



TAMIL NADU FOUNDATION USA - TAMIL NADU CHAPTER  
Annual Report 2014 - 2015



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Tamil Nadu Chapter

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# “BUILDING CAPABILITIES BETTERING LIVES”

*Cover Page Photo: Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Vettriur, Sivagangai Dist.*



## குறள் வழியில்...

வறியார்க்கொன்று ஈவதே ஈகைமற் றெல்லாம்  
குறியெதிர்ப்பை நீர துடைத்து.

To give the needy alone is charity  
All the rest is investment for a return.

கொடையளி செங்கோல் குடியோம்பல் நான்கும்  
உடையானாம் வேந்தர்க் கொளி.

The leading light among Kings has the four attributes of  
Generosity, Graciousness, Justice and Concern for the Welfare of Citizens.

*Valluvar Kottam, Chennai*



# CONTENT

Building Capabilities / Bettering Lives	01	43	Women Empowerment - Tailoring
Thirukkural on Egai	03	45	Rural Development - Nerkuppai Library
From the President TNF	07	47	Rural development - Laia Foundation
From the Chair - TNF Chennai Chapter	09	49	Youth Internship
From the TNF Center Coordinator	11	51	TNF Art Gallery
TNF Objectives	15	53	Our partners
Focus	17	57	Financial - Highlights
TNF Projects in Tamil Nadu	19	58	TNF USA Board
Education - ABC	21	60	General Directors
Education - Coaching Centers	25	62	TNF Chennai Trustees
Education - Soft Skills Training Program	27	64	Advisory Committee Members
Education - Career Guidance	29	66	TNF Corpus Fund, TNF Pillars
Education - TNF Teachers Training	31	67	TNF Donors INDIA - 2014-2015
Education - Scholarships	33	68	TNF Donors USA - 2014-2015
Education - Global Giving Foundation	35	75	Organization of TNF
Health, Hygiene and Sanitation - Anbalayam	37	77	TNF Projects 2014-2015
Health, Hygiene and Sanitation - Eye Camp	39	78	Thank you Dr.M. Anandkrishnan
Health, Hygiene and Sanitation - Genetic center	41	80	Donation



## FROM THE PRESIDENT TNF

Vanakkam.

Almost 40 years ago on Thanks giving day, a handful of Tamil immigrants in the USA established the Tamil Nadu Foundation with the belief that the deep affinity Non Resident Tamils have for their language and place of birth could be transformed into action through collective philanthropy.

Tamil Nadu Foundation has come a long way since its founding days, when the initial projects were mostly executed in and around a member's native place. This has greatly expanded in the past couple of decades. By keeping our focus on the four areas of Education, Rural Development, Women's Empowerment, and Health, TNF has been able to leverage your support to assist and enrich the lives of countless individuals and families across all of Tamil Nadu.

The Tamil Nadu Chapter of TNF was formed in the 1980s and entrusted with the responsibility of implementing TNF USA projects as well as charitable projects from other Countries in Tamil Nadu. TNF Tamil Nadu Chapter, guided by Trustees consisting of eminent Members of the society, is an indispensable operational arm of TNF USA. We strive to work together seamlessly to deliver our best to Tamil society.

On behalf of the TNF USA Board of Directors, Members, and Donors, I extend my sincerest appreciation to the Trustees, Executive Directors and Staff of TNF Tamil Nadu Chapter, and wish the conference a grand success.

Sincerely,

President  
TNF USA Inc.

***TNF President Mr.P.K. Aravazhi reviewing the program just before the inauguration of the 40th Anniversary of TNF conference in Chicago May 2014***



## FROM THE CHAIR TNF CHENNAI CHAPTER

In a short stint of 10 months as Chairman of TNF, TNC, it has been a great experience and learning for me.

It is amazing and fascinating to note that strongly committed and aligned minds can make a positive difference in the lives of the people who are otherwise deprived of opportunities.

TNF, TNC with the support of TNF-USA has been able to meticulously implement the development projects covering a wide spectrum of health, hygiene and education.

There are no Nations without problems. However, it is the duty of the Government to prioritise and address them, so as to have a maximum impact on the welfare of the people both young and aged. If our Nation is to move forward, no one would deny the importance of Education for the Youth and enhancement of the Voice of the Women in public forums.

TNF is rightly addressing them, both by intervention at village schools and engaging in projects related to women empowerment across Tamilnadu. TNF will have a challenging and satisfying role to play in awakening the rural youth and improving the quality of life of women.

It will be my dream to take TNF, TNC to greater heights and play a significant role not only in deploying the funds effectively from USA, but also raise funds in India for its cherished projects.

I wish to convey my sincere Gratitude and Thanks to the Trustees and Donors in USA.

I am also very pleased that we are honouring Dr.Anandakrishnan for his lifelong service to TNF

Also, I place on record my appreciation for the unstinted cooperation I receive from the dedicated team at Chennai:

Best wishes:

Namasivayam Reguraj  
Chairman

2nd May 2015

*Chairman interacting with a student in TNF-ABC Class in Sivagangai District*



## FROM THE TNF CENTER COORDINATOR

TNF was founded in 1974 primarily to provide a vehicle for the members to sponsor a charitable project in Tamil Nadu. In 1974 Tamil NRIs were a very small group and over the years TNF has grown to an organization with more than 800 family members. During this time, TNF has implemented more than 580 projects throughout Tamil Nadu. All these projects are funded by: TNF Members, TNF USA board, TNF Chennai Chapter and Overseas NGOs. Significant progress was made in the four focus areas of TNF: Education, Rural Development, Women's Empowerment and Health, Hygiene and Sanitation. Through all our projects during the fiscal year, TNF has touched more than ten thousand Tamils.

TNF has successfully completed 40 years of service to Tamil Nadu. The 10,000-square-foot TNF Center is testimonial to the commitment of Tamil NRIs from the USA doing charitable projects in Tamil Nadu. Among all the ethnic groups from India that are now in the USA, Tamil NRIs are probably the only one who have built a center solely to do not-for-profits in India.

Until 1984 Member sponsored projects were managed directly from the USA. In 1984 TNF Chennai chapter was established as an operational arm of TNF USA to execute the projects and assure the funds are distributed to the intended recipients in a timely manner. TNF Chennai Chapter, managed by the board of trustees, has delivered the desired results as evidenced by this report. With the exception of four administrative personnel, everyone else who works with TNF are volunteers. More than 95 percent of monies donated reach the intended projects. TNF is one of the few NGOs where operational expenses are less than 5 percent.

Education Enhancement & Empowering Youth More than 70 percent all projects sponsored by the members are related to education. This forced TNF to undertake a methodical approach to education improvement; to track the progress, develop scalable programs, and add enhanced value to the existing system. The credibility established through all TNF projects, big and small, paved the way for a memorandum of understanding with the government of Tamil Nadu. This agreement was for TNF to work with Tamil Nadu Schools for betterment of education. Present education program under the category of "Education Improvement and Empowering Youth" includes three components.

- ABC project addresses needs of students lagging behind in studies in grades 6 through 9 due to many socio-economic reasons.
- Special coaching centers for 10th grade students in rural schools to improve the passing grade. This is important since failure in the 10th grade places them on a nearly impossible path to obtain a job.
- Soft skill training to 10th and 12th grade students

A critical component of ABC project is the creation of TNF teachers who undergo special training to teach the students. The objective of the training program is to empower the teachers with additional instructional knowledge to motivate their students. They are given tools for self-analysis and self-improvement, and to help bridge the communication gap between students and teachers, plus team building tools among TNF teachers.

*Tailoring - livelihood program at TNF Centre, Chennai*



## FROM THE TNF CENTER COORDINATOR

The ABC project initiated in 2012 covers 25 government schools in four districts enabling 2,139 students to perform better. The special coaching centers initiated in 2010 covers 617 students.

### **Health, Hygiene and Sanitation**

TNF has few significant projects: Anbalayam, Genetic Laboratory and Eye camps.

### **Rural Development**

TNF's role is limited to projects sponsored by members, based on local needs.

### **Women's Empowerment**

TNF has been conducting tailoring programs for many years: Creating employment and entrepreneurial opportunities.

