

Home for Seva Chakkara Orphans

1. Name of the Organization:

Seva Chakkara Samajam (Seva Chakkara Orphanage)

2. Date of Establishment:

1986 by Mr. A. Velayudham

3. Reg.No(Tamil Nadu Society Regulation Act 1975): 282 -1990

Tax Exemption Cer.No : DIT(E) no 2(86) 9495

dated 1-3-2000 sec.80G ITax

Exemption valid dates : 31-3-2005

FCRA NO : 075900789

4. How the organization was created and what are the types of activities it provides

:

Mr. A.Velayudam is the founder of Seva Chakkara Samajam. A social worker who is partially blind, he started the samajam with the motto "Live to serve".

He started it in Madras in 1986 with five handicapped orphaned children initially with his limited funds. His aim was to create a voluntary organization with the object of uplifting the downtrodden, poor, handicapped, mentally retarded and destitute children through residential education and to create a caring and humane society. Slowly, his work received some recognition in the local Tamil newspapers and, with the aid of philanthropists; it is in its present state.

The primary work of the Samajam is the running of the orphanage that provides a home for the 82 children who live there. For these children, the activities can broadly be classified as:

- **Primary Residential School:** A primary school (grades I-V) is run in the orphanage with the object of child development as a residential school. The primary reasons for running the school at the orphanage are:

- The orphanage is located in a busy industrial area and the children in the earlier grades are too young to venture out in then streets without supervision.

- The orphans come from many different backgrounds and at times have never been to school. Many come from villages and do not hold a transfer certificate. These children are educated according to their level so they can write open examinations for grade VI in local schools.

- The children come from a variety of backgrounds and include street children. These children are not used to going to school and interacting with other children at school and a few years of love and compassion at the orphanage school gets them in tune to be able to attend local schools.

This primary school is not a government recognized, since the orphanage does not own the property, as is required to be government-recognized. For the same reason the government does not provide any support for the school.

- **Higher education:** After grade V, the children write open examinations in the local schools in order to gain admission in them. The local schools accept the transfer certificate issued by the President or an honorary headmaster of the school. The children join grade VI after the examination. The children continue to live at the orphanage, which also takes care of their educational and living expenses.

- **Vocational Skills:** As the children grow older the orphanage also provides them vocational training on a case-by-case basis. Presently they have facilities to give computer and typewriting training for the children.

- Apart from the activities are for the children, the orphanage also tries to help out the poor in the community who have nowhere to go; like the elderly who do not have any one to take care of them, and women who have been abused by their husbands. In the past they have taken care of the children of women who have been abused while trying to place them in jobs through the donors or in the orphanage it-self.

- They also have a sister concern in a village where they provide shelter for short periods of time for those who need it.

5. Names and Background of the directors of the organization:

The following is the committee that oversees the functioning of the orphanage:

1. M. Lakshminarasimhan - Honorary President: BA, BL (Judge Retd)
2. J. Dharamchand Lunkarji - Honorary Addl President (social worker & businessman)
3. Dilip Veeraraghavan (Professor I.I.T.M) - Honorary Addl President
4. Dr. Subramanian (Professor I.I.T.M) - Vice President
5. R. Satyanarayanan, Honorary Auditor
6. A. Velayudam founder, Honorary Sec
7. K. Lakshmi Administrative Officer, Honorary Treasurer.
8. Padmanabha Iyyer - Project Convener, Samskrit Teacher

6. Name, Address, phone and email of the contact in the US.

Sanjeev Ranganathan,
400 W 119st, #8T, New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-854-4685(lab), 917-434-2827 (cell),
E-mail: presi_asha@yahoo.com

7. Name, Address, phone and email of the contact in India:

Mr. A. Velayudham,
C/O Seva Chakkara Samajam (Regd)
89/41, Swami Pillai Street,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. 600112
Phone: 91-44-25383195
E-mail: velayudham@sevachakkaraorphanage.org

8. Number of administrative and field staff:

Orphanage:

1. Supdt/Warden
2. Catering Manager
3. Cooks - 2
4. Kitchen Assistant
5. Store Keeper
6. Medical Assistant
7. Caretakers
8. Watchman
9. Sweeper
10. Scavenger (Part time)
11. Barber (Part time)

Primary School:

1. Correspondent/Headmaster
2. Teachers - 5
3. Peon
4. Driver
5. Librarian
6. Yoga Master

Vocational Center

1. Director
2. Computer teacher
3. DTP worker

Although these are the general posts required some people volunteer in more than one activity, e.g. Lakshmi is the treasurer, warden and also the director of the vocational center, Sukanya is the catering manager but also fills in as the medical assitant.

The sister concern mentioned
Srimat Papaji Destitute Home, Redhills

1. Field Manager

2. Caretakers
3. Cook
4. Cook Asst
5. Watchman
6. Hon. Teacher

Apart from these people there are also volunteers who help to guide the elder children who are in outside schools.

