

Pravaham

Bishop Ananda Rao Samuel's community for peace and Justice

297, Venkatapuram, Vellore Dist.632502



Annual Report
2015-2016

Our Vision

The vision of Pravaham is the realization of the full potential of the oppressed, marginalized and minority communities leading to a world where all people live in peace and unity based on the recognition of the dignity and sacredness of human life.

Our Mission

- ◇ *To stand in solidarity with the poor and the oppressed in their struggles for human dignity, social justice and freedom.*
- ◇ *To educate, train and empower the dalits, women and other marginalized sections of the society and help them realize their special purpose in the mission of God.*
- ◇ *To strengthen the internalities of leaders and communities working for a more just and humane society*
- ◇ *To dialogue with and create fellowship of people from diverse fields for justice and peace*
- ◇ *To struggle with the poor, the oppressed and the dalits in various ways to provide for their basic needs in life*

Our Belief

Pravaham believes in the vision of the kingdom of God on earth

- ◇ *Where love, justice, compassion and righteousness prevail,*
- ◇ *Where every individual is accepted, loved, respected and cherished as a person in the image of God, irrespective of caste, colour, class, gender, ability and wealth or status.*
- ◇ *Where there exists seamless integration and unity across the spiritual and the material, manual and the intellectual, the private and the public.*
- ◇ *Where prayer, service, sharing and simplicity guide our lives and relationships.*

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2015-16

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PROGRAMS CONDUCTED BY PRAVAHAM

Pravaham has completed 23 years of service in reaching out to the community in the areas of education, health, awareness and spirituality. The following are the programs conducted by Pravaham.

Community Education Program for Rural Dropouts

School drop out girls from rural areas belonging to marginalized and under privileged communities are given vocational and life skills. This is one year residential program which is given free to the students.

Programs for Education, Health, and Awareness Building

Pravaham reaches to many children, youth and women in villages around through this program, bringing awareness in the areas of health, education, child rights and personal and environmental hygiene.

Retreats and Trainings

Pravaham retreat centre has been offering tranquil, inspirational and healing environment to many groups and individuals enabling them to build their internalities. Pravaham also conducts retreats and trainings partnering with like minded organizations for women, youth, families and senior citizens. Pravaham retreat and training centre is also being used by various organizations, groups and families for retreats and training purposes.

Report of Activities

I. Community Education Program for Rural School Dropouts

Pravaham Community College (PCC) has completed 12 successful years of service keeping in focus its vision and mission . It has successfully educated and equipped 284 under-privileged school drop-out girl students in these 12 years, for the good of the community . With the training they have received at Pravaham, these students have been able to lead lives of dignity and confidence, using their newly acquired skills. This has made them responsible citizens, contributing to the betterment of their immediate families and also the communities they serve in. In these 12 years Pravaham has significantly contributed in enhancing the skill development of the youth particularly women in the neighboring villages.



XI Batch of PCC:

The students of the eleventh batch doing diploma in Health assistant course 2014-15 completed their course on the 30th of July 2015. The students who have passed std.10 were sent to the examination conducted by the Tamil Nadu Open University. 90 percent



of the students who appeared for the examinations passed with good marks. Their performance was very encouraging, considering the standard of their education at school level and being the first literates in their family. The credit goes to the dedicated team of Tutors and staff who coached these drop out students with great patience and kindness . These students receive a Government

Certification that enables them to not only secure good jobs but also to grow in their careers in future. They can get lateral entry into the Diploma in Nursing Courses. The students who failed in std 10 and below are given Certification by Pravaham. All the 33 students were placed in jobs as Health Assistants in Nursing Homes in Chennai and Bangalore immediately on completion of their course.

The Graduation of the 11th Batch took place on 2nd September 2015 in the presence of Rev. Dr. Eberhard Will, General Secretary of Christian Education Fund, Kassel, Germany, as the Chief Guest . The Trustees of East West Education, U.K, Ms. Daya Durai and Ms. Helen Hicks were Guests of Honour for the occasion. Friends from abroad Christie Vanvugt (USA), Sonia Gurnamal (HK) also graced the occasion.



