



YuvaLok Annual Report - 2019

TOWARDS **SUSTAINABLE** DEVELOPMENT

◆ Opportunity ◆ Hope ◆ Dignity ◆



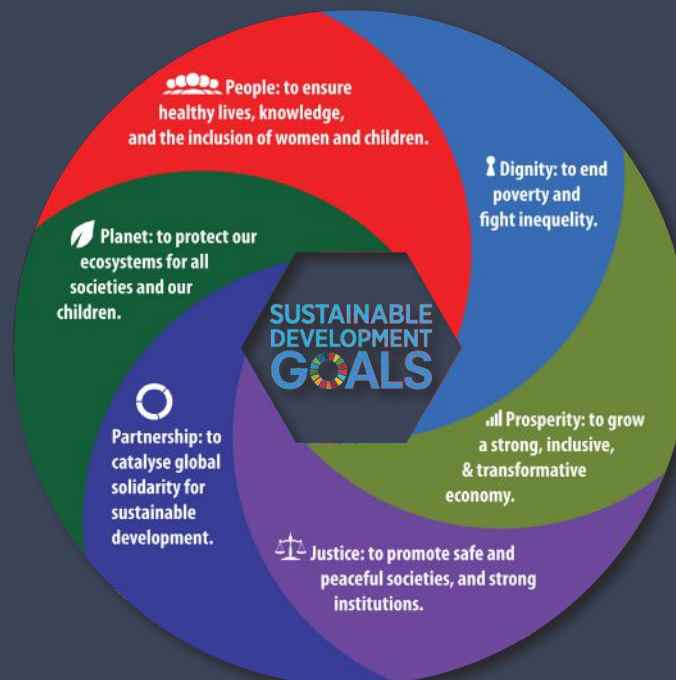


Vision:

To empower each child and young person fulfill his/her highest potential, to live and work with dignity, hope and compassion.

Mission:

Investing in Lives of underprivileged children and young people with compassion through holistic care, education and developing vocational skills.





Towards Sustainability

Another year in history and the YuvaLok story continues to amaze us! 25 years after our first school opened in Lingarajpuram, Bangalore, our mission of “Investing in Lives” continues to flourish. This past year we had over 1700 under-served children and youth on our rolls and in keeping with our vision we were able to, as always, provide them education, vocational training and nutrition.

In the past couple of years one expression that I have been constantly hearing and reading from experts in the field is ‘Sustainability’. My perspective on ‘Sustainability’ is that the poor do not remain poor. With all the time, effort and money invested in the lives of the under-served children and youth they should grow up not only sustaining themselves, but also living dignified lives, making a positive mark in their community. Sustainability should further result in bringing about transformation in society. Sustainability does not necessarily have to do with generating more funds but also the impact created in the lives of individuals.

We have accomplished much in our 25-year history, through many Supporters and Investors – Individuals, Corporate Partners, Family Foundations, Parents, and the Board of Management. Thank you for believing in the power of this work and willingly taking on the risk of investing your time, talent, effort and money.

Once again this year, I write this letter with a grateful heart to those who have led the work, the Principal, Teachers, Program Coordinators, Staff, Volunteers and the Leadership Team. The evidence of your investment in our work is seen in the impact created in the lives of your beneficiaries and they in turn becoming agents of change. With your support and the blessings of our loving God we will continue to forge ahead towards closing the gap between the prevailing circumstances and our single-minded vision of a transformed society.

I remain, yours for the under-served,

Sam Rajshekhar

Founder-Director
YuvaLok Foundation

Yuvalok High School

Commitment & Hard Work



**“YUVALOK
is my second
home and a
very safe place
to be in”**

- Mary Leelavathi

Mary Leelavathi can be spotted from a distance, she's the girl with a warm smile, brimming with confidence and a go-getter. This year at the YuvaLok Standard Ten graduation an announcement was made that the first three merit toppers will get a 5 year scholarship along with a cash prize

and Mary said with a smile “By God's grace, I will be the topper this year, I am working hard and long hours each day, I will be the winner”.

In her words “YuvaLok is my second home and a very safe place to be in”. Mary recalls that when she was in sixth standard her family had a tough decision to make due to domestic economic reasons – a choice between going back to the village and leaving behind everything she loved OR staying with a relative and continuing her studies. She loved school and would not trade school life for a life in the village. That's when one of her relatives staying close to YuvaLok school came forward to take care of her

and she was able to continue her studies at YuvaLok. Couple of years later her mother, a home nurse by profession moved back and Mary was able to unite with her sister and mother again.

