

## SECRETARIES REPORT

We have immense pleasure in presenting to you the Annual report along with the audited financial statement for the year 2015 – 2016.

- ❖ Total collection for the year 2015-2016 is around Rs.40 Lakhs.
- ❖ Educational Aid & Tuition Centre collection of around Rs. 15 Lakhs and Rs.5 Lakhs towards Corpus funds.
- ❖ Flood relief collection of around Rs 14,48,236/- and we had spent Rs. 14,69,333/-
- ❖ Special thanks to our Secretary Mr.S. Sampathkumar & our member Mr. J. Venkatesan for their continuous support in collecting maximum donations to our various projects including Education Aid.

### SPECIAL FEATURES:

- ❖ Uniform distribution to 1200 students.
- ❖ Financial assistance to around 25 students.
- ❖ This year we served 6433 Patients at our Medical Centre and around 2700 benefitted at our Diagnostic lab.
- ❖ More than 150 students [of 10th and +2] benefitted by learning at our tuition centre – SYMA Growth.

### A gist of our Activities during the year 2015 - 2016 : -

At the outset a big thanks to all our members for the total support in initiating and successfully implementing so many projects. SYMA is committed to the cause of serving people and we will continue to strive for the betterment of the society.

### Medical Service :

- ❖ From 13th Mar 2009, we are running the medical centre and lab independently, and continue to be guided by Dr Sridhar.

This year we served 6433 Patients at our Medical Centre and 2700 benefitted at our Diagnostic lab.

We appointed permanent doctor to our medical centre and our special thanks to Dr. NagaiahChetty for his continuous support.

On the successful completion of the Silver Jubilee year of our Medical Centre, we thank all the doctors, volunteers, Sri Kanchi Kama KotiSankara Medical Trust and the office bearers who worked along with us to make this happen.

In the event of Silver Jubilee celebration a souvenir was released. A special thanks to Mr. TA Sathyanarayanan and Mr. R Kannan who worked hard to bring it a grand success.

We are thankful to the Doctors who have been rendering medical advice to the patients. We want to appreciate the services of Medical Faculty consisting of Dr.NagaiahChetty, Dr. Vidhya, Dr. Arul Kumaran, Dr. Poongothai who has been a great source of strength.

Our cherished dream of a SYMA hospital catering to the poor providing quality medical care would dawn to a reality one day.

#### **Medical Camps :**

- ❖ On the great day of our National Independence, SYMA continues to dedicate itself to the service of the Nation, remember the patriotic deeds and sacrifices of so many, because of whom we are breathing free air. At 8.30 am, the National flag was hoisted by Dr Ashok Rangarajan, Director, Sankara Eye Hospital, Pammal. After this, we proceeded to Triplicane Permanent Fund. Over the past decade and half and more, we have been conducting Eye Camp on Nation's Independence Day. Every year, it has been happening at Sri Seervi Samaj Bhavan, whose management have been associating with us for the event.

This year due to construction activities, the venue was not available and Triplicane Permanent Fund readily pitched in. At 9.00am the Eye Camp was inaugurated at Fund Kalyana Mantap at Singarachari Street. This camp for detection of cataract was organized in association with Pammal Sri Sankara Eye Hospital, Lions Club of Chennai Veenus, Sri Kanchikamakoti Sankara Medical Trust and Triplicane Permanent Fund.

It is our fortune to be associated with a great hospital committed to serving poor, stretching out to small villages and helping more than 2 lakh people providing vision. Miracles cannot cure blind but together we can.... is their catchline. It is heartening to know that they have recently expanded in a big way at far off Samarjhola, Odisha with a multibedded hospital that has facilities for comprehensive eye care, investigations and outpatient treatment, low vision clinic, contact lens clinic, special clinic for children, micro phaco cataract surgeries for spectacle free vision, and glaucoma services. We are ever thankful to the Doctors, Medical and other staff of Sankara Eye Hospital and special thanks are due to Mr J Babu. More than 250 persons had registered in the camp. Around 190 were screened. More than 20 were found requiring cataract surgery. 15 persons were taken to the hospital at Pammal and underwent cataract surgery. 25 persons were prescribed spectacles – and were given free – in memory of our beloved KE Raghavan, who was snatched away from our midst few years ago. We place on record our appreciation to Mr MA Sadagopan for the coordination and arrangement of the Eye Camp.

A group of our Office bearers visited them and enquired their well being. Those who underwent operation were brought back and dropped at Triplicane a day after surgery. The beneficiaries were very happy and blessed SYMA for our active social service and wished the well being of all of us. We at SYMA continue to strive for the betterment of society and provide helping hand to the poor and needy.

- ❖ On 19<sup>th</sup> September 2015, Blood grouping camp was conducted in association with Plant Children Home (A unit of Plant) at Chennai Middle school campus. Bells Road. Around 75 school children were benefitted.
- ❖ On the event of 25<sup>th</sup> year of Our Medical Centre, a general medical camp was conducted on 02<sup>nd</sup> October 2015. Around 125 patients were screened. This camp was organized in association with Kanchi Kamakoti Sankara Medical Trust and L.S.H.G Therabandhi Bhavan.

