



Manava Seva Dharma Samavardhani  
(MSDS)

Sadguru Gnanananda National Awards  
to Women  
for Excellence in  
Social Work  
(2000-2011)

## Sadguru Gnanananda National Awards

In the present age mankind faces a daunting challenge – that of nurturing spiritual values recognizing the Divine in the human, while increasing the awareness of human dignity and self-respect.

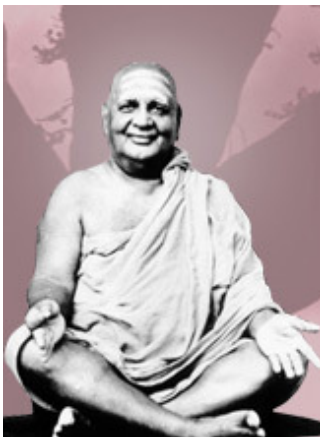
The highest ideal of our culture has been the realization of the freedom of the Self. Yet in practice women have not been given adequate opportunity for self-expression and their creative potential has not been fully realized.

Many great men in our country have acknowledged their indebtedness to the spiritual inspiration received from their mothers. In every era, the indomitable will of some women in loving God or opposing aggression or alleviating pain and suffering individually or through institutions, has been acclaimed by all.

Today, women have a dual responsibility as custodians of our culture and tradition within the family and as visionaries and trendsetters by envisaging new dispensations for themselves and also society at large. So it is enough to be the “angels in the house”, to borrow Virginia Woolf’s phrase, or be the intellectual equals of men. There is a pressing need to chalk out a path of “affirmative action” for themselves that will be distinctly Indian by remaining anchored in our cultural ethos.

Fortunately, scores of dedicated women have now become such agents of social change by taking up the onerous task of serving fellow humans especially women and children. A welcome feature is the accommodation, nay, even positive encouragement which these women are receiving from their families in their endeavor.

An Award has been instituted in the name of one of the great sages of our time, Sadguru Gnanananda Giri Swamikal of Thappovanam near Thiruvannamalai, to salute such women for their indefatigable will, for daring to dream and for caring for others.



When social service is rendered in the spirit of love and joy and dedicated to the Divine, we find the signature of God in such acts. In fact, it is the grace and compassion of spiritual masters which inspire people to take up such social causes. However, the stress of modern lifestyle challenges received wisdom. But as the sage of Tapovanam says in his inimitable style, *when we bring light, darkness will dissolve on its own.* Sadguru Gnanananda award for excellence in social service is not just recognition but a celebration of the great efforts of these women who are the bearers of the light that dispels darkness, they usher in hope and courage where there is despair. They are, indeed, entrepreneurs of spirit.



MSDS identifies and acclaims such women of excellence.

The Sadguru Gnanananda award comprises of

- ❖ A citation of elaborating the services and commending the work of the Awardees.
- ❖ A cash award of Rs.75,000 (Rs.50,000 till 2008)
- ❖ A Silver Plaque
- ❖ A Shawl



*The award, above all, is a symbol of His bounteous grace and blessings.*

#### Award functions held from 2000-2011

Year	City where the felicitation ceremony was held	No. of awardees		
		Women	Family	Corporate
2000	Chennai	5		
2001	Chennai	6		
	Hyderabad	6		
2002	Chennai	5		
	Hyderabad	5		
	Bangalore	5		
2003	Mumbai	16		
2004	Bangalore	6		
	Hyderabad	6		
2005	Chennai	5		
	Bangalore	5		
2006	Chennai	3	1	
	Hyderabad	3	1	
2007	Chennai	5	2	1
2008	Mumbai	6	2	
2009	Chennai	4	1	1
2010	Chennai	2	1	
2011	Chennai	2	1	
	<b>Total</b>	95	18	2

Till 2011, we have conferred the Sadguru Gnanananda Awards to 115 individuals comprising of 95 women, 9 families, and 2 corporate houses in India.

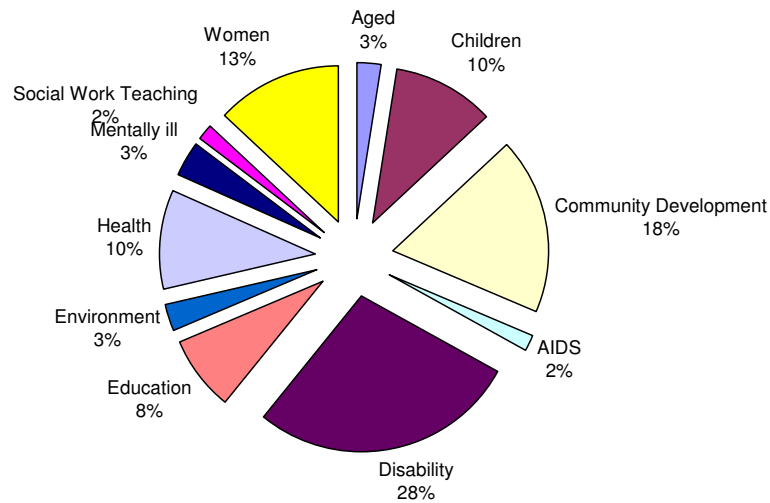


The Sadguru Gnanananda Awardees hail from 17 states of India. They include -

S.no	State	Awardees
1	Andhra Pradesh	15
2	Assam	2
3	Bihar	1
4	Gujarat	2
5	Himachal	2
6	Jharkhand	2
7	Karnataka	16
8	Kerala	5
9	Maharashtra	14
10	Meghalaya	4
11	New Delhi	3
12	Orissa	1
13	Pondichery	4
14	Rajasthan	2
15	Tamilnadu	40
16	Uttar Pradesh	1
17	West Bengal	1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>115</b>

The Awardees address varied social issues

#### Issues Addressed by Awardees





A brief report on the  
Sadguru Gnanananda Award Functions  
(2000 – 2011)



## Sadguru Gnanananda National Awards – 2000

Place: Chennai

Date: 10-01-2000

Venue: Narada Gana Sabha

### *Chief Guest:*

1. Sri.G.V.Ramakrishna IAS, Former Chairman, Dis-Investment Commission, SEBI.

### *Guests of Honour:*

1. Sri.S.Rangarajan (Sujatha- Writer),
2. Dr.C.T.Indra, University of Madras,
3. Sri.J.Jayaraman, Director, BHEL,ONGC
4. Swami Nityananda Giri of Tapovanam

### **Awardees for the Year - 2000**

#### **Ms. Vijayakumari.C.C**

Ms. C.C. Vijayakumari, Founder Managing Trustee, Siva Sakthi Sathya Sai Charitable Trust, Chennai. Known for her courage, compassion and conviction in serving the children with Mental Retardation, Siva Sakthi Kakkum Karangal, which she started in 1994, with the support of the neighbourhood, trains these individuals in independent living skills. She has also adopted two children with Mental Retardation.

#### **Ms. Vandana Gopikumar & Ms. Vaishnavi Jayakumar**

Ms. Vandana Gopikumar and Ms. Vaishnavi Jayakumar, Founder Trustees, The Banyan, a Home for the Menatally Ill Destitute Women, Chennai. The Banyan started in 1993 by Vandana and Vaishnavi, two young and dynamic women, provides shelter, treatment and rehabilitees to Mentally Ill Destitute Women. They believe in the rights of the completely marginalized to live and to be. The mentally Ill Destitute Women at The Banyan are rehabilitated and reunited with their families and thus given a new lease of life. The Banyan makes a difference to these women through its awareness, intervention and outreach programmes.

