



OPEN
Organization to
Provide Education



25470 Gimbel Drive, South Riding, VA 20152
<http://www.openindia.org>

OPEN Newsletter

Greetings from OPEN! We wish everyone in the OPEN community a Happy and Prosperous New Year and are excited to provide an update.

1. We are happy to announce a new partner - the Jaigopal Rashtrathana Vidya Kendra, Bangalore. This school obtained land from the Government in a middle-class neighborhood and has about 570 students from classes 1-9. The first batch of students enters Class 10 this year and the school is expanding. Most of the children's parents are lower middle class. Some are migrant laborers. Though the school charges a nominal fee, they have never turned a child away for lack of money. The school Correspondent, Ms. Asha Ashok, and the Co-ordinator, Mrs. Sharada Rao (retired from the well-known Bishop Cotton school in Bangalore) are very passionate about their wards. OPEN donated \$9,000 for construction of a classroom.



2. We continue funding Siragu Montessori, the school in Avadi run by the Suyam Foundation, with money for their monthly operations - teacher salaries and other expenses. OPEN members have visited this school several times and come away impressed with the

educational progress of the children, whose parents are migrant laborers for the most part. The total amounts for November and December are \$8,000 - which includes a sizeable contribution from Mr. Nat Kumar of Northern VA.

We would like to highlight a noteworthy accomplishment by one of our younger OPEN community members, Kavya. After participating in a session held by the founders of Siragu - Uma and Muthuram - she was inspired to organize a fundraiser for the Siragu kids. She sold Diwali snacks through her website - www.letshehelpem.org - to the local community, and raised \$1020. This would support 5 Siragu kids for a year. Kudos to Kavya, and to everyone who supported her.



3. Our partnership with IGNITE continues. We added 12 3-year degree students, 21 2yr/3yr polytechnic students, and 8 engineering students. Together with the existing 72 students, this is a big cohort. As a reminder, the OPEN community may fund these children through the Educate



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A Child program. Past graduates of this program are now gainfully employed. Vinodhini, the first Engineering student in this program, completed training at HCL, has become a billable resource, and is supporting her first clients as an Oracle DBA. Sriram says that the joy that he feels, upon hearing the news about yet another graduate getting a job, is incomparable.

http://www.chennaiclips.com/cinema/eventvideos_inner.php?id=186



4. Our support of infrastructure at the Jaigopal Garodia schools continues. We have built toilets at the Girls' schools at Villivakkam and Saidapet for a total of \$9,000.

5. Our support for scholarships and after-school programs at the Ganapathy Iyer Girls' School in Gopalapuram continues, with a total of \$5,000. We have increased the number of girls supported from 90 to 150. We have also started classes in spoken English and Dance, Yoga and Karate - eve-teasers beware.

6. The General Cariappa Vocational School at Saligramam, Chennai, is our feeder school for the polytechnic program. As part of ongoing infrastructure improvements, OPEN funded several improvements: renovations of the Multipurpose Hall and fixing of leaks; repairs to the Gents' Staff toilet, and addition of a new Ladies' Staff toilet. The total cost was \$8,700.

7. We continue to monitor Pudiyador (www.pudiyador.org), who are focusing their after-school efforts on K-5 class students. One correction to our September update: We had mentioned that Pudiyador were forced to close their Adyar center. However, that is not the case. Pudiyador were forced to close their Tambaram center. The Adyar center continues to function.



8. OPEN is planning on having its annual fundraiser OPEN-Rasika concert in spring / summer of 2011. We are in the process of finalizing the venue and the date that will suit OPEN and Rasika. We will send out more details once the plan is finalized.





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As always, our ability to fund these projects depends on your generosity. We request that (tax-deductible) contributions payable to "OPEN Inc." be sent to Kumar or Ramprasad at:

- Kumar Thiagarajan, 25470 Gimbel Dr, South Riding, VA 20152
- Ramprasad Santhanakrishnan, 810 Graywyck Dr, Seven Fields, PA 16046

If you would like your contribution to go towards the "Educate a Child" program, please mention it on your check memo section.



Tax-deductible contributions may also be made to OPEN in India in favor of "OPEN India Charitable Trust" and sent to:

- Sriram Sankaran, Villa #57 Adarsh Palm Retreat, Devarabisanahalli, Bellandur, Bangalore – 560037
- Arvind Balaraman, Sri Ramana, Flat 1, New No 21, Nathamuni St, T.Nagar, Chennai -600017

Contributions may also be made online at:

<http://www.openindiaorg.in/donate.html> (Paypal)
<http://www.mydonations.com/openindia>

Please consider investing in India's future. To delay may mean to forget.

Sincerely,

Kumar Thiagarajan
Sriram Sankaran
Rajesh Ramadoss
Ramprasad Santhanakrishnan
Arvind Balaraman
Karthik Srinivasan

www.openindia.org
contact@openindia.org