### Education:

- ❖ We express our gratitude and thanks to all those who have been supporting us. We owe our success in Social activities to the active participation, blessings, advices and donations of so many good willed, like minded persons. We see the SUCCESS of the function not as achievement of any particular individual but only a collective effort, a good one at that.

### GROWTH :

- ❖ In the month of May 2015, applications were distributed and we conducted a personal interview for each student who was accompanied with their parents. We have finalized the students based on the economic criteria and the fourth year of SYMA Growth was launched during 1<sup>st</sup> week of June.
- ❖ We thank the teaching Staff's Mrs K N Vijayalakshmi, Ms Subashini, Mr S Venkatadri, Mr Shahul Hameed, Mr T Srinivasan, Mr K S Venkatakrishnan, Mr Senthil Murugan, Mr Kannan, Ms S Ganthimathi, Ms Manjula, Ms S Jayanthi, Ms M Yogambal, Ms K Padma, Mr S Srinivasan, Mr A S Sridhar, Ms R Jayasudha, Mr. K S Govardhan and Ms S Radha - for their efforts in providing quality education to our students.
- ❖ We must place on record our gratitude and thanks to the management of NK Thirumalachariyar National Boys High School and to Mr S Venkatadri, Head Master of National Boys High School for providing us the infrastructure and other facilities
- ❖ The Academic Year 2015-16 came to a close. Special pooja was conducted by Sri Devaraja Swami, Chinnamurai Archagar of Sri Parthasarathi Swami temple who blessed the students. Mr Shanti Chand of Moti & Co, pharma distributors and Sollin Selvar Mr PN Parasuraman, an erudite scholar and writer on Hinduism were the Chief Guests, who encouraged the students with their wisdom. Our President TA Sampathkumar and Secretary R. Sanjeevi also spoke to the students. SYMA places on record our profound thanks to the Management of NK Thirumalachariyar National Boys High School, Mr S. Venkatadri, HM, NKT Boys High School, our beloved teachers of SYMA Growth, Mrs Thara, Mr Raja, and the volunteers. We now look forward to our students coming out with flying colours in the Public Examination.

### Educational aid

SYMA is wedded to the cause of social service – Educational Assistance has been our preferred field for long. Every children has the right to be educated. Only education will uplift them to higher echelons. Even in this rich metropolis, sadly there are many children who could ill-afford to have proper uniforms. We strongly believe that we can make some difference to the way these unfortunate children attend their school. For over two decades now, we have been providing new uniforms to poor students. This year also we distributed applications, scrutinized and finalized at one stroke, the recipients based on economic criteria. The students came to the venue, had their applications completed and walked out with cards with which they collected the uniforms without



hassle. Every year in our Function, we distribute uniforms, honour the school toppers of various schools in Triplicane, extend financial assistance to some students and honour a good social worker with 'SYMA Sewa Award'. That in essence is our Educational Aid programme. 11th July 2015 was the day and we held our Educational Aid Programme at 5 pm at NKT National Girls High School, Triplicane. Our Secretary, S Sampathkumar compered the programme, welcomed the Guests and introduced those on stage. President TA Sampathkumar in his Presidential address spoke about our various activities, tracing the origin, and dwelt at length on our vision and ideals. Every year we have eminent people who have excelled in life – ensuring that students feel encouraged by great role-models.

This year the Chief Guest was Shri NK Ranganath, MD of Grundfos Pumps India P Ltd, from its inception in 1988. An annual production of more than 16 million pumps makes Grundfos one of the World's leading pump manufacturers. A Mechanical Engineer from College of Engg, Guindy with Management from XLRI, Jamshedpur, he is a man with more than 3 decades of experience in multifarious fields. The Chief Guest of the day has been the past President of Madras Management Association, the past Chairman of TN Council of CII and past Chairman of AEEE. Presently, he is part of CII National Committees on Mfg., Water, CSR and Skill development. He is also on board of Indian Terrain Fashions and on the advisory board of 'the Banyan'. Its HQ in Chennai is India's first goldrated green building and also received the Gold certification in 2011. Grundfos has launched a forum through social media titled 'Ekboondhpani' – meaning a drop of water, signifying the importance of each drop of water. Through this page, members share water conservation tips. It was indeed a great honour to have him on the podium.

The other guest was Shri R. Vijayaraghavan, well known to Triplicanites through his philanthropy. Not many of us know of his rich experience of 4 decades in health, critical care and hospital management. He had introduced new drugs in India and specialised in nephrology care. Over the years, he has established several dialysis centres all over the country and in Nepal offering quality care to thousands of kidney failure patients with 300000 hemodialysis over 15 years. He has helped social organisations like Lions club to establish and run Hemodialysis at low costs. He is involved in promoting a retirement home titled 'Sri Anandha Nilayam' at Kanchi. He is also the Founder Trustee of Akshaya Athreya Trust which focusses on education, health and promotion of our heritage, Vedas and scriptures. Our tuition centre SYMA Growth has been providing systematic support throughout the academic year to select students and our students have excelled this year too. We are fortunate to have dedicated teachers striving to provide quality education.