#### **Ms. Nina Nayak**

Ms. Nina Nayak, President, Karnataka State Council for Child Welfare, Bangalore is involved in Child Development Projects with particular focus on promoting every child's right to grow up in a family. She has also initiated policy level changes in the fields of Adoption, Fostering, De-institutionalizing children, Creche Management and training, Pre-school and Non-formal Education Management and training and empowering disadvantaged women.

#### **Ms. Anjina Rajagopal**

Ms. Anjina Rajagopal, Founder, Saikripa, Noida, U.P. She has been running an orphanage since 1990 and empowers the children by educating them in a nearby school, which she formed in a neighborhood village. She uses this school as a platform for educating the orphans from her Centre along with children in the village, to lead independent lives.



## Sadguru Gnanananda National Awards – 2001

Place: Chennai

Date: 16-02-2001

Venue: Narada Gana Sabha

### **Chief Guests:**

1. Dr.B.Ramamurthi, Eminent Neuro Surgeon
2. Sri.D.R.Mehta IAS,  
Chairman, SEBI

### **Guests of Honour:**

1. Sri.B.R.Kumar, Station Director, AIR, Chennai
2. Sri.A.Venkataramani, MD, Kashyap Radiant
3. Swami Nityananda Giri of Tapovanam

### **Awardees for the Year - 2001**

#### **S. Kavitha**

Ms. Kavitha, lost the power of her limbs to a rare form of polio. She started Rajiv Gandhi Home for Handicapped, Pondicherry in 1996 to ensure that every disadvantaged women would be independent and not wallow in self-pity. All of them receive rehabilitative life-skills training like tailoring, embroidery, vocational education etc. The center has educated and trained over 100 women and have placed them in other institutes.

#### **Poonam Natarajan**

Ms. Poonam Natarjan is the Founder and Chairperson of Vidya Sagar, an institution that nurtures the lives & spirits of 3000 disabled individuals. It's a vibrant place where ideas are heard, discussed & debated which results in an amazingly well knit, cohesive, productive & happy team. The centre today is renowned to be the fountainhead of new ideas, techniques & system for rehabilitation. From addressing disabilities the mission of Vidya Sagar has evolved to Inclusion.

#### **Mariam George Tharakan**

Ms. Mariam George Tharakan, Spring Valley Homes, Kochi: Born with Cerebral Palsy she went on to complete her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and also earned a Masters Degree in Sociology amidst numerous surgeries and remedial procedures that helped rectify some of her bodily structures. She founded the Spring Valley Homes in Kochi to provide care to persons who are challenged due to Cerebral Palsy.

#### **Sushila Bohra**

Sushila Bohra, Netra Heen Vikas Sansthan, Jodhpour, is the Founder President of this Home for Orphans and Destitute women in Jodhpur and the Founder President of Samgra Vikas Sansthan to promote cottage industries and workshops for weaker and rural sections of society. She has been responsible in founding institutions that care for the needy and the weak members of the society, academic institutions that train and guide these hapless individuals and lends a helping hand to numerous voluntary organizations.

#### **Prasann Bhandari**

Ms. Prasann Bandari, Founder, Shri Karni Nagar Vikas Samithi, Kota provides care and shelter for innumerable infants and young children abandoned by their parents. She also focuses on child adoption; particularly of female children. She has been instrumental in restoring the dignity of many unwed mothers and has provided a new lease of life for them.



## Sadguru Gnanananda National Awards – 2001

Place: Hyderabad

Date: 08-02-2001

Venue: Hari Hara Kala Bhavan

### *Chief Guest:*

1. Dr. C Rangarajan, Governor of Andhra Pradesh

### *Guests of Honour:*

1. Dr K Anji Reddy, Chairman, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories
2. Dr Thakur Hariprasad, President, Thakur Hariprasad Institute
3. Swami Nityananda Giri of Tapovanam, Tamilnadu

### **Awardees for the Year - 2001**

#### **Ms. Savithri Vaithi**

Ms. Savithri Vaithi, established Vishranthi Charitable Trust in 1978 with the mission of providing food, shelter, and health care to impoverished women in their old age. The Trust administers both a residential home and a skilled nursing facility, providing lodging and medical care to over 100 women with a focus on caring for the elderly street population and have expanded to include the provision of health care for orphans also.

#### **Ms. Neeta Bahadur**

Ms. Neeta Bahadur, **Founder President of Drishti Samajik Sansthan, Lucknow, an ex-journalist, has dedicated her life for genuine welfare of the handicapped children.** She started off by working with the Visually Impaired and compiled study material from class three to Intermediate in 400 cassettes. Over 1000 persons who are Physically and Mentally challenged have been rehabilitated through her organization.

#### **Ms. Jakkampudi Vijayalakshmi**

Ms. Jakkampudi Vijayalakshmi, Founder, Mahila Mandals, Rajamundry has been an activist since the age of 11, when she participated in the Jai Andhra Movement. She has set up 500 Mahila Mandals in the East Godavari District where she has imparted knowledge and empowered the rural folk. **Spreading literacy and awareness has been her underpinning effort at reaching the unreached and helping them help themselves through self-realisation.**

#### **Ms. Suchitha Somashekariah, Ms. Meena Jain, Ms. Sharon Watts**

Shristi Special Academy was born from a passion for children with special needs felt by three special educators, Meena Jain, Sharon Watts and Suchitra Somashekariah. Through their tireless work and relentless efforts, the organization has spread cheer and love among many children training them through specially devised programs and routine that not only serve as a therapeutic regime but also generate skills in them, calculated to engender confidence and a sense of well-being in day-care.

#### **Ms. Lena D'Silva**

Ms. Lena D'Silva, Mona Remedial Centre, Mumbai. She started out as a school teacher but was soon challenged by the needs of the slow learners who are beset with low IQ. Her passion to do something for these children drove her to start the Mona Remedial Education Centre in 1983. There are more than eighty children with Learning Disabilities who are being trained here through day-care.





## Sadguru Gnanananda National Awards – 2002

**Place: Chennai**

**Date: 27-02-2002**

**Venue: Narada Gana Sabha**

### **Chief Guest:**

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

### **Guests of Honour:**

1. Justice Prabha Sridevan Chennai High Court
2. Sri.V.Narayanan, Chennai Willingdon Trust
3. Swami Nityananda Giri of Tapovanam

### **Awardees for the Year – 2002**

#### **Dr.V.Shantha**

Dr. V. Shanta, Cancer Institute (WIA), Chennai is actively involved in the study of Cancer, its prevention and control and also in equipping specialists in different aspects of Oncological Sciences. She has been instrumental in the development of the Cancer Institute from a cottage hospital to a major comprehensive Cancer Centre of national and International repute with a separate Medical Oncology Department.

#### **Dr.Udaya Mahadevan**

Dr. Udaya Mahadevan, a Doctorate in Psychiatric Social Work from NIMHANS is a lady committed to the cause of Social Work. A professor for over twenty five years in Loyola College, she holds the unique distinction of being a good Samaritan and Professor par excellence in the field of Social Work in Chennai. She is actively involved in the functioning of various organizations where her contributions are immeasurable.

