibility solidarity and audacity through which we help one another in reaching the pinnacle of joy and happiness of life. It was a memorable day for all the parents when they witnessed the manifold talents of their children and a proud moment for some of them when their children received awards and merit cards for their excellent academic performances. The Junior and Nursery

sections are eagerly preparing to show their parents how much they love them and are grateful to them!



SPORTS DAY

The campus comes fully alive with lots of enthusiasm and exhibition of energy on the sports days of the respective sections. The spirit of sportsmanship is inculcated in the children from the very tender age. Even the tiny tots of Nursery Section have their Annual Sports Day celebrated in gusto!

SANTA 2017 A special program was hosted by our students for the less fortunate children from different areas of the city and institutions of Chennai. It was a joy to see our students from Junior and High School sections mingling with these children, being sensitive to their needs, organizing games and cultural programs. Delicious lunch was provided for them and gifts as a token of love.



SAMPOORNA



Sampoorna is our schools' outreach program which aims at inculcating a holistic development of our students. "Reach out to reach within" is the motto of Sampoorna, bearing this spirit our students visited several institutions in the city which provided them an exposure of the sick, needy and the less fortunate and share their blessings with them.

(VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER FOR SCHOOL DROPOUT GIRLS)

MARIAN HOME, a unit of the Good Shepherd Convent, Chennai, provides Residential Care for young girls and women in the age group of 16 to 25, who are in moral danger, or with emotional and behavioral problems or school dropouts. They usually stay in the Home for two to three years.

Programmes: Basic instructions are given in:

Reading and writing, spoken English, Health and hygiene, family life and child rearing, Home management and first aid, Religious and moral education, singing, The girls acquire skill in cutting, tailoring and embroidery. They get exposed to group living and team work, cooking, gardening and housekeeping, enabling them to be better persons and useful citizens.



Cultural programs are conducted occasionally giving them opportunities to develop their talents. The value education classes are conducted in spoken English. Importance is given to prayer, so that they can face the ups and downs of life. Outings to the Marina Beach and a movie were enjoyable and relaxing.

During this academic year 7 girls were assisted out of which two were settled back into their families and two girls joined the college for higher studies. The other girls continued to learn and work in the tailoring unit of the Home and get a monthly stipend.

All the national and religious festivals are celebrated meaningfully either in the Home or together with others in the campus.

We thank God for His providential care that watched over us during the year. We are grateful to our Good Shepherd Community, our School, all our benefactors and associates for their support in our endeavor to help our girls.

MOTTUKAL (Centre for Disadvantaged girl children)



Mottukal has two wings namely:-

- Open shelter for Girl Children, who are in an abusive situation.
- A Street contact program aimed at assisting girls who are on the street along with their families / Community Development Program.

MOTTUKAL OPEN SHELTER FOR GIRLS (Reg. by: Department of Social Defense (FAC) under Juvenile Justice Act-2015) (Proc.No.5778/D1/2017) Good Shepherd Convent, No. 32, College Road, Chennai – 600 006

GOAL: To protect the deprived girl children on the street, who are vulnerable to sexual and physical exploitation; work in the community for eradication of child labor and lobbying for the rights of Girl children and Women.

To empower the girl children and women to become self reliant, to have self respect, a dignified work, know and assert for their rights and face the problems and challenges of life with courage and confidence.



THE SUCCESS STORY OF T. DHANALAKSHMI

Family Details:

Ms.Dhanalakshmi was born on 5th July 1996 in Maraimalai Nagar, Chennai . Her father's name is Mr. Thangapandian and mother's name is Mrs. Ponnammal. Both of her parents are visually challenged. She has two brothers, her elder brother completed 10th standard and is working while her younger brother is studying in the 8th standard. Her Parents sell the lottery tickets in the train to support the family. The child who was 3years old also used to accompany her parents.



One day the child was kidnapped by a group but the passengers alerted the parents and they rescued the child. Fear gripped the parents when they thought about the child. Hence they approached a Sister in the Saidapet for her protection. The sister referred her to Mottukal on 25th November 1999. Through Mottukal (shelter Home) all the essential protection, care, counseling and education was given to Dhanalakshmi. On 2004 the child was admitted in Assumption School, in 3rd standard. In the Beginning she was not doing well in her studies but later she improved a lot and she showed great interest in studies and started to study well. She is good at singing, dancing, drawing, games and communication.

In Tamil medium she had successfully completed the 12th standard. Though, she was poor by condition she was rich by her ambition. Hence she was interested to do the B.SC (Nursing) and to serve the poor people. In the year 2013 she joined in M.A. Chidambaram Nursing College at Adyar, Chennai . In the beginning, she found it difficult to understand English. Later she picked up the language and the subjects well. Then she successfully completed the B.SC (Nursing) in the year 2017. She is very happy and grateful to the sisters, staff and all those who accompanied her and helped her. At present she is looking for a good job to serve the needy, to support her family and come up in life.



REPORT OF ROSHINIIVAS

Roshini Nivas is a Hostel for young working women and College students, a Home away from Home. The Sisters of the Good Shepherd Convent Chennai, with the mission of sharing the compassionate love of Jesus the Good Shepherd, opened a Hostel on 1st October, 2000, with the aim of catering to

the needs of the working women and college going students (girls). It is also our objective to provide shelter, food and a conducive atmosphere through personal care, guidance and counseling. The main aim is to inculcate in them good values for life, give needed facilities and safe environment. Some of the working girls continue their education through correspondence.