Friends and well wishers from Chennai and Vellore were present. Ms. Meena Prasantham, Chairperson of Pravaham delivered the Chairman's address. Rev.Dr. Eberhard Will delivered the message to the students. He encouraged and motivated them to be like the Good Samaritan, who belonging to a humble social strata , had noble thoughts that led him to excellent deeds that is remembered all over the world even today.

Echoing Rev. Dr. Eberhard Will s message, we experienced the goodwill and gratitude of some of our students who had come for the graduation after receiving their first month s salary. We were touched and humbled when these six students gave their full salaries to Pravaham.Indeed it was a noble gesture by our students.



Testimony from a Student's mother:

Also at the graduation ceremony we listened to the testimony of our student Patturoja' s mother, Sujatha. She spoke of the transformation she saw in her daughter Patturoja over the one year at Pravaham. Patturoja who once was rebellious and undisciplined had become more obedient and responsible at home helping her mother

and taking care of her siblings. She said that what she could not achieve in parenting and training her daughter over 16 years, Pravaham had achieved it in one year and her daughter had reformed well beyond her expectations.

XII Batch of Pravaham Community College:

PCC received 60 applications for the year 2015 – 16 and 40 school drop outs from underprivileged, marginalized communities were selected. This is the largest number of students in a batch thus far. During the written examination conducted during the interview we found that many students lacked basic language skills. Students were divided in to two batches and the students who needed more attention were taught individually and brought to the required standards. Once they had the basic language skills, they were trained in vocational skills.

Two more members to our teaching faculty were added this year to give the extra coaching needed. Selected students commenced classes with an orientation program, on 10th of August 2015.

The Inauguration of the 12th batch took place on the 2nd Sept, along with the

Graduation with a lamp lighting ceremony. Dr. Jayakaran Isaac dedicated the students with a prayer. Pravaham enabled the new students to have a thorough Medical check up at CMC Hospital. As all the students come from economically challenging situations many were found suffering from nutritional deficiency disorders like anemia, hypo thyroids, protein calorie malnutrition. Special diet and nutritional supplements was given to those who were found severely anemic. In 4 months the students were healthier with normal levels of hemoglobin. The first two months of the course is geared towards teaching our new students English language skills , soft skills , grooming and personal hygiene , and the ethos at Pravaham.



CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES : Pravaham Community College offers three courses – Diploma in Health Assistance, Diploma in Desk Top Processing, Diploma in Early Child Care and Education. Though students were given the opportunity of choosing any of these courses, all the students have opted to study DHA course. One of the reason is because of the excellent employability opportunities this course offers.

The Diploma in Health Assistant course is a one year program. Students are taught the following subjects in their curriculum :

- Fundamentals of Nursing
- Maternal Health and Child Care
- Community Health and Nursing
- Basic Science
- Life Coping Skills
- Communication Skills
- Basics Of Computer Applications

Along with their curricular activities students are enriched by inputs in varied skills from various resource people visiting Pravaham from within and outside India. This greatly strengthens their abilities and talents.



Spoken English classes:

Students were trained in Phonetics and Spoken English by Ms. Sonia Gurnamal, Ms. DayaDurai and Ms Kalpana Ernest who visited Pravaham from Hongkong, UK and USA respectively, spending a week to four weeks at Pravaham. Using simple play way methods they taught the students vocabulary and grammar. Students overcame their fear and inhibition in speaking English by interacting with them. By the end of these sessions, their English speaking skills were enhanced.



Apart from Spoken English, students also learnt about goal setting and were encouraged to work consistently towards their goals through the year. Students were encouraged towards self development by building up of their self esteem and confidence through the sessions using motivational videos and real life stories

Art and Craft Classes:

Students were encouraged to release their creativity freely by Christie Vanvugt who took Art Therapy classes from 2nd to 28th of September 2015 . Various art and craft projects were done during this period. Most of the students come from abusive and insecure family situations , hence these art and craft work shops are therapeutic for healing them. While doing these art sessions Christie speaks to each student finding their back ground and listening to their life stories. Students did interesting art works of dolls, butterflies, notebooks and leaves, using recycled materials like waste cloth, candy sticks, plastic bottles and cans.



