



## Newsletter June 2011

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Dear friends,

First of all, allow me to convey best wishes to you from all the members of the Aum Pranava family!

Last year was eventful and full of rich experiences. The ashram has organized cultural trips, celebrated traditional ceremonies, distributed food to the needy on many occasions apart from feeding poor people within the premises of the ashram, and worked on its own structural improvement in all spheres of everyday life. Life in the ashram together with more than 100 people living together in various buildings is varied, colourful, pulsating, and sometimes hectic – but despite all the ups and downs of everyday life, people are grateful for this warm home, which has developed into a veritable melting pot for people from all walks of life and age groups.

The Aum Pranava family is united by a force which incorporates tolerance, forbearance, compassion, gratefulness, discipline, care and sacrifice, a force which may simply be called LOVE.

In this context, Mother Theresa's words come to my mind: "Today, in this world, there is more hunger for love than for bread. The worst poverty is the feeling of not being loved."



In the founders' experience and opinion, it is very important for elderly people to just keep *seeing* children and adolescents around them, because it keeps them *alive*. Even though they may have to carry heavy burdens of past memories, which *do* cause lot of unhappiness and depression in them, their brain does *not* switch off! They are part of us! We love them as they are.

The ashram is a place teeming with life and work in the areas of child-, old-age-, animal-, and agro-care, where volunteers from all over the world add to the diversity of its social texture. Valuable experiences with people from different cultures and multifarious walks of life are continuously made. Often, we find that, in this entire bustle, a soul awakens blossoms and shines.

The Children's Home looks after 61 children's health, educational development and character moulding; while some of them are orphans, many children without either parent come from economically "backward" areas, communities and families. Their age spans from 5 to 22 years. Among them are two female college students, who, having grown up in the ashram over many years, attend classes in the nearby college for women. Two more male college students stay in college hostels in faraway places, but remain in the ashram's fold and care. Previous students often visit us and most of them keep a good contact to their ashram

home.

The old-age home shelters elderly people from severely poverty stricken background and is now fully occupied with 25 elders, rounding off the number of *ashramites* to 85. With 16 permanent staff



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members in the departments of kitchen, child care, special tuition classes, old age care, garden and cow shed, and a varying number of volunteers (both local and foreign), the ashram has well crossed a centum.

Official news: on 27<sup>th</sup> Dec 2010, the ashram was granted the **permanent** tax exemption approval of the Income Tax Office (also called 80G) after a thorough examination by the Income Tax Commissioner, Madurai.

Our ashram administration has always been incredibly functional. It helps us keep expenses at a lower level and minimize institutionalization. For practical reasons, we have decided to set up a page on *Facebook* which not only allows us to communicate with all the contacts of the ashram, but also to present the ashram and its concerns and causes in a very simple and economic way. You can also find the link to our *Facebook* page on our website [www.aumpranavashram.org](http://www.aumpranavashram.org), which offers all information regarding the ashram. We hope to receive many visitors!

We are very much looking forward to numerous feedbacks and many new contacts and sponsors, who can assist us in supporting those who are in need. With and through your compassion and love, we are able to run this HOME for children and senior citizens, and to build up purposeful structures for society which may be of use to so many people yet to come and serve as inspiration to people from all over the world.

Despite all the economical crises and price increases, which have sometimes created panic and fear in the minds of many, YOU have helped us keep this place alive and to continue its mission of creating a philanthropic and benevolent spirit for all. **THANK YOU and we look forward to your continuous support!**

In the name of all children and elderly, as well as other *ashramites*, we send you our love & gratitude!

Yours,

*Traude Englert and V. Visvanathan*

*Ilanji, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2011-06-22*

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These are photos of this year's newcomers.



Ashram Girls, 2011/12



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Previous students of the ashram, who have either finished their college studies (left), will complete their college education in April 2012 (middle), or have already entered work force (right).



Ashram boys, 2011/12



#### Donation schemes:

##### 1. Balajeevitha Seva

Covers the expenses of one child per month (incl food, medical care, education, clothes, personal needs, tuitions). **Rs. 2500.-**

##### 2. Amudhasurabhi

- a. Meals for a full day **Rs. 3800.-**
- b. Lunch **Rs. 1900.-**
- c. Breakfast or Dinner (Tiffin) **Rs. 1300.-**

##### 3. Sponsor the Education of One Child per Year **Rs. 6300.-**

##### 4. Trikala Seva Scheme (Corpus Donation) **Rs. 50,000.- and above (!)**

For the corpus of the Aum Pranava Ashram Trust, we humbly reach out to the numerous philanthropists to help us create financial security for our trust.

#### Donation Details:

❖ The Aum Pranava Ashram Trust is registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) 1976 and is thus eligible to receive funds from anywhere in the world. Our registration number allotted by the Home Ministry of India is 076030320.

❖ Our Aum Pranava Ashram Trust has Income Tax Exemption under Section 80G of I.T. Act.

#### Demand Draft / Cheques:

Kindly take a DD or sign a cheque favouring the **Aum Pranava Ashram Trust**, payable at Tenkasi, and post the same to the following address: Aum Pranava Ashram Trust, Five Falls Bypass Road, ILANJI – 627 805, Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu, India.



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**For bank transfers, please note the following details:**

For bank transfers **within India:**

Aum Pranava Ashram Trust  
S.B. A/C No. 10955561364  
State Bank of India, Tenkasi Branch Code 928  
IFSC Code SBIN0000928  
TAMIL NADU, INDIA.

For bank transfers **from abroad:**

Aum Pranava Ashram Trust  
S.B. A/C No. 10955561636  
State Bank of India, Tenkasi Branch Code 928  
SWIFT Code SBININBB463  
TAMIL NADU, INDIA.



These two female college students, who have grown up in the ashram and are still staying here, are going to complete their degrees in economic studies in April 2012.

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Those who wish to contribute any amount through bank transfer or internet banking to our Trust Account, are kindly requested to **send us an e-mail (or a letter) with details about the transfer** so that we can issue a receipt after arrival of the amount.

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☺ A motley selection from our photo bucket ☺

☺ Thank you ☺