#### **Ms. Rita Panicker**

Ms. Rita Panicker, Founder of 'Butterflies', an organization that works towards the empowerment of street children in New Delhi. She and her team of Educators, Play a Pivotal role in initiating contact with the street children through regular visits to their places of work and stay. They spend time with these children and organize recreational and group activities, which form the basis for establishing a trusting relationship based on equity and respect.

#### **Dr.P. Bhanumathi**

Dr. P. Bhanumathi – The Association of Mentally Handicapped Adults (AMHA) in Trissur, Kerala, in 1997, an organization that trains Mentally Challenged individuals from lower socioeconomic groups. Having first hand experience of the various problems faced by these individuals, she has pledged her life to their cause by starting AMHA with a vision of rehabilitating the Disabled in her neighbourhood.

#### **Dr.Radhike Khanna**

Dr. Radhike Khanna, a Special Educator and Vice Principal of 'SPJ Sadhana School for the Mentally Handicapped', in Mumbai since 1995. She is the only Auditory Integration Therapists and S S S Screener in India. The artistic instinct in her has motivated her to devise a five-year curriculum in Arts and Craft for her students, which can be adapted to individual levels of intelligence and skill. She has successfully pioneered an Art therapy that enhances the Mentally Challenged in self-expression.



## Sadguru Gnanananda National Awards – 2002

Place: Hyderabad      Date: 19-02-2002      Venue: Indira Priyadarshini Auditorium

### *Chief Guest:*

1. Dr. Nageswar Reddy, Leading Gastro-enterologist

### *Guests of Honour:*

1. Sri. G.V. Prasad, Executive Vice Chairman and CEO, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories,
2. Sri. Manoj Kumar, CEO
3. Swami Nityananda Giri of Tapovanam.

### **Awardees for the Year**

#### **Ms. D. Sharifa**

Ms. D. Sharifa, founded STEPS in Pudukkottai, in 1991 with a mission to alleviate the dignity of women by empowering them to fight for their equality. Sexual violence against women, domestic abuse, inter-caste marriage harassment, unwed mothers seeking help, child rape, unequal pay for the women laborers, women's property rights are the various gender and advocacy issues addressed by her.

#### **Ms. Manjula Kalyan**

Ms. Manjula Kalyan, founded Swayamkrushi, in Secunderabad, which is spearheading a movement to increase the awareness and inclusion of adults with Developmental Challenges in the community. They help in setting up 'Group Homes', where a small group of challenged persons live together as a family in a residential locality, managing all their chores under supervision.

#### **Dr. Saradha Menon**

Dr. Sarada Menon has been a pioneer in innovative treatment, capacity building and rehabilitation in the field of Mental Health, exposing people with mental illnesses to more open and therapeutic milieu. She started SCARF, with the idea of developing models of psychosocial rehabilitation which are cost-effective, easily replicable in different parts of the country and which cater to the needs of a diverse range of clientele.

#### **Dr. S.D. Bhatvadekar**

Dr. S.D. Bhatvadekar, started Sulabha Trust, Mumbai with a mission to extend medical support generously to needy people, irrespective of their economic background. The Sulabha School that started with a handful of children in a small room has now one hundred and twenty-eight students of lower socio-economic levels on its roll. With many more waiting to enroll. The most remarkable feature of the school is that the classes are grouped according to the functional levels of the students.

#### **Ms. Minati Padhi**

Ms. Minati Padhi, started Institute for Women's Development, Orissa, with a mission to uplift the life of marginalized, discriminated and disadvantaged people, women in particular. They work with the tribal women of Orissa and their main focus is women empowerment and creating worlds free from discrimination and exploitation of any kind.



## Sadguru Gnanananda National Awards – 2002

Place : Bangalore

Date: 24-03-2002

Venue: Gurunanak Bhavan

### *Chief Guest:*

1. Smt.V.S.Ramadevi, Governor of Karnataka

### *Guests of Honour:*

1. Smt.Sudha. N.Murthi, Chairperson , Infosys Foundation,
2. Smt.Mythili Rangarajan,C.G.M. State Bank of India, Karnataka
3. Sri.V.Shankar,Secretary, SIES, Mumbai
4. Swami Nityananda Giri of Tapovanam

### **Awardees for the Year**

#### **Ms. Kaveri Natarajan**

Ms. Kaveri Natarajan founded “Kaingkarya Social Welfare Organization” in 1994, a welfare organization involved in developmental activities for women and children like school enrollment programs for children, Counseling and guidance services, Transit school for Child workers, Vocational training programs for women, Health awareness reprograms, Self-help groups and Industrial training schools for women.

#### **Ms. Vidya Shankar**

Ms. Vidya Shankar, Founder and Chairperson of the “Relief Foundation” started in 1998 has created a Transit Shelter Home for children especially in the Juvenile and Observation Homes in Chennai, besides HIV affected children and their parents. They also conduct Remedial coaching classes, Supplementary Education through mobile libraries and Health and Career guidance programs for children in Community schools

#### **Ms. Mary Paul**

Ms. Mary Paul, started Vathslaya in 1988 in Bangalore, which provides permanent rehabilitation for rescued children by providing them permanent homes through adoption.: Ms. Mary Paul has over the years played an active role in rescuing a number of children from the hands of death or injustice and has helped women who have been ostracized due to unfortunate social circumstances.

#### **Ms. Sheeba Nair**

Ms. Sheeba Nair, Managing Trustee of OASIS, a Selfless International Society which is a professional firm wedded to propagation of character building concepts in Baroda. She is the Facilitator of the OASIS Movement, which is dedicated to social transformation through community self-leadership education and development.

#### **Ms. Bidulatha Huika**

Ms. Bidulata Huika, of Orissa Adibasi Manch hails from the Kandha tribe, a backward, socially and economically exploited tribe of Orissa. She has been involved in several Initiatives - Human Rights violations, crusading against economical Exploitation of tribes to welfare and overall development of these tribal groups for over twenty years.



## Sadguru Gnanananda National Awards – 2003

Place: Mumbai

Date:01-02-2003

Venue: Shanmukhananda Chandrashekara Saraswathi Hall.

### *Chief Guest:*

1. His Excellency Sri P S Ramamohan Rao, Governor of Tamilnadu
2. His Excellency Sri Mohamed Fazal, Governor of Maharashtra

### *Guests of Honour:*

- 1.Smt.Sivasankari, Writer
- 2.Padmasri K.Anji Reddy, Chairman, Dr.Reddy's Laboratories

### **Ms. Indra D Kothari**

Ms. Indra D Kothari, Chairperson, Guild of Service (Central), has for the last 26 years chaired various activities of the Guild which encompasses a wide range of activities from care of the aged, the handicapped and the destitute to vocational training, sponsorship programmes, adoption units for children, general education and a home for the mentally challenged.

### **Ms. Girija Anand Sapre**

Ms. Girija Anand Sapre, Project Director, Community Aid and Sponsorship Programme (CASP), an organisation in Pune engaged in promoting child welfare activities. In the year 1986 she set up "The Centre for Special Education", the one and only Institute for cerebral palsied children in Pune, providing special education, pre-vocational skills and relevant therapies for them.