Students also learnt to make small trinkets and jewelery items like bracelets, rings and ear drops using beads. At the finish of these sessions students have learnt to express themselves creatively in cost effective ways. In future such efforts will help them sustain hobbies and occupy themselves in meaningful ways.

Social awareness classes on various ills of the society and its remedies were given to PCC students by the Social Work Department of Auxillium College, Vellore. A group of students headed by Mr. Ranjith, made the students aware of various social concerns in the local community through skits , songs and quiz contests. They taught our students about spreading social awareness through dance and songs like Villu Pattu, (a local musical form with catchy words, tunes and instrument) on the benefits of using toilets.

Mr. Ranjith also taught communication skills, both verbal and non verbal methods of communication to the students.

Personal Hygiene classes and hygiene kits : Students learnt about personal hygiene during their menstruation days. This was taught to them by Dr. Vivian Churness and Ms.Karen Jacob, from USA. They distributed Hygiene kits sponsored by an International NGO called “ Day for the Girls” they provided valuable teaching about the menstruation period in every girls life.



Dental Hygiene and care was taught by Dr. Gladstone, CMC, Dental Department . He gave a power- point presentation on the physiology & pathology of the teeth and explained how cavities are formed damaging the teeth. He also performed a dental check up for all the students.



Sanitation and public health training:

Mr. Balaji, Health Inspector, Timiri Block visits

Pravaham periodically and takes classes on environmental sanitation, epidemic diseases and their prevention. He addresses local challenges and health concerns.



Physical Fitness sessions:

Pravaham not only gives importance to health and nutrition of the students but also to their physical fitness. Ms. Jennifer Colon, on the initiative taken by Dr. Anita Coloman, prepared a 15 minute work out for Pravaham students. This is combined with meditation. Students begin the day with these exercise sessions along with prayer and meditation. This daily practice enabled them to receive the benefits of a fit body and an alert mind.



Cross cultural and foreign language exposure :

Pravaham students had an unique opportunity of interacting with people from different cultures and languages .

Ms. Stephanie from Hong Kong, visited Pravaham Community college from 11th – 15th Feb. Students

learnt about the Chinese culture through Chinese songs and games. This is a unique experience for the students and it helped widen their perspective about other cultures.



Hospital Orientation:

As many students of Pravaham Community College come from very remote villages, they had no opportunity to visit a multi specialty hospital like Christian Medical College Hospital. Students of Health Assistant Course were taken on an educational tour of the CMC Hospital to understand the workings of a hospital and were also given an over view of the departments and their work .We are

grateful to Mr.Durai, PRO, CMCH for giving PCC students this unique opportunity.

Internship at CMC Rehabilitation institute:

Students of DHA course received practical training of nursing procedures during their internship period from 1st to 29th of March at the CMC Rehabilitation institute . Students get hands on experience to the daily routines in the hospital during this internship. They had the privilege of learning from experienced nurses from the renowned hospital like CMC which one of the best hospitals in India. Apart from the various nursing skills and procedures students are also taught how to protect themselves while handling different patients like wearing gloves, masks and washing of hands with antiseptic both before and after procedures. They also had the unique opportunity to learn Physiotherapy exercises.



Life Skill Classes at Christian Counseling Centre:

Life skill classes were given to all the students at Christian Counseling Center, one of the best counseling institutions the country, for four weeks from 1st of March. Students learnt how to overcome fear, anger and other negative emotions and build their inner strength to cope with the challenges of life. Students hence learn life coping skills so they can live balanced and productive lives. Students also learn effective communication skills and about goodtime management. They were also given soft skills to deal with the patients and in particular how to deal with a difficult patient in a kind and compassionate way.



Updating the Nursing Lab:

The nursing lab was upgraded with latest nursing mannequin which enables the students to learn various nursing skills , digital thermometers , BP apparatus and examination table. We are grateful to Ms. Christine Donald and Lady Eileen of University of Strathclyde who made this possible.



Community Outreach Programs by students :

Pravaham students are taught to give back to their communities what they learn at Pravaham. Students engage in spreading health awareness in neighboring communities.