This year the SYMA Seva award was conferred on Mrs KN Vijayalakshmi, who has been providing quality tuition at our Centre. We also honoured on stage Mr S Venkatadri, HM of NKT National Boys High School and Mr Shahul Hameed, HM of Muslim High School, Triplicane. Triplicane has many educational institutions; some of them are century old. The toppers of various schools in Triplicane [in X Std and +2] were honoured on stage. This has been providing great encouragement and happiness to achievers. This award has been instituted by Mr TA Ramachandran in memory of his mother Mrs Rajalakshmi Padmanabhan. Another award is instituted in the name of Vai Mu Kothainayakiammal by Mrs. Geetha Venkatakrishnan. The achievers of SYMA Growth were

honoured too. The Growth Topper every year receives 'D. Krishnan Memorial award' instituted by Ms. Bharathi Baskar. Financial support to the selected students was given. Uniforms were distributed to the selected schools on stage. This year the distribution of uniforms on stage was symbolic and uniforms were distributed at NKT Boys High school on Sunday avoiding congestion, ensuring that the recipients got them without any hassle. Our Secretary R. Sanjeevi proposed vote of thanks and meeting ended with National Anthem.

The function went off very well, largely due to the meticulous planning in distribution of uniforms by our Vice President R Seshadri @ Durai ably assisted by Madhavan, D Veeraraghavan, S. Venkatesh and enthusiastic band of volunteers. In fact, Seshadri and KS Varadharajan went to Tirupur for selecting quality uniforms and special thanks to AMR Sundar in this endeavour. We express our gratitude and thanks to all those who have been supporting us. We owe our success in Social activities to the active participation, blessings, advices and donations of so many good willed, like minded persons.

The list of large hearted, good minded people is long. The help is not measured by the amount of contributions alone but by the spontaneity, willingness and the kind heartedness. We would like to place on record, our special thanks to all our donors, patrons and wellwishers. We place on record our special thanks to the management of NKT Management, Principal, Training college & Mr S Venkatadri. Special thanks are due to all our dedicated teachers. We thank all our donors and members with special reference to Sri Balasubramaniam of MangalTirth Estates; Sri J Venkatesan; TS Lakshmanan, Mr CR Sridhar; Kumaran Dresses; Gemini Tailors, Swaraj Graphics. We also thank the Press especially the The Hindu and The Hindu-Tamil Generally, most of our collections come at the time of Educational Aid programme. We request our volunteers to put in extra efforts for collecting more funds.

The activities of SYMA are well supported by many donors. Mere words can seldom express our gratitude appropriately. A few years back, we initiated efforts in creating Corpus fund and the name(s) of donors of Rs.1 lakh and above are etched in the facade of our premises. The list is growing ! Sri R Vijayaraghavan, who is doing great service in providing care for dialysis, has been supporting us in our many activities. We thankfully acknowledge the donation of Rs.1,00,000/- to our Corpus Fund. The cheque was handed over to us on the dias of Educational Aid Function held on 11th July 2015

#### **SYMA SEVA AWARD**

- ❖ As a Service Organisation engaged in Social Service for over three decades, it is bounden duty of SYMA to recognise those who have been rendering service to the Society without thinking of any recompense. SYMA has been honouring people who have excelled in the area of service to mankind and society by conferring SYMA SEWA AWARD.
- ❖ This year, it was a person who has been doing great service at our tuition Centre – SYMA Growth. Madam Smt. K.N. Vijayalakshmi has been associated with SYMA Growth since inception imbuing language skills to students with passion and dedication. She retired as Headmistress of NKT National Boys High School in 2000 after completing 4 decades of service. At 74, her enthusiasm and passion are exceptional and we at SYMA [and our students] have benefitted by

her knowledge, compassion, teaching skills. We believe her to be an Extraordinary Role Model and this year in our Function, we were happy to bestow 'SYMA Seva Award 2015' in recognition of her outstanding contributions in the field of Educational Service and service to society at large. Thanks Madam for accepting our Award and we bow to your exemplary service.

### Relief work

- ❖ Much water has flown under the bridge' is an oft repeated cliché meaning that something is in the past and no longer important. It was water of different kind for Chennaites. Around Deepavali 2015, there were rains dampening the spirits. Dec 2015 started differently. At Chennai much water flowed under the bridge, no – actually flowed over the bridges at Saidapet and Adyar. The incessant rains, floods breaching the tanks inundated many residential areas, bringing untold hardships to Chennaites. and people of Tamil Nadu rose up in spectacular fashion, helping each other. Triplicane, the abode of Lord Parthasarathi remained absolutely unaffected – Thiruvallikkenivasis, Organisations and more were in the forefront doing rescue work. SYMA proudly organised providing help to the people. For 5 continuous days from 2nd Dec, SYMA volunteers in trucks fanned out to various rain-affected localities distributing biscuits, food, milk, dress material, mats, blankets

### Dec 4 2015

- ❖ Triplicane, fortunately is not affected badly. Today Thiruvallikkeni buzzed with activity. Srinivas Youngmens Association [SYMA] organised relief work. We organised sets of raincoats for Corporation workers [must place on record the great work they are doing in many parts of the city]. We arranged a mini-truck, carried relief material including mats, new blankets, new sarees, rice bags and food packets. We planned to handover the materials to Seva Barathi at Tambaram and travelled via Poonamallee High Road, Maduravoyal bridge.

There was water, water and more ... On way saw river in spates and water flowing on roads in some places. Could not move beyond Thiruneermalai and were forced to return back – distributing food on the way. At Anakaputhur, it was a pathetic sight – people at housetops – water running like a small river – marooned, we could not move them out – but provided them food, blanket, mats – passing them through rope. We finally distributed the relief material at Maduravoyal Govt High School and returned home.

