



Welcome to our Newsletter Issue 8! We wish you and your families a happy and prosperous 2017.

Background of the Tamil Engineers Foundation

Tamil Engineers Foundation (TEF) was established in 2007 to collectively participate spiritually and morally for the long lasting peace in our homeland. This is a non-political, non-profitable and charity focused organisation. The main objective is to help the needed school/university children, orphanage centres, hospitals and other charity organisations in North and East of Sri-Lanka. This is a registered organisation with a licence to raise funds for charitable purposes.

We have undertaken many charitable activities over the last 9 years –which have been well received.

Our Vision

We are global caring charity organisation that aims to help the needy and affected people in North and East of Sri Lanka and people living in similar circumstances overseas.

Our Mission

To provide financial and moral support to help the needy school/university children, orphanage centres, hospitals and other charity organisations in North and East of Sri-Lanka while maintaining strong links with other charity organisations locally and internationally.

Our Values

- Respect, care and help each other
- Maintain honesty, integrity and excellence
- Provide moral and financial support to needy and disadvantaged people
- Inspiring a legacy of social awareness and compassion

Regional Funding

In general we have divided North & East into five regions (1) Mannar Area (2) Trincomalee Area (3) Vanni Area (4) Batticaloa Area (5) Jaffna Area. We share our funds between these five regions to implement humanitarian projects. In 2016, we have donated **\$85,500** to humanitarian projects.

2016 Collection Summary

Throughout 2016, an amount of **\$40,500** was received as voluntary contributions which include the Thai Pongal Contributions received during January 2016. The fundraising cultural programs “Enthira Maali-2016” were organised in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra, in which the total amount of money raised were \$32,000, \$14,000 and \$7000 respectively. The total collection in 2016 was approximately **\$93,500.00**

THAI PONGAL VILLA AT SYDNEY MURUGAN TEMPLE

Thai Pongal Day is being celebrated by the Tamil Engineers Foundation each year at Sydney Murugan Temple. Joint bajan is performed by the members followed by lunch and evening prasatham. TEF members, families and friends participate in this great event at the temple and this event also forms a platform for engineers, professionals, well-wishers and their families to meet and develop networking.



CHILD SPONSORSHIP AND SUPPORT TO ORPHANAGE CENTERS

As per published statistics Northern Province of Sri Lanka has about 16,000¹ children who have either lost one or both parents out of which about 2,500 children are living in child development centres operated by voluntary service organisations. In addition, Eastern Province has about 1,800² children living in similar centers. There are more than 125 such centers across north and east of Sri Lanka at various level or condition. Government subsidy of Rs. 500/- per month is paid for each child in these centers which is barely sufficient to meet their basic needs. Many of these centers depend on donor support to look after the children and help them grow and achieve their ambitions.

In addition, there are children who have either lost one or both parents living with their families or relatives who will also need assistance for basic needs and education.

Our Vision

To provide support to about 1% of needy children (Approx. 200 children) without one or both parents in the North and East of Sri Lanka on a regular basis.

Though we recognize and support that the best model for these children will be to live in a home environment, either with their remaining parent or relatives, we also recognize that the immediate need of the children in these centers cannot be ignored and we need to gradually work with organizations to support home based care as well.

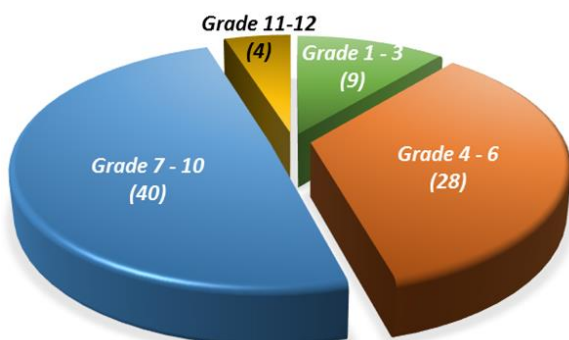


TEF Contribution to-date

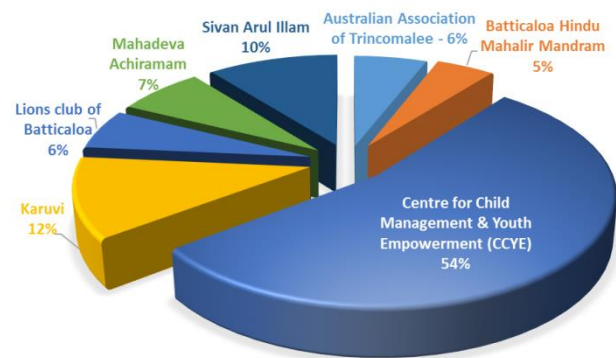
Over the last few years through the support of its donors TEF has contributed around \$155,000 which includes both Child Sponsorship & contribution to Orphanages