### **Looking forward:**

#### **Education Enhancement & Empowering Youth**

TNF ABC education programs that addresses grades 6 through 9, additional coaching programs for 10th grade students as well as our partner Laia Foundation that addresses the educational issues for grades 1 through 5 should be studied to develop a cost-effective, comprehensive program for all TNF school clusters. As it is generally understood, all the good, sustainable educational habits are best taught when the kids are really young, especially when they are in grades 1 through 5.

TNF coordinators, as part of our educational programs, should be trained to do soft-skill training, as well as to provide career guidance to

the students to equip them with good knowledge about their livelihood goals, and how to attain them. For this to happen, TNF should have access to guidance counselors as well as a resource person, or someone knowledgeable to train the TNF coordinators.

TNF teachers should be an integral part of the schools that they work with, and should be considered an asset by the school system and utilized as such. TNF teachers should be qualified, experienced, empowered and provided additional training if need be.

TNF should find a way to assist TNF cluster schools with infrastructure improvements such as toilets and computers. TNF should use its experience in developing Ponneri library to develop a library close to TNF cluster schools, so that the students have access to all that a library can offer. TNF should have a Corpus Fund so that the TNF teachers and coordinators are adequately compensated, ensuring that the investment we have made in staff and training will be retained.

### **Health, Hygiene & Sanitation**

We should start working with organizations like Exnora to bring environmental awareness to TNF cluster schools.

### **Rural Development and Women's Empowerment**

Partner with other NGO's who are specializing in these areas so that we can make a larger impact. Thus far we are working with five other organizations, this needs to be increased in numbers so that a greater impact can be generated.

*TNF class students amazed by the education materials they received from TNF*





## TNF OBJECTIVES

- Establish education scholarships in Tamil Nadu, India
- Encourage and recognize those who dedicate their efforts to the improvement and welfare of Tamil Nadu
- Help talented young people achieve distinction in their chosen field in Tamil Nadu
- Help provide technical journals, textbooks and equipment to institutions of learning and to institutions of health care in Tamil Nadu
- Provide assistance at times of emergency when people's lives are threatened by natural disasters
- Act on any worthy cause affecting Tamil Nadu, India



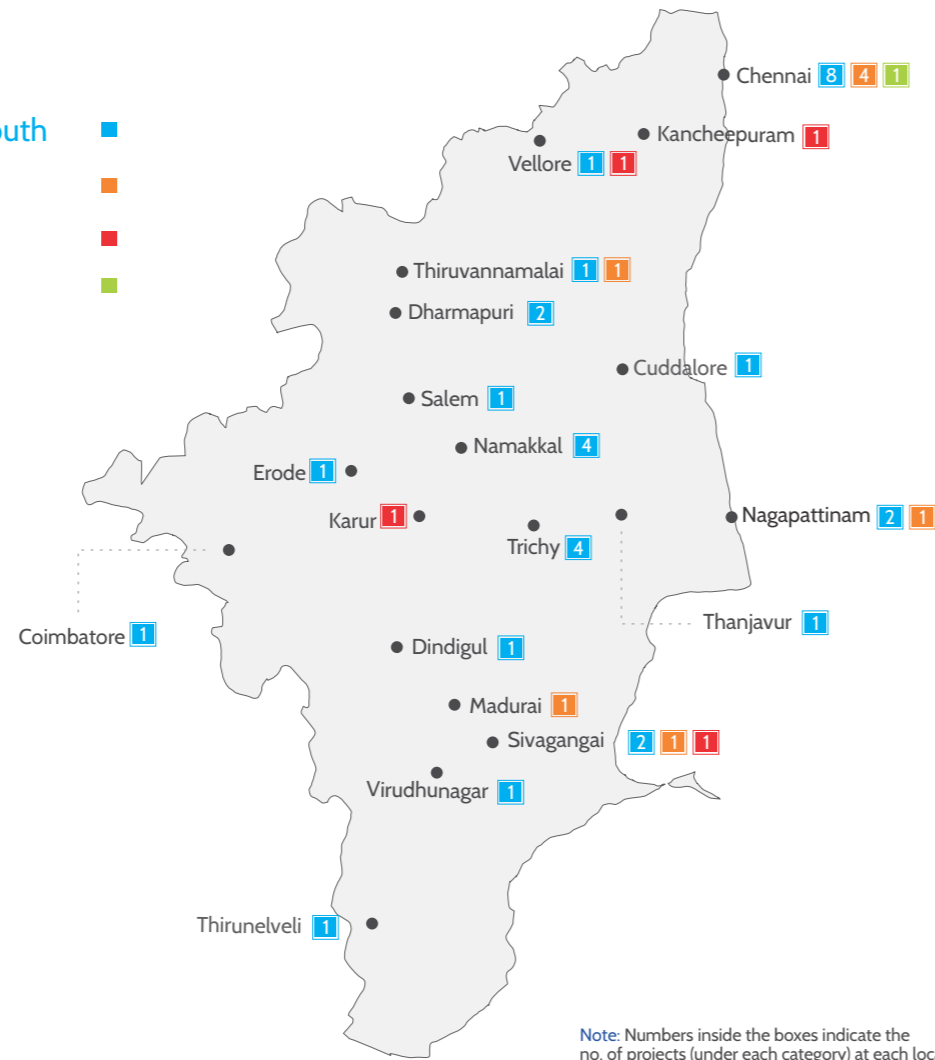
## FOCUS

- Education Enhancement
- Health, Hygiene and Sanitation
- Women's Empowerment
- Rural Development

*Statue of Gandhi Ji in Chennai.*

TNF PROJECTS IN TAMIL NADU

- Education Enhancement and Empowering Youth
- Improving Health & Hygiene
- Facilitating Rural Development
- Ensuring Women Empowerment



# TNF PROJECTS IN TAMIL NADU

District	Education Enhancement	Health & Hygiene	Rural Development	Women Empowerment	Total
Chennai	8	4		1	13
Coimbatore	1	-	-	-	1
Cuddalore	1	-	-	-	1
Dharmapuri	2	-	-	-	2
Dindugal	1	-	-	-	1
Erode	1	-	-	-	1
Karur	-	-	1	-	1
Kancheepuram	-	-	1	-	1
Madurai	-	1	-	-	1
Nagapattinam	2	1	-	-	3
Namakkal	4	-	-	-	4
Salem	1	-	-	-	1
Sivagangai	2	1	1	-	4
Thanjavur	1	-	-	-	1
Thirunelveli	1	-	-	-	1
Thiruvannamalai	1	1	-	-	2
Trichy	4	-	-	-	4
Vellore	1	-	1	-	2
Virudhunagar	1	-	-	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>45</b>



## EDUCATION - ABC

TamilNadu Foundation (TNF) has developed the ABC Model to enhance education. TNF - ABC Model is a new approach in teaching methodologies to students who are academically backward. ABC Model was started to enhance the classroom disposition of students, and improve retention rates. This works by enabling the participation of academically backward students in the learning process through lively classroom interactions and effective pedagogic learning tools.

**ABC means:**

**A - Achieving Grade Level Proficiency - Uplifting the “Academically backward students”**

More than 30% of students across Tamil Nadu's government Schools are unable to read and write at their grade level. TNF has initiated coaching for the academically backward students of class 6 to 9, during the school hours. This coaching is done by teachers appointed by TNF. These classes are designed to help students learn the fundamentals, and pass the final exam.

*The District Educational Officer Vellore and the Headmaster of the Project Government Schools, particularly the Head Master of Govt. Adi Dravida Welfare High School, Elathur, Vellore District have thanked TNF for its support in providing special coaching to the academically backward students of class 6 to 9 improve their reading and writing skills, and improve basic arithmetic skills. They have thanked TNF for the valuable assistance in improving the results of class 10 in public examination.*

***Different teaching methodology adopted in TNF -ABC Class***

**B - Boosting the Morale**

TNF -ABC Model boosts the morale of average and above average students in adopted schools by developing the following skills through training sessions and seminars:

Self Confidence, Communication Skills, Time Management, Motivation, Memory Capacity, Goal Setting, Self - Discipline, Human Relations, Hard Work and Smart Work.