Health and Social Awareness camps were conducted in the villages of our students. This



gives an opportunity for the girls who have left their villages as school dropouts to go back to their communities as trained nursing aides. Villagers are proud to see their girls coming back as health workers. Seeing the transformation in the students they are also motivated to send their school dropouts to Pravaham. Students took active part in medical camps and awareness programs conducted at Bomasamudram, Kamarajapuram, and

Venkatapuram villages spreading awareness on hygiene, and the benefits of using toilets. They taught basic awareness of chronic illness like diabetes and hypertension. Students took blood sugar and blood pressure tests for patients along with trained medical staff. An eye camp was conducted at Kangeyanallur in partnership with Karigiri Hospital.

Reaching out to Flood victims:

Pravaham students were also involved in reaching out to victims badly affected by the floods at a slum in Kancheepuram.

Enrichment programs - Moral and Spiritual:

Students are nurtured in their spirit through daily devotions , prayer and the practice of morning quiet time . Rev. Devadoss and Br. Viswanath interact weekly with our students building them up in faith, godly character, moral ethics and good habits



Educational tour and Exposure trip :

Students along with all the staff and special guests, Ms. Sonia Gurnamal and Ms. Stephanie went on a two day trip to Chennai and Mahabalipuram on the 13th & 14th Feb. This is an educational cum fun time. Students went visiting sites of historical significance like the St. Thomas mount, lighthouse , marina beach etc.,. They stayed one night at the Scripture Union Campsite and enjoyed themselves visiting the Crocodile bank and Mahabalipuram Shore temple site. Many of the students have never experienced the sea or visited a big city like Chennai, so this is a memorable experience and exposure for them.



Special day celebrations with cultural show :

Pravaham observes and celebrates national days and relevant festivals with great joy and enthusiasm. Students showcase their talents in singing, dancing and drama appropriate for each occasion. Thus it is a learning experience for all the students as they work as a team and also learn about importance of these special dates in the Indian Calendar.

Independence day : On the 15th August the National flag was hoisted to commemorate 69 years of Indian Independence. Rev. Devadoss was the Chief Guest and he reflected on true freedom and the responsibilities it brings. Students also showcased their talents in singing, reciting poems & dancing.



Christmas Celebration : On 1 st Dec, Christmas was celebrated at Pravaham. Students performed a cultural show of dance and the nativity play. All students participated in the cultural show. For many of them this was their first experience of a stage performance.

Ms. Gita Dawson spent 4 weeks training the students in dance and drama while helping them get ready for the cultural show. Rev. Samuel Prabhakar from St. Mathias Church, Chennai was the Chief Guest and delivered the Christmas message. Ms. Kalpana Ernest and Dr. Anita Coleman participated along with trustees and friends.

All students received Christmas gifts. Single mothers of our students received a gift hamper consisting of a saree, bed sheet and provisions along with Rs.1000. A special celebration of Christmas for the Venkatapuram villagers, happened on 7th Dec 2015. After the program villagers were served a Christmas lunch and given a bed sheet each.

Our special thanks to Ms. Gita Dawson who brought out the talents of students and trained them to give an excellent performance which impacted both the girls and the community around with the message of peace and justice.

Republic Day : Republic Day was celebrated on 26th January 2016 with Flag hoisting , March-past and cultural program. Dr. Gladston from CMC was the Chief Guest and he encouraged the students with a message on obedience to the law of the land to bring God's blessings on the Nation and its citizens.



Extracurricular Activities:

Nutrition Day was observed on the 7th of May. Students were divided into groups and each were given a food group and asked to make dishes using them. We were surprised to see the students cook delicious and nutritious dishes. They were made aware of the nutritive value of each dish. The dishes were judged on taste, nutritive value and presentation and the best three were given the prizes.



Flower Arrangement Classes:

Students were taught how to make beautiful bouquets and arrangements by Mrs. Arlene Senthilvel on 21st July 2016. Students thoroughly enjoyed working with flowers and making different bouquets and arrangements. They were thrilled to have got the opportunity to learn this unique and beautiful craft. Flowers have a healing presence and can be used creatively to make the room pleasant.



