

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022



AARTI HOME

VIJAY FOUNDATION TRUST (ASSOCIATION)
KADAPA

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Message from the President

Dear Reader,

Aarti for Girls, under the legal entity Vijay Foundation Trust (Association), began as a home for abandoned girls more than thirty years ago, and has since grown into an umbrella organization which works for the upliftment of women and girl child and fight for gender equality and for the rights of girls and women. To fulfill this objective Aarti for Girls runs Aarti Home, a home for the abandoned and needy children, Aarti English Medium school, where the children from the poorest families are provided with high class English Medium education, Lalitha Cooperative for women, to empower the women through employability skills and leadership trainings. Aarti Home also runs a community college called Aarti Community College, to impart entrepreneurial skills to the young women in the district. For the past two years Aarti Home has been working extensively to provide relief and rehabilitation to the victims of COVID. Thank you for your support and belief in our mission and values—none of this would be possible without you.

I am excited to share the Annual Report for the year 2021-2022 with you. I am glad to inform you that **Aarti Home** has been awarded **COVID Warrior achievement award** from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the year 2020-21, which was received by me on 1st November 2021. The schools have started functioning normally for the 3rd week of August. This year saw an enormous increase in the number of students as the children of the COVID affected families were admitted in the school. Aarti Home also opened its gates to the children who were orphaned by COVID and 8 such girls joined the Aarti family. Childline 1098, has been awarded a UNICEF funded project and we have recruited 4 more staff to work in this project. After the success of the Open Resource Centers operated during the Abhaya project, we have started a similar center in Kankipadu, near Vijayawada. To start a similar and a much larger center in Kadapa, Aarti Home has taken on lease a warehouse adjoining Mahila Samajam. We have installed two Oxygen Generation Plants in RIMS/Kadapa which were connected to the hospital network in December.

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

Smt. P.V. Sandhya
President

Smt. B. Durga Kumari
Secretary

Dr. P. Bali Reddy
Joint Secretary

Sri. Jayesh Ranjan, I.A.S
Treasurer

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Member

Sri. G. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy
Member

Sri. R.V. Shivanand Reddy
Member

This is not an achievement for us, because we want to see that there are no more needy children. However, I am proud of the older girls at the village who have become change makers and have begun to use their experiences with discrimination to make positive change in their communities.

I would like to thank the Governing Board Members and patrons of Aarti Home - VFT for their support of all that we do. Their commitment ensures that Aarti Home - VFT is able to make a lasting impact on the attitudes surrounding gender in Kadapa District and a lasting change for women and girls. Thank you to the many volunteers from around the world (who offered their time through the Internet) and the local volunteers whose continuous support is essential to Aarti. I wish my best to everyone in the Aarti Home - VFT family. Through our collective commitment we can continue to create a better future for women and girls in the Kadapa Y.S.R District.

Sincerely,

P. V. SANDHYA
Founder & President
Aarti Home
Vijay Foundation Trust (Association)
Kadapa.

AARTI HOME:

Aarti Home, also known as Aarti Village is our first attempt to rid the society of gender bias, started in the year 1992 by providing shelter to one girl child named Rani (name changed). Slowly, as the word spread more and more children were admitted into Aarti Home. To cater to the shelter needs of the ever growing number of children, we had to shift premises twice and finally, Aarti Home now operates from a serene 2.5 acre campus situated at the feet of Palakondalu. Aarti Home is now a home to 97 children ranging from 5 to 22 years old. Aarti Home operates on the principle of community living, where the children live in cottages under the care of a house mother. There are 9 cottages, and each cottage can accommodate 15 children. All the physical needs of the children like food, education, shelter and psychological needs of the children are taken care of by Aarti Home and they grow up to be responsible citizens of our nation.