TNF - ABC project enables 10th and 12th grade students to better prepare for public exams, and pursue their dream of higher education. TNF has extended its reach to 1,102 students from 13 schools across four districts.

*According to Mr. R. Ganesan, School Teacher, Govt. High School (Boys), A. Kalapur, Sivagangai District, the two days training on soft skills for a class of 10 students could kindle the hidden skills of students. To be more specific, he said that the training helped the students to understand on how to set goals, build self- confidence, manage time, and develop memory skills. It also gave them an idea on available career options, he said. Since the training was conducted in an interactive and interesting way with some games and question-and-answer sessions, quiz time etc., it gained the attention of students. This type of training boosts the morale of students.*

**C - Championing for Higher Aspirations**

With the help of the Head Master and teachers, students with higher aspirations and capabilities are identified. The ambitions of these students are nurtured through individual or group oriented initiatives such as: mentoring, summer camps and computer training in libraries, college visits, college application process support, scholarships, career guidance, Internships and job placement.



## ■■■ EDUCATION - ABC

S.Shylaja, class 10, Govt.Adi Dravida Hr.Sec.School, Maduranthaganallur said, "Through the NGO-TNF, we visited Annamalai University. We were exposed to various departments and the one that I liked was Zoology department. I never thought that I would get to step into college campus so soon. This was an exciting trip that gave us more information on which group to choose, plus the scope behind such groups. Thanks to TNF".

V. Karthick, Student of GHS Kunnathur: *This is the first time; I visited Engineering College, polytechnic college, teacher training institute etc. with the support of TNF and Krishna College of Education. If I study well and become a graduate, I will be the first graduate in my family. Thanks for the orientation to various courses, it is very different feeling and I got a new experience. Thanks to TNF for arranging this programme. It is very useful for me to choose my career.*

Mr Ramesh K, English Teacher, GHS Kunnathur: *This program leads our students on the right path to choose their career. It is very important for the students to know about the various courses and their scope. Thanks to TNF for arranging such a visit which is very useful for our students. This is the first time that our students were taken to a college. We are proud and thankful for participating in this programme.*

Through this project, TNF reaches out to students who come from difficult socio-economic backgrounds. The majority of them are first generation learners from both rural and urban areas.

### Extension of the ABC Project

Using the cluster approach in **Enhancing Education among the rural students** since 2012, TNF has made its presence in four districts. TNF has extended its services to two new districts Cuddalore and Namakkal. A cluster of schools in Sivagangai district has been adopted by the TNF Philadelphia Chapter since 2012; Vellore district by TNF Chennai Chapter since October 2013; Cuddalore district by Chicago Chapter since May 2014; and Namakkal district by TNF Michigan Chapter and Tamil Sangam since February 2015.

**TNF covers 25 Government / Govt (ADW) / GTR Schools across four districts in Tamil Nadu reaching out to 2139 students.**

**Student in the class room**



## EDUCATION – COACHING CENTER

Mrs. Ambika a very concerned headmistress of Government High School, Elathur in Vellore District, an Adi Dravida Welfare School functioning under the Adi Dravida Welfare Department was dismayed at the miserable passing rate of her students. The passing rate was 28%. This provided an opportunity to TNF for starting a customized coaching program for the tenth grade students.

Four months of customized coaching was given in all subjects. Food was provided for the students as the coaching sessions went into late evening. The results were phenomenal. The passing rate jumped to 82% in 2008 compared to 28% in 2007. TNF gave additional coaching to all the 75 failed students and enabled them to take the Board Examination. The passing rate for this group was 85%. All of the passed students continued their school education.

In 2009, Mrs. Ambika was transferred and the new administrative staff was not keen on continuing the program. In 2009 the passing rate dropped down to 35%! Mrs. Ambika, alarmed at the number, was able to get Elathur High School back into the program and in 2010; the 10th grade passing rate was 100% for the first time. Ms. Kavitha, Treasurer TN Foundation, took the initiative and followed through for successful completion of the program.

Government High School, Kattupakkam is the only school for five villages. 242 students are enrolled for grades 6 to 10. TNF, at the request of Kattupakkam village people and school administration, started a similar coaching program. The passing rate for both 2012 and 2013 academic years at Kattupakkam was 100%. The Elathur and Kattupakkam programs were funded by Mrs. Kavitha and Mr. Thukkaram, TNF Center Coordinator.

This set the trend for Special coaching for class 10. During the year, 617 students of class 10 were given coaching for an hour before school and two hours after school hours. They received coaching for five months. There were 332 students in the five project schools in Vellore who were benefited, and 285 students of four schools from Cuddalore district were also benefited. These students were given study materials to help them prepare better and score high marks in the public examinations. This is necessary to choose future studies or career. They were also given supplementary nutrition in the evening hours as they stayed after school hours.

The Head Masters and the School Teachers have said that the study materials distributed to the students were crucial support in preparing them for the public examination. They said that the students had written the examination with confidence. They also added that more than 40% of the examination questions appeared from the study materials.

***Celebration of 10th class - 100% passing rate by official, village head and TNF Executive Director Mrs.Vasumathi Benny***



## EDUCATION SOFT SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM

In Tamil Nadu, passing 10th grade is absolutely required to be employable. The future for those who have not passed 10th grade is pretty grim. Mrs. Andal Damodaran, former chair of the board of trustees, urged TNF Chennai chapter to initiate a project to improve the 10th grade passing rate through a program to motivate students.

TNF chapter tried to develop a two-day program for the high schools of Tamil Nadu that would be similar to the career guidance program TNF started at Engineering College, Guindy, Chennai. But the issues for high school students were very different. The high school program had to be affordable, and TNF needed to be able to take the program to schools. Also, TNF needed to convince the heads of the schools that the program would deliver what it promised, since the students would be away from regular classes for two days.

At first, TNF was not very successful in developing the program to meet all the requirements. But when a discussion of the training came up at a board of trustees meeting held at project site, Ponneri Library, M.N. Reguraj, Trustee, offered a solution. He is president of Nettur Technical Training Foundation (NTTF), and he offered materials and trainers from the two-day soft skill training that were offered to all the students of NTTF Bangalore.

During the year, 1,102 students from 13 Government schools across four districts (Cuddalore, Namakkal, Sivagangai and Vellore) benefited from this training. The training focused on promoting self confidence, communication skills, time management, motivation, memory capacity, self discipline, goal setting, human relations, tips to prepare for examinations and career guidance.

A two-day training session was held in the respective schools for class 10. The five trainers were experts, who had acquired the training from Nettur Technical Training Foundation (NTTF), Bangalore. The project coordinators in a few districts co-facilitated the training program along with the consultant trainers.

**Ramya, a student who is in class 10 in one of the project schools from the Irula community, said, "This is my first exposure of such training, and it has helped me to understand my career options and plan for my future."**

*Students' active participation in Soft Skills training Programme*



## EDUCATION – CAREER GUIDANCE

TNF has a wealth of experience in career guidance. It started more than 25 years ago with the signature program at College of Engineering Guindy, Chennai. TNF wanted to use that experience to help rural high school children of Tamil Nadu. A small beginning was made this year to provide career guidance program to high school students.

TNF has been exploring innovative methods to motivate students of class 10 and above to continue their studies, and to promote higher aspirations. This year, 539 students ( 229 from Cuddalore, 24 from Sivagangai and 286 from Vellore Project) from nine schools across three districts were taken on an educational trip to nearby colleges. The main purpose of the visits was to expose students to various courses available in the colleges, and the criteria for entering such courses.

The students of Cuddalore project were taken to Annamalai University, Vellore Project to Sri Krishna Polytechnic and college of Engineering and Sivagangai project to APSA College at Tirupattur.

The students were briefed on various courses offered by the colleges, and the eligibility criteria for doing such courses. Various courses and the job opportunities were discussed to help students understand the current job environment.

The faculties at the campus motivated the students to score high marks. They also gave students tips as how to score high marks in the public examinations.

This was the first time the students were taken on such a trip.