### **Ms. S V Vasumathi**

Ms. S V Mala, Ms. S V Radha and Ms. S V Vasumathi, have established the Sri Vishwa Vidyalaya Matriculation Higher Secondary School in the hamlet of Otteri Extension, in the outskirts of Chennai. Their unique teaching methods act as a catalyst to first generation learners, who undergo complete metamorphosis in the Institution and pass out as beacons of hope to our country.

### **Ms. Sunanda Tholabandi**

Ms. Sunanda Tholabandi, established Ujwal Rural Development Service Society (URDSS), in Bijapur that works for the upliftment of the backward and downtrodden communities like Lambani and Kuruba communities. Their empowerment activities ensure that the underprivileged communities move towards development.

### **Ms. Shabnam Ramaswami**

Ms. Shabnam Ramaswami, established Street Survivors India, in New Delhi in October 1990 to build a grass-roots institution for working children. She has launched 'Jagriti', a school in West Bengal's Murshidabad district at Katna, that provides education & nutrition to some 300 socially disadvantaged children from nine neighboring villages.



**Dr Grace Mathew**

Dr Grace Mathew, a Doctorate in Social Work from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, has been actively involved in teaching Social Work for 24 years. She has been instrumental in inspiring hundreds of students who came under her guidance, to heal the inequalities in society by working/starting social work organizations.

**Ms. Nalini Gangadharan**

Ms. Nalini Gangadharan, of Dr. Reddy's Foundation for Human and Social Development, has defined a viable and sustainable social investment model through public-private partnerships with civil society organizations, community based organizations, NGOs, State Governments, networks, business, media, national and international agencies.

**Ms. Sudha Balachandra**

Ms. Sudha Balachandra, Executive Secretary and Director General of National Society for Equal Opportunities for the Handicapped (NASEOH), a Bombay based NGO, started in 1968, helps in developing the abilities of the disabled by providing the disabled equal opportunities in education, work, vocational training and recreation.

**Ms. Jabeen Jambughodwala**

Ms. Jabeen Jambughodwala, has established SAHAJ, an organisation that works towards empowering tribal women through the promotion of commercially viable art and craft-based activities. They provide home based income generation activities for the tribal women like handicrafts made out of bamboo, bead work, quilting etc which are exported.

**Ms. Reena Bora**

Ms. Reena Bora, started her career in 1976 as Branch Secretary of Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW), Assam Branch, and is now its Vice President. An enthusiastic and popular person in Assam, she has dedicated her life to empower the people in the backward areas of Assam, rehabilitating destitute women Lobbying for consumers.

**Ms. C K Gariyali**

Ms. C K Gariyali IAS, has immensely contributed to the growth of the Social Sector in Tamil Nadu and influenced the social policies in India. Her core area of interest is women's empowerment and converting women's self-help movement into a tool for eradicating poverty and also envisions a 'mal-nutrition free Tamilnadu'

**Ms. Kasturi Mohapatra**

Ms. Kasturi Mohapatra established 'Open Learning Systems', in 1987, an Organisation in Bhubaneshwar, dedicated to the cause of children. She strives towards providing and promoting a dream childhood, free of punishment and pressure, free of labels and stigma, with ample scope for the development of the child's potentials.



**Ms. Anjali Gopalan**

Ms. Anjali Gopalan established 'The NAZ Foundation', in 1994, a community based organisation in New Delhi, dedicated to the battle against HIV disease in India. NAZ Foundation offers services through its care and support services program which aims at reducing the social stigma associated with the HIV /AIDS.

**Padmashri Ms. Shantha Sinha**

Padmashri Ms. Shantha Sinha of MV Foundation, in the Ranga Reddy district of Andhra Pradesh, deals with the twin issues of child labour and illiteracy. "Every child should attend school and no child should work" is her guiding philosophy. They have been instrumental in covering more than 500 villages of which 168 villages have been declared as "child labour free".

**Ms. Meenakshi Balasubramanian**

Ms. Meenakshi Balasubramanian established MBA Foundation, in Mumbai, an organisation that creates life care centres for the disabled and disadvantaged people and its mission is to provide a life of dignity and self-esteem for them. She has successfully implemented the reverse integration of able bodied with the disabled, and has provided various job opportunities and empowered the lives of innumerable disabled people.

**Ms. Meena Dadha**

Ms. Meena Dadha established Mukti, in 1986, at Chennai, an Organisation that manufactures and donates calipers and artificial limbs to amputees and polio victims to provide them with vital mobility skills. At Mukti, lightweight artificial lower and upper limbs adopting modern technology using High density Polyethylene are custom fabricated and manufactured.



## Sadguru Gnanananda National Awards – 2004

Place:Hyderabad

Date: 6-02-2004

Venue: Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan

### **Chief Guest:**

1. Padmashri Shantha Sinha, Magsaysay Award winner-2003

### **Guests of Honour:**

1. Mr V Shankar, Secretary, SIES, Mumbai
2. Smt. Akhila Srinivasan, MD, Shriram Investments Ltd., Chennai
3. Ms & Mr Satish Reddy, MD & COO, Dr.Reddy's Laboratories,
4. Swami Nityananda Giri of Tapovanam.

### **Ms.Amritha Rajagopal**

Ms.Amritha Rajagopal, reaches out to the needy and supports several social organisations in the city of Chennai. She runs no organisation but helps in the running of other organisation by catering to a variety of needs from supply of rice, daal, soaps, shampoos, talcum powder, tooth paste, clothes, notebooks, school bags, infrastructural aid and even scholarships, wheel chairs, tri cycles, artificial limbs and hearing aids to the disabled.

### **Dr S Jayam**

Dr Jayam, a paediatrician par excellence, has dedicated her life to the welfare of under privileged children. She established Sahishnatha Educational and Charitable Trust, which provides total medical care through a holistic approach and has the first fully equipped Mobile Intensive care unit, which provides emergency medical transportation and timely resuscitation of newborn babies with complications, needing intensive care treatment.

### **Ms. Ranjana Kumar**

Ms. Ranjana Kumar, Chairperson, NABARD, is the first woman Chairperson of a bank in the whole of Asia is committed to social development. She has done yeoman service in encouraging the Bank to provide credit linkages to the poor women belonging to Self Help Groups to bring them out of poverty. Her focus is on promoting integrated rural development and in securing the prosperity of rural areas

### **Ms Nassema M Hurzuk**

Ms Nassema M Hurzuk, a paraplegic. established Helpers of the Handicapped in 1983, an organisation which strives in developing the abilities of the disabled. It is a hostel cum rehabilitation centre having a vocational training centre totally manned by the disabled who have a better understanding of the aspects of rehabilitation.

### **Ms Gool Plumber**

Ms Gool Plumber established Andhra Pradesh Association for the Welfare of the Mentally Retarded (APAWMR) in 1976 an organisation that works for the welfare and rehabilitation of the mentally retarded. She strongly believes that early detection and early intervention are the first steps in rehabilitation and uses sports as a tool to shape the overall personality of the disabled.

