Dear Friends,

Wow! 2015 is a great year for us with lots of fun and friends, lots of challenges; we have achieved a lot as you will read in the overview in this newsletter.

All this was made possible through the collaboration and contributions of parents, children, teachers, volunteers, staff, sponsors & donors, for which we are grateful.

Our community based Kindergarten Activity

Saraswathi Pooja:

On 20 October the children and teacher celebrated Saraswathi Pooja in honour of the goddess of education. They watched some videos explaining the story of Saraswathy and why we celebrate this festival. They sang some devotion songs meant specially for that day and prayed to the goddess. In the end snacks like chickpeas, pongal, fruits and sweets were distributed to make them joyful. The whole day was enjoyable for the children.

Kolu Pooja:

On 23 October forty children went to Ilaingargal school to see kolu. They saw many clay dolls, national leader and inspiring stories of Tamil literature. Anand explained many stories of statues which they showed to the children. After that they had traditional snacks like Pori and pongal. The hour spent there was wonderful for them as it was something they had never experienced before.
Kottakarai youth/water project

A group of young people came to the Mohanam office to request their need for support for their sports activity. The Mohanam team supported and it was done successfully by the Kottkarai youth who are very interested in reopening the dynamized water station which was implemented seven years ago by water harvest.

Mohanam youth group parents meeting.

On 10 December Mohanam organized a parents’ meeting at Mohanam. The purpose of the meeting was to share and develop their personal growth (like socio, cultural, micro finance). Mohanam was given the opportunity to open a savings account as Mohanam Male SHG at Bharathiyar Bank, Alankuppam. There are 12 parents who form part of this meeting and they are very supportive.
Cultural Performance:

Christmas Program

On 25 December a new young team from Alankuppam Annainagar, recently joined the Mohanam group. They had done a wonderful trash band performance at the Youth Centre of Auroville. It is also an awareness performance by 10 young boys given potential energy especially for this program. There were many visitors who appreciated our young boys. For them it was their first performance.

Youth Empowerment Workshop

On 6 November part of the Mohanam activity was to empower youth to develop personal growth instead of studies. Our senior resource person Mr. Anandou taught how to behave to elders and how to speak without fears, discipline, unity, education to coach them.

December to remember retreat camp

On 27 December Mohanam organized a one-day retreat as December to Remember Camp at the bamboo land. This is a spiritual retreat camp, the purpose of which is to think about past and future and remembering last and upcoming years.

We had four different schedules: dance and music; dream catcher; dream map, and dream box. It was a new experience for our children. They participated eagerly and forgot their bad dreams of the past, and brought their talents and dreams of the future to implement the next year of their development. There are 40 children from four different villages.
Arts classes

On 6 November art classes were suspended due to heavy rain. The classes will restart on 13 December.

On 20 November we did a PowerPoint presentation at Poothurai School, which is on the south side of Auroville. Mr. Elumalai and Ananda Baskar were the resource people for this presentation which inspired and motivated the school children by showing them all the good things about Tamil culture and customs, for example crafts, traditional sports and environment aspects. Especially we inspired the local children about what Auroville is and what the Mother’s charter is. The children raised a few questions about the values of our culture, which we explained. There were 60 children who participated in this program.

Entrepreneur development workshop

On 21 November we organized an entrepreneur development workshop as part of the One Village Craft Association.

We invited our resource person Mr. Gijs Spoor, who has given his ideas on how to promote their product but one of the senior craftsmen expressed that they need marketing facilities in order to do this. Seven craftsmen were part of this workshop.
The contribution of Auroville, the parents and the participants it is not enough to cover all the costs of our program. Without the financial support of our sponsors we would not be able to offer this rich variety of programs.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO DONATE?
HERE'S HOW

The easiest and simplest way to transfer money is by “SWIFT” (electronic transfer) from anywhere. Go to your bank and give them the following information, with your donation.

SWIFT CODE: S B I N I N B B 4 7 4

Account with State Bank of India, Auroville
International Township Branch, Kullapalayam,
Auroville - 605 101 - India
Branch Code: 03160

Name of the Account Holder:
Auroville Unity Fund

Account No: 1 0 2 3 7 8 7 6 5 0 8

Purpose: Mohanam Cultural Centre

We are very grateful to the Friends of Mohanam, our staff, the volunteers and the sponsors, who prepared and manifested the various programs.

Also thank the local village communities which have helped and supported us in so many ways. And our special thanks to our ongoing supporters Nia Friends, Melissa Michael from Golden Bridge, Cornelia Baldini and Lions Club of The Netherlands.

With love and gratitude
The Mohanam Team