Status

TEF currently provides child sponsorship support to about 85 children across north and east of Sri Lanka through different organisations operating on the ground.



STUDENT DISTRIBUTION BY GRADES



CHILD DISTRIBUTION BY ORGANISATION

¹ Statistical information of the Northern Province, 2014, Chief Secretary's secretariat, Northern Province

² Annual Implementation plan, 2013, Department of probation and child care services, Eastern province

Performance monitoring

Above organisations monitor the children's' progress and provide us progress reports from the schools. Child's need for support is continuously reviewed by the organizations and reported before funding is released for the next phase. If the child's need changes that allows us to divert the support to another needy child.

Support in Action

Lions Club of Batticaloa



Mahadeva Achiramam
Kilinochi



Karuvi - Jaffna



Australian Association of Trincomalee



Sivan Arul Illam - Mannar



Hari Illam orphanage - Batticaloa



LIVLIHOOD PROJECTS

Based on published estimates in 2015 there are about 50,000 families headed by single women in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. Female unemployment is also high in this province. These families find it very hard to manage their day to day life. There have been limited programs designed to alleviate their struggle.

Our Vision

To provide support to the conflict-affected communities, particularly those socially and economically from the north and east and other part of Sri Lanka on a continuing basis to strengthen their capacity to become self-sufficient through engagement in fair and equitable livelihood opportunities, while providing long term benefits and increasing opportunities for interaction within and between communities. We use revolving loan as an interim vehicle for achieving the above objective though we are continuously exploring other feasible vehicles to realise our vision.

TEF Contribution to Date

Over the last few years (from 2013) through the support of donors, Tamil Engineers foundation has contributed over \$35,000 towards this project to create livelihood opportunities through various activities such as poultry, farming, goats rearing, dairy farming, sewing, food preparation etc. in the districts defined in foundation's constitution. In case of re-implementation of next stage loans, TEF implements the subsequent revolving loans by providing administration cost or adding additional funds after getting the loan repayments of previously provided loans.

Status 2016 loan implementation projects.



Livelihood Projects

Revolving loan - Chinmaya Organisation for Rural Development	\$	3,250.00
Revolving Loans to 5 Families in Vanni - Hindu Council of Sri Lanka	\$	1,544.00
Revolving Loan for tube Wells to 12 families - Sivan Arul Illam	\$	3,930.00
Self-employment revolving loan to 5 families - Vaharai Fisherman Organisation	\$	1,420.00
Revolving Loan to 10 families in Trincomalee - Micro Support	\$	1,610.00
Revolving loan to 12 women headed families - Sivan Arul Illam	\$	3,523.00
TOTAL to date	\$	15,277.00

Selection and Performance Monitoring

TEF works with the above organisations to select the appropriate recipients for the program. These organisations work under the established local administrative structure. For example, Jaffna district has 15 DS divisions under which there are 435 GS divisions each of which may consist of about 1 to 10 villages. The organisations identify a needy area and work with local GS to identify the need y people within the area. People work together in a cooperative mode to identify among them the beneficiaries and their priority. The benefit recipients are then registered through the society to the GS to avoid duplication. Periodic reporting from the partner organisations ensures the integrity of the program. TEF has so far been able to support more than 100 recipients and cycle the loans up to 2-3 cycles in three different areas.

