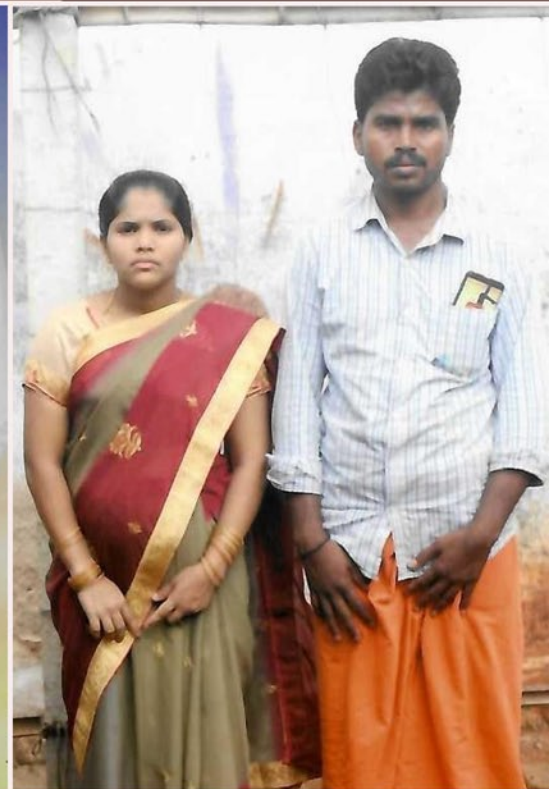


MOST MEMORABLE EVENT

IN THE LIVES OF OUR GIRLS

(Wedding Bells of our Sponsored Girls)





St. Joseph's Development Trust

Marching Forward With Zeal

**MOST MEMORABLE EVENT
IN THE LIVES OF OUR GIRLS
(WEDDING BELLS OF OUR SPONSORED GIRLS)**



SUCCESS STORIES OF OUR FORMER STUDENTS

S. Karthika

Introduction:

Karthika was brought to SJDT at a young age. She found solace and love in the caring environ of SJDT which gave her lot of assurance from the very first day and there was no looking back into her past. SJDT made many timely interventions and she was able to turn the misfortunes of her life into successful life at present.

The situation of the child and Family before coming into our Care:

The family of Karthika is from Nallakaruppanpatti village, near Periyakulam of Theni District. Karthika comes from an underprivileged section of her village society. Both



parents were agricultural coolies depending on their meagre daily earnings for their livelihood. They couldn't get work every day. They had two children. It was financially too difficult to send their children to school. Parents wished to provide some basic formal education to Karthika as they didn't like their daughter to suffer like them. During that time, SJDT was conducting regular evening tuition centre in the village. Karthika began to attend tuition classes every day along with many other children of the village. Although Karthika was

struggling in academics, she was very enthusiastic and active in extracurricular activities. However, at SJDT's personalised special intervention, she was motivated to study well. She was taken into SJDT's sponsorship programme as she was determined to continue study with the help of sponsorship.

Karthika's Development under the Care of SJDT:

Karthika began to enjoy her sponsorship programme in various ways. SJDT organized large gatherings of children once in three months. Oftentimes, programmes were held in one of the villages and other times at the Head Office of SJDT. Topics such as the

importance of education, hard work, discipline, responsibility, and health awareness were well received by the children. Karthika's association with SJDT helped her to become a disciplined and hard-working girl. The staff of SJDT provided personal counselling and psychological motivation to perform better in her studies. During her formative years she became aware of conservation of the environment. When she completed her degree program, SJDT offered her a career guidance program. She participated in it and felt very confident. By and large, she utilized all the opportunities and worked on her leadership skills. The leadership qualities that she has developed at SJDT made a huge impact in her life as she was able to become an effective supervisor.

Karthika's Status at Present:

Now we are delighted to see Karthika married and settled as a successful housewife. She is competent to manage her family life with responsibility and immense happiness.



Reflecting back on the sponsorship Karthika had benefited, she says, I was studying 11th standard when was enrolled in the sponsorship program by St. Joseph's Development Trust. Together with me thirty other children were also enrolled in sponsorship program. All of us were attending the evening tuition centre conducted by SJDT. The scholarship, uniforms, school bags, notebooks and writing materials provided by SJDT were very much helpful for my education."

Through our sponsorship programme, Karthika was able to complete her schooling successfully and her college studies in B.sc (Physics). She worked for few years in a Private Company as a Supervisor until her parents arranged her marriage. Her husband is working in the Private Company as a Supervisor. They understand each other well and lead a happy married life.

Conclusion:

Life is a journey. For some it has been beautiful from the very beginning. But there are others who need to find other's support to move forward in life. SJDT intervened in Karthika's life at the right time with substantial interventions. Together with Karthika and her family, we thank profusely all the sponsors for their generosity over the years bringing effective changes in the life of Karthika.

