

THE BANYAN

WITH LITTLE MORE THAN THE FIRM BELIEF THAT NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE AND THAT EVERY HUMAN BEING ON THIS PLANET IS ENTITLED TO A LIFE OF DIGNITY, THE BANYAN WAS REGISTERED AS A TRUST IN 1993. ADAIKALAM (TAMIL FOR 'HOME'), A RENTED THREE-BEDROOM BUILDING, BECAME A CARE AND REHABILITATION CENTRE. EVENTUALLY OVER 100 WOMEN WOULD CALL ADAIKALAM HOME, FINDING IT A SAFE, COMFORTING PLACE WHERE THEIR WOUNDS WOULD BE HEALED. DAYS OF NO MONEY AND HUNGRY MOUTHS TO FEED WERE NOT UNCOMMON. AS DESPERATE AS WAS THE STRUGGLE WAS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORK. 1994 SAW THE BANYAN'S FIRST REHABILITATION, THE BEGINNING OF MORE HAPPY REUNIONS AND FAIRY TALE ENDINGS THAN ANYONE COULD EVER IMAGINE.

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY OF TAMIL NADU

IN 1981, IN THE SOUTHERN INDIAN METROPOLIS OF CHENNAI, A GROUP OF CONCERNED EMINENT SOCIAL WORKERS CAME TOGETHER AND FORMED SPASTN - 'THE SPASTICS SOCIETY OF TAMIL NADU' - A VOLUNTARY, NON-GOVERNMENT, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF MS. SHANTHI SADIQUE ALI, THE THEN GOVERNOR'S WIFE TO FILL THE VOID OF A SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY IN TAMIL NADU.

SPASTN BEGAN WITH ONE SCHOOL FOR SIX CHILDREN WITH TWO TEACHERS AT AYANAVARAM, IN CHENNAI. DURING THE NEXT TWO DECADES SPASTN SPREAD ITS WINGS TO EVERY DISTRICT IN TAMIL NADU, THROUGH ITS NETWORKING AND LINKAGES, IN ADDITION TO ESTABLISHING TWO MORE CENTERS IN THE CITY OF CHENNAI. SPASTN TRAINS A LARGE NUMBER OF REHABILITATION SPECIALISTS FROM INDIA AND ABROAD, UNDER THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

LITTLE DROPS

LITTLE DROPS IS BEING RUN WITH GREAT PERSONAL SACRIFICE AND WITH THE FIRM BELIEF THAT SOMEHOW THE HELP WILL COME WHEN IT IS REQUIRED, AND SO FAR IT HAS. THERE ARE VERY FEW PEOPLE WHO HAVING SEEN THE KIND OF WORK BEING CARRIED OUT IN LITTLE DROPS AND ITS ASSOCIATE INSTITUTIONS, HAVE NOT BEEN MOVED TO HELP IN SOME WAY, BIG OR SMALL.

LITTLE DROPS WAS FOUNDED ON 21ST JANUARY 1991 BY TWO LIKE-MINDED CHILDHOOD FRIENDS, C SELVARAJ BOVAS AND EDGAR JONES PAUL.

IT ALL STARTED WITH A DESIRE TO HELP THE DESTITUTE AND HOMELESS OLD MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE SUCH A COMMON SIGHT ON OUR STREETS. MOVED BY THEIR PLIGHT, THE TWO FRIENDS DECIDED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

TOWARDS EMPOWERING
PRISON INMATES

FREEDOM 

A LITTLE GOODNESS GOES A LONG WAY

THE BREAD PLANT AT PUZHAL PRISON IS WHERE IT ALL BEGINS. THE PRISON INMATES ARE TRAINED AND SUPERVISED BY PROFESSIONALS FROM THE FIELD. THE PROCESS NOT ONLY HELPS KEEP THEM OCCUPIED BUT ALSO PROVIDES THEM A SENSE OF FREEDOM. THIS PROJECT HELPS INMATES TO EARN AND EQUIP THEMSELVES IN THE PROFESSIONAL SKILL, ENABLING THEM TO BE GAINFULLY EMPLOYED ONCE THEY ARE RELEASED FROM THE PRISON. BREAD FROM HERE IS SENT TO SEVERAL ORGANISATIONS INCLUDING THE BANYAN, LITTLE DROPS, PORUR AND THE SPASTIC SOCIETY OF TAMIL NADU. BUNS FROM THE PLANT WILL BE DONATED TO VARIOUS SCHOOLS THAT RUN EVENING TUITION CLASSES FOR CHILDREN FROM ECONOMICALLY BACKWARD SECTIONS OF SOCIETY. FREEDOM BREAD WILL BE AVAILABLE AT SPENCER'S DAILY OUTLETS ACROSS THE CITY SOON. THE MONEY EARNED FROM ITS SALE GOES TO THE GIVE LIFE ORGANISATION WHO PROVIDES FREE BREAKFAST FOR CHILDREN ON A DAILY BASIS. THE ORGANISATION CURRENTLY SERVES FOOD TO CLOSE TO 10,000 UNDER PRIVILEGED CHILDREN.