9. A brief description of the long-term objectives of the organization:

- To be able to provide a good livelihood for the children at the orphanage.
- To set up a primary and secondary school for the children.
- To set up a polytechnic, and train the children in vocational skills so that they can stand on their feet.

10. Details of the organizations annual budget:

~ \$29k

A significant part of this is covered by the support-a-child program run by Asha-NYC/NJ. We have sent \$19,000 for the period of May 2002-April 2003.

The program will continue in years to come and we are confident to cover the same amount to cover running expenses.

11. Previous Funding Sources, if any:

- They have a few local regular donors like Dilip Veeraraghavan (from II.T.M), M.R. Ranganathan, K. Ananthkrishnan.
- Two organizations in the local community Rajasthani Welfare Society and Sri Aradha Educational Society also come forward to meet some requirements.
- Some food requirements are taken care of by donors who feed the children on days special to them.
- Some organizations like Vivekananda Ashram donate in-kind for food, e.g. rice, vegetable oil, again this changes with each month.

The project was brought to Asha for Education after being visited by Sanjeev Ranganathan (Asha-NYC/NJ) and Anita Balasubhranian (Asha-Seattle) in Dec 2000.

In 2001 Asha provided \$5k.(including Asha-Cleveland \$1k, Asha-CNJ \$2.5k rest from NYC/NJ)

In 2002 Asha-NYC/NJ (and Asha-MHV) provided \$19k through the support-a-child program.

In 2002 Asha-NYC/NJ also provided \$2.4k for the computer institute to help running the computer initiative.

All Asha documentation for this projects can be found at the project's website: <http://www.ashanet.org/nycnj/scos.html>

Documentation of Recent Visits to the project:

March, 2003 <http://www.ashanet.org/nycnj/projects/scos/dayoftango.html>

Nov, 2002: <http://www.ashanet.org/nycnj/projects/scos/chandraVisit/visittext.pdf>

Recent Photos: <http://www.ashanet.org/nycnj/projects/scos/chandraVisit/index.html>

12. Description of any previous projects the organization has undertaken with Asha:

In 2001 the orphanage primary school was not getting funded regularly which resulted in some teachers being unable to continue at the orphanage. Asha-NYC/NJ worked with the orphanage with help from Asha-CNJ as well as Asha-Cleveland to support the salary of the teachers. The primary school is now running smoothly with a student teacher ratio of 10:1. We are also working with the teachers to improve the quality of education at the orphanage school.

When we started working with the orphanage all the children were staying in a two-room accommodation, which was very inconvenient. This also left no space for the younger children who spend all their time at the orphanage. They have since moved to the present location which has a large hall with a terrace and rooms for the children. It has even been possible to provide separate living quarters for the elder girls and boys.

During working with the orphanage it was also realized that the orphanage was unable to meet even day-to-day running expenses. Hence, it made little sense to work only on education and we worked with the orphanage to setup the Support-A-Child program to cover basic running expenses. This program has also successfully run for the last one-year and covered a major part of the running expenses. More details of the program can be found from the website: <http://www.ashanet.org/nycnj/projects/sac/>

Lakshmi, a former child of the orphanage is now a full time volunteer at the orphanage. She took a loan from the bank to establish a computer center at the orphanage. The computers serve as an educational tool for the children and serves as a small income generation scheme for the orphanage. The center has also provided vocational skill for the children graduating from high-school.

13. Description of the location and current conditions:

The orphanage has no permanent home. The orphanage is presently running in the first and second floors of a 3-floor house (each floor 3080 sq ft). This is a rented accommodation for which they spend Rs. 10,200 per month. This

accounts for \$2.5k of the funds raised by the support-a-child program. The location and space is suitable for them and they want to purchase this house.

14. The goal of the funding requirement

Seva Chakkara Orphanage provides a residential home for 82 children, but has no permanent home for itself. One of the largest disadvantages of living in a rented apartment is being asked to move. In the past, each time they have been moved, they have suffered setbacks in adjusting and providing for the children.

There is also a substantial amount that is spent on rent and this over the years could instead be spent in improving the condition of the children and their education.

This WAH project is aimed towards helping Seva Chakkara secure a permanent home.

Seva Chakkara is presently a tenant with a two year lease with the land owner. The land owner was running a toy factory at this location. For expansion of his work in 1996 he took a loan from the SBI for Rs. 25 lakhs with the building as the mortgage. However, due to the collapse of his industry is now not in a position to pay this loan to the bank. The case is now in the hands of the court which is deciding the deadline for the owner to pay off the loan in order to retain the property. The court has agreed to allow the funds to be paid through Seva Chakkara. The delay has caused the amount to given back to the bank around Rs. 40 lakhs (which grows with simple interest @ 14%/year ~ \$8k/year). The landlord has also given a signed agreement to Seva Chakkara to allow them to purchase the property for Rs. 40 lakhs.