### **Ms Madhu Modi**

Ms Madhu Modi is associated with the Society for Welfare of Mentally Handicapped (SWMH), an organisation that works for the welfare and rehabilitation of the mentally retarded. SWMH has become a centre for hope for the disabled individuals in Jaipur. provide a good environment, modern scientific techniques for education and vocational training facilities for special children. This has ensured them a life of dignity and self-esteem.



## **Sadguru Gnanananda National Awards – 2004**

Place: Bangalore

Date:20-03-2004

Venue: Gurunanak Bhavan

### ***Chief Guest:***

1. Sri N Damodharan, Chairman UTI

### ***Guests of Honour:***

1. Dr H Sudarshan, Right Livelihood award winner – 1994
2. Dr M S Thimmappa, Vice Chancellor, Bangalore University
3. Ms Vijaya Mohan Ram, Chief Commissioner of IT, Karnataka
4. Sri C S Pani, Former ED, IDBI
5. Swami Nityananda Giri of Tapovanam

### **Ms Uma Narayanan**

Ms Uma Narayanan, established the SOS Children's village of India – Chatnath Homes in the year 1979 which provides a loving home for destitute and abandoned children. The village fosters orphan and destitute children in a family environment and makes them vocationally competent to lead independent lives and be a part of society..Ms Narayan is also the founder of the Karna prayag Trust, which is a reception cum foundling home to take care of babies 'in transit' for adoption.

### **Dr Thara**

Dr Thara, a medical doctor by training and profession, has been very sensitive to the issue of mental disability and hence joined Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF).She has developed a scale called "IDEAS" to measure disability caused by mental illness. She is actively involved in community based rehabilitation programmes, and works to sensitise the public on the issue of disability caused by mental illness.

### **Ms Leena Joseph**

Ms Leena Joseph, is associated with Naandi Foundation, an autonomous foundation working for the development of Andhra Pradesh. They prepare nutritious midday meals at a modern mechanised and central kitchen and distributes it to numerous schools by trucks. They also work to create an environment where the children can wonder, explore, discover and learn and hopes to make every child's dream of education a reality.

### **Ms Ajitha Kunnikal**

Ms Ajitha Kunnikal, established Anweshi Women's Counselling Centre, in 1993, an NGO dedicated to the cause of women and their rights. MTheir mission has been to enhance the dignity of women by empowering them to fight for their equality. They offer counselling and legal aid, and also conducts workshops, seminars and community work.

### **Ms Diana Tholoor**

Ms Diana Tholoor, established Snehalaya Welfare Society in 1995, and Chrysallis - a Theatre of the performing arts for the specially challenged. Stage plays, radio performances, street plays, solo and group dances, vocals performed to large audiences have all been part of the theatre's outreach programme. It has empowered the specially challenged and has helped them to realize their potential.

### **Dr Azmat Nayeem**

Dr Azmat Nayeem, established Women's Organisation for Managing Economic and Educational Needs in 1986, at Hyderabad, an organisation that focuses on women issues and works for the welfare of the girl child. They aim to uplift the poor urban slum women both educationally through motivation and awareness building and economically through technical education and income generation programmes.





## Sadguru Gnanananda National Awards – 2005

Place: Chennai

Date:26-02-2005

Venue: Narada Gana Sabha

### Chief guest

**Dr V Krishnamurthy**, Chairman, National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council

### Guests of Honour:

Dr. Mohan, MV Diabetes Specialities Centre (P) Ltd.

Dr Nirmala Prasad, Principal, MOP Vaishnav College

Swami Nityanandagiri of Tapovanam

### Ms Viji Srinivasan

Ms Viji Srinivasan, established **Adithi in Patna**, is an organisation which initiates creative and practical projects for the underprivileged women in Bihar and Jharkand districts. She focuses on educating thousands of little girls, train local women in various activities like handicrafts and encourage them to start small businesses like shops, farming and fishing etc., thereby ensuring them a secure future and a life with dignity.

### Ms Bhooma Parthasarathy

Ms Bhooma Parthasarathy, established **Thirumalai Charitable Trust** in Ranipet, an organisation which works for empowerment of the rural community in Vellore district. Their multifarious activities include Womens development, Community Health, programmes on substance abuse, supplementary education for children, services for the disabled, veterinary care and environment protection programmes.

### Mrs G Lalitha

Ms G Lalitha, established **New Life Charitable Trust** in Eraiyur village, in Sriperumbudur, with the aim of securing the well being of old people and today has spread its wings in taking care of parentless and helpless children as well. They also facilitate medical treatment by conducting regular medical camps at Eraiyur. She also works on various community development programmes to create a model village.

### Dr Lakshmi Vijayakumar

Dr Lakshmi Vijayakumar, established **Sneha**, in Chennai, the only suicide-prevention centre in Tamil Nadu. Sneha has helped over one lakh people to opt for life, instead of death by suicide. She and her team of counselors provide emotional support to the people with suicidal tendencies. They listen to them carefully and bring to their consciousness all the options that had always been there but which they had not noticed in their desperation.

### Ms Anitanand

Ms Anitanand established **Sri Bhavani Mahila Mandali**, in Hyderabad along with her mother. They have setup a short stay homes for women in distress and help in counseling them to resolve the family conflicts. They also offer programmes in Adult education, Water Conservation, Vocational training for the underprivileged, Economic empowerment of poor people and AIDS awareness programmes.



## **Sadguru Gnanananda National Awards – 2005**

Place: Bangalore

Date: 26-03-2005

Venue: Gurunanak Bhavan

### ***Chief guest***

Padma Vibhushan Justice M N Venkatachaliah,  
Former Chief Justice of India and former Chairman, National Human Rights Commission

### ***Sannidhyam (Blessings)***

Parama Pujya Srimat Paramahansa Parivrajak Acarya Sachidananda Pranavaswarupa Jagatguru  
Sri Sri Sri Jayendra Puri Mahaswamigal  
Padasevaka Peetadhipathi of Sri Kailash Ashrama Mahasamasthana, Sri Rajarajeswari Nagar, Bangalore

### ***Guests of Honour***

Smt Ranjini Srikumar, Principal Secretary to Government, Women and Child Dev.  
Mr. NRK Raman, COO, i-flex Solutions Ltd. Bangalore  
Mr. Samuel Paul, Founder Chairman, Public Affairs Centre, Bangalore

### **Dr Kshama Metre**

Dr Kshama Metre or Doctor Didi, a pediatrician by profession, is the Director of **Chinmaya Tapovan Trust**, an organisation which strives for comprehensive development in the rural areas of Himachal Pradesh. Lifting of women from dependency and despondency to self-reliance and confidence is their main development goal. She also focuses on natural resource management, literacy campaigns, legal counseling and also involving women in local governance.

### **Ms Shanthi Jagan**

Ms Shanthi Jagan established **Women's Organization for Rural Literacy and Development (WORLD) Society**, in 1989, in Tirapattur, an organisation which works for the upliftment of the rural Dalit women. Her main objective is to bring about a holistic development in the lives of rural women especially from the Dalit community and provides them opportunities for their economic empowerment.

### **Ms Veenadhari**

Ms Veenadhari, a HIV +, established **Karavali Positive Women and Child network**, in Mangalore, a network for the AIDS affected, to enable HIV + people to lead a life through positive thinking and alternative treatments. A firm believer in nature cure and Ayurveda, she has created history by not depending on the anti-retroviral drugs but by developing her own therapy - a mix of household ingredients, herbs and natural foods.