### Dec 5-2015

- ❖ Today too, dawned with lot of hope – in fact when we embarked our relief work, most of us were not wearing raincoats. This day our experience was different – food packets were coming from many sources – and there was a special team of enthusiastic women packing the hot food in foils. The relief material of food, blankets, clothes, biscuits, water packets was loaded in a truck ~ and Vittal Nana had arranged yes, boats – 2 them on a truck stood before Sri Parthasarathi temple. ... and another mini van too followed. So many volunteers – all set for relief work.



As we wound through Beach road, Adyar bridge, Raj bhavan, 100 ft road – reaching Velachery junction – it was all smooth – road at this point was blocked as there was some water logging near the Madipakkam bridge above Velachery MRTS – the relief vehicles were allowed by Police to proceed. As we were over the bridge, there was a sharp spell of rains. We passed through ‘kaiveli’ – selected Ram Nagar near Sri Oppiliappan temple – the boat was lowered into water – it was knee deep and slightly more at places – many pockets were loaded on the boat [a group of us were joined by RSS workers who had come from elsewhere] – we went through many lanes – the ground floor flats had been affected and people had left the place – there were some staying in 1st floor – and there were many construction workers too, stranded. We distributed food, biscuits and water to them.

I am generally no great admirer of pet dogs – here a man suggested that some dogs inside an under-construction building had been starving for the past few days – we had only rice in hand – and that was devoured by them.

Another group of SYMA volunteers with another boat went to another area, few lanes away – they too had a similar experience. The van with other materials went and distributed them in the area under the Velachery bridge – which was badly inundated with sewer water running. We too joined them there. There was slight commotion as the materials were not enough.

On the way we saw, army jawans distributing food, some parisals, some boats and NDRF with dinghies. Many people are doing relief work – there were to be at least 3 sharp showers for brief durations, which was a great dampener as we apprehend that it might put back the position.

We found none to be rescued, but the boats helped to carry large amount of food packet and other material much inside.

Praying for speedy restoration and people getting back to normalcy – the city has had more than enough !

#### **6th Dec ember 2015**

- ❖ People may be tired of rains – SYMA continued its relief work for the 4th day in succession. Today too we had 2 boats, 2 trucks + a car and more – carrying food packets, dress materials, biscuits, bread and today thoughtfully milk packets for children [and some sanitary napkins too]

Today's destination was Semmencherry – we did not go to the usual nagars but with material loaded on the boat to the vast expanse of construction in knee deep flowing water and inside there are more than 150 people – construction workers with many children. There we distributed food, dress, milk and others.

Then we moved on to Kannagi Nagar nearer Thuraipakkam – inside we were told by an active worker belonging to ruling party that there are around 2300 people and many of the areas were badly affected as Buckingham canal and the other waterbody from Thuraipakkam intersect

this place and water gushed from the river. When you have thousands of people, and you have few hundreds of blankets and the like – things could turn chaotic to violent. We deposited them with the local councillor in a hospital building to be aggregated and distributed by them.

Another group went to Kotturpuram area; while some more were distributed nearer Adyar Malar hospital. SYMA is pondering on slowing down the relief and do some meaningful strategic support in rehabilitation

### **Flood rehabilitation ~ SYMA at Kottur High School 2016**

- ❖ Dec 2015 would remain etched in the memory of Chennaiites ~ for the devastation that followed incessant rains. I have earlier posted about the relief works that SYMA did at various places.

After the initial days, we regrouped to strategically do some rehabilitation and we are committed to reaching out the needy utilising all those donations made to us by philanthropists. Like many other places, Kottur was once a village – TNSC in its wisdom constructed flats in the river bed, since it was the dead-end at that time. Puram means exterior in Tamil and hence Kotturpuram. This area was worst affected in 1977 and now too ! In the recent rains, Kottur too was badly affected. Through Mr SR Ragunathan, Chief Photo editor, The Hindu, we came to know the tribulations of the school students. we came in contact with the Mrs Kalpana, HM of Chennai High School, at New Street, Kottur. The teachers here guided by HM displayed great care and concern for the students of this school. We organised through EMRI [special thanks to Mr B Prabhudoss] counselling for the affected students and provided some relief.

GVK EMRI (Emergency Management and Research Institute) is one good thing that happened in 2005. 108 is synonymous with emergency support saving many lives. Recently, they have introduced novel 2-wheeler ambulance services also. Besides, GVK EMRI with TN Govt is operating integrated “104 Health Advice Helpline Services” For those who underwent suffering during floods, especially young students – the stress of the trauma is unbearable. With our active coordination, EMRI 104 Health Helpline conducted psychological counselling for children assisting them to overcome stress induced by floods. Psychologist MrElaya Raja and Mr B Prabhudoss held a session at the school and organised activities and games that touched upon the symptoms of trauma and stress while speaking to students on how to effectively overcome them. Simple breathing techniques and exercises were taught. The concern and care exhibited and the efforts of the Head Mistress of the School and other Teachers in identifying and taking care of those students affected is commendable.