We have accommodation for 120 girls. During this year we admitted 119 girls, but there were a few dropouts due to various reasons. More young girls and women are coming to the city for education and jobs. We do help a few girls by giving concession in the hostel fee. Working girls from Mottukal and Marian Home are given an opportunity to stay here and work elsewhere.

The College students go to nearby Colleges like Loyola College, Stella Maris College, Ethiraj College and Women's Christian College. Most of the girls come from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and a few from North East and Assam. The age group is between 18 to 30 years. Generally only unmarried girls and women are admitted. Duration of stay will be usually for three years. Every year there is a renewal for admission.

We have some programs to cultivate in them religiosity, appreciation for culture and learn to live with persons coming from different back grounds and states as one family.



SALEM:

The Good Shepherd Sisters came to Salem in the year 1999 at the invitation of the MSFS Fathers from Udayapatti Parish, to do social service. The first year our Sisters stayed in the MSFS father's house and shifted to a rented house in Masinayakanpatti on 18th June 2000.

In the beginning the Sisters visited the nearby villages, took survey and studied the needs of the people and initiated Coaching Classes for children. Tailoring classes were started for school drop-outs and young women.

Later with the help of our Community in Chennai, a property was bought at Nochipatti and on 26th October 2002, the foundation stone was laid for a new Convent building. It was completed in six months and was blessed by the Most Rev.Dr.Singaroyan, Bishop of Salem in the presence of our Provincial Superior Sr. Bridget Paily, on 29th May 2003.

Our Social Action Ministry is called VIKASINI, which means towards growth and development. The Sisters started a small Non-formal Residential School for about 25 Child- Laborers and School Drop-outs, since it was a need, but had to give it up after 2 years, as it was not feasible. The children were admitted to other Institutions run by Sisters.

On 29 July 2008, the new Community Hall was blessed by the Bishop of Salem. Our provincial Sr. Maria Rose Chinnappan graced the occasion. The Hall indeed is a boon for our Children from Nochipatti who enjoy their coaching classes here daily. It is also used for the various training programmes, monthly meetings for our Staff and target groups, celebrations, Summer Camps and some of the Medical Camps.

Our commitment here is to serve to uplift the families by working with those women and children who live in conditions such as illiteracy, poverty, bonded labour, child abuse, child marriage and child labour. With the help of Chennai Society and Chalice project we carry out our activities in 17 villages of Ayodhiyapattanam block, Salem District, Tamil Nadu. Our main service is to educate the children, eradicate Child Labour and empower women and children.

Coaching Classes:

About 200 children are helped daily through the 7 coaching centers in the evenings in different villages. In order to prepare our children for their future we have regular monthly meeting based on value education for the children and parents in different areas. Counseling is also given whenever needed. Children are also encouraged to save whenever they get money from their parents and relatives.

Sponsorship Programme:

We, the Sisters at Salem are helping the underprivileged children/families of our 17 villages through Chalice Sponsorship Program, funded by chalice Canada, supporting them in their Education, Health & Hygiene and Family Development. At present 151 Children are benefitting.





The activities carried out under chalice sponsorship program during this year are:

- **Education :**

Career guidance and Child Competency Assessment exercise were conducted for all the Chalice Children, which helped them to assess their performance in all the subjects and skills. The children were assessed by the experts to have more clarity about their career in the future and choose the subjects accordingly.

- **Health & Hygiene:**

Annual Medical camp was organized for the children. Those needing medical care were also taken to the hospitals for treatment. Training on Adolescent girls and boys helped them to realize the strengths and the limitations of their age and deal with it accordingly.

- **Skills @ Chalice:-**

During this year 85 young girls and women have completed Tailoring/ Embroidery and were certified, they are equipped for alternative Income. We have given Sewing machines to 9 deserving students. After completing the Course, 18 of them are employed in various garment factories.

- **Gift/Catalogue:**

Under Gift Catalogue, this year we were able to distribute Head Lights & Shoes for 15 farmers, 11 Bicycles for the School going Children, 5 Sewing Machines for Tailoring Candidates and 2 houses for the most deserving families, hoping that they would be able to come up in life by making use of these benefits. We are grateful to all the sponsors.

Health Centre:

We Practice alternative system of medicine, especially herbal medicine. We also give health awareness programme and teach the people herbal preparation and home remedies. Alternative medicine helps them to avoid unwanted side effects of the drugs and unnecessary expenses.

Prison Ministry:

We are one of the Active Members of the Prison Ministry of India (PMI). One of us visits the Central Jail in Salem every week and conducts awareness classes and counsels them. Our Community also joins once a year or whenever there is some programme.

Celebrations:

Human Rights Day, The International Women's Day is organized with competitions like Rongoli, Dance, etc. We celebrate Children's Day, Ayudha Pooja, Christmas and Pongal, in order to bring the women and children together and help them to know their rights and make them realize the meaning and significance of these celebrations.

CONCLUSION: We the sisters are blessed and challenged to respond to the new needs of our society, we gratefully remember and thank the Lord for all our dedicated staff, benefactors and all those who support us to accomplish our mission.