

# The East West Foundation

Supporter Update | Issue 33 | May 2021



02 Chairman's Update

03 COVID Update  
on developments &  
immediate needs

04 Farewell to Geetha Ma  
05 & Selvan from TEWF  
Family



06 Tertiary Fund Update

07 News at a Glance

08 Upcoming Dates



Caring | Sharing | Awareness | Tolerance



Empowering  
rural  
communities

## 02 Chairman's Update

The past months have been very challenging for India and Foundation with the second wave of COVID causing serious health risk in numbers never seen before. The East West Foundation's Health Care Clinic is leading several initiatives to fight the COVID spread across the 24 villages through education and prevention measures to our rural community.

We need your help to continue our critical work including funding COVID testing kits, preventive medication, COVID vaccines, oxygen cylinders and concentrators.

The Foundation continues to provide a loving and environment for children during these uncertain times. The Tertiary & Further Education Fund continues to fund tertiary and vocational training programs to support children reaching their goals.

Our free online Nursery & Primary School to the remote villages continues, also including tribal children. The Vicki Standish Computer Centre is delivering computer skill training for those seeking to improve their employment prospects. Our friends at Auroville lead by Mr. Joss Brooks will complete minor renovations to The Environmental Education Centre and work closely with the Foundation to launch innovative environmental education programs.

The recently renovated Women Centre continues to provide skills to empower women for self-sustainability. We are working closely with the community to launch community care programs with the greatest impact including employment and business assistance initiatives to aid economic recovery.

We say farewell to some our long-standing employees who recently retired including Ms. Geetha Ma our House Mother. We thank Ms. Geetha Ma for her significant contribution in the children's development at the home over the years and wish her a happy retirement.

We will keep you updated on when we will be rescheduling our mid-year event (due to COVID lockdown).

Many Thanks for all your support to the Foundation.



**Raghu Nadathur- Chair  
The East West Foundation of  
Australia, India & UK.**



**Computer Classes at the Vicki Standish  
Computer Centre to help enhance  
employment prospects .**

[Click here to  
Donate Now!](#)



**Empowering  
rural  
communities**

## 04 Farewell to Geetha Ma & Selvan

The East West Foundation Family thanks both Geetha Ma and Selvan for their commitment and years of dedication in making the lives of our disadvantage children happy, safe, healthy and rewarding.

### Geetha Ma

Those who have visited the Home at Uluru will have met the extraordinary Geetha Ma, the children's House Mother.

Geetha Ma joined the Home in February 2004 when there were only 20 girls at the Home. These girls, many of whom were homeless, without parents or without carers quickly adapted to the stability and upbringing that Geetha Ma provided for them.

The Home soon grew to 60 children, including boys, who all fell under Geetha Ma's care.

Geetha Ma not only provided the children with security, but also instilled in them the importance of education. This was her passion. Through her the children recognised the importance of schooling as well as of Classical Indian dance, music and culture. She pursued the children's cultural education with weekend classes run by experienced Masters in Bharatanatyam dance and music. She gave the children the confidence to take part in many concerts, which those who have visited the Home will have experienced. She also arranged for martial arts to be taught by a Karate Master.

Dutiful to Indian religious observances, Geetha Ma taught the children accordingly but also to respect all religions.

Her extra duties included managing the kitchen staff and supervising those who were assisting her in taking care of the children. She regularly attended the children's school interviews; took charge of the children's health check-ups and participated in the many fun excursions, including taking the children to films, swimming, a concert, dining out and shopping.

After all these years Geetha Ma can now enjoy her well deserved retirement from being House Mother to live with her sister in Chennai.



*Continued.*

[Click here to  
Donate Now!](#)



Empowering  
rural  
communities

## 03 COVID Update

India's COVID fight is immense and continues to cause disease, death and destruction.

The East West Foundation (TEWF) has been on the ground working closely with local communities to disrupt the spread and introduce comprehensive awareness and prevention measures to reduce this devastating disease.

Our initiatives are comprehensive and effective; however, we need your ongoing support and donations to continue this life saving work.

Please donate today and help the communities in South India stay healthy and safe.