*Students ready for the career guidance tour to colleges and polytechnics*





## EDUCATION - TNF TEACHERS TRAINING

A formal three-day training programme is organized to empower teachers appointed for the purpose on the “Basic Methodologies in Teaching” through skilled trainers in the field.

### Objectives:

- To motivate and inspire teachers towards their profession.
- To empower teachers to self-analyse how they teach & see how to improve their teaching.
- To provide practical tools for teachers to better manage the class and motivate their students.
- To bridge the understanding and relationship gap between teachers and students.
- To build team spirit and cooperation among teachers for resolving challenges and supporting each other.

*“I came with no interest for the training. Since I had worked as PTA teacher for a while and had also participated in their*

*trainings, I thought it is going to be yet another training and I simply will have to sit and listen to what they say...., But this training really changed my thought. It was full of interaction, group exercises, role plays, question-and-answer sessions, which was basically provoking our thoughts on classroom situations.. etc. I learnt how to discipline students without beating and being harsh with them, learnt how to motivate students and make them listen and learn. This training was an eye opener to me and changed my attitude towards the students who are academically backward. Thanks to TNF for the opportunity”, says Mr. G.Prabhu. TNF Teacher at Cuddalore District.*

TNF now has 39 Teachers to coach academically backwards students from class 6 to 9 and 12 teachers to provide special coaching for class 10 after school hours across the four districts Cuddalore, Sivagangai, Namakkal and Vellore

***TNF Teachers undergoing the training in Cuddalore District***



## EDUCATION – SCHOLARSHIPS

Many Individual donors from the United States and Tamil Nadu have supported 111 deserving students across eight districts in Tamil Nadu. These students range from class 11 to Engineering and Veterinary college students. They are identified by the donors through the local coordinators from the area. Thanks to the donors for their generosity in supporting the further studies of these deserving underprivileged students.

TNF has also channeled funds to The GIFT Foundation, a public charitable trust established in 1998 to promote quality education in rural areas of Tamil Nadu. The GIFT Foundation secured TNF-USA project approval, and commenced the operation of 'AGN SCHOOL' at Konganapuram village in Tamil Nadu in June 1998.

Now, it has grown into a full-fledged Higher Secondary School, supporting more than 1,865 students and 136 staff. The good infrastructure and modern teaching methodology has earned public respect, and the school is recognized for its quality education.

During academic year 2014-15, 115 deserving AGN students benefited from GIFT scholarships. Of those, 55 have been sponsored by donors from the USA (through TNF-USA), India and other countries

*Students are encouraged through educational scholarships for furthering their studies*



## EDUCATION - GLOBAL GIVING FOUNDATION GURUKULAM, AMARAVATHIPUDUR

S.C.G.R. Higher Secondary School provides education access to nearly 700 children from low income families in Amaravathipuram, (7 kms from Karaikudi in Tamil Nadu). Affectionately referred to as "Gurukulam", the school was founded as a charitable institution in 1931 based on Gandhian values, which it still follows to this day. It is an institution known for its discipline. It has produced several prominent alumni including Kaviarasu Kannadasan, eminent Tamil philosopher and poet.

The institution is one of only a few that couple quality education with affordable hostel facilities for the rural poor it services. Over the past decade, the school's management has started rejuvenating this historical institution, and positioning it to meet the needs of a modern education, including upgrades to its 70-year-old physical infrastructure.

*In this context, TNF USA approached "Global Giving Foundation" (GGF) for a grant to build new classrooms for the rural children in Gurukulam. In October 2014, the Global Giving Foundation accepted our proposal and approved a grant of \$150,000 to support the construction of six additional classrooms for the SCGR High School, in Amaravathipuram.*

*The construction work has begun, and is progressing fast. The roof slab laying is complete.*

***Amaravathipuram, S C Gurukulam High School building under construction with the support of Global Giving Foundation***



## HEALTH, HYGIENE AND SANITATION ANBALAYAM

Anbalayam is a home that provides food, shelter and clothing with love and care for 55 deserted /orphaned mentally challenged children across four districts and 50 villages around Sirkazhi. There are three trained special educators, two staff and five care takers in the home. The home also provides Physiotherapy, yoga and other basic needs.

A new building with the name of "Stage Friends (USA)" serves as Education Center where there are tables, chairs and study materials suitable for special needs children. Thanks to New Jersey, Philadelphia and New York TNF Chapters for organizing the Stage Friends (USA) drama program, and raising funds for three classrooms.

The corpus fund established by the Tamil Sangam of Central Indiana is paving the way for a sustainable solution for daily meals. Anbalayam is also grateful to Angel Janani fund, Pittsburgh Tamil Sangam, Pittsburgh - Cleveland - Wheeling area Ayyappan devotees, CT Rhythms and TNF's Connecticut Chapter for their contributions towards the food corpus fund.

Anbalayam also provides vocational training such as tailoring, ironing and envelope-making to the children.

American Tamil Medical Association (ATMA) is establishing a corpus fund to help them with basic health needs. The Tamil Sangam of Central Indiana (TSCI) hall, which is under construction, will be completed and used as a dormitory for toddlers and boys.

*There are many cases of children with pathetic and painful physical and mental conditions who require constant help and monitoring. One child is Harikrishnan a 14-year-old who is suffering from cerebral palsy. By giving physiotherapy exercises and speech therapy, such physically impaired children will become self reliant.*

***Bhoomi Pooja - a ceremony conducted before the start of new building at Anbalayam***



## HEALTH, HYGIENE AND SANITATION EYE CAMP

TNF has been encouraging individual donors to conduct eye camps in rural areas. This year, TNF channeled funds to “Sight Care Foundation” in Chennai and “Meenakshi Vairavan Charitable Trust” in Sivagangai district.

At Sivagangai, the camp was held at Kandapur village with the help of Aravind Eye Hospital. There were 537 people treated of which 150 were surgeries. Patients were transported to Aravind Hospital in Madurai. The event was well attended by people from 56 villages including the Panchayat heads and Village officers. Aravind hospital mobile unit consisted of 4 doctors and 20

nurses. Twenty-five volunteers helped to run the event. It is also worthwhile to mention that Meenakshi Variavan Charitable Trust was in second place for the number of cataract surgeries done in 2014.

SIGHTCARE Foundation conducted Eye camp in Chennai sub-urban areas with TNF support. Nearly 500 people benefited from this camp. Free spectacles were given to 214 patients and 22 were referred for cataract surgery.

*Free eye check up in the Eye camp held at Kandapur village, Sivagangai District*



## HEALTH, HYGIENE AND SANITATION CENTER FOR MEDICAL GENETICS

Center for Medical Genetics (CMG) is a non-profit genetic testing laboratory in Chennai founded by Dr. V.G.Dev. It is a donor sponsored project. The laboratory was established in March 2011, and started its full fledged operation to public in 2012. It is housed at 3rd floor of TNF Building, Kilpauk. CMG's founding principle and primary goal is prevention of birth defects. CMG aims to provide a complete genetic diagnostic solution within the reach of every individual, while maintaining the excellence in quality.

CMG offered free karyotyping services to children from Bala vihar, an institution for differently-abled. CMG

received 1026 blood samples during the year, out of which 136 samples were done at free of cost.

Internship were offered to two students of SRM University from Orissa. Three Students from Rajaji Vidya Bhavan completed their project. As part of Youth Internship Master Vedaviyas, a student from the USA was given three days orientation training. Many NRI members have visited CMG.

*Genetics Lab at the TNF Centre, Chennai*



## WOMEN EMPOWERMENT- TAILORING

During the year, about 90 women have benefited from the Tailoring course run at the TNF TN Chapter premises in Kilpauk. This Tailoring unit encourages women from the lower economic stratum in Chennai to take the six months course free of cost. This empowers them economically. At least seven women have been employed in designing units. Five were given sewing machines in order to earn from home. This was possible with the support of individual donors from US and within the country.