Baking Classes:



Baking classes were given to the students by Mrs. Deepika Valaparla. Students learnt to bake cakes and were very happy to learn this new cooking skill. Deepika also taught them how to bake in a cooker as many do not have electric ovens at home.

Soft Skills Training with the theme - 'Power of Possibilities':

On July 4th a leadership development programme for the students was conducted by a team from "Light House -Leadership" Chennai. Mr. Vijay Benjamin spoke on the power of possibilities and taking a step forward everyday focusing on the goals set by them. The theme was emphasized through Group discussions, team activities and games that made the programme very interesting.



II. Programs For Education, Health and Awareness Building

Pravaham conducted medical camps and awareness programs on health, hygiene and social concerns in the following villages:

Health awareness camp at Bomasamudram

: On 11th June 2015 PCC students, staff along with Rev. Devadoss held an awareness camp at this village. Villagers were given a general health check up and particularly screened for Diabetes.

No of villagers served – 65

Eye Camp : Pravaham in partnership with Karigiri Hospital conducted held an Eye Camp at Kangeyanallur, Vellore district on 12th October 2015. The students and

Nursing tutors assisted the team of Doctors and technicians of Karigiri hospital in taking vital statistics of the patients. Students also learnt about the stages of Cataract formation in the eye during the camp. 17 patients received free cataract surgery at Karigiri Hospital. No of patients served – 100



Medical Camp at Kamarajapuram: On Dec 22nd 2015 a free medical camp was conducted for this village, 60 villagers attended the camp and were benefitted. Awareness about Cleanliness, Diabetes and Hyper tension was given by the students. Blood Sugar and BP Checks were done freely for the patients referred. No of Villagers served - 60

Health Awareness Camp at Venkatapuram:

Students participated in an outreach program with free medical check up on 19th March 2016. Students spread awareness on mosquito breeding, communicable diseases, benefits of using toilets and hygiene through folk songs and skits. Blood sugar test and BP checks were done to all the members and nutritious snacks were served to all. Village President Mr. Minnal Annadurai inaugurated the camp.

No of Villagers benefitted - 65



Humanure workshop: A four member team consisting of students and faculty from M.S Swaminathan Agricultural University , Orissa visited Pravaham from 28th Jan to 2nd Feb 2016.They were sponsored by an international NGO called Give Love, India, which gives awareness on Humanure and provides technical know how on installing dry toilets and maintaining them. On 29th January one day work shop was conducted on the benefits of 'Humanure' and to sensitize the community to use dry toilets and



motivate them towards Humanure. Pravaham students and staff and representatives from CMC, Auxiliam college and Rotary club attended the work shop and benefitted from it. The team demonstrated the construction of a dry toilet and a compost pit on Pravaham premises. This initiative has been successfully implemented at Pravaham and students have been cooperating to make it viable. Through our students we plan to create awareness and help surrounding villages to dry compost their human waste.

Awareness on Eco Sanitation for the villages around Pravaham:

'Give Love' team in association with Pravaham taught on the benefits of dry composting of human waste and the procedures and process involved in composting human waste to the women of Venkatapuram and Krishnapuram. Around 100 women and few men also attended the program. Two women from the village volunteered to give their premises to construct and use the toilet in their homes.

Reaching out to the flood affected : The staff and students of Pravaham reached out to a slum in Kancheepuram that was devastated by the flood due to unceasing rain on the 12th of December 2015. The slum was badly affected as people lost all their belongings during the floods. Being a community of weavers they had lost all their weaving equipment and hence it affected their livelihood as well. The local councillor and elders were happy to receive the aid given, as Pravaham was the first NGO to reach out to them. Basic daily use amenities like clothes, bed sheets , provisions, buckets and mugs were distributed to the 50 families who were affected by the floods.