The HM & teachers had identified 83 students as affected – coordinating with them, we arranged to take dress measurements and organised one set of uniform and one colour dress for all of them. The school management also sought some additional support for 30 families [of their students] badly affected. We went to the School – handed over the stitched dress material as



also family kits that consisted of : kerosene stove; some utensils including tumblers, spoons; 3 kgs of rice; 1 ltr of Goldwinner refined oil(Thanks to Mr.C.R.Sridhar); tur dhall; tamarind; red mirchi; tooth paste; soap and cleaning detergents. Around 20 students only were present today – though we had planned only to handover the material to the school, the HM and her staff organised a small meeting. We were delighted to hear the confident words of students who despite their hardships were focussed to studying well and progressing in the future.

The delight on the face of students on seeing the coloured dress – is worth the efforts that volunteers of SYMA have been taking these days. The rains and devastation certainly were unhappy ones – we as responsible citizens are doing our mite in making the Society a better place – and We feel happy that year 2016 has started in the right earnest for us.

### **Jan 3 2016 Rehabilitation Work**

- ❖ Our team from SYMA [Srinivas Youngmens Association] descended here – in the past fortnight our VP, Mr SR Parthasarathi has made many sorties, assessed the situation and identified the affected people with the help of local Welfare association. After our dispensation at Chennai High School, Kottur, it was a different experience at Urapakkam, where people narrated their tale of woes – water entry, loss of property, entry of snakes and other creatures in to houses and more melancholy.

SYMA team with special mention of R.Seshadri @ Durai, SRP,TJR, Sudarshan and others worked overtime, preparing special relief kits that consisted of 5 kgs of rice; 1 kg of 3 dhall; 1 ltr of Goldwinner oil, many utensils including timber, tamarind, sugar, soap & detergents; dhoties and sarees [costing around Rs.1850 each] ~ today morning we distributed these kits to more than 200 families who queued up and received them without melee. The distribution took place at Senthamizh Salai 2nd Street, Selvaraj Nagar, Urapakkam.

Around 80 school bags too were distributed. SYMA on this occasion, thanks all its donors, well-wishers and volunteers.

This time, it was slightly different thought process. Instead of we going to affected places ~ [there is great difficulty in identifying those affected and more when it comes to distributing as sometimes, many others too vie] and it becomes difficult regulating and distributing. An association 'Tamilnadu Maruthuvar Samuthaya Peravai' [organisation for the hair stylists at various parts of the city] had identified their people at various places affected and through them SYMA issued tokens. Today, at 7, Singarachari Street,(Thanks to Mr.K.V.Ramesh for providing place to store all materials throughout Rehabilitation work) we distributed more than 120 family kits comprising of - kerosene pump stove, 5 kgs of rice; 1 kg of 3 dhall; 1 ltr of Goldwinner oil, many utensils including timber, tamarind, sugar, soap & detergents; dhoties and sarees [costing around Rs.2350 each]

The distribution was complete in 1 ½ hours in an orderly manner. SYMA on this occasion, thanks all its donors, well-wishers and volunteers.

Another set of 147 family kits distributed to residents of Kannamapet on 16.1.2016 at Triplicane itself.

CSI Higher Secondary School for the deaf, SYMA helped the school which was worst affected during floods with their groceries stock getting spoiled entirely. SYMA was quick enough to lend a helping hand supplying them with groceries for 2 months

For Flood relief, total collection is Rs.14.48 Lakhs and we spent Rs.14.69 Lakhs. At this juncture, we place our record of appreciation to our secretary Mr. Sampathkumar as his collection is more than 5 Lakhs for flood relief.

SYMA heartily thanks all who have supported us financially - from here and abroad; those who provided food and other material; our own and other volunteers who have been tirelessly worked with us in relief work. We for sure would like to each one of you individually – in concluding, One need not be rich – it is the mind and willingness – as we have been busy formulating our work, couple of vegetable vendors who have roadside shops approached us..... for a moment one thought, they were going to ask for any help ..... One of them an old lady gave Rs.500/- while another man gave Rs.1000/-.

We thank Mr. Balakrishnan Perumbala from USA who have contributed Rs. 204266/ and through his friends Namitha Magoon Rs.66386/- & Mr. Sanjay Magoon – Rs.66386/-. We thank Mr. Biju Dhamodharan & Friends from Muscat for his contribution of Rs. 100000/ towards flood relief and rehabilitation work.

#### **Medical Centre: -**

- ❖ SYMA medical centre is our address. We take every care to ensure that patients who utilise our services are attended to properly and get the best medical attention. The lab charges very low cost for tests and at times, many apprehend whether they can get quality tests done at such low costs. In Jan 2016, we bought a new analyser costing around 1.50 lakhs for our lab, which automates most of the functions and is sophisticated. We have also bought computerised ECG at approx Rs. 50000. With this, we continue to serve the society providing quality medical support.

At the facade of the Centre, we have now an electronic scroll – customized and made for us by M/s Triad. We thank our member Mr S Parthasarathy for this. Besides details of charges at our lab, we are able to run details of SYMA's activities and info. that would benefit the common public. We scrolled info on road safety and need for wearing helmets.