*Revathi 38 year old said, "I was working as housemaid and was finding it very challenging to take care of my*

*kids, as my timings at work was not allowing me to send them to school. Through one of my friends I came to know that TNF was providing free tailoring training and I joined. After I completed the course I explained my situation and requested a sewing machine which was approved. I received the machine through TNF. Now I earn from home and take care of my kids as well. Thanks to TNF for their support".*

**Trustee Mr.Rajarathinam, IAS ( R ) and Executive Director (Admin) Mrs. Manmatha Devi distributing sewing machine to a beneficiary**



## RURAL DEVELOPMENT NERKUPPAI LIBRARY

A Government Library at Nerkuppai in Sivagangai district is now being used by all age groups in the rural area. The space for the library building was donated by one of the Life Members of TNF in memory of his father, Mr. Somalay who was a well known writer and author of many books. This government library is supported by TNF and has equipped the library with Computers and additional books. The school children are encouraged to visit the library and spend time reading books. Children are encouraged through various programmes like quizzes, summer camps, debates etc. The best reader for the month is given a token award. Children are also taught basic computer operations such as word, email, and website excel etc. The schools around the library are encouraged to send their students, who could spend at least one period a week in the library.

Master Ravi said, "I am studying 8th standard at Sathappa Higher secondary school, Nerkuppai, and I come to Nerkuppai library every day after school hours and read books of my interest. I enjoy reading story books and biographies of great people."

Selvi Kala said that she was reading only subject books all these years. She now had started reading other books because of Nerkuppai library. She also said that there was good collection of books. She spends a minimum of one hour in the library every day. A Government Library at Nerkuppai in Sivagangai district is now open for an hour in the library every day.

*Age no bar in the rural library at Nerkuppai , Sivagangai District*





## RURAL DEVELOPMENT LAIA FOUNDATION

Laia Foundation is a registered Charitable Trust. Its headquarters is at Vedanthangal, Kanchipuram District, Tamil Nadu. For eight years, more than a thousand students, as well as hundreds of women and children have benefited through the services of its projects, in the fields of:

- Education
- Health
- Women Empowerment

Laia Foundation runs sixteen after-school support centers in and around the village of Vedanthangal (Kanchipuram District), operating from Monday to Saturday from 6 to 8 pm. Funds to Laia Foundation are routed through TNF.

*Students at Laia coaching center*



## YOUTH INTERNSHIP

Youth Internship program was initiated during the year for US NRI Youth members. This is aimed to promote volunteers and to provide learning through TNF's educational and humanitarian projects in different part of TN. It also aims at developing leadership and team building skills among students who have completed 8th grade.

Six students from US visited TNF Chennai. They were exposed to various projects of the TNF in Tamil Nadu. Placements for the students were arranged at Government Boys High School, Ashok Nagar, Guntur Subbaiah Pillai, T.Nagar, Girls Higher Secondary

School, Besant Theosophical High School and Chennai High School, Aminjikarai, and Anbalayam ( A home for the mentally handicapped at Sirkazhi) and TNF ABC Projects in various districts and their period of Internship lasted for a week or two. One student spent four days in the Center for Medical Genetics Laboratory.

Students who visited were Perry Alagappan, Nivedha, Anu Subbaiah, Swati, Vedaviyas and Renu

*College student Ms. Nivedha from USA interacting with the students in TNF class as part of the Youth Internship Programme*



## TNF ART GALLERY

Tamil Nadu Art gallery is a project to promote employment opportunity for hundreds of graduates who are graduating from art institutions in Tamil Nadu. Most of the new artists have no means to exhibit their artworks at no cost and they have very little market access. This project is in partnership with Tamil Nadu Arts and Crafts Association. The Arts Association has been trying for more than 30 years for a permanent place to assist the new artists succeed. As there is no public art gallery in Chennai, the third largest city in India, Tamil Nadu art gallery will fill that void. In a sense Tamil Nadu Art Gallery is an infrastructure project to expand the livelihood opportunities for upcoming Tamil Nadu artisans and promotion of art.

TNF Art Gallery that was inaugurated in November 2013, has gained momentum among the growing and artists in the low economic

background. So far twelve exhibitions were held each for a minimum of 10 days to maximum of one month. Out of which three exhibitions were organized by students of various Art Schools. Other exhibitions were organized by the TN Artists Associations.

Department of Art & Culture, Tamilnadu Government, sponsored one month exhibition which was organized by a single artist who is a member of the Tamil Nadu Artists Association.

The exhibitions were covered by mass media which attracted the public, for viewing the exhibitions. Nearly one thousand people viewed the exhibitions

*Promotion of art and upcoming artists at TNF Center, Chennai*



## OUR PARTNERS

### Global Giving Foundation

Global Giving is a non-profit organization based in the United States that provides a global crowd-funding platform for grassroots charitable projects. They have supported several grass root initiatives all over the world.

Global Giving Foundation USA has contributed Rs. 93 lakhs for the construction of six class rooms in the first floor of the existing building at Subramanian Chettiar Gurukulam School, Amaravathipudur, and Karaikudi. This is a government-aided school, managed by a Trust. The school was approved for Higher Secondary classes. As there are no sufficient class rooms for the newly approved standards, management was looking for some support through TNF.

### American Tamil Medical Association (ATMA)

ATMA was initiated by a group of 10 Tamil physicians in the United States and now has more than 800 physicians and allied health care professionals as members. ATMA's mission is to promote charitable projects and continuing medical education.

ATMA is supporting Anbalayam by constructing a small building that houses with a consultation room for Medical Officers and Physiotherapy room.

### Stage Friends, USA

While there was an abundance of social events promoting Indian music and dance, the theatre had been sorely neglected. Driven by a desire to fill that void, a group of Tamil Theatre enthusiasts got together in 1993 and formed a group Stage Friends (USA). The primary objective was offering quality Tamil plays to the Tamil Community.

Since its inception, Stage Friends (USA) has staged 20 plays written by some of the prominent writers of Tamil stage dramas. All the revenues from these ventures have been donated to worthy community causes in India and USA.

Stage Friends, USA is a major donor for Anbalayam, for the construction of separate class rooms for the children.

***Anbalayam children and staff in front of the building donated by Stage Friends, USA***



## ■ ■ ■ OUR PARTNERS

### Sastha Tamil Foundation

Sastha Tamil Foundation (STF) was founded in 2010 with an objective to promote Tamil language and culture to children in the community. Plano Tamil School which is now a part of STF, was started in 2001 to teach Tamil to children using a structured curriculum..

Sastha Tamil Foundation, USA has supported construction of vocational training centre for girls run by Sakthi Folk Cultural centre in Dindigul District, which is promoting traditional folk arts such as Parai, Koothu etc. They also teach vocational training, including folk arts, computer, Terracotta makings, tailoring, skill training etc. Impressed by their sincere work Mother Teresa women's university in Kodaikanal affiliated with them as their community college. Now Sastha Tamil Foundation provided Rs. 12.30 lakhs to Sakthi through TNF.

### Associacio Vedanthangal Sangam, Spain

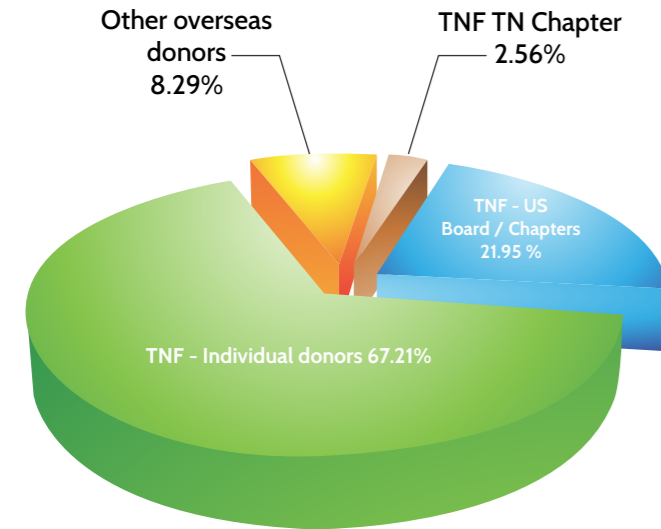
Associo Vedanthangal Sangam is located in Spain. Their main objective is to support grass-roots level efforts. The Sangam was founded in Spain in memory of Ms. Laia, a young girl who died in an accident in Spain. Before this tragedy Ms. Laia spent almost a year in Vedanthangal and lived with village people, and committed to the people that she would change their life. Her family members founded the Sangam with the vision of fulfilling Ms. Laia's dream.