Success Stories of Aarti Girls:

1. An Aarti girl, U. Sreedevi - a ***postgraduate*** in ***Organic Chemistry*** is working as a Junior Chemist in Dr. JCR Biosciences Private Limited in Hyderabad.
2. Five of our girls Lakshmi, Praveena, Ayesha, Pavani and Sindhu have got admissions into BSc (Nursing) and they are pursuing their course in their respective colleges.
3. Soumika and Rama Thulasi aspiring to become Civil Servants are being trained to appear for the UPSC Civils exams in 2023.
4. Four of our girls, Dastgreeramma, Ramalakshmi, Ramya and Sivajyothi are undergoing training in Saathiya, to pursue their career in the hospitality industry.

Aarti English Medium School:

Aarti English Medium School, a stop gap school started in the year 2007, for the sole benefit of Aarti children, has now grown into a full fledged school, catering to the needs of the underprivileged children of Kadapa. The present strength of Aarti English Medium School is 709. The school has been recognised by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and accepts admission from class 1 to class 10. The school has secured 100% results in the SSC board examination conducted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Aarti Creative School:

The children coming to the Aarti School are from the most underprivileged families and are first generation literates. Most of these children have never

gone to school and are over-age for the class they are admitted into. To overcome this over-age issue, Aarti has started a bridge school - called Creative School, where these children are admitted. They are given special attention and once they gain the competence, they are transferred to the mainstream school. This creative school is partly sponsored by a corporate donor called eClerx. The present strength of this school is 508. We had targeted to move 10% of these children to the mainstream school, and this year 16% of these children were promoted to the mainstream school. It is good to see that more than 60% of the children are able to secure 60%+ marks in science and math. The children who lag behind at class X level are encouraged to appear for the class X exams conducted by the Open School Board and all those appearing for this exam have passed it.

Aarti - Family Based Care:

The best place for the child to grow is with his/her parents/family as the family is the child's primary social group. It is a known fact that physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development of the child happens more quickly while they are living in this social group. This led to the invention of a novel scheme called ***Family Based Care***, where the children live with their parents and still attend school in the day time, while the parents are away at work. As part of this program, Aarti provides the child with three nutritious meals, uniform, books and transport. The program started initially with 30 children and was a great success and this prompted us to offer this program to a much larger number. 349 children are benefitting from this program at present. The overall progress of the children is being assessed regularly through - Grade based assessments, regular wellbeing checkups and through regular home visits. We found that these children, with a little care, have blossomed and begun to be more engaged in school.

At present there are 32 teachers working in the school.

Parent Teachers Meeting:

Parents of the children are involved in the assessment process and the school conducts regular parent teacher meetings. During these meetings the parents are informed about the overall progress of the child. The parents of the passing out students are provided with career guidance for their children and taken on a tour to the vocational training centers which offer courses for immediate income generation.

Capacity Building of Teachers:

Post COVID We realized that our teachers needed training in new creative methods of teaching and also in nurturing and care they should have towards

Women's Day Celebration - (08-03-2022):

International Women's day was celebrated in Aarti English Medium School. Justice Mrs. S.Kavita, Senior District Judge and Secretary DLSA, in her address to the teachers and the students of the school, explained about the activities of the DLSA and explained about the laws for the protection of children and women. Speaking on the occasion, Smt. B. Durga Kumari, highlighted the importance of the international women's day.



Achievers: (Mohammad Saadh)

Mohammad, studying in 9th class in Aarti English Medium School is not only bright at studies but also good in sports activities. He has won a medal in "Taekwondo Karate Event" held in the month of February 2022.



COVID Relief Activities:

Relief & Rehabilitation



It has been disheartening that during the second wave of the COVID many families have lost the sole breadwinner, leaving hundreds of families with orphaned and semi orphaned children, without any support. Aarti Home has been helping these families by providing educational and sustainable livelihood support. Aarti Home has identified and assessed the needs of 532 such

families and has provided sustainable livelihood support to 78 families (providing them with milch animals, goats, sewing machines, photocopier machines and setting up petty shops. 231 children have received educational support and 6 children have been admitted into Aarti Home and 12 children in Aarti School.