P. Nanthini

Introduction:

In a country where poverty is widespread and people die every year due to lack of basic food and medication, being born in a poor family is a curse. This was precisely the situation wherein Nanthini was born. The little girl was admitted to **SJDT's** sponsorship program. She has grown up into an inspiring young adult. She credits the family-style of **upbringing in SJDT** as the foundation of her all her present success.

The family hardships Nanthini experienced prior to the Care of SJDT:

Nanthini's family is from Sengulathupatti near Periyakulam of Theni District. Her parents were daily wage earners and the monthly income was meagre and insufficient to support the expenses of the family. Many times, the family was not very sure of their next meal and so the family would simply starve. The parents realized that their daughter was a smart and very studious. The father wished that his daughter got proper education but due to paucity of funds, and the high cost of education, he was unable to give his daughter proper education. She was about to be dropped out of school. At that crucial juncture, one of the neighbours talked to them about SJDT and its activities for the welfare of the female children. The parents enrolled Nanthini in the sponsorship programme. She received continuous support from SJDT.



Nanthini's Development under the Care of SJDT:

SJDT organized many activities bringing children from different villages. Nanthini was delighted to interact with other children periodically once in three months. The various programs such as Personality Development, and Time Management, and Johari Window enhanced helped her to build up a healthy social-emotional skills, including the ability to understand and communicate with others. Nanthini was happy that she learned to communicate well in an effective way. One of the most important traits that she developed in life was the power of self-resilience. She was able to take on challenges, bounce back from failure, and keep trying. Nanthini's learnings came to her aid in terms of being a good listener, skilful communicator, and perseverance with hard work. Experience had taught her a lot. She is very satisfied and happy about her fruitful association with SJDT.

Nanthini at Present:

Nanthini is married happily at present with a job for herself and her husband is also working. They are happily settled in the village where Nanthini was born and brought up.



She was delighted to welcome us into her home and expressed the following with a grateful heart:

“SJDT gave me a ray of hope when I was in distress and perplexed about my education. SJDT not only revived my dream of pursuing higher education but also guided me and helped me to attain my dream career. I am very

thankful to SJDT for helping out. Experience is the best teacher. I have learnt, changed and evolved a lot during those years of my association with SJDT”.

Nanthini is settled in her own village. Her husband is the driver cum operator of a Bore well drilling machine. His crew travels to the neighbouring State of Andhra Pradesh for Bore well drilling. He earns a good salary. He comes back to his family once in three

months. Nanthini is also working as an Accountant in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

Conclusion:

The timely assistance from SJDT had been very crucial in benefiting Nanthini in her studies. She has proven herself with her passion for hard work and that education is the key to change one's life substantially. Her story is that of a selected few who have stood up for themselves in adverse circumstances. We thank profusely all the sponsors for their contribution to the growth of Nanthini.

V. Gowsalya

Introduction:

Being successful is the basic urge in all human beings residing in this lovely planet. It does not matter whether the person is a child, youth, or advanced in years. It is this urge for success that keeps every human being moving ahead in life despite failures and limitations. We are extremely happy to present to you Gowsalya, who was able to succeed in her life thanks to the timely intervention of SJDT.

The situation of Gowsalya and her Family before coming into the care of SJDT:



Gowsalya is from Sengulathupatti, near Periyakulam of Theni District. She was born in the year 1999. Life was not easy for Gowsalya from her childhood. Being the eldest female child of the family, Gowsalya had to assume lot of responsibilities connected with the household. She had to take care of her younger brother whenever the mother was very sick and bedridden.

Gowsalya's father was an agricultural casual labourer and of course there was no assurance

of daily work. To add to the misery of the family, the mother passed away suddenly due to incurable cancer. Gowsalya's father got married again. The step-mother was not treating Gowsalya and her other siblings properly. Instead Gowsalya though less than seven years of age, was once again compelled to take care of other siblings born to her step-mother too. Although the father was concerned about Gowsalya's education he didn't have many much options. Luckily, the father had come to know about SJDT and its sponsorship programme and so decided to hand over Gowsalya to the caring patronage of SJDT. Gowsalya was just a child of seven years when SJDT offered her sponsorship for her education for a better future.

Gowsalya's development under the care of SJDT:

Our staff began to acquaint with Gowsalya through various programmes and activities. She had to be helped to deal with many personality related issues like educational disabilities, inferiority complex, stubbornness, and short-temper, etc. But Bro. Sebastian and his dedicated team of staff encouraged her to accept these personal issues as life experiences for her. As she interacted with other children through various events, activities, her competency to overcome those issues increased gradually. She was able to withstand her mental blockage of coming from a poor family background. With an offer of various sound programs provided, she was able to develop numerous qualities such as patience, empathy and had a positive outlook towards life. Her involvement in different activities in her village and SJDT helped her in shaping her personality. Reflecting back on her experience as sponsored beneficiary, Gowsalya says, I was studying 2nd standard when I was enrolled in the sponsorship program provided