The funds are routed through TNF to support Laia Foundation in Vedanthangal, which is 59 kms from Chennai city. Laia Foundation is implementing Balwadi program for children younger than 5 years, tuition classes for 1st to 10th standard children, health and sanitation program for women & children, and women's development program through economic activities in 15 villages in around Vedanthangal.

*Volunteer from Spain working in Rural Development with Laia Foundation in Kancheepuram District*

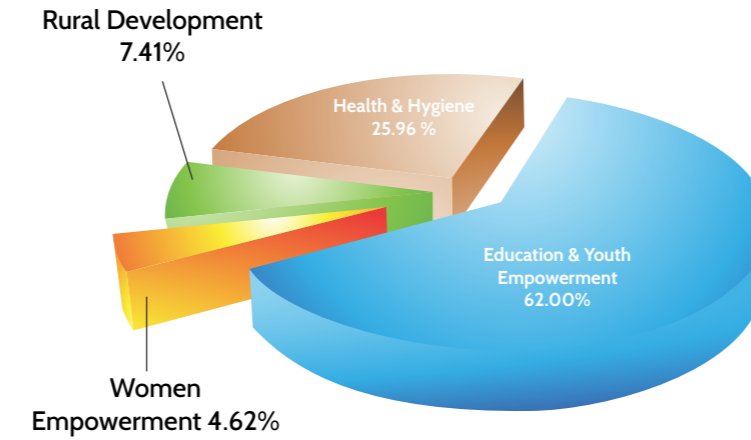
## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS - 2010 - 2015

### SOURCE OF FUNDING



	₹ millions
TNF - US Board / Chapters	24.594
TNF - Individual donors	75.316
Other overseas donors	9.287
TNF TN Chapter	2.864
	<b>112.061</b>

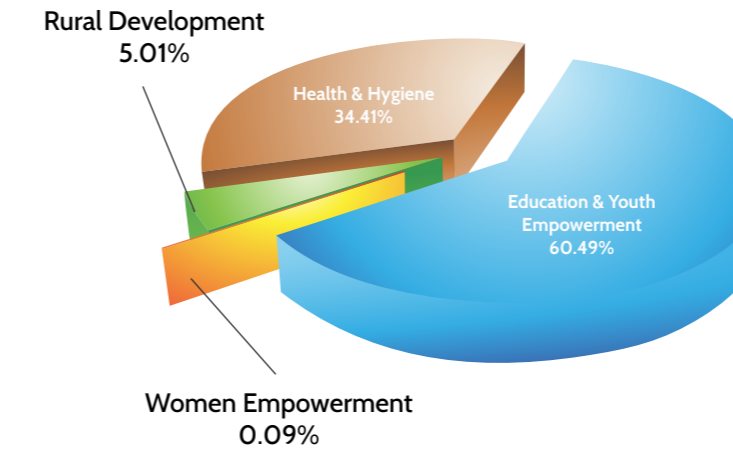
### FUNDING UTILIZATION



	₹ millions
Education & Youth Empowerment	56.758
Women Empowerment	4.234
Rural Development	6.782
Health & Hygiene	23.768
	<b>91.543</b>

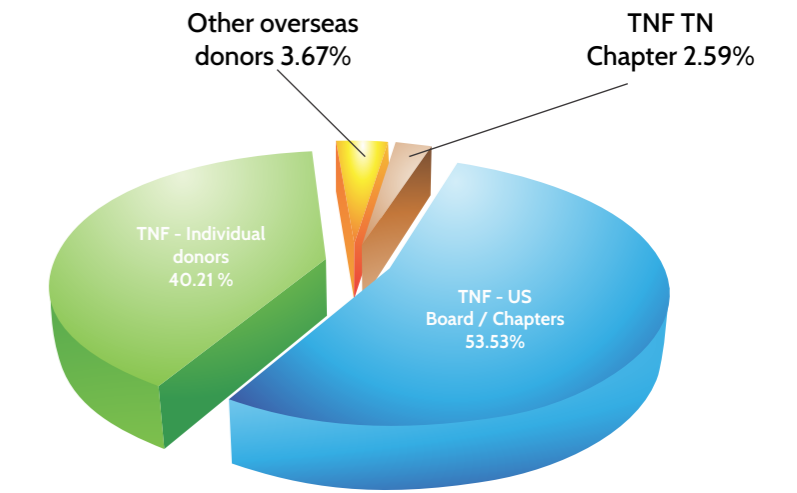
## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS - 2014 - 2015

### FUNDING UTILIZATION



	₹ millions
Education & Youth Empowerment	16.187
Women Empowerment	0.025
Rural Development	1.339
Health & Hygiene	9.208
	<b>26.759</b>

### SOURCES OF FUNDING



	₹ millions
TNF - US Board / Chapters	17.502
TNF - Individual donors	13.146
Other overseas donors	1.200
TNF TN Chapter	0.845
	<b>32.693</b>

# TNF USA BOARD

## President

### Mr. P. K. Aravazhi

Mr. Aravazhi, of Tiruchengode in Namakkal district, is a post graduate in Electrical Engineering. He moved to Chicago, with his wife, Rajaselvam, in 1993, and is currently an IT Consultant to US Government Projects. He became a Life Member and volunteer of TNF in 1995, and has served on the TNF Board since 2003. He currently serves as President for the term 2013 to 2015. He was instrumental in conducting the TNF Conventions at Chicago in 2004, 2007 and 2014.

## VP-Chapters

### Dr. Somalay Somasundaram

Dr. Somalay Somasundaram, is from Nerkuppai in Sivagangai district. He lives in the Philadelphia area with his wife Soundaram. He received his Ph.D. from Iowa State University and is the recipient of American Chemical Society's Young Scientist Award. He now works at DuPont in sales and marketing, and is a two time winner of DuPont's ACE (Achieving Customer Excellence) Award for sales growth. He has been associated with TNF for the past 25 years and has served as Director, VP-Chapter twice and Chairman for the 2010 TNF National Convention at Philadelphia.

## VP-Projects

### Dr. Padmini Nathan

Dr. Padmini Nathan is a native of Chennai in Tamil Nadu. She is a graduate of Kilpauk Medical College, with an MBBS degree. She received a diploma in Child Health at Government Children's Hospital in Chennai. She lives in Houston, Texas and is retired from work in Pediatric Hematology Oncology at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. She joined the TNF board as a director in 2011. She served as co-chair of the Convention committee for the Houston 2012 TNF National convention.

## VP-Membership

### Mrs. Usha R. Chandra

Mrs. Usha Chandra, was born and grew up in Chennai, India. She holds a Masters in Physics from Madras Christian College. She lives in San Jose, California with her husband Ram Chandra, and she was the practice Administrator for her husband's medical practice for 25 years. As a life member of TNF USA, Usha has been part of the Board of Directors for the past six years and has held the positions of Joint Treasurer and Treasurer and is currently the Vice President of Membership.

# ■ ■ ■ TNF USA BOARD

## Secretary

### Mr. Daivamani Sivasailam

Mr. Daivamani Sivasailam grew up in Chennai. He received his BE degree in Civil Engineering, and then migrated to US for post-graduate education. Has worked as Transportation Engineer for over 30 years and an expert on transportation demand management having implemented a number of successful programs in the Washington DC region. He lives with his medical oncologist wife Dr. Sivasankari. He has been associated with TNF since the mid-1980 and has served in the Board in various capacities for over a decade.

## Treasurer

### Mr. M. Bhaskaran

Mr. Bhaskaran was born and brought up in Karamadai, Coimbatore. He studied in Coimbatore Institute of Technology. He later graduated from the University of Cincinnati, and the University of Toledo. He has been a member of TNF since 1985. He has served on the TNF Board for the last six years as Treasurer twice, and VP projects.