Operation Oxygen:

During the second wave of COVID19, many people lost their lives due to lack of



oxygen and the focus was on supplying Oxygen to the affected, over and above the regular relief activities. Through the funds generated from various corporate and individual donors Aarti Home was able to create a bank of 200 oxygen concentrators out of which Aarti supplied 153

Oxygen Concentrators, 1300 pulse oximeters. Aarti had also set up 2 oxygen generation plants in Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS).



Flood Relief Activities (November 2021):

November 19 2021 saw unprecedented rains in the southern districts of AP causing great damage to the lives and properties. Annamayya dam, in Nandalur Mandal breached and 18 villages downstream washed away. Aarti's senior management team visited the affected villages and distributed 800 dry-ration kits, 300 sets of utensils with lids, 5500 mosquito nets, 200 torch lights, 450 dhoties, sarees and blankets and 300 biscuit packets for children.



Aarti Community College:

Activities

COVID19 has created a situation, where there was reverse migration from the cities to the villages (due to imposition of nationwide lockdown). Many people lacked basic employability skills and were unable to feed their families. Most of these families are traditional craftsmen and the younger generations were not interested in pursuing their family trades. If trained in the basic entrepreneurial skills these young women can start their own micro businesses and can be able to provide employment opportunities within their communities. To provide such skills to the young women in the district, Aarti Community College was started in the month of September 2020. The curriculum was included to teach the participants mindfulness, life skills, basic communication skills in English and local language, basic IT Skills and vocational skills like garment design, terracotta jewelry making. They were also taught product photography and basic techniques in photoshop. They were also taught basic financial and accounting skills.



Additionally, ancillary skills such as - English proficiency, Financial Planning, Project Management, Environmental sustainability, Online Marketing, Product Photography, Design and color coordination, IT Skills, etc are provided to these students. The courses are being taught by experienced faculty who have been working in their fields for several decades and are eager to pass on their expertise.

So far 4 batches of 30 students each have been provided with these skills.

Feedback from participant(s) from ACC:

S. Fathimun, a student of Aarti Community College, participated enthusiastically and learnt various topics under this course curriculum. She said, at the beginning, "I used the English language very little to communicate, but after attending the classes, I now frequently speak in English with my friends. I also learnt Photography and Basic IT skills",



which made me think logically and innovatively. I also learnt the ways and methods of taking photos. I also learnt IT skills like, MS-Office, Photoshop in this curriculum. These are like fun type activities taught by extraordinary mentors or faculty. I am thankful to Aarti Home for providing this great opportunity to learn various topics and making us think about our career and prospects in our life.”

Children for Children (CFC) -

Children for Children (CFC) is an initiative started by the grandson of our Founder and CEO Sandhya Puchalapalli with the help of other children from around the world. During the lockdown he spent many months in Kadapa and realized that while he was studying online, many of his friends in Aarti village were deprived of that facility. He was highly disappointed to see the children missing out on their studies, and shared his concerns with his grandmother and other teachers. With the support of many like minded children, Children for Children, an initiative to provide educational support to impoverished children in Kadapa District was born. This group of children initially created printable worksheets, which were distributed among Aarti School children, which were later collected and evaluated by the teachers.



Together with everyone's support Abhiram raised funds of 4 Lakhs to buy textbooks and notebooks for 828 students in Aarti English Medium School. Our heart swells with pride to see these young children work tirelessly to help their friends rewrite their future.

The lockdown forced shutdown of all the schools and most of these schools started Online classes. The children from Aarti School were deprived of education during this period as a majority of them do not possess Smartphone's. The children of CFC, moved by the plight of the COVID semi-orphan, decided to provide educational support to these children through scholarships. So far, 183 children have been provided with scholarships through the funds generated by CFC.

The following activities were conducted under the banner of CFC

- *Independence Day* The inmates of Aarti Home celebrated Independence Day with lots of happiness at Aarti Village premises on 15-08-2021.





- *Fun Day* activity was conducted at Aarti Village on 06-11-2021 - Its a fun activities where the children of all ages played round-chair game and enjoyed a lot with the staff.