In 2014, Mary had the privilege of being selected to walk the ramp with present Bollywood star RajKummar Rao and Varion Marwah. This was a very proud and humbling moment for her and for us at YuvaLok. Mary has always been an outstanding girl and it is in her to never give-up even when the going gets tough.

Few days before the board exams, Mary fell sick. On the day of the first exam it was confirmed the sickness was Chickenpox. She however did not give up but convinced her headmistress and the exam hall coordinator that she was okay to write her exam if permitted, which the examiner graciously allowed. When the results were out, Mary was the topper for YuvaLok High School at 82 percent. Mary is the proud topper of this year's newly instituted 'Sarojini Rajshekhar Memorial Award' which carries a cash award, a citation and a 5 year scholarship. Congratulations



Bollywood actor Rajkummar Rao & designer Varion Marwah along with Mary Leelavathi

to Mary!! YuvaLok which has been her second home is proud of her achievement and we wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

The cycle of success rolls on at YuvaLok even as we face immense challenges to keep the wheel turning. Teachers continue to invest in the lives of these precious children in their care with the promise of quality education to each one of them which comes at a price of sacrifice sans equal compensation. We appreciate our staff for their mindfulness towards our mission; to serve the underprivileged and disadvantaged.

Investing in Education

To the 1875 children to whom we provide quality education and nutrition, YuvaLok is always on the lookout for a holistic approach inclusive of innovative, creative and fun ways along with the latest methods of imparting education.

Students continue to be provided with free text books, note books, uniforms and nutrition that

includes a 9 grain porridge on arrival and a nutritious fortified meal at lunch. Transportation is provided to children who are in Standards four and below. This is possible because of the benevolence of corporates like Target, Pharos Trust, YuvaLok Child, Mutter Teresa Fund, ACTS, and many individuals who believe in the work we do for the underprivileged. The students, staff and management are thankful to each of them.

YuvaLok High School at Hennur had an eventful academic year 2018/19. While the Headmistress Ms. Reena George has raised the bar for students' academic performance and discipline on one side, she along with her team of dedicated teachers have reached out to those students going through emotional and traumatic situations at home. Many students have expressed their thanks to the teachers for their timely help and for being so understanding.

Students enjoy outdoor activities be it games, sports or social causes. For want of space, outdoor activities are limited but by turn they do have their share of outdoor games and activities. We have a 3000 sq ft of land next to our school gifted to us by our board member Dr. Sajan George. Presently our vehicles are parked there while the remaining portion is used for games. We are seriously looking at sponsors/donors to help us convert this space into a games cum vocational center by putting up the required infrastructure.



YuvaLok High School Play Ground

Events and Activities



YuvaLok High School Football Team

The academic year started off with the Investiture ceremony where Dr. Raja Ram of Earlham University, USA was the Chief Guest, followed by several other events. We also celebrated Independence Day, Teachers Day, Kannada Rajyotsava, Children's Day and other important special days with creativity and festivity.

ICICI Bank in partnership with IAPMO conducted a painting competition for over 1000 selected students from different schools with the theme – SAVE WATER. Monisha P of standard three of our school won the second place. She received a cash prize of Rs. 1500 and we are all so very proud of her.

Prathibha Karanji (Cultural and literary competitions) - 60 students participated from our school in various solo and group competitions and they competed with 20 other schools. Our students won many prizes in Rekha Chitra, Mimicry, Pick and Speak, Clay Modelling, Bharatanatyam, Art & Craft and Fancy Dress.

At the Cluster Level Sport Meet, our students won prizes for 600 mts, 4x100 mts relay, 200 mts, 800 mts, Discus throw etc. Our senior boys football team were the runners up.



I am thankful to the management of YuvaLok Foundation for providing 48 of my children from Home of Hope with good education, nutrition and care. My children are happy, they love YuvaLok School and the teachers. I sincerely appreciate this support from YuvaLok Foundation.

Auto Raja

Founder & Secretary – Home of Hope



Teachers Training

Training is an ongoing process and imparting it to teachers of YuvaLok is a planned affair. We had Mr. Paul Hammond of PIXEL, UK, training our teachers and showing them techniques that can be used to improve the teachers input into the child and enhance students performance. Target Corporation provided

training for our select staff in the areas of dealing with difficult children, theatre/technology in education and what can be done to create an impact on children.