If the amount is not paid the property will be transferred to the bank, which will have to auction the property. Seva Chakkara will be asked to move out of the location for the auction to take place. The starting price of the auction will be to not only recovery of the debt so far, but also all legal costs pertaining to the case. If Seva Chakkara does happen to be the highest bidder, they will also be required to give a down payment of 15% of the auctioned price by EOD of the sale, which again is not possible for them.

The only way that Seva Chakkara can continue to live at this place is to buy the property as soon as possible.

Understanding this, Seva Chakkara locally raised 3 lakhs (2 lakhs donation+ 1 lakh soft loan from donor) and submitted it to the court as the first installment. The court is giving them the opportunity to purchase the building while paying off the loan. Asha-MHV is requesting \$40k from WAH and will work with Asha-NYC/NJ and Seva Chakkara to raise the remainder of the funds.

All official documentation will be uploaded at:
<http://www.ashanet.org/nycnj/projects/scos/building/>

15. Beneficiaries of the project (how many children, number of males/females age and demographics and other relevant details):

There are 86 children who live at the orphanage. Children up-to grade V also study at the orphanage. Children from grade VI onwards live at the orphanage and study in schools outside.
The boys-to-girls a ratio is 2:1.

One time funding, entire amount requested in the August-September.

17. Detail of money received from various sources:

\$6k through Seva Chakkara patrons in India.
\$10k from Asha-NYC/NJ
\$2.4k Raised by Sanjeev Ranganathan and Anita Komanduri

18. How long will the benefit last? Please give an approximate US\$ child/year estimate for the project:

The benefit of a permanent accommodation will last forever. Estimating 80 children who benefit from living at the orphanage for 20 years. $\$80,000/(1600) = \$50/\text{child}/\text{year}$. In 20 years we would also be saving in the rent at the rate of \$3k/year this would be \$60k, which can go towards improvement of the life of the children.

20. Proposed means of continuing the project after current funding:

Recurring expenses of the orphanage are in large part covered by the Support-A-Child program.

25. Reference of lead people supervising the project:

Sanjeev Ranganathan (Asha-NYC/NJ)
Velayudham (Seva Chakkara)

26. Number of people reached by the program and how many have completed the literacy program (number of boys and girls)

There are 80 children at this point who will be effected by the program. In the past, fifteen children have been able to find forms of employment and live independent of the orphanage. One of the former children from the orphanage, Lakshmi, is helping run the orphanage.

The children at the orphanage are in the phase of entering college. There is only one child in college right now who is being funded by a specific donor Prof. Veeraghavan I.I.T.M.

27. Standard Proficiency of the participants at the end of the project:

Basic living security.

28. Is there any governmental involvement in the project? If yes, how?

No.

29. Specify the nature of funds requested:

One-time request.

30. Name and Background of the representing organization in the US and details of the volunteer involved.

Asha for Education, a US-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization devoted to providing hope to India's underprivileged children through the establishment of primary schools and other educational institutions. We are looking to raise approximately \$80,000, an amount necessary to support and expand our current projects. I can assure you that every dollar donated to Asha projects will be stretched as far as possible, and spent with the utmost financial prudence. Asha for Education is entirely volunteer-driven, has an excellent track record, and maintains virtually zero overhead.

Mission Statement of Asha for Education

To catalyze socio-economic change in India through the education of underprivileged children.

Asha for Education strives toward accomplishing this mission by establishing and supporting schools and programs for the least fortunate Indian children. We want to provide "asha", or "hope", to the millions of Indian children that do not have access to even the most basic educational institutions.

History and Current Activities

Asha for Education was founded in 1991 by three UC Berkeley graduate students who wanted to play a role in India's development, and decided to focus on education as a critical requirement to bring about long-term social change in India. Backing only four projects in its first year, Asha has since supported over 200 projects, distributing over \$2mm in funds. The organization currently consists of 34 chapters in the U.S., 6 in India and 2 in other international locations, with over 500 active volunteers around the world. Each chapter identifies, researches, establishes and finances educational projects in India, supporting its own projects and sending residual funds to other chapters with projects in need. Volunteers conduct site visits regularly to ensure Asha's project standards are

being met. Chapters receive regular project updates and determine funding requirements. Asha for Education has no political or religious affiliations.

Sanjeev Ranganathan is a doctorate student at Columbia University, NY. He graduated from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras with his B.Tech and M.S in Electrical and Electronics Engineering. He has been an active volunteer of Asha for Education for the past four years in which time he has also been the secretary of the organization and has also served as the projects coordinator of the NYC/NJ chapter for two years. He has been involved with the Seva Chakkara Orphanage for three years now and has developed a personal connection with the children and the volunteers at the orphanage. Over the last three years he has spent over 200 hrs volunteering at the orphanage in India.