- *TB Awareness programme* on 05-01-2022 at Aarti Village premises - An awareness programme on Tuberculosis, its prevention and remedies was conducted at Aarti Village premises.

Women Wellness Centers:

A “**Wellness Center**” is an establishment where healing options are available for both the mind and body. “**A wellness program is**



any kind of organized activity in the workplace designed to improve and support the health and fitness of employees.”



By mixing wellness prevention and holistic healing with medications and other remedies, not only are current ailments treated, but protection from oncoming diseases is also ensured.

“Prevention has always been better than cure, and wellness centers help you attain just that.”

Wellness Center will act as the venue for many programs such as **Leadership Trainings, Legal Trainings, Capacity Building Workshops, Psychological Counseling, Open Forum Meetings** in association with Health, Judiciary, Police, The Department of Women & Child Welfare & Media etc.

Aarti, since its inception in the year 1992, has been working for the betterment of the girl child and women, and has initiated a lot of programs and activities. One such initiative is operating Open resource Centers (ORCs) for women.

These ORCs were immensely successful and a few women, who visited these centers testified that they learnt to smile after coming here. This encouraged Aarti to open a similar center in **Kankipadu**, a suburban area of Vijayawada. Women visit this center to learn employability skills like tailoring, garment designing, beautician courses and computer courses.



Some of the feedback from the participants:

Just to appreciate the course, it has been very useful for me. I would like to highlight the AARTI Home which was given free sewing machine courses to poor and needy people. I am very actively participating. Soon I am going to open my tailoring shop in Kankipadu. This credit goes to aarti home. Many thanks to Aarti home and Sandya madam!

Participant (No. 1: Durga Shesha Ratna):-

I just wanted to thank Aarti home for the excellent inputs on various vocational courses free of cost in Kankipadu mandal. I have learnt tailoring course in the 1st batch. This has been of great help to me and has given me chance to stand on my own to take care of my family. Many thanks.



Participant (No. 2: Syamala):-

Thanks very much for the free vocational courses provided by AARTI Home in Kankipadu. I've attended beautician and Tailoring course simultaneously and it was most useful for me and I have a plan to open my own beauty parlor in Kankipadu. Along with courses I also benefited with oral hygiene session and motivational classes. This is my first memorable training course. Thanks to Aarti home for providing such a great training course.



Lalitha Women's Co-operative

Lalitha Women's Cooperative was started in the year February 2003 to empower the women with employability and leadership skills. The members of this society run a business enterprise which produces high quality garments, drapings and home furnishing items. Lalitha's Women Co-operative currently has 11 women and 2 men who have been trained by the cooperative and retained as tailors. These highly skilled seamstresses work to create high-

quality garments while also assisting with the **Training programmes** organized by VFT. During the COVID - 19, in the last two years; they have completed stitching more than 15000 masks & 20000 bags for the distribution of dry-ration kits.

Childline 1098

The CHILDLINE service provides a national 24 hour emergency phone number (Toll free 1098) which can be called to report a child in distress. This service provided through the Ministry of Women and Child Development is meant to make sure that children in need of care and protection are safe. Vijay Foundation Trust (Association) is the Nodal Organization in Y.S.R. Kadapa District. There are 2 sub-centers at Rayachoti and Pulivendula, who function under the nodal organisation taking care of the activities in their areas.



During the year 2021-2022, some of the areas that CHILDLINE had the most impact in this year were Child Marriages, Child Labour, Rescue Begging, and Lost Children. The Childline continues to be an important resource for women and children in our community.



- Nodal Organisation, Vijay Foundation Trust (Association) conducted **CHILDLINE SE DOSTI WEEK** - 2021 from 14th, November 2021 to 21st, November 2021; also conducted Resource Organisation Meeting to all CCI's, Child Labour Day, International Girl Child Day, National Girl Child Day, International



Women's Day and etc with great success throughout Y.S.R. Kadapa District.