Support in Action

Sivan Arul Illam

Sivan Arul Illam

Sivan Arul Illam



Hindu Mahalir Manram, Batticaloa

Micro Support, Trincomalee



UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

Every year around 3000 students from the Northern and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka are admitted into various academic programs at different universities. A percentage of these students face financial hardship due to loss of family income because of the loss of their parents or the loss of parent’s jobs during the internal conflict. They struggle to afford the day to day expenses such as accommodation, food, travel etc. and study related expenses. Though the government has recently increased the “Mahapola/Bursary” scholarships which most of the deserving students are entitled to receive, in most cases this is still insufficient for some students who do not receive any other financial support from their family.

Our Vision

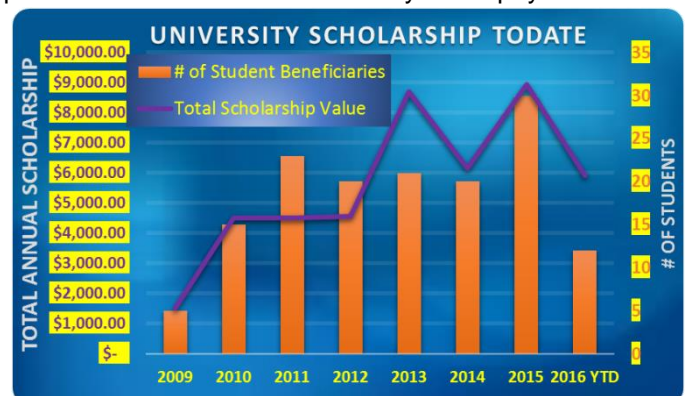
To ensure each deserving student from the areas identified in article 3.3 of the constitution who is not receiving another form of support sufficient to continue his education without undue financial pressure be provided with financial and moral support. We will also explore feasibility of converting some of the scholarships to interest free loans which they could pay back in the future to support other students.

TEF Contribution to Date

TEF has funded a total of around \$45,000 in university scholarships over the years and an estimated 180 students have benefitted from these scholarships. In addition, TEF has also made two fixed deposits with the following universities for ongoing scholarships.

\$15000 in 2015 - For scholarship scheme at the Engineering Faculty, UOJ, Kilinochchi.

\$10,000 in 2015 - For scholarship scheme at University of Jaffna.



Status

Currently TEF provides scholarship for 50 students from North, East and upcountry areas who are studying in four universities such as Peradeniya, Moratuwa, Batticaloa, Jaffna and Engineering Faculty at Kilinochchi (University of Jaffna).

Selection and Performance Monitoring

TEF offers these scholarships through administration/registrars, student unions and cultural societies such as university Tamil society etc. Periodic reports are received from the administering body. Priority is given to students who have lost their parents or come from women headed families, facing financial hardship and in the first year of studies.

Support in Action

Eastern University, Batticaloa



Engineering Faculty, Killinochchi, UOJ



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS

Due to recent war, there has been a shortage of medical professionals and resources in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. This has resulted in several people not receiving essential health care in these areas. These include cataract surgery and limb fitting.

Our Vision

To complement the available local medical resources and provide support where local resources are lacking for the needy in regions of Mannar, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Vanni and Jaffna as identified in the constitution. Identify and prioritise the neediest and fund treatment in areas such as eye care and limb fittings with the help of medical professionals in these regions.

TEF Contribution to Date

Over the last six years, it was necessary to prioritise and fund some health care projects such as limb fittings and cataract surgeries and donation of medical equipment to some hospitals lacking facilities. We have been selective in our involvement in this area and conscious of the fact that other similar organisations also focus in this area. TEF focused mainly on the cataract operations given the urgent need in this area. TEF supplied 800 lenses for these operations and funded operating facilities to complete about 400 cataract operations to date. TEF has contributed over \$44,000 towards medical and health care related projects over the years.

Selection and monitoring

Selection is based on recommendations from local bodies. Selection for cataract surgeries is based on input from surgeons at local hospitals, local organizations, community leaders etc. Limb fitting selection was based on input from NGOs and supply of medical equipment is based on request/recommendation from local hospital doctors and community leaders and based on assessment of the perceived benefit to the community.

Foundation is now exploring the next phase of cataract surgeries in the Mullaitivu District.