### We need your help to continue our life saving work during 2nd Wave of COVID:

- Cost of Nasal Swab Testing kits Rs 700 each or \$14 per kit
- Favipiravir tablets 14-day course costs Rs 10,200 or \$200
- Cost of COVID vaccine (AstraZeneca) Rs 1600 or \$30 (for 2 doses)
- Each nurse or social worker costs \$200 per month or \$2,400 per annum; a doctor costs \$1760 per month or \$21,000 per annum
- An oxygen cylinder costs \$100 each while an oxygen concentrator prices start at \$1200 each
- It costs \$100,000 per year or \$8,300/month to run all our health services in India
- All Donations to The East West Foundation are tax-deductible.

### The East West Foundation is working hard in the region to:

- Increase awareness of COVID risk and prevention practices through education programs conducted by our Doctor, Nurses and Social Workers.
- Distribute comprehensive brochure in English/Tamil on risk and prevention measures supplemented by door knocking by social workers door to door.
- Continue to provide protection for the community by distributing masks made by the TEWF – over 11,000 masks distributed across 24 villages to-date
- Primary Health Care Clinic is providing 60-80 consultations a day, 6 days a week. Our mobile health clinic is visiting each of the 24 villages.
- Continue COVID testing at our Health Clinic.



[Click here to Donate Now!](#)



Empowering rural communities

## 05 Geetha Ma - cont.

Geetha Ma was hospitable to us and those of our friends who visited the Home. We wish her good health, love and a restful time after her years of dedication to the children at the Uluru Children's Home, and to the TEWFI staff with whom she worked.

**Beth Z Charles & Ron Merkel**



## Selvan

In January, 2003, Selvan was the very first of numerous watchmen to be employed at Uluru by TEWFI.

A resident at the nearby village of Kadapakkam, Selvan not only provided the children with security, but he knew and related to each and every one of them by name and personality.

He was an active participant in the various Hindu religious festivals held with the children as well as in the Hindu dedication ceremonies for every new building that was to be constructed and blessed at Uluru. One of his main vocations was to smash a large water melon wishing success, happiness and prosperity for each new building.

The photo here is of Selvan with the children partaking in the Pongal festival where he is supervising the over flow of the Pongal dish, symbolising happiness.

After 18 years with TEWFI, Selvan has now retired. We will miss him and his ceremonies when we next visit.

**Beth Z Charles & Ron Merkel**



[Click here to Donate Now!](#)



Empowering rural communities

## 06 The East West Foundation Tertiary & further Education Fund

The East West Foundation's Tertiary & further Education Fund is used to assist our children reach their full potential. Our children who have completed their stay and education at our home, are able to continue pursuing further tertiary education or vocational training through the support of the fund and your donations.



---

*The East West Foundation needs your support to help continue the education of our disadvantaged children, to ensure they can develop into productive and skilled members of their communities. Helping lift the standard of living in these remote villages in South India.*

---

Kalpana (right) has successfully completed her Bachelor of Commerce Degree. Shipra (left) has completed her bachelor's degree in English & is pursuing a a bachelor's degree in Education.

Go to our website to find out how you can donate to our Tertiary & Further Education Fund, and help create a life changing opportunity for our underprivileged children.



## 07 News at a Glance

### Environmental Education Centre Update

The Foundations Environmental Education Centre was established in 2009 in partnership with Auroville's Joss Brooks. For many years the centre has conducted environmental education programs in collaboration with Auroville. Joss Brooks and the team from Auroville recently visited the centre and gave it a much needed spring clean and added new environmental education posters. Joss and the Auroville team will be also helping us renovate the Environmental Education Centre soon.

The Foundation will in partnership with Auroville, launch new innovative environmental education programs going forward. We also want to re activate the Scientific/Research part of the Centre with the students and the residents becoming Eco - warriors, a vision nurtured from the beginning by Dr. Chandran, Beth Charles and Ron Merkel.



Joss Brooks



After the visit to the Uluru Environment Centre, Joss Brooks took our school group to the Fort, the beach and the sand dunes . They saw how the Archaeological Survey of India are renovating the fort using traditional methods of preparing and using lime mortar instead of cement.



School children from Vandippalayam (one of the schools we teach regularly) visit the Uluru Coastal Environment Centre.

[Click here to Donate Now!](#)



Empowering rural communities

## 08 Upcoming Dates



The East West Foundation's Gala Bollywood Dinner Dance 2021 - **date TBA**



**Please donate today and help the communities in South India stay healthy & safe.**