Corporate trainer Mr. Ray Lal gave an insight to our teachers in wisdom management and ways to transform an ordinary student

into an extraordinary student, reiterating the fact that behind every great personality there is a teacher.

At our staff retreat Mr. Murray from Australia spoke on "what we're worth, how do we see our self worth" and how students can benefit from it.



YuvaLok School Boy \ Girl Ratio 51% - 49%



Innovation Lab

3 volunteers from Earl Ham University, USA, (Ms. Eleen, Ms. Lisa and Ms. Lan, along with their professor Dr. Raja) rendered immense help and service at our innovation lab for a month.

They taught our students spoken English, grammar, soft skills in communication and also trained them for one month where 30 students from Stds 8-10 were selected for three social projects on clean air, clean environment and clean water. The project on

clean air was accepted by 3M company for implementation. Dr. Raja an educationist himself conducted a workshop for our teachers highlighting innovative ways of teaching. The four of them were special guests at our investiture ceremony.

Leadership & Confidence building Activity



Dr. Raja and his team along with the students of Innovation Lab

Here at YuvaLok, investing in leadership and confidence is progressive. This is one area of intervention made by YuvaLok in the lives of our children outside academic needs. We have a dedicated team of volunteers from Bethesda Assembly, who come twice a week to talk to our children and inculcate in them moral values and confidence building measures which holds them in good stead beyond their academic life. Shalini of Standard Ten shares her joy of attending these sessions, she says "I, being a total introvert, was afraid to speak up at home and in class, some kind of a fear gripped me and I lived with it. After attending the leadership classes, today I can confidently speak at the morning assembly and to my classmates. I also have learnt a lot of moral values which guides me and is of great help to me and my family. I sincerely thank the volunteers who come each week to teach

us and for their true and genuine love they shower upon us."

YuvaLok is grateful to the volunteers of Bethesda Assembly for their investment into the lives of our students at YuvaLok.

The YuvaLok Board and Management congratulate our parents and guardians of our children for being responsible stake holders by contributing their small part in supporting their children's academic and holistic growth. The participation this year was 93% and next year we hope to see 100% participation.

Grace Public School

This school runs in partnership with YuvaLok and is situated in the rural areas of Bhadravati, Shivamogga District in Karnataka State. Reaching over 200 students from poor backgrounds, the focus is on the Gypsy community called "Hakki Pikki" (a semi nomadic tribe). A sizeable number of children from this community attend this school. With 11 teachers and Mrs. Ramola John as the headmistress, they have classes from LKG to Standard Eight. The School Development Committee stated that "Grace Public School is a blessing to the rural poor students as they have good facilities to learn and the privilege of being taught in English Medium. Parents are very happy with their children's performance here".



Graduating Class 2019

**Monica Vaishnav**

One more exam to go and Monica of std 9 who studies hard, had this desire in her to top the class. During her last but one exam she suddenly developed a severe headache which was unbearable and needed urgent medical attention.

Her father Mr. Chethan Dass Vaishnav, recalls, it was Christmas day, 2003 Monica was born. As a family they were heading from

Rajasthan to Karnataka by train, migrating as laborers. Close to the Tumukuru railway station, in a moving train is where Monica was born with bare minimum help. Later the family landed in Bangalore and the father made a living by selling 'chat snacks' on the sidewalk. They heard about YuvaLok School for the marginally poor children and Monica and her brother Sanjay joined.

Monica, who was studying in the 9th Standard was obsessed with dedication to be the topper in her class. She would wake up at 3am each day to study undisturbed. Such was her dedication and commitment to success but fate had other plans for her. On further medical investigation it was found that she had a tumor in her brain which needed

immediate surgery. While the date was fixed for 24th April 2019 for the surgery, on the 17th of April life dealt a cruel blow to her and the family and Monica was no more.

YuvaLok family prays for the comfort of her loved ones and cherishes every memory of this hard working and admirable Monica. For her fellow students she leaves behind memories of her hard work and commitment to academics. She will be remembered for her punch line "to think beyond poverty and the excuse of have not's, work hard for success which is attainable through hard work alone".

The family has moved out of Bangalore as they could not cope with the loss and memories of their dear child.