Support in Action

Donation



Surgery being performed



Patients waiting for eye inspection



EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS

Due to the recent war, there has been a severe shortage of trained teachers and adequate educational resources in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. This has led to a sharp decline in the educational achievement of students from these areas. Only around 50% of students qualify to study A/L from the O/L examinations in the districts such as Kilinochi, Mullaitivu etc. In addition, there was lack of Science, Mathematics and English teachers for O/L in these districts.

Our Vision

To provide educational support and resources to disadvantaged students in North and east of Sri Lanka to ensure academic standards are improved in these areas.

This also involves conducting intensive coaching classes with the aim of improving the results in the GCE (O/L) and GCE (A/L) examinations and providing awards for high achievers in science and mathematics stream in five educational districts.

TEF Contribution to Date

Over the last six years, TEF has been funding projects through SJC87 initiative and Trincomalee District Development Association to conduct coaching classes in Vanni, Trincomalee and Batticaloa districts. In addition to this TEF also contributed towards various educational resources for the benefit of students.

Status

Classes are in progress in the Sampoor area via TDDA for 109 students and in Vanni area for about 250 students with focus on Mathematics, science and English in preparation for the upcoming G.C.E. (O/L) examinations.

Selection and Performance Monitoring

Selection of students, schools and teachers is performed by SJC and TDDA members on the ground that has a stringent review method for selection. Periodic reporting is provided by both these bodies to TEF about the progress of the classes and students.

Support in Action

Classes being conducted



Classes being conducted



Donation of photocopier



Details of Some of the Projects Undertaken in 2016

- Child sponsorship scheme to 46 children in Jaffna (Sivan Arul Illam) - \$2,990.00
- Child sponsorship to 6 children (Mahadeva Archiramam) - \$2,788.00
- Child sponsorship to 5 children (Sivan Arul Illam) - \$2,195.00
- Child sponsorship scheme to another 46 children in Jaffna (Sivan Aril Illam) - \$2,819.00
- University scholarship to 11 students (Moratuwa University) - \$3,655.00
- University scholarship to 10 students (Jaffna University) - \$2,255.00
- Revolving loan to Chinmaya Organisation for Rural Development - \$3,250.00
- Revolving Loan for tube wells to 12 families (Sivan Arul Illam) - \$3,930.00
- Revolving loan to 12 women headed families (Sivan Aril Illam) - \$3,523.00
- Wells for 2 war widows in Vanni Area (Hindu Council of Sri Lanka) - \$4,041.00
- Photocopier to Vivekanada Girls School, Batticaloa - \$1,200.00
- Furniture and equipment to Sivapoomi School at Kilinochi - \$4,281.00
- Assistance for sustainable income (Arobanam Boys Home, Killinochchi) - \$3,000.00
- Day to day maintenance, food, clothing, educational expenses for orphans (Sivan Arul Illam) - \$6,000.00
- Assistance to orphans at Hari's Children's Home, Batticaloa - \$1,000.00
- Clothing distribution at Thapovanam Orphanage, Trincomalee - \$2,100.00
- Cataract eye surgeries to 6 patients at Trincomalee (Micro Support) - \$743.00
- Bicycles to 10 affected patients (Kilinochchi Mental Health Society) - \$1,357.00
- Bicycles to Faculty of Engineering university students at Kilonochchi - \$4,420.00
- GCE O/L Exam preparation classes in Vanni SJC87 Scholarship - \$1,970.00
- ICT workshops in North Sri Lanka - \$2,345.92
- Distribution of school books to needy students at various schools in Trincomalee - \$2,435.00
- Coaching classes for Sampoor, Trincomalee - \$780.00

CULTURAL PROGRAM IN SYDNEY ENTHIRA MAALAI 2016

During November 2016 a cultural program was staged in Sydney to raise funds for charity. Approximately 700 members attended the event which was well received by the Sydney community. Net amount of \$32,000 was raised for charity. This event was organised by **E85 & E86 batch members** & their family and friends in collaboration with TEF committee members.



FUNDRAISING DINNER 2016 IN MELBOURNE

During November 2016 a fundraising dinner was arranged in Melbourne to raise funds. It was a full house event with approximately 300 members attended. A net amount of \$14,000 was raised for charity.