## Jt. Secretary

### Mrs. Latha Mani

Mrs. Latha Mani is from Madurai, and now lives in Rochester Hills, Michigan. She is married to Dr. Mani. She has an MBA in Marketing & International Finance, and is the co-owner and VP of Marketing for INDUS Concepts & Engineering, LLC. She helped with vendor selections and management at Detroit TNF conventions in 2001 and 2006. She served as Joint Treasurer in 2011-2012, and currently Joint Secretary.

## Jt. Treasurer

### Mrs. Brahashitha Gupta

Mrs. Brahashitha Gupta is from Salem. She graduated with a gold medal in Quantitative Techniques & Economics in Avinashilingam University of Women, Coimbatore. She now lives in New York with her husband, Surendra Gupta. She owns and runs after-school programs in four locations in New York, serving more than 1000 children. She served as the University Chairman for Avinashilingam University 1995-96. She has been associated with TNF since 2010, and is Founder Chair Person of TNF NY Chapter.

# GENERAL DIRECTORS

## Mr. Mani Rajendran

Mr. Mani and Dr. Mallika Rajendran are from Tiruchengode and Ooty, respectively, and currently live in Naperville, Illinois. Mani Rajendran came to US in the mid 70's, completed his MS and in 1996 founded Numeric Technologies, a software solutions provider serving fortune 500 corporations. Mallika completed her M.D. in the US and has been practicing Obstetrics & Gynecology since 1989. Mani has served on the TNF board for the past eight years in different capacities, including as Treasurer, VP Projects, and General Director.

## Mr. Elyathamby Vignarajah

Mr. Elyathamby Vignarajah has a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University Of Ceylon (Sri Lanka) in double mathematics and physics. He is a graduate of the Johns Hopkins University Whiting School of Engineering (Master's Degree in Computer Science). He works with the Baltimore school system, and has worked in the past with the Army Research labs and others. He was TNF Chapter Chairman Maryland, Virginia, Washington D. C., and coordinator of the annual TNF Convention in D. C. in 1988. He lives in the Baltimore area with his wife Sothy.

## Mr. Subu Ganesan

Mr. Subu Ganesan is from Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu, and currently lives in New Jersey with his family. He finished his Chemical Eng. in India, followed by his MBA in finance from the US and is a CFA charter holder. He works at Rosedale Capital, a hedge fund in New York, and has been involved in hedge funds for the last two decades. He joined the TNF Board in 2014. His work helped enable TNF to receive their first Global Giving corporate grant from Trip Advisor Foundation.

## Dr. Murugan Kannan

Dr. Murugan Kannan is from a small village near Chidambaram called Melanikuzhi. He graduated with a Computer Science degree from Anna University. He came to the USA in 1990. He received a PhD from the University of Chicago, and now lives in Pittsburgh, PA with his wife, Veda. He is the CTO of a management consulting company KORYAK. He has been an active member of TNF since 1996, serving as president of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter from 2000-2004, then as treasurer of the 2007 TNF conference held in Pittsburgh.

## ■ ■ ■ GENERAL DIRECTORS

## Mr. Lakshmi Munugoor

Mr. Lakshmi Narasimhan Munugoor is from Karur. He studied in several towns in Tamil Nadu. He has two Masters Degrees. He has an active role in multiple charitable organizations, including TNF. Lakshmi Munugoor is a Director at one of the world's largest financial institutions located in the greater Boston area.

## Past President

## Dr. S. Deivanayagam

Dr. Subramaniam Deivanayagam, is from Tirunelveli. He completed engineering studies at Annamalai University. He completed doctoral studies at Texas Tech University in 1972. In USA, he was employed at Wright Patterson Air Force base, Texas Tech University.

The University of Texas at Arlington, and at Tennessee Tech University. He is married to Ratna Kanthimathy Nachiar. Dr. Deivanayagam became a member of TNF in late 1970s and has served the organization in many capacities including as President during the years 2011-13.

## Mr. Prabakaran Murugaiah

Mr. Prabakaran Murugaiah is from Kizha Ambur in Tirunelveli. He currently lives in Ashburn, VA. He is the founder and CEO of TechFetch.com a technology jobs platform reaching 6,000 IT companies, 2.6 million technology professionals and 300,000 tech jobs annually. This venture includes a small 3rd-Tier-city called, "Tirunelveli-Tamilnadu," where about 40 professionals are working to support the American clients.



# TNF CHENNAI TRUSTEES

## Chairman

### Mr. N. Reguraj

Mr. Reguraj hails from Ramanathapuram, Tamilnadu. He is a BE Mech. Engineer from Guindy Engineering College. Started his career at TANSI in 1963 and then moved on to join NTTF in 1967. His journey continues as the Managing Director of NTTF.

Under his Visionary leadership, NTTF has grown into multi-location, multi discipline and multi-functional Organisation operating over Sixteen Centers. His contribution in the field of training, Engineering Technology, Industrial Development and Vocational Education leading to employability is note worthy.

Mr. Reguraj is a recipient of President's Award as "Outstanding Employer of the Physically Challenged".

Mr. Reguraj is on the Board of well established Companies in India and Abroad as Chairman, Director and Trustee.

## Trustees

### Mr. V. Nagappan

Mr. Nagappan has an MBA, and is a Gold Medalist. He lives in Chennai. He is director of Tamilnadu Newsprint Ltd., Tamilnadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd and Tamilnadu Power Finance & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. He serves several other roles including member of the Board of Studies of Madras University and Chairman of the Expert Committee on Economic Affairs, Hindustan Chamber of Commerce. He is a writer and columnist in financial dailies and business magazines. Collections of his article are published as books and he has authored six books.

### Mr. S. Rajarethinam IAS (Retd)

Mr. Rajarethinam has a Masters in Economics and Bachelor of Law. In a service span of about 40 years in the Indian Administration Service, he held many key positions including District Collector, Inspector General of Resgistration, Commissioner of Collegiate Education, Secretary to Government in Housing and Urban Developmen, Tourism, Environment and Forests and PWD. After he retired in 2007, he served as Secretary to Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on reemployment till May 2011.

### Mr. V. Sivakumar

Mr. V. Sivakumar lives in R.A.Puram, Chennai. He is a partner of Suri & Siva Chartered Accountants, with audit experience in commercial banks, insurance, Public Sector and private sector companies. He is a Fellow Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and is in practice for more than 30 years.

## ■ ■ ■ TNF CHENNAI TRUSTEES

### Ms. Swarna Pillai

Miss Swarna Pillai is a gold medallist in B.Com and a qualified Chartered Accountant. She is the Secretary of the Guntur Subbiah Pillai T.Nagar Girls' HSS, Chennai, a government-aided school, catering to the economically weaker sections of society. Under her administration the school has achieved the distinction of maintaining a consistent record of 100% results in the board exams for Std X and XII, over the past eight years. She is also a Director on the board of "Kalvi Pani", a Not-for-profit company, which runs several educational institutions in Chennai and Kulasekarapatnam in Tamil Nadu.

### Ms. Kavitha Suresh

Ms. Kavitha holds a MPhil in Commerce, and has done a course on Entrepreneurship Development Programme from ISB, Hyderabad, and Financial Management from Loyola Institute of Business Administration, Chennai. She is the Director of GKAR Radiance Pvt Ltd., an infrastructure provider for telecom and Director of Abelian Boutique Service Apartment. She has been involved with TNF since 2005. She is currently serving as the treasurer.

### Justice M. Thanikachalam

Justice Mr. Thanikachalam is from Vasankuppam, Panutti Taluk, Cuddalore District. He retired as a Judge in the High Court of Madras in 2007. He also served as chairman of the committee to oversee the admission made by the consortium of self-financing professional arts and science colleges. He served as President of state consumer disputes redressal commission.

## TNF Center Coordinator

### Mr. Ram P. Thukkaram

Ram thukkaram is principal and Senior Managing director of 13i Capital Corporation in USA that co-invests with the investors in the acquisition of niche manufacturing companies. 13i manages the companies. Ram thukkaram was two term president of TNF and two term president of Chicago Tamil Sangam. Founder, President of US India Chamber of Commerce Chicago. Among the awards he received include Distinguished Alumnus award from College of Engineering, Guindy and Ellis Island Medal of Honor USA. Ram thukkaram has MBA from the University of Wisconsin and he is from Thanjavur.

# ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

## **Prof. DR. M. Anandkrishnan**

M. Anandkrishnan was born in Vaniyambadi, Tamil Nadu. He obtained his Bachelor of Engineering (B.E) degree in Highway Engineering in 1952 from College of Engineering Guindy, Madras University, M.S. Degree in Civil Engineering in 1957, and Ph.D. in 1960 from University of Minnesota, USA. He is Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Indian Institute of Technology – Kanpur and former Vice-Chancellor of Anna University. He is credited with the development and implementation of the 'Single Window Admission System' for engineering institutions in Tamil Nadu. Dr. Anandkrishnan served as Chairman of Tamil Nadu Foundation Chennai Chapter during the formative years.

## **Ms. Andamodaran**

Andamodaran is one of India's greatest advocates of children's rights, particularly in her actions to fight against child labor. Damodaran is recipient of the Indian government's National Child Welfare Award in 1985, and has focused nearly 30 years of her life to preventing female infanticide and the exploitation of children through child labor. In addition, her work has focused on providing protection and schooling for child beggars. and training for India's childcare workers.

## **Mr. M. Balachandran IPS (Retd)**

Sh.M.Balachandran, I.P.S., retired as Additional Director General of Police in Tamil Nadu. He joined Reliance Industries Ltd. in December, 2006 as the Chief Mentor and is now President / Mentor of Reliance Industries Ltd., Tamil Nadu. He also manages the roll out of Reliance Info Comm.project.

## **Mr. Chellappan**

P. Chellappan, graduated from the College of Engineering, Guindy, in 1979 and obtained MBA at the University of Iowa, USA. Upon returning from the USA, he joined his family business. He is a Partner in Palaniappa Brothers, a leading Tamil book publisher. He is also a Partner of several other companies involved in book printing, digital printing, civil construction and petroleum retailing.

# ■ ■ ■ ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

## **Mr. Paul C. Pandian**

Paul Pandian graduated in Mechanical Engineering from Annamalai University and pursued his graduate work in Engineering at Syracuse University in New York, and graduate business program at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. Paul is currently the President of Transglobal Technologies, and serves on the Board of several companies. Paul Pandian has served as President of FETNA and Chairman of TNF Chennai Chapter. Paul Pandian is resident of Dallas, Texas for more than 30 years, and has been Life Member of TNF for all those years.

## **Mr. V. Sanjeevi**

Sanjeevi is currently a Director at VIT. He is a gold medalist in Chemical Engineering and a Post Graduate in management. He was trained at Harvard University. Has a work experience of thirty years in companies such as Hindustan Unilever, including fifteen years as CEO in Mafatlals etc. He is the founder Chairman/CEO of eLogistics, and Makkal TV. He is a logistics and supply chain domain expert for leading multinationals and is guest faculty in management institutes. He served as member of select committees in Railways and other chambers of commerce. Was Director on the Board of HLL life care, Container Corporation of India etc.

## **Mr. A. M. Swaminathan IAS (Retd)**

A.M. Swaminathan is a retired IAS officer. While in service, he was the CEO of three State PSUs, Commissioner of three departments, and Secretary to government in five departments. He functioned as Land Reforms Appellate Tribunal, Chairman of Expenditure Reforms Commission etc. after retirement. Now he is serving many institutions in the fields of Education and Elders' welfare in a honorary capacity. He was Chairman of TNF in 2007-10, and is now on the Advisory Board.

## **Mr. R. Veeramani**

Mr. R. Veeramani has a law degree and practiced in Madras High Court as a junior under Mr. P.R. Gokulakrishnan who later became a Judge of the High Court and Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court. He started Gem Granites and entered into the Stone Industry in 1971. He is currently the Chairman of Granite, Natural Stones and Products Panel of CAPEXIL. He has authored a book and he frequently writes on economic, national and international issues in popular newspapers. He has served as President of Indo American Chamber of Commerce and President of Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce.

## TNF CORPUS FUND, TNF PILLARS

As the TNF organization grows and develops the capacity to do bigger projects, the need for a Corpus Fund is obvious. Dr. Rommohan, past President of TNF, has initiated a Corpus Fund drive and has collected 50 Lakhs from TNF members (termed appropriately as, TNF Pillars). With 100 percent participation from 800 TNF members, TNF could be what it should be. Please visit the donation page.

S.No.	Name the Donors
1	Aravazhi, Raji and P.K., Naperville, IL
2	Balakachetty, Shanthi and Radhakrishnan, Salem
3	Balasubramanian, Andal and M, Atlanta, GA
4	Chandran, Chitrleka and Rangaswamy, Anamalai
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Upto Rs. 50,000/-	
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Mrs. & Mr. Daivamani	Chennai

# TNF DONORS - USA 2014 - 2015

# ■ ■ ■ TNF DONORS - USA 2014 - 2015

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# THANK YOU Dr.M. ANANDAKRISHNAN



Dr. M. Anandakrishnan veteran educator, is Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Indian Institute of Technology - Kanpur. This is his third term as chairman.

Dr. Anandakrishnan held the post of Vice-Chancellor of Anna University for two terms - 1990-1996. Earlier, he had served as a Senior Officer at the United Nation Centre for Science & Technology Development, New York.

M. Anandakrishnan was born on July 12, 1928 in Vaniyambadi, Tamil Nadu.

He obtained his Bachelor of Engineering (B.E) degree in Highway Engineering in 1952 from College of Engineering Guindy, Madras University in 1952, and M.S. Degree in Civil Engineering in 1957 and Ph.D in 1960 from University of Minnesota, USA.

On his return to India in 1962 he served first as a Senior Scientific Officer (Grade I) at the Central Road Research Institute in Delhi for a year and moved on to Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur in 1963 as a member of the Faculty of Civil Engineering. He served there until 1974 in various academic positions including Chairman of Civil Engineering Department and Dean.

In 1974 he was appointed Science Counselor, at the Embassy of India in Washington D.C. This was a newly created position. In

1978, he was offered a position as the Chief of New Technologies in the Office of Science and Technology (OST), United Nations, New York. He was promoted as Deputy Director in the Centre for Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), United Nations, New York. During this period he was also the Secretary of UN Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development (UNACAST). He retired from the UN service in 1989 at the age of 62.

On his return to India after his UN Service, he was appointed Vice-Chancellor of Anna University. He served in this position for two terms, from 1990 to 1996. Thereafter, he was appointed as the Vice-Chairman of the Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education (TANSCH), the State level policy making body on all matters relating to higher education. He concurrently served as the Advisor to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on Information Technology and e-governance and retired in 2001.

He is credited with the development and implementation of the 'Single Window admission System' for engineering institutions in Tamil Nadu.

He is also responsible for the abolition of Common Entrance Test for admissions to engineering colleges in the State.

A civil engineer by profession, he was Professor of Civil Engineering at IIT Kanpur. An Honorary Fellow of the Indian Society for Technical Education, Dr Anandakrishnan is a recipient of several honours and awards including:

## ■ ■ ■ THANK YOU Dr.M. ANANDAKRISHNAN

Padma Shri from the President of India (2002)

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Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) from Kanpur University (2008)

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Dr. Anandakrishnan served as Chairman of Tamil Nadu Foundation during the formative years. He has been Chairman of the advisory group ever since.

He was instrumental in recognizing the importance of training programs for economic mobility and he was instrumental in starting training programs that have had a far-reaching effect.

The four training programs he was instrumental in starting are:

- Computer Education for Rural Children: the aim of popularizing the use of computers in rural areas.
- Career Guidance programs for Engineering Students: conduct a career guidance program for pre-final year engineering students.
- Portable Chem-kit project for schools: the Chemkit project was implemented in more than 25 Corporation Schools in Chennai.
- IGNOU (Indira Gandhi National Open University) education center at TNF computer Center. IGNOU trained students in programs such as Certificate in Computing, Bachelors' & Masters in Computer Applications.

TNF honored Dr. Anandakrishnan with TNF Excellency Award in 1998.

The President of Brazil presented him the Scientific Merit Award in 1996 and the President of India awarded him the Padma Shri in 2002.

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