### **Ms S G Susheelamma**

Ms S G Susheelamma established **Sumangali Seva Ashram**, in Cholanayakanahalli, in 1975, an organisation that works for the betterment of the rural community near Bangalore with special focus on women and children. It is a shelter and school to educate destitute women. They provide counselling services, adult literacy, entrepreneurship development, cottage industry training workshop etc. for these women.

### **Ms Kosaraju Shantha Kumari**

Ms Kosaraju Shantha Kumari established **Sri Satya Sai Seva Ashram**, a home for the aged at Kondapur, near Hyderabad in 1992. Food, shelter, clothing and medical treatment are offered free to the destitute aged, coupled with love and affection. By allowing the inmates to participate in all the activities like cooking, gardening etc., they are made to feel at home and hence lead a happy and contented life.



## Sadguru Gnanananda National Awards – 2006

Place: Chennai

Date:04-02-2006

Venue: Narada Gana Sabha

### *Chief guest*

Mr T S Krishnamurthy

Former, Chief Election Commissioner of India

### *Guests of Honou:*

Mr N Sankar, Chairman, Sanmar group of Companies  
Swami Nityanandagiri of Tapovanam

### **Dr Kiran Bedi**

Dr Kiran Bedi, India's first woman police officer, feels that policing is also social service from a position of power. She established *Navjyoti*, in 1988 and *India Vision Foundation* in 1994, which reaches out to thousands of poor children daily for primary education; women for adult literacy; provides vocational training and counseling services in the slums, rural areas and inside the prison apart from treatment for drug addiction.

### **Ms Uma Preman**

Ms Uma Preman established *Santhi Medical Information Centre* in 1996 at Guruvayoor, which provides comprehensive medial information to the needy and also facilitates them with the required treatment. She believes that 'A life saved is a life given' and her mission is to provide medical information through various means – Awareness programs, personal discussions, directories, Health magazines and the Internet

### **Ms Jameela Nishat**

Ms Jameela Nishat established *Shaheen Womens's Resource and Welfare centre* in 2002 at Hyderabad, which works primarily with grassroots women, on communal harmony, gender issues, education, health and legal advocacy. Their activities include vocational training, non-formal education, awareness programmes, legal advocacy, counseling, camapaigns for a gender just society and in organizing cultural programmes.

### **Families in Social Work**

**Air Vice Marshal V Krishnaswamy and Mrs Jaya Krishnaswamy**, have been instrumental in establishing *Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children*, in 1989, which provides early intervention programs to the mentally challenged children in the age group birth to 6 years. Their objective is to maximise the resources available in the child in the developmental areas: cognition, communication, motor, socialization and self help as much as they are applicable to age-appropriate developmental tasks.



## Sadguru Gnanananda National Awards – 2006

Place: Hyderabad

Date: 18-02-2006

Venue: JNTU School of Planning  
& Architecture

### *Chief guest*

Mr Y S Chowdary  
Chairman, Sujana Group of Companies

### *Guests of Honour:*

Mr K C Jain, Senior President, Kesoram Cements,  
Swami Nityanandagiri of Tapovanam

### **Ms Hema Bedi**

Ms Hema Bedi, established **STHREE – Society To Help Rural Empowerment and Education**, in 2000, at Kadiri, Anantapur district, an organisation committed to empower, educate & rehabilitate the sexually exploited and distressed category of children and women from rural India. STHREE provides livelihood options and income generation schemes to the families of these girls and have rehabilitated nearly 700 girls.

### **Ms Nirmala Purandare**

Ms Nirmala Purandare, established **Vanasthali Rural Development Centre**, in 1981, in Pune, that provides each village with a Balwadi and educational programmes for the rural areas of Maharashtra. She spread the concept of “A Balwadi for every village” to promote pre-primary education as a stepping stone to increasing literacy levels in villages. Nearly 200 balwadis have been set up which provide pre-primary education to about 7000 children.

### **Ms Sunita Rao**

Ms Sunita Rao, established **Malnad Home Garden and Seed Exchange Collective**, in 2001 at Sirsi, Karnataka which promotes home garden diversity, protecting forests, and encouraging local self-help seed exchange networks. A development activist, she believes that a few small seeds can feed a family, a fistful of seeds the whole community and she has made an impressive beginning in saving seed diversity.

### **Families in Social Work**

**Dr M R Seetharam and Dr Sridevi**, established new health initiatives in **Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM)**, at Saragur, which works for the betterment of the rural poor and the displaced and dispossessed tribals of Karnataka. **Dr. Seetharam**, an orthopaedic surgeon and **Dr Sridevi**, a pathologist are a doctor couple who dream of a career in medicine which involves working only with the rural community. Being an ardent follower of Swami Vivekananda from young age, they have dedicated their lives to work for the welfare of the most backward rural areas of India.



## Sadguru Gnanananda National Awards – 2007

Place: Chennai

Date:10-02-2007

Venue: Narada Gana Sabha

*Chief guest*

**His Excellency Thiru Surjit Singh Barnala**

**Governor of Tamilnadu**

*Guests of Honour:*

**Mr K C Chakrabarty**

**Chairman & Managing Director, Indian Bank**

**Mr P Haridas**

**Secretary, MOP Vaishnav College for Women**

**Swami Nityanandagiri of Tapovanam**

### AWARDEES FOR THE YEAR 2007

**Ms. Aneena Joseph** established **Corrections India** in Kerala and **Aswasa Bhavan** that works for the total rehabilitation and welfare of prisoners and their families. An NGO approved to do counseling among prisoners they provide counseling and offers de-addiction treatment to prisoners. **Aswasa Bhavan** or the House of Solace is a home for the children of prisoners which gives hope, love and joy to these children, in order to break the cycle of crime in the society.

**Ms Bhanumathi Narasimhan**, Trustee of the **Sri Sri Ravishankar Trust**, Bangalore, heads the **Ved Vignan Maha Vidya Peeth**, a free rural school, which provides value-education to over 2,500 children, largely comprising of first generation learners. She also heads the **Value Integrated Services To All (VISTA)** project of the Trust which has imparted skill training and education to around 2,000 women from the remotest villages of Karnataka.

**Ms Gargi Banerji**, launched **Pragya** to develop innovative solutions for problems such as depletion of medicinal plants, reducing water resources and lack of livelihood options in the five Himalayan states of Jammu & Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttranchal & Himachal Pradesh . Community plantations, kitchen gardens, herb 'orphanages' aimed at preserving critically endangered species, ethno botanic centres, rural museums for preservation of local culture, solar energy systems etc. leading to eco conservation and snow harvesting are projects implemented by **Pragya**.



**Ms M R Prashantha**, established **Prerana Resource Centre**, Bangalore which provides employment opportunities and care to visually impaired and disabled girls of rural Karnataka. She has identified more than hundred job opportunities for them and has successfully placed over four hundred visually impaired and disabled girls in different factories and industries. They also provide free hostel facility to about ninety disabled and visually impaired women and also impart mobility training, vocational training, and on the job training.