The need for conserving energy, saving electricity and trying alternative sources have always been much discussed. Solar energy is important source of renewal energy and SYMA has made a small step towards this. We have installed solar panel at our SYMA office. The solar kit was donated by our member KV Srikanth of Chakra Technologies and SYMA thanks him. In tune with the modernisation of our Office premises, we have replaced our existing Computer with a new one courtesy Mr Devarajan (@ Alex) our member residing in USA; the new Printer/ Scanner was donated by Mr TSP Lakshman [Mukund] – SYMA thanks them. We thankfully

acknowledge the donation of US \$ 500 [Rs.30452] from Balayanamandra of USA obtained through our member Ms Saranya. Thanks to Mr.A.V.Kasturirangan for inventor battery from Lucas-Tvs for growth and Medical center.

### **Silver jubilee function& Souvenir**

- ❖ The interesting journey started in 1977 and SYMA is continuing its march fulfilling its ideals. The success is not measured by achievements or performance – more by serving the society at large, catering to and addressing the needs of common man. The path of social service is not one of roses – there are impediments and hardships, SYMA is committed to continuance. We know that the strength of any Organisation is not its antiquity alone, more of its continuance and spread.

It all germinated with cleaning streets and the temple tank striving to keep the surroundings clean, soon spreading to environment protection, civic awareness, education, uniform distribution, medicine, blood donation, and more. SYMA's measured steps and growth have been well steered by its Presidents of past, Office bearers and taken forward by its- Members, volunteers, supporters, philanthropists and of course, the users of its facilities.

In 1989, we were initiated to the field of Medical Service, whence every aspect was a big challenge! – the infrastructure, attending Doctors, procuring and handling medicines, medical records, administering the premises, funds required and many other new aspects. Now, SYMA is celebrating 25 years of Medical Service. At this juncture, SYMA looks back with a sense of satisfaction. It certainly is not the Success story of SYMA alone – Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Sankara Medical Trust, well experienced in running similar centres, took us as their affiliate. Dr K Sridhar, guided and helped us, ensuring smooth transformation at every step. Doctors, medicines, best practices in administration – all were made available by our beloved Dr Sridhar, Mrs Pankajam Sridhar and others. After many years of continued support, in 2009, when we were confident of walking on our own, they gracefully ensured transformation as Medical Centre fully run by SYMA. Now as we celebrate our 25 years – it is time to recall our fledgling steps, our gratitude to all those helped - from those who initiated, those who served, those who assisted in administering, those who provided funds, those who sourced and acted as bridge for those funds and more. We dedicate this Souvenir to - Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Sankara Medical Trust, Dr K Sridhar, volunteers of Besant Nagar Unit, Doctors who have served at our centre, our dear Volunteers, Vasavi Builders, multitude of donors and all others. SYMA thanks You All

We celebrated our Silver jubilee of medical service. The Chief Guest was Dr J Radhakrishnan, Secretary – Dept of Health & Family Welfare. The other Guest was Dr K Sridhar, renowned Plastic surgeon and Member (Health) of State Planning Commission. Doctors who have served at the centre, volunteers of the centre and past Presidents of SYMA were honoured. A medical camp was inaugurated – more than 130 persons benefitted from the camp, which included blood test, ECG and other tests. S. Sampathkumar, Secretary welcomed the gathering, spoke about the occasion and introduced the Guests. TA Sampathkumar, President spoke at length about SYMA, its growth, its various activities and its vision.

In the afternoon, a Souvenir commemorating the Silver jubilee of Medical service of SYMA was released by the Chief Guest Sri CL Ramakrishnan, Retd IPS and copies were received by Dr K Sridhar, Vizhaventhan NKT Muthu, Mangaltirth Estates Mr Balasubramaniam.



Syma thanks all those who helped us through advertisements in souvenir and all those members who gave advertisements personally and got through their office and friends. special mention for vittal narayanan who took the initiative in designing and placing attractive boards, stage background conveying our spirit of service.

#### **Corporate Social Responsibility:**

- ❖ On a very auspicious day 6th July 2008, our pride, full-time tuition centre, SYMA Growth was born and now we are ushering in 9th year. As we blossom, we have a great occurrence, this year – Corporate support. Manpower Group® renowned global workforce expert, has provided full sponsorship of this project for 2016-17 under the CSR. We are overwhelmed by the support and are proud to be associated with such a big Corporate. We place on record our gratitude to Manpower Group and to Mr PV Venkatesan for the solid support. We appreciate the efforts taken by Mr. S Sampathkumar –Secretary for his consistent follow-up and Mr. TJ Ramani for his support in providing him the documents on time.
- ❖ For Growth, ITC Limited under their CSR they sponsored us 500 Big size Note books, 500 Small size note books, 500 Pens and 500 Pencils. We thank Mr. TP Srikanth & Mr. K Balajee for their support.
- ❖ From 13th Mar 2009, we are running the medical centre and lab independently. As we blossom, we have a great occurrence, this year – Corporate support. M/s Paleppu Pharma Pvt Ltd., has provided sponsorship of 1 Lakh towards Medicines for 2015-16 under the CSR scheme. We thank Mr. N. Ganapathy our former president for this.