- Totally 695 calls regarding Child Marriage, Child Labour, Child Begging, Neglect Child, Eve Teasing, Corporal Punishment, Physical Abuse, Emotional Support & Guidance, School dropout Child abuse received during the year 2021-2022. Some calls directly intervened by Childline Team & other calls referred to Allied Departments, like, ICDS, Police, Revenue, Education, Health Departments.
- Nodal Organization, conducted 350 outreach cases, 345 direct cases and 131 school awareness programmes, 246 outreach awareness campaigns.
- Childline also distributed 107 dry ration kits to 107 affected families in Rajampet and Jammalamadugu areas of the District
- Awareness posters were posted in prominent areas of the district
- Nodal Organization painted about Childline 1098 at 10 vulnerable areas in the district
- ***HT Parekh Foundation with support of Nodal Organisation distributed 63 families with dry-ration and educational material.***



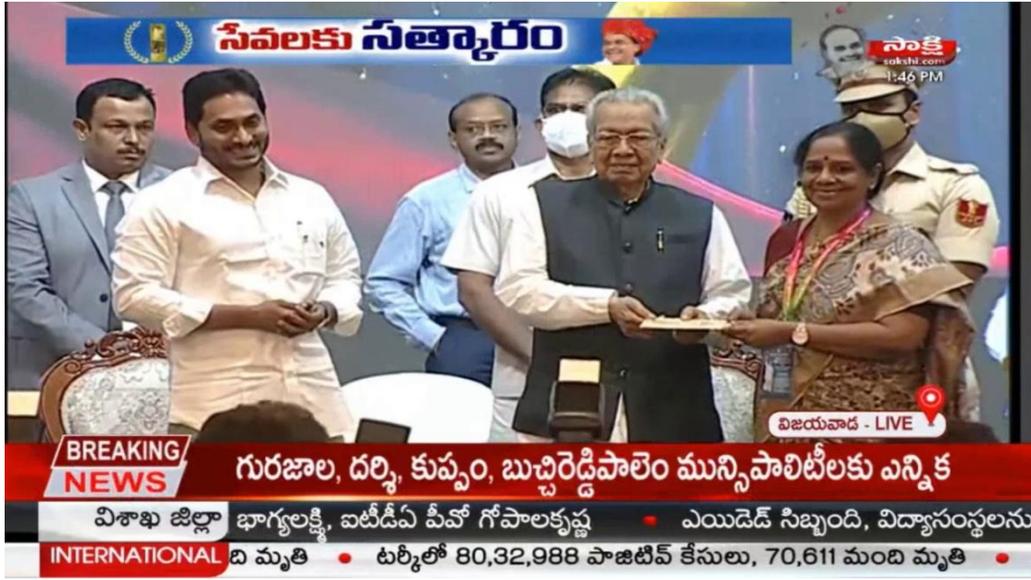
UNICEF Project

This project started in the month of June 2021 was allotted to Aarti Home for a period of four months. This initiative employed 4 team members (1 counselor, 3 team members) to deal with Childline cases and its activities. Seeing the good work done by Aarti home, this project was extended till December 2022 to enable the Childline services to progress well in the society. Under the banner of UNICEF totally, 27 school awareness programs and 63 out-reach awareness programs were conducted. Under the UNICEF childline banner, dry-ration and educational material to 193 Covid affected families were distributed

Website - <http://www.aartiforgirls.org>

COVID warriors (Lifetime Achievement Award) -

A prestigious award, “**Y.S.R Achievement Award**” (as COVID Warriors) was presented to Aarti Home, Kadapa, for the services rendered towards COVID relief and rehabilitation. Smt. P.V. Sandhya, Founder & President, Vijay Foundation Trust (Association) received the award, “**Y.S.R Achievement Award**” from the Honorable Governor, **Sri. Biswabhusan Harichandan garu**, Government of Andhra Pradesh.



Future Plans -

1. Setting up a women wellness centre in Utukuru, Nellore district.
2. Developing a women wellness centre in Kadapa.
3. Expanding the school by shifting the primary sections to Aarti Village campus after constructing a new building.
4. Providing solar panels in the school.