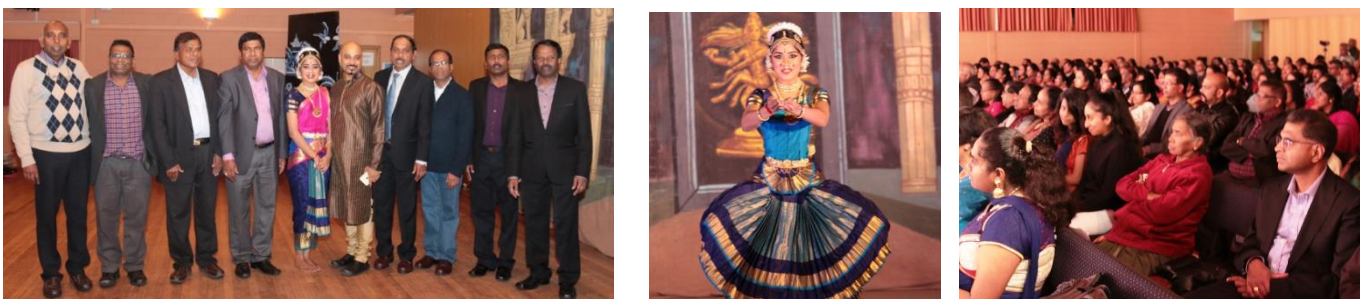
DISCO DANCE FOR FAMILIES OF SAMARPAN

In October 2016, a disco dance was organised for the children at Samarpan Organisation in Sydney. The event was very successful and was well enjoyed by the children and parents alike.



ENTHIRA MAALI – 2016 IN CANBERRA

During August 2016 “Enthira Maali – 2016” cultural program was organised in Canberra. Approximately 250 members attended the event, which was well received by the Canberra community. A net amount of \$7000 was raised for the charity.



APPRECIATION

Many organisations have worked with us, hand in hand over the years to implement our charity efforts effectively to help the underprivileged and affected people in our homeland.

- Ramakrishna Mission, Colombo / Batticaloa
- Sivan Arul Ilalm, Mannar. CCYE organisation I Jaffna, Mahadeva Archiramam Children Home, Kilinochi
- Sydney Murugan Temple April Pongal Celebration Group. God Owned Children Foundation.
- Sai Group in Melbourne. Annual get-together (Pera 77/78 batch) camp organising group in Melbourne.
- Karuvi organisation in Jaffna, Hindu Council in Sri Lanka. Sydney. Hindu Mahalir Manram, Batticaloa
- Udippidy American Mission College (OBA—Sydney). Shivananda College Batticaloa, Old Boys Association
- Libra Mobile in Sydney, Olivia Homes, Melbourne. Fulton Hogan Constructions, Sydney.
- University of Jaffna, Batticaloa, Peradeniya, Moratuwa and E' Faculty at Kilinochchi. St Johns College 87 Committee and Northern Provincial Dept. of Education.
- Our members and well-wishers in USA, UK, Canada, New Zealand & Sri Lanka.
- International Sustainable Livelihood Foundation, USA. Anpuneri Organisation, California, USA
- Cinmaya Organisation for Rural Development (CORD) and Siva Poomi Disable School at Kondavil

The committee extends its sincere gratitude and thanks to everyone who has made contribution in helping the Tamil Engineers Foundation financially assist the needy people in our homeland. Voluntary contributions received during 2016 from Australia & overseas were significantly higher compared to previous years.

The total value of charity activities undertaken in 2016 has exceeded **\$85,500 (approx Rs 90 Million)**. This indicates that a tremendous support is given by you to our charity. We like to commend our members for their great support, generosity and passion towards helping the affected people in our homeland. We hope your support will continue for the years to come.

Voluntary contributions for 2017

The fundraising for 2017 has now commenced and the committee would appreciate your contributions towards Thai Pongal Day Celebrations at Sydney Murugan Temple, by 12 January 2017 (Thai Pongal on Saturday the 14th Jan 2017). For more details or to make a contribution, please contact the committee members or access the Tamil Engineers Foundation website www.tamilengineers.net/

"Help each other, help someone else. Serve the world with your peaceful heart. A soul generated by love, feel the joy of that! Believe that a peaceful world is our destiny. (Martin Luther King –Ways to bring peace in the world)