**Ms Radha Mani** established **League for Education and Development (LEAD)** which works for a gender-sensitive society through people's own initiative and **Sangamam**, a women's multipurpose thrift and credit cooperative Society. These micro finance programmes and livelihood programmes address gender dimensions like control over assets, loans, marketing, income etc. and poverty alleviation issues. LEAD also focuses on development programmes for the differently abled and Child rights campaigns.

### Families in Social Work

**Ms Chandra and Mr ADSN Prasad**, established **Pathway Centres for Rehabilitation and Education of Mentally retarded** in Chennai, which offers free and affordable services to children with mental retardation and related conditions. They offer a wide range of vocational training which provide employment to these children making them self-reliant individuals. **Pamela Martinez – Pathway Agro Farm** at Agili village, and **The Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for the Disabled Adults** at Koothavakkam village are two other facilities started by this enterprising couple.

**Dr S V Kameswari & Dr Suryaprakash Vinjamuri** established **Life-Health Reinforcement Group**, in Hyderabad, with a vision of developing a just society where people enjoy health as a right. This motivated doctor couple understands the current approaches in the health sector, identify effective methods, promote established treatment interventions, and create hope for the untreatable. Their projects, '*Bringing in Life*' offers cost effective, appropriate interventions for addressing the issue of infertility, and '*The Open House*' focuses on sharing of information on food and its role in health promotion. They also have special programmes for the aged.

### **Socially Responsive Corporate**

**Mr B Suresh Kamath**, established **Laser Soft Infosystems Ltd**, a Chennai-based banking software products company. A company with a rare vision to empower disadvantaged, nearly two thirds of its employees is challenged - either physically or economically. **Mr Kamath** has also established **LITE (Life Institute for Technical Education)**, an advanced technical institute which provides good quality technical education coupled with business domain knowledge for these special students and transform them into IT professionals with high levels of knowledge and skills. Lasersoft - '*the firm with a heart*' has been successful in converting disability into ability.



## **Sadguru Gnanananda Awards 2008**

Place: Mumbai

Date:08-03-2008

Venue: **Shanmukhananda Chandrashekara Saraswathi Hall**

### **Chief Guest**

Dr (Smt.) Indu Shahani  
Sheriff of Mumbai

### **Guests of Honour**

#### **Ms Gloria Desouza**

Founder, Parisar Asha & Board member, Ashoka Foundation

#### **Swami Nityanandagiri of Tapovanam**

### **Brief Profile of the 2008 Awardees**

**Dr.Shabina Ahmed** established **Assam Autism Foundation** in 2003, with a vision to work for Developmental Disabilities and create widespread awareness. The activities of **Assam Autism Foundation** are, Day Care Centre, Research Centre, Social Inclusion and Employment of disabled adults. They focus on clinical diagnosis of developmental disabilities, assessment, early intervention programs, counseling, empowerment, education and resource center for parents, awareness and outreach programs, training, research and rehabilitation for the hearing impaired. Despite the remote location and zero awareness, Dr.Shabina Ahmed has provided Home Care Service for 165 and Day Care Services for 34 autistic children. 18 Cerebral Palsy and 42 Mentally Retarded children have been under her care.

**Mrs.Shoba Murthy** established **Aarambh** in 1997, with a vision to uplift slum children through education. The prime focus of **Aarambh** is to run study centers for slum children and vagabonds. They identify children who have dropped out of schools, convince the parents as well as the children and re-enroll them in zila parishad schools. **Aarambh** has 10 study centers across Mumbai. It also runs a computer lab and a library. Apart from helping thousands of students re-enroll into schools, Mrs.Shoba Murthy has succeeded in admitting five students into college.

**Mrs.Shanti Raghavan** established **EnAble India** in 1999, which works for the education, employment and rehabilitation of people with disabilities. Based at Bangalore, **EnAble India** provides education, rehabilitation, employment, post employment, support and recreation across all disability groups and has created a new talent pool that is now being tapped to meet Corporate India's growing manpower needs. Presently, 1600 disabled people have registered with **EnAble India** for training and employment. Last year, they have placed 170 disabled people in pre-dominantly white collar jobs across corporate companies in India.

**Mrs.Soma Ghosh** established **Onkar Seva Sansthan** in 2000, with a vision to work for the women and children of the rural tribal community in education, health, livelihood, human resource development and natural resource management sectors. Since everyday life is a challenge to the people of Santhal Parganas in Jamtara and Deoghar districts of Jharkhand, **Mrs.Soma Ghosh**, felt the need to work for all round development of the tribal community which was backward in all respects. Literacy, women empowerment



through Self Help Groups, environmental awareness, women's rights protection, consumer awareness program, abolition of child labor, improvement of education status in government schools were some of the major activities that **Mrs.Soma Ghosh** has worked on.

**Sr.Lissy Joseph** established **National Domestic Workers Movement** (NDWM) in Andhra Pradesh in 1998, with a vision to empower the domestic workers to face life and not to become victims of any kind of exploitation at home, work place and society. She works for the cause of domestic workers who lack dignity, face injustice and violence and non-recognition of their work status. She created a platform for domestic workers to come together, discuss issues amongst themselves as well as with the government and public.

**Dr.Maya Shriram Tulpule** established **Shweta Association** in 2001, with a vision to prevent the ill-effects of Vitisigo (Leucoderma), alleviate the social stigma and support the people who suffer the condition. Being a doctor and a person with Vitisigo, she is able to handle both the social and medical aspects of the issue. To support the affected people, **Dr.Maya Shriram Tulpule** started **Shweta Association** in Pune. They conduct social awareness programs by arranging public meetings, group discussions, lectures, weekly meetings, publish pamphlets and booklets. Marriage is a daunting social problem, which **Shweta Association** has offset to a certain extent by setting up a marriage bureau. It is functioning successfully for the past three years.

### **Families in Social Work**

**Mrs.Meenakshi Umesh & Mr.Umesh Chandrasekhar** established **Puvidham** in 1992, with a vision to propagate Organic Farming through education. This couple believes that educating children on Organic Farming would be an effective process to propagate the method. Puvidham's learning center started off with 9 students in the year 2000 and has steadily grown to educate 55 students in 2007. The focus is farming and all subjects are taught with farming as the basis. **Mrs.Meenakshi Umesh and Mr.Umesh** consider farming as the most important occupation on earth and proper education on effective farming would have long drawn successful results.

**Mrs.Bhuvaneswari Muralidharan and Mr.V.Muralidharan** established **Sevalaya** in 1988, with a vision to provide quality education free of cost for the economically backward rural students. **Sevalaya** was started in 1988 at Kasuva village, 42 km from Chennai. Today a network of organizations functions under **Sevalaya**. Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School provides free education for 850 children from nearby villages. Swami Vivekanandha boys' hostel and Mother Teresa girls' hostel shelter 160 destitute children. **Sevalaya** also runs Swami Vivekanandha Library, Vinobhaji goshala, Sri Ramakrishna Paramhamsar home for the Aged and Kasthurba Crafts Center. These initiatives have definitely improved the standard of life of the people living in and around Kasuva village.