#### **National Days**

- ❖ Independence Day was celebrated with patriotic fervor and National flag was hoisted at our premises by Dr. Ashok Rangarajan, Director Sankara Eye Hospital, Pammal
- ❖ On the Republic Day of the Nation At SYMA centre, National flag was hoisted by Mr KV Rangarajan, President, Brahmins welfare Association. At prime time 8.30 am, Kalaaignar TV presented a programme titled "Mugavari Kodukkum Mugangal" appreciating those who serve the society with fervor without caring to highlight their names. The Program producer Mr. Vijayaraghavan and his crew visited our SYMA medical centre and recorded the functioning of our medical centre. For 15 minutes, the program showcased the good work of SYMA with face-to face with the Secretary. It was well edited and brought out well. SYMA thanks Kalaaignar TV, the cheerful presenter, the concept head Mr. Vijayaraghavan and his crew.

#### **Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam**

- ❖ The Nation revered Dr. Abdul Kalam for his many facets of - renowned aerospace engineer, Professor, Chancellor, President of India, man with a noble mind, clean habits, straight talks, his love to children, his inspirational writings and more. By awarding Bharat Ratna to him, the Nation rejoiced. In the passing away of the man who played a pivotal role in Pokhran II, our 11th President – Nation was saddened. On 28th July, at Triplicane, SYMA organised homage

– floral tribute – the response was spontaneous – large no. of Triplicanites participating. On the next day, students from schools of Triplicane came in large numbers. In an appreciable gesture to honour APJ, the Madras High Court announced that it would work 15 minutes extra every day for the rest of the week. Kalam had famously said: “Don’t declare a holiday on my death, instead work an extra day if you love me”.

### **Sri Parthasarathy Koil Post office**

- ❖ Some things have changed in life. Some have lost their sheen for no fault of theirs. There was this old building at VeeraraghavaMudali St [Big Street, Triplicane] that once stood majestically and bustled with activity and was brought down in Jan 2011. It was the most sought after one of yesteryears – ‘the post office’. This one was officially known as “Parthasarathy Koil S.O” – a bigger one has been in existence at Triplicane High Road for long. The modern day youngsters might not know the cost of a Post card; may not even know that such thing exists ! For none of the younger generation are in the habit of writing letter by hand to parents / spouse / brother and sister / loved ones / friend / teacher or somebody else ? In fact many are not even in the habit of sending / responding personally to e-mails in the age of FB but have lots of time for sending forwards Do you know that besides the Communication Address viz., Postal address that consists of Door No., Street Name, Area, City .... there existed something known as PO Bag No. ? History reveals that it was way back in 1712, Governor Harrison first started a Company Postal Service in Madras to carry mail to Bengal by dak runner. By 1736, a postal system of sorts was in place with a somewhat greater vision.

In 1774, a system of charging postage on private letters began. Decades later the postal rules were in place – Chennai General Post Office was initially opened in Fort St. George Square, just outside the Sea Gate, on 1 June 1786. Once that Big Street building was demolished – Sri Parthasarathy Koil PO suffered. It functioned for some time from the premises of Triplicane PO – for some time it was in the near dilapidated structure at Hanumantharayan Street – for many years residents of Thiruvallikkeni had been waiting patiently, moving mountains in the fond hope that seemingly endless wait of Sri Parthasarathi Koil PO at Thiruvallikkeni would dawn into a reality !!! – not all nursed the hope! It was of sentimental importance too. Any search on Sulekha pages or elsewhere would reveal the names of Post Offices as [certainly not the exhaustive list]: Adambakkam PO; Adyar PO; Alandur PO; Alwarthirunagar PO; and the like. There could be hundreds of post offices but to those residents of Triplicane – the building that housed Thiruvallikkeni ThapalNilayam is a monument and many would have green stories kindling nostalgia – and its name is unique for it is ‘**Sri Parthasarathi Koil Post Office**’ ..... **only one of its genre named not after the locality but after our presiding deity Sri Parthasarathi. 16th Dec 2015 dawned differently as with the concerted efforts of citizens of Thiruvallikkeni, Sri Parthasarathy Koil PO was reopened at North Tank Square Street, in a premises belonging to the Temple.**

Thanks are due to many – specifically Mr MGR Vasan, Councillor 116 Ward, Sri Parthasarathy Swami Temple Devasthanam DC and officials, associations of Triplicane including SYMA [special mention of TJ Ramani] and Friends Association; Brahmins Welfare Association,

Triplicane – specific for contributing the advance amount from their funds. With the efforts of many many people, the Post Office today is a reality bringing cheers to all here at Thiruvallikeni.

**Others :**

- ❖ VaikundaEkadasi is a very special day and thousands of people visit Sri Parthasarathi Swami temple. On Vaikunda Ekadasi day, SYMA distributed food packets and water to the devotees standing in the Queue to have darshan of Lord Sri Parthasarathy. The special efforts of SR Parthasarathi, KS Varadharajan, Meiyur Kannan, MrsPrema, Mrs Shobhana Narasimhan are appreciated.

**OUR SINCERE THANKS**

**OFFICE BEARERS & COMMITTEE:**

- ❖ The continuity and performance of Social Service Organisation depends on the selfless and untiring efforts of its members and those at the helm. We are fortunate to have a team of dedicated persons who planned and actively participated in the activities throughout the year. The Committee was a right mixture of Elders and youngsters and we take this opportunity to thank each and every office bearer and Committee members for their unstinting support as also the tireless work.

**AUDIT :**

- ❖ Special thanks are due to our Auditor Mr V. Murali of M/s Devan & Co., who properly guided us in managing our funds and have given timely advice in placing deposits. We thank them for the guidance and for the scrutiny of our accounts.