III. Pravaham Retreat and Training Centre

Retreats , seminars and work shops conducted by Pravaham:

Program for Youth:

On 12 th May 2015 program for youth was conducted. youth from local villages and students participated in the program. Finding Purpose for Life was the theme of the program . All the youth had an enriching and refreshing time. They also discussed issues on faith and how it brings purpose and stability to life. Mr. and Mrs. Stanley who work among the rural and underprivileged youth at Eramad, Nilgris were the resource persons. No of Youth served : 80



Children's Summer Camp:

Children's summer camp was conducted from 18th – 22nd of May 2015. Children from nearby villages participated in the summer camp. This year many youth along with children took part in the summer camp. The day begins with music – learning songs with actions and singing. Children enjoy this session and learn many songs in English. After that moral value teachings are given with illustrations and videos which helps children to remember well and imbibe. Craft and art are taught to the children. Children enjoy doing the crafts and making things from the locally available materials and also from the waste materials. lunch is served at the end of the sessions, which the children enjoy.



No. of children served : 108

Spoken English and Computer Application

Classes: Spoken English and computer classes were conducted for senior children from 23rd to 30th May from the nearby villages. Many rural children though they study English in their curriculum can not speak and understand the language. These spoken English classes helps the children to make simple conversation in their daily living and to learn spellings easily using the



phonetics. As many do not have access to a computer Pravaham provides opportunity for the rural children to know basic computer applications.

No. of children served: 22

Family Counseling Workshop :

On the 24th April Mr. Viswanathan and team from Vellore along with Rev. Devadoss conducted one day family counseling work shop for the families of the student's of PCC. The work shop was made very interesting by conducting quizzes between husbands and wives and children to know how well they know each other. Through skits, dance, dramas and discussions many issues concerning the family relationships and responsibilities, and ways to overcome struggles and strains in the relationships were addressed. As many fathers of our students were found addicted to alcohol one session was taken on the ill effects of alcoholism on the physical health of the individual and the psychological and



emotional repercussions it has on the family. Tips were given how to overcome the addiction. Many parents and their children expressed that this was the first time such counseling was given to them concerning family issues.

Thirty seven families were greatly impacted by this program.

Pravaham Staff Retreat : On 6th Aug 2015 the staff of Pravaham had a day set aside for a time of self evaluation and motivation Ms. Kitty Paulraj ,the resource person for the retreat spoke about Commitment, Clarity and Confidence in the staff , which are important to serve at Pravaham. Staff also had a refreshing time and enabled them to recalibrate both their service and character.

Old Students Meet was conducted on 3rd September 2015. Ms. Sonia Gurnamal was the resource person . She encouraged old student to share their experiences and challenges at the work place and in families and the community. She emphasized the importance of self care and expression of emotions in healthy ways. she also motivated students to continue their life journey with faith and that they must never feel desparate in any situation. Pravaham's doors are always open to them to help tide over challenges in life with support and counsel.



Senior Citizens Day : On 29th Oct 2015 we invited Senior Citizens from our neighborhood to participate in a medical awareness program. Free medical check up was done for all senior citizens who attended the program by Dr. Margery Emmanuel , from Karigiri Hospital. Rev. Devadoss took a session for the participants. Lunch was served to the participants and were honored with a gift. No of Senior Citizens served – 14



Alpha , a basic course on the foundations of the Christian Faith was offered at Pravaham for 12 weeks from Feb 5th onwards. This helped the participants to understand the basics of the Christian faith and apply the truths and principles in their life. Resource persons were Ms.Arlene, Ms.Lakshmi and a team from Ashraya Fellowship of India, Chennai.

Day of prayer for the Nation : On 11th February 2016 Rev. Devadoss conducted a prayer service for the Nation. Pravaham staff and students participated by praying for peace and harmony of the Nation of India, for the people who are oppressed and for the leaders of the Nation.

