

THE EAST SHEEN-CHENGANNUR TRUST

Registered Charity No 293567

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FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATED IN CHENGANNUR

On 17th May a meeting was held in Chengannur to remember and celebrate the lives and work of the two people involved in the founding of the trust, Mr T J John and Mrs Kay Mattin. The event was organised by Jacob (Mr John's son) who manages the Trust activities in Chengannur through the Indo American Club which in turn was founded by his father back in the 1960s. All the sponsored families were invited along. Jacob sent the following report of the successful day:

The meeting which went off very well on Sunday the 17th of May, 2009. The weather favoured us and so it was a nice hot day with the forecast of monsoons still a week away. As the hall was rented out, there was another gathering till about 1.30 PM after which we had to get the hall ready and decorated. The children managed to improve the hall with our banners, balloons and decoration papers. The children and their parents starting walking in before 2pm and soon the hall was full – about 200 + in all. We started the programmes a little after 2pm. As the children had given in their names for different items like songs, mimics, thank you speeches, story telling etc, we thought it best to get it underway at the earliest. Everyone was dressed in their best outfits.



In photo from left Prof. M. K. Thomas, Mrs Lilly John, Bishop Zachariaus Mar thephilus, Mr. Koshy Mathew and Jacob

I explained how the Trust and its sponsorships operate so they had a better feel of the working of the Trust and the Club. Of course I mentioned about Kay Mattin, Mr John and the current trustees. The local Bishop came in exactly at 3.30 PM, lit a lamp and gave a nice speech and explained how lucky they were to receive these benefits especially in the present materialistic world. He also told them to be nice to others. I read out your email translated to Malayalam and also mentioned the names of a few sponsors and explained they are all ordinary people who cared much for many across the seas. Two of our family friends and well wishers of the Club spoke highly of all our activities. My mom also sang a song and Deepa compeered the evening.

A few spoke on how much the help of the Trust had benefited them in their lives especially with the children's education and a few of them were in tears even. Manu thanked the Chester Mattin Scholarship for having helped him to have his full education in a boarding school. We had to cut short on a few programmes as it was getting late. They said they wanted the get together to happen every year and perhaps for a whole day with some competition and more programmes for the children. We provided a high tea served from a popular bakery here in their packet boxes which was very filling.



It was nice to see so many families together who have been benefited through the Trust over the years and our guests were surprised by the numbers present. Everyone enjoyed the programmes and the afternoon. It was hard work but at the end of the day it was all worth it. The programme came to an end by 5.30PM. Thank you for making everything possible.

HOUSE BUILDING PROJECT

Our work on providing small brick/concrete houses for families living in huts constructed of flimsy materials, banana leaves etc is still continuing and we are now finding a deserving family for our next construction following a large donation by Sheen Mount School

`FEED THE HUNGRY` FUND

This is our fund that we set up at the end of 2004 to help destitute grans/grandads in the Chengannur area. These had previously been helped by Help the Aged who ceased their activities in the area. We have been regularly distributing supplies of rice and basic necessities to some of the most destitute. We are still seeking donations to enable us to help on an on-going basis. Our photo shows some recipients.



STAMPS

We would like to thank everyone who sends us postage stamps. Absolutely any stamps are fine, used, unused, on or off paper/envelopes, British, foreign or collections. We can make use of all of them so please spread the word and keep them coming in!

OTHER ACTIVITIES

We have continued in the last 6 months to give small amounts of help to Nigeria, Cameroon and Madras although we are concentrating our aid back in the Chengannur area where the Trust first started its operations.

TRAINEE GOALKEEPER `SAVED`!

We have helped a young boy studying at the Govt. College of Physical Education in Calicut in Kerala who is training to be a football goalkeeper. He is from a poor family where his father is a daily labourer and his mother died sometime back. His only brother raised all the money for his admission through a loan. This help from us has helped him buy football accessories for himself and also pay part of his college fees.

CONTACT DETAILS

Please remember to keep us advised if you change your address or email address or if you could receive our newsletter by email rather than post to help us keep costs down