**MEDIA :**

- ❖ We place on record our thanks to Mr. S R Raghunathan for his help in arranging coverage of our functions in the media and also fixing up the Chief Guests for the Programmes.
- ❖ Our Sincere thanks to 'The Hindu', 'The Hindu – Downtown', for publishing articles on activities of our association.

**ADMINISTRATION and IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR VARIOUS PROJECTS:**

- ❖ The organized work and clear instructions of MrDurai alias R. Seshadri deserves special mention, especially in the distribution of school uniforms.
- ❖ The enthusiasm, vigor and coordination of MrM ASadagopan deserves special mention – for his role in arranging the various medical camps.
- ❖ We thank Mr. D Sudarsan, Mr. K.S. Varadarajan, Swaraj Graphics & Sunsar Printers for the help rendered in Office correspondence, Administration & printing etc.,
- ❖ A special mention to our Treasurers, Mr. M K Sridharan & Mr. M A Sadagopan for their regular quality work. Thanks are also due to Mr. V.P. Manivannan & Mr. T J Ramani in maintenance of Accounts in our system.



### **VOLUNTEERS:**

- ❖ Our special thanks to Mrs. Thara for balancing day to day affairs of 'SYMA Growth' efficiently.
- ❖ We thank our volunteers Mrs. M K Prema, Mr. S. Venkatesh, Mrs. Suguna Ramesh and Mrs. Mahalakshmi for their support at our medical centre & Lab. Special mention to Mr N S Rangarajan for balancing day to day affairs of Medical centre and auditing the collections of medical centre and lab.
- ❖ We thank Mr. Raja of NKT Boys School and students who had earlier studied at our 'SYMA Growth' for their great support on day to day activities of SYMA Growth.
- ❖ Members are requested to visit our website [www.syma.in](http://www.syma.in) for all our activities and our photo gallery : <http://picasaweb.google.com/SYMATRIPLICANE>

### **SPECIAL THANKS:**

- ❖ We thank all our sponsors for the monetary assistance to our projects and also all our members in collecting and helping through sponsors.
- ❖ We place our sincere thanks and gratitude to Dr. K Sridhar for the guidance and motivation in running the Medical centre and Lab.
- ❖ We remain ever grateful to Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Sankara Medical Trust for the financial assistance towards the expenses of the Medical centre / Lab.
- ❖ We thank CR Sreedhar of Media Associates and Gold Winner for the regular support and sponsorship
- ❖ As you all would know, we launched a scheme for creation of Corpus fund. We are proud in announcing that we have 5 sponsors of Rs.1,00,000/- each this year, whose names are etched on our premises. Our Special thanks are due to Mr. K S Varadharajan in memory of Mrs. G P Kamala, Mr. R Vijayaraghavan of AkshayaAthreya Trust, Grundfos Pumps India Pvt Ltd (through Mr. J Venkatesan), Dr. K Sridhar, Dr. Sarala Devi Johnson in memory of Dr. KV Balakrishnan & Dr. Kamalakshi (through Mr. K V Veeraraghavan) for donating Rs. 1,00,000/- each.
- ❖ Our sincere thanks to Mr. TK Aravind for maintenance of computer at free of cost throughout the year.
- ❖ We place our record of appreciation to Mr. KS. Varadharajan for maintaining our members address list and updating as and when required.
- ❖ Our Sincere thanks to Mr. T P Srikanth & Mr. T P Sridhar for continuous support to our medical Centre and Tuition centre by providing A4 papers.
- ❖ Thanks to Vibrant Mr. D Sudarsan for his tireless assistance to all our activities and also special mention of Mr. Venkatesh for his outdoor activity support.

- ❖ We Thank Mrs. M K Prema for her commendable support in day to day activities of Medical Centre and Staffs of our association and our beloved Mr. N S Rangarajan for his accounts monitoring.
- ❖ We appreciate the effort of Mrs. Jayasudha for maintaining our website and also thank Mr. Chandrasekar for able support.
- ❖ We dedicate our success of releasing souvenir to Mr. TA Sathyanarayanan, Mr. R Kannan for their tireless work in bringing the beautiful articles and also thank RNR printers, Mr. Rajan & Mr. Nagarajan for their support.
- ❖ We salute our regular blood donors. It is pertinent to note that most of our members are regular donors and all adding feather to our cap.
- ❖ Maintaining Medical Centre & premises of our tuition centre is not easy. We thank our vice president Mr. S R Parthasarathy for his commendable job.
- ❖ We thank our printers Swaraj Graphics & Sansar Printers for their support.
- ❖ Our special thanks are due to Auditor Mr. Murali for his timely help in facing all income tax queries and timely solutions.
- ❖ We thank all our members for the trust and giving this opportunity to serve this year.

#### **BLISS :**

- ❖ Our newsletter BLISS has been propagating the various activities of SYMA from time to time. Mr. S. Sampathkumar has been the Editor for the same and thank you all for the wonderful support.
- ❖ We record our sincere thanks to Swaraj Graphics & Sansar printers for their concerted efforts in ensuring rolling out of the issues.
- ❖ We look forward to receiving regular feedback on the newsletter. Also request you to send details of events of achievements of our Members and their wards for publishing in BLISS