Women's Day Celebrations : On 23rd March 2016 women's day was celebrated at Pravaham. Mothers and sisters of Pravaham students and the local women were invited for a workshop on The Role of Women in the family. Mrs. Kitty Paulraj, resource person spoke on the topic and emphasized issues of gender equality in marriage , and the role of woman as mother and as wife balancing work for the good of the family . She encouraged inter dependence in the marriage relationship. Dr. Mary Vijaya from Karigiri Hospital spoke on personal health issues pertaining to women and on hygiene and cleanliness. All mothers were given free medical checks for blood sugar and blood pressure. Women enjoyed the day as they learnt valuable principles for daily living in a peaceful atmosphere of love and friendship. Women also had snacks and meals prepared for them and were also honored with a gift bags,. Young mothers received baby clothes & towels sponsored by friends of Ms. Christine Donald of University of Strathclyde. No. of Women served – 49



Retreats and Trainings conducted by others at PRAVAHAM:

Pravaham premises has been used by many organizations, institutions, schools and churches for retreats, workshops and trainings that refresh body, mind and spirit. A total of 60 retreats were held through the year 2015-16 and 1509 members visited Pravaham and used our premises. All of them enjoy the quietness and serene premises and used the



Chapel for prayer, meditation and spiritual refreshment. They enjoyed homely food and nourishment, leaving Pravaham with good memories and life changing experiences. This is an area that we would like to grow in and if retreat facilities are enhanced and upgraded we can serve the community more efficiently and effectively.

No. of Retreats: 60 No. of people served : 1509

Campus & infra structural Development:

The Learning Resource Centre, Phase II, with an additional building space of 2700 sq ft has been completed. This additional space has a Multipurpose Hall that is useful for audio-visual presentations and large gathering celebrations too. We now also have a computer lab with 6 workstations for teaching computer skills to our students. The building also has a set of washrooms and restrooms.

The East West Education Trust sponsored 75 % of the cost of the building and the building was dedicated to the memory of Mr. Arul Durai, founder of East West Education Trust.



Rajabooshanam Memorial Library at LRC:

“Libraries are the hospitals for the mind” and so Dr. Anita Coleman , Author and Professor of Library Science at UCLA is helping to set up the Rajabooshanam Memorial Library at the Learning Resource Centre of Pravaham. She has sent many valuable books from her own collection and from her friends. The library is growing in its collection of books of varied subjects with the vision to build the knowledge of not just the students but also to reach out to the community and to all who visit Pravaham. We see this as a valuable growing resource that will reach future generations of our community.



Short Documentary film on Pravaham:

Mr. Harold Mondole, an associate of Global Missions, USA visited Pravaham on the 25th of January and helped in making a documentary on the community education program. It is in the process of editing and once it gets completed it will be a good assets to use for the promotional work. Our sincere thanks to Mr .Harold Mondole for the time and effort he has put in in bringing out this documentary.

Thanksgiving Service for the Life and Service of Mrs. Meena Prashantham:

We remember our Chair person, Ms. Meena Prasantham, with gratitude for her service to Pravaham. Tirelessly she worked for Pravaham's growth and impact into the community. She was one of the founding members and the vacuum she has left in our hearts is large. On Dec 19th a thanksgiving service was held at Pravaham in memory of Mrs. Meena Prashantham’s life and service to the Pravaham Community .

Dr.B.Prashantham and the staff of Christian Counseling Centre attended the service along with friends and well wishers from Chennai and Vellore. Students, staff, Board members and friends of Pravaham shared their personal experiences with Ms. Meena Prashantham. She has left a void in the Board and in all our hearts.



Visits by friends and partners :

Pravaham community is most privileged to receive valuable inputs from Friends of Pravaham. All of them share their various skills and inspire students to go beyond their limitations.

Ms. Sonia Gurnamal, English Educator & Counsellor, HongKong, visited Pravaham twice in this year - 24th Aug to 5th Sept and from 9th Feb – 17th Feb spending her valuable time with Pravaham Community. She taught students Phonetics and Spoken English and motivating and counseling the students.

Christie Vanvugt , USA spent almost a month, from the 2nd to the 29th Sept at Pravaham engaging students in Art Therapy and doing Art projects even using waste materials.

Rev. Dr. Ebahard Will, General Secretary of Christian Education Fund, Kassel, Germany, visited Pravaham and participated as the Chief Guest for the Graduation ceremony on 2nd Sept .

Ms. Daya Durai and Ms. Helen Hicks and her husband ,the Trustees of East West Education trust, U.K, participated in the Graduation Ceremony and the dedication of the Learning Resource Centre, Phase II on 2nd Sept. Ms. Daya Durai visited Pravaham again from 22nd Feb – 27th Feb 2016 and spent her time with students teaching them basic English sentence formations in play way method.