Pharus, in Latin means lighthouse. Pharus along with YuvaLokChildoftheNetherlands are our proud partners in the area of education, nutrition and academic infrastructure. Their partnership with YuvaLok helps us to provide highly affordable

quality education to the rural poor children of Chamrajnagar District in Karnataka State. The parents of these children are mainly agricultural workers. As this place is drought prone, most parents go without jobs for most part of the year. Pharus through YuvaLok has come to the rescue of these poor parents who otherwise would have taken their children off

school because of the inability to support their basic education and nutritional needs. With Pharus' infrastructural support the building of 6 classrooms is in progress and should be ready by the end of 2019. YuvaLok expresses its gratefulness to Pharus for standing with us in our outreach to the poor rural community of Chamrajnagar.

Beyond Teaching



Ajay Chinnaswamy, 11 years old, was very shy and reluctant to talk to the admin staff at YuvaLok's St. Peter School, Nagavalli in Chamrajnagar District. The school admin staff was quick to make him comfortable and on enquiring, his father narrated his story. Ajay grew up with learning disabilities and was made fun of by children, which led him to become very withdrawn. His previous school teachers would prefer if Ajay was not in class as he could neither read nor write properly. Ajay detested the idea of going to school. His parents tried to get help but finance was a big restriction for them. That is when they were told about St. Peter

School. Now that he has completed 2 years here, Ajay is happy to come to school and has a lot of friends, he loves his teachers because they did not reject him or look down upon him. The encouragement he has received has helped him take studies seriously. He still needs medical and psychological help which is hard to get in this rural area and also not affordable. His parents are happy with the school and they speak highly of our teachers for taking care of him as their very own. Ajay needs prayers and help and we are here to provide it.

The five YuvaLok schools in Chamrajnagar are all doing well with the Chatipura school getting its permission to start the English Medium. The support from Pharus Trust has helped us get 6 classrooms' construction underway and should be ready before the next academic year. The tribal school in the forest area needs repairs but local conditions and laws make it difficult for

us to carry out the repairs. The year saw 102 new admissions overall and the education of 15 students has been sponsored by the government for Jawahar Navodhya Central School. Over 87500 meals were served through the newly launched Anna Vahini program at Chamrajnagar which also benefits the elderly in the area.



Chamrajnagar is reeling under drought which is affecting the economy of the children's home severely. YuvaLok has stepped in to launch a new agricultural program to look at alternatives to tide over the situation through experts. The program is still in its nascent stage. Hoping for its success for it will be a game-changer for other parts of Chamrajnagar.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



TARGET

Our continued thanks to Target Corporation for its long term support to YuvaLok in the area of education and nutrition through its International Grant Program (IGP) for our urban students in Bangalore. This long time support has enabled us to provide quality education through trained teachers, better nutrition for the children and educational aid for our students. Training and career counseling for our 9th and 10th standard students provided by Target volunteers, have helped our students to understand the vast options they have after their schooling. The career options painted by the volunteers has opened our students eyes to look at this huge horizon of hope before them.

We are also thankful for the 5 Bicycles Incinerator, Sanitary Napkin Vending Machine and Water Purifier donated to our school by Target.

We are grateful for the many volunteers who have taken time off from their busy schedules to provide our students and teachers with soft skills training. Also for the opportunity our students have to participate in the inter NGO

sports conducted by Target each year which brings a lot of excitement and motivates our students to participate and win prizes. The management, staff and students express their sincere thanks to Target Corporation for being a solid support these many years with YuvaLok. Your investment in the lives of these underprivileged children has paid off richly to their communities as we see progressive transformation economically and socially.



Incinerator, Sanitary Napkin Vending Machine & Water Purifier

Prione Business Services Pvt Ltd

This year Prione through its CSR outreach has come forward to support 30 of our students for their complete education for a year. We place on record our sincere thanks to the Management of Prione for their partnership and help for our students. We trust this partnership will continue to grow in the years to come.

Tata Hitachi Construction Machinery Co. Pvt. Ltd.

Thanks to Hitachi for showing interest in the service of YuvaLok and for the drive in providing some of our children with toys, steel lunch boxes and clothes. We look forward to a CSR partnership with them.

Infosys

Our thanks to Infosys for the drive they had on campus for providing our students with toys, library books and clothes.

Mr. Engel Antonides along with his wife Nel and a team of six other friends took the initiative of setting up YuvaLok Child in The Netherlands in 2010 and has chaired the organization's committee since then.

YuvaLok Child assists hundreds of students from financially challenged families in Bangalore and Chamarajnagar with education grants - primarily to inner city and rural schools. Mr. Engel is constantly looking out for individuals and



ENGEL ANTONIDES,
President
YuvaLok Child
The Netherlands

grant making agencies who might be interested in assisting underprivileged children, youth and young women receive education, vocational training and nutritious meals.