## **Sadguru Gnanananda Awards 2009**

Place: Chennai

Date:08-03-2009

Venue: **Narada Gana Sabha, Chennai**

**Chief Guest**

Mr. A S Venkatesh - Past District Governor, Rotary International Dist 321

**Guests of Honour**

Ms Ela Bhatt, Founder, SEWA

**Swami Nityanandagiri of Tapovanam**

### **Brief Profile of the 2009 Awardees**

**Ms. Amutha Shanty**, established **Thiyagam Women Trust** in Madurai, with a vision to seek solutions for the problems of the disabled women rather than lament on their condition. Their Tailoring Unit & DTP centre train & provide employment to disabled girls. A Counseling & Guidance cell, Self Help Groups, Friends Circle and Cultural Troupe formed by the Trust have motivated many disabled women and successfully helped in their rehabilitation. **Thiyagam Narpanpu Kalvi Maiyam**, free evening village tuition centers imparts life skills and value based training for about 400 children

**Ms. Belbora Wankhar**, established **Meghalaya Parents Association for the Disabled (MPEAD)** to empower disabled children and their parents in North East India. She trains them to make them part of the mainstream and creates an environment for them to live with confidence in the community. Her rehabilitation programs focus on prevention and early detection of disabilities, parental counseling, vocational training, socio-economic enterprises, schemes and projects for the benefit of the disabled and their parents. These efforts have transformed them from being proactive rather than reactive.

**Ms. Sumithra Prasad**, established **D.O.R.A.I Foundation**, with a vision to propagate social issues through media. She has conceptualized and directed short films on many social issues like autism, inclusion, access for people with disability, mental health, substance abuse, women issues, disaster mitigation, renewable energy etc. She also conducts capacity building programs, leadership programs, counseling workshops, motivational camps, de-addiction workshops, attitude modification programs, community based rehabilitation projects and provides documentation services to many NGOs.

**Ms. Mukteshwari K Bosco** established **Healing Fields Foundation** in Hyderabad with a vision to enable quality health care access for all sections of the society. They conduct extensive research to understand the health needs and health care utilization by the people. They have designed a special health insurance program for the rural people. Their interventions have made a considerable change in the rural health scenario as health care which was unaffordable has now been made available at a significantly lower cost.



### **Family in Social Work**

**Dr. Antonio Salafia & Ms. Elizabeth Salafia**, established **Sishu Prem Samaj** in Mumbai which works for the welfare of leprosy patients and their children. It provides medical intervention and socio-economic support mechanism for the affected families. They also run *seventeen* Balwadis and *seven* support classes in the slums of Mumbai wherein they support over 650 children. Their Scheme for the Aged and Destitute (SAAD) provides ration to the needy, deformed old leprosy patients and also disburses pension to a few of them.

### **Socially Responsive Corporate**

**Ms. Anubhuti Mittal**, founded **Anubhuti Diversity Solutions** which provides employment opportunities to the differently abled people, mid career women and senior retired professionals. She also enables Corporates to make disabled friendly infrastructure improvements, enable people to interact and work with disabled persons, map jobs with the most suitable disability type and design and develop customized programs based on the customer's requirements. They also facilitate NGOS to tailor make their training programs according to the needs of Corporates.



## **Sadguru Gnanananda Awards 2010**

Place: Chennai

Date: 13-03-2010

Venue: **Narada Gana Sabha, Chennai**

**Chief Guest**

**Shri N Gopalswami, Former CEC, Govt. of India**

**Guest of Honour**

**Swami Nityanandagiri of Tapovanam**

### **Brief Profile of the 2010 Awardees**

**Sister Lalitha**, established **Jeevodaya Hospice for Cancer Patients** in 1990, with a vision to offer free palliative care to terminally ill cancer patients in Tamilnadu. It is the first hospice for cancer patients in South India offering succor to advanced cancer patients irrespective of caste, creed and social status. **Jeevodaya**, is a 50 bedded hospice run by a multi-professional team of committed doctors, nurses, nursing assistants, social workers, counselors and volunteers, who are all well trained in palliative care. **Jeevodaya** has been a refuge and haven to about 4300 patients and their families. Besides enabling a patient to live with dignity till the very end, Jeevodaya also provides moral, spiritual and psychological support to the patients and their family members.

**Smt. Phoolbasan Yadav**, established **Maa Bamleshwari Jan Hitkari Samiti**, in 2001, working for the welfare of women and children in the rural district of Rajnandgaon, Chattisgarh. To make the women economically independent, **Smt. Phoolbasan Yadav**, inspired them to start unconventional jobs. Amongst her 11,382 groups, 18 are involved in mine contracts, 129 in fishing, 432 in agriculture, 215 in catering services, 339 in vegetable growing, and 276 are running fair price shops apart from animal husbandry, brick and roof tiles construction. The women in her village are no more helpless and oppressed. **Smt. Phoolbasan Yadav** learnt cycling and has inspired over 4000 women to ride bicycles. She ensures that women participate in the Gram Sabhas and work for the development of the village. She also ensures that the girl children receive education and are not forced into child marriage like her at the age of 10.

### **Family in Social Work**

**Mr K Pandia Rajan and his wife Mrs Latha Rajan**, established **Sornammal Education Trust** in 1999 and **Mafoi Foundation** in 2006, with a vision to strengthen the social fabric of society. The **Rajans'** belief in giving back to life what life has given them, led to the creation of the **Ma Foi Foundation** that works towards education for children, empowerment of women, employability and capacity building for NGOs. "Our Society. Our responsibility" is the guiding value of the Foundation. **Sornammal Matriculation School**, launched by the Rajans provides education to over 600 underprivileged children. They also support the *Ekam Project*, a pediatric health initiative, which ensures that children living in orphanages, slums and deprived conditions get access to quality health care.



## **Sadguru Gnanananda Awards 2011**

Place: Chennai

Date:12-03-2011

Venue: **Narada Gana Sabha, Chennai**

### **Chief Guest**

**Mr. R.V. Shekar, Managing Director, Lancor Holdings Limited, Chennai**

### **Guest of Honour**

**Swami Nityanandagiri of Tapovanam**

### **Brief Profile of the 2011 Awardees**

**Ms. Madhu Singhal** born visually impaired, had to face a lot of hardships while pursuing her education and in obtaining a suitable employment. Her family encouraged her to launch 'Mitra Jyothi', an organisation that addresses the needs for the visually impaired and makes them employable. Mitra Jyothi focuses on teaching Braille, providing mobility training, legal literacy, and independent living skills for the visually impaired.

**Dr. Neelam Sodhi**, a gynecologist, faced a huge challenge when her son was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. She along with a group of 10 likeminded persons started Ashirwad, with 3 children and 1 therapist. This was the first centre in Punjab to offer therapy and support for such children. Over 700 children have since then benefitted from Ashirwad, as they have become inclusive, and treat children with Down's Syndrome, autism, learning disabilities, and multiple disabilities.

### **Family in Social Work**

**Mr. M Shankar and his wife Mrs Anuradha Shankar** are the first educated *Narikuravar* couple. They have established 'All India Narikuravar Sangam' in 1980 and '**Tribal Society**' in 2003 with a vision to obtain equal rights and equal status for their community. Shankars' dream is to educate every *Narikuravar* child. They have started 4 schools across Tamil Nadu where over 400 children are enrolled. Few of these children are also pursuing their college education. The Tribal Society has touched the lives of over 10,000 women and children, improved their livelihoods and given them opportunities to dream for a better future.