Dr. Vivian Churness, Mr. Tobiah& Ms. Karen Jacob, USA visited Pravaham from the 1st –3rd Oct,2015 teaching our students on personal hygiene during the menstruation days. Dr. Gladstone, CMC, Dental Department, Vellore,took classes at Pravaham on Oct 16th on Dental Hygiene and Care .

Ms. Kalpana Ernest, USA volunteered her time from the 11th Nov- 8th Dec,2015 at Pravaham interacting with our students teaching them spoken English , conducting quizzes and games, and counseling the students.

Mr. Dilip Paul & Ms. Aruna Paul, Detroit, USA visited the students on 26th Nov and spent time with them, encouraging them to use their time and talents wisely at Pravaham .

Dr. Anita Coleman, USA,volunteered her time from the 29th Nov – 1st Dec. teaching fitness exercises with our students. Anita along with Jenifer Colon of Fire Fit, Orange County, California, put together basic daily exercises for fitness.

Christine Donald and Lady Eileen McDonald of Strathclyde University, UK, visited Pravaham on Jan 19th 2016 to review the Solar installation sponsored by Strathclyde University and offer further assistance to the Pravaham Community College.

Stephanie, Hong Kong visited our students from 11th Feb – 15th Feb teaching our students about the Chinese culture.

In conclusion.....

Pravaham community is sustained through the support and encouragement of a number of individuals and organizations that are deeply committed to the betterment of the marginalized and the oppressed. To implement the projects successfully consumes huge amount of work, dedication and passionate commitment and it would not have been possible if we did not have the support of many individuals and organizations.

Our heartfelt thanks to all our partners ,Christian Education Fund, Germany, Global Ministry, USA, San Pedro United Methodist church, Irvine Presbyterian Church, Presbytery of Los Ranchos , East West Education Fund and many friend and individuals for supporting community education program , improving the infrastructure and enabling us to reach out to many young school dropout girls.

We also acknowledge the support of all the friends of Pravaham in India and abroad who have whole heartedly contributed in many ways to the various programs of Pravaham, to make a positive difference to the community around.

Our grateful thanks to all the Trustees of Pravaham and the members of the Executive Committee of Pravaham Community College , for their guidance, support and encouragement in carrying forward The Mission of Pravaham.

We are immensely thankful to the Nursing superintendent and the director of Christian Medical College hospital for giving Pravaham Community College students an opportunity to do internship at CMC Rehabilitation Centre.

We are deeply indebted to Dr.B.Prashantham, Director, Christian Counseling Centre, Mr and Mrs. Arivanandam for giving free training in Life Coping Skills to our students. We are thankful to the University of Strathclyde for helping us to have sustainable energy through solar lights for the Learning resource centre.

Our sincere thanks to ICRDCE for the support, resources and trainings offered to Pravaham Community College for conducting Community Education Program.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all the volunteers who devoted their time and knowledge and resources to teach various skills to the students .

We thank our industrial partners Advantage Health Services , Bangalore and Amazing Love Home for the Aged, for giving job placements to all our students.

Our grateful thanks to Mr. and Mrs Senthivel and Mr. Mathivanan for their willing and committed service to Pravaham in planning and executing the construction of buildings at Pravaham.



My special thanks to the Team of Pravaham – Rev. Devadoss, Mr.C. Ravi, Mrs. Sugandhi, Mrs.Jayashree, Mrs.Mary, Mrs.Kowsalya, Mr.Ravi Kumar, Mrs.Kumari, Mrs.Raniamma, Mrs. Ruth and Mr. Ananda Rajan for their dedicated service to Pravaham.

When we look back to the past year we cannot but lift up our hearts in gratitude to God and say “Great is Thy Faithfulness O Lord”. Thank you for giving us the strength for today and the bright hope for tomorrow to carry on the vision of Pravaham.

Pravaham, the ever-flowing stream will continue to roll on, refreshing and renewing all who come here and also the community around it.