We will always be grateful to Mr. Engel, his team and the people of The Netherlands for their generous and gracious support in reaching out to the underprivileged. Their unflinching collaboration with YuvaLok Foundation has truly made them friends of India.

Sarojini Rajshekhar Memorial Award



Sarojini Rajshekhar Memorial Award, a scholarship program for YuvaLok High School's 3 top ranking students in the SSLC Board exams, was introduced in memory of Late Mrs. Sarojini Rajshekhar by her family members this year. Sarojini Rajshekhar was herself a teacher. She was a great example of someone who discontinued her studies after completing her High School, but through sheer determination and hard work, completed her basic Teachers certification, then graduation and finally secured a B. Ed degree. During her lifetime she was a blessing to many students. This five year scholarship in her memory, is expected to help deserving students pursue their dreams further. The award will be given out in the month of June each year.

A Day with Ricky Kej

Grammy Award Winner and noted Environmentalist Ricky Kej sprung a surprise after the World Children's Day program organised by UNICEF in Bangalore where MY EARTH SONGS composed by Ricky Kej was released. It was an honour for our students to sing these environmental songs which is a part of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. Our students were chosen to sing in the choir and over 30 students participated at this stunning star studded program, a first of its kind for our students. Ricky Kej told our students that he would visit the YuvaLok High School, spend

time with them and would like to get to know more about YuvaLok.

True to his word, Ricky Kej along with his good friend Dominic D'Cruz, guitarist and music composer, spent a whole morning with the students. Andresh, the school captain said, "I have never met such a down to earth, friendly person, who being so great was so easy to talk to." Ricky Kej spoke to the children and staff about why they should not use plastic in any form. The statistics were shocking and the children took a pledge to do away with plastic.



YuvaLok Vocational Training Center:

Threads of Life (T o L) Tailoring Project & Wellness Center – Beautician's Training Project



YuvaLok over the years has invested in a big way in the lives of disadvantaged women by providing training in skills that help them earn a decent livelihood. This year we have trained 45 women in the area of tailoring and beauticians course at our 3 centers.

Threads of Life, Bhavikere (Rural)

This center meets the needs of the rural poor women in Chikmagalur District in Karnataka. As mentioned in our previous Annual Report 2018, we are pleased to say that the work in Bhavikere commenced in October 2018 and the first group of trainees successfully graduated in March 2019. Training is in progress for the second batch.

Threads of Life, Hennur (Urban)

Is for the urban poor women in and around YuvaLok Service Center.

Threads of Life, Kannur (Rural)

Meets the needs of the rural poor women in north Bangalore.

Tailoring is a 12 month course which includes learning basic and advanced skills along with a beauticians training course. Soft skills in communication, spoken English, numeracy, health and hygiene, women's rights and various government schemes for women are an add on to the training. On successful completion trainees are presented a sewing machine. Most women become entrepreneurs and some join the garment industry which is a game changer in their life as testified by these stories.

Sudha, in her mid-twenties drops in at our tailoring unit in Hennur requesting if she can enroll for the tailoring course. She looked quite unwell, weak and depressed. She went on to tell her story of living with



an alcoholic husband in a 7 ft x 7 ft room along with his pets which includes a cat, dog, birds and reptiles, they all cram into that limited space which serves as bedroom and kitchen and that she is a victim of domestic violence. Unable to bear the torture, pain and disgrace she decided to look for some help where she could earn some income to support herself and her two children who presently live with their grandmother for want of space in her house. She was advised by a neighbor to take up tailoring which would help her come out of the situation she is in and that brought her to our center. Seeing her physical condition it was a difficult call for the instructor to admit Sudha but on her assertiveness she was asked to start her course with Threads of Life.

Though Sudha remembers only studying for a few years in school, Sudha had to discontinue her studies due to poverty, yet she did very well for herself at the Tailoring and Beautician's course. This resulted in her making some income while undergoing the course. She dreams of a proper house to stay in along with her children providing them quality nutrition and education and also with her husband provided he gives up his alcoholic life. She is looking forward to the free sewing machine she will get from YuvaLok, which will help her to be a bread winner and make economic and social progress in her life.

...Towards Sustainability



Graduation of Tailoring and Beautician Course – Hennur and Kannur



Graduation of First Tailoring Course at Bhavikere, Chickmagalur Dist (Rural)

Anita (name changed), has a lot of commitments for a girl of 20 years. Her father passed away when she was a teenager and her mother is just about able to manage on her own in spite of a prolonged illness. To add to her woes, her brother is confined to the home as he suffers from convulsions. Anita was pursuing her graduation when she had to stop her studies to attend to

her family's immediate needs. She knew her presence at home was purposeful but she also had to take care of her future. She enrolled herself for the tailoring and beautician course at our center and juggled between home chores and training.

She says, "It was worth a year of struggle, now with this skill in my hand I can earn during the

day and my mother can take care of my brother and we will be better off. I am sure I can get better medical treatment for my brother and mother now". Anita did very well in her training and also got the best performance award for the beautician course. She plans to save up money and soon establish her own beauty parlor and tailoring unit. We wish her the very best!!



Shobha Louis
Finance Director

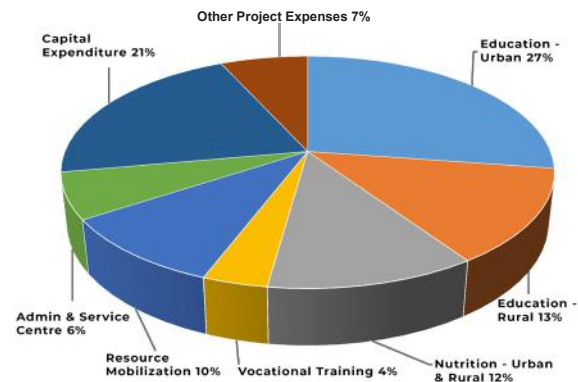
Thank You!

Another year has gone by where God who is always in control has never let us down. All Thanks and Praise be to Him! Ups and downs were there, difficulties and challenges were there as usual. But year after year we realise that it is His work and we as His stewards need to stay close to Him.

I would like to take this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge many of our donors who have faithfully stood by us. I would say YuvaLok belongs to all such friends, without whom we wouldn't be able to move ahead and achieve what we have done.

- ★ **Pharus Foundation, The Netherlands:** For your continued and generous support toward education, nutrition, infrastructure and staff salaries. We are truly grateful.
- ★ **M.T.C.F:** You have been our faithful associate for several years taking care of the nutritional needs of children and building facilities. We cannot thank you enough.
- ★ **Denver Leadership Foundation, USA & Wholeness International, UK:** We thank you and your staff for the channel of blessing you are to us.
- ★ **ACTS & Timpany Foundation:** You became one of us in identifying the needs of the under-served and stepping up with your significant financial support.
- ★ **Marnix Gymnasium, Rotterdam, Netherlands:** The Principal, Staff and Students, thank you for creating an awareness among the students of your school and community in order to raise support for us. Your taking time off to meet with our students and staff with lots of exciting and creative activities is a great diversion from the usual monotony. For all that you do, we are grateful.
- ★ **Movement Mortgage, NC, USA:** You saw what we do and it didn't take any other convincing. You instantly became our partner in keeping with your objectives to love & nurture through academic excellence, character development and preparing young people for success in life. Thank you for your partnership.
- ★ A host of friends from across the world have stood by us by visiting, sharing, praying and giving. Gerard & Nelleke, Frans & Tineke, Ajai & Varsha, Dick & Hermien, Ed & Beth, Max & Marina, Philip & Pauline, Wayne & Azelia, Engel & Nel, Colin & Daphne, John & Pam Cavness, Pradip & Amita, Trevor King, Rick Heers, Mike & Gabi, Melvyn & Nina, Col. Cipryan & Rita, Terry & Lara, Anil & Ruki, Samson & Shaila, Shweta & Jayanth: Your love and friendship together with your giving is priceless.
- ★ To many other friends, who contributed in cash, kind, partnering in activities, volunteering, expertise and prayers - this has all been precious to us for which we say 'a big thank you'.

Project Expenses 2018-19



We are grateful to Mr. Sunil Rajshekhar for instituting the "Sarojini Rajshekhar Memorial Scholarship Award" of Rupees Ten Lakhs which will benefit our top ranking graduating students. This is such a beautiful gesture of love and nurture that will equip young people to reach greater heights in work and life!





School is fun!!



Cycles gifted by Target Corp



Christmas gifts for the students



Surprise!!



700 Lunch plates donated by Trevor King and team, UK



Daily lunch at Chamrajnagar for the elderly



Tailor in the making



Mid-day meals, fortified and nutritious lunch



Play time!



Contagious smile!

OUR PARTNERS



Our Special thanks to:

M/s R. Ramakrishnan & Co. Chartered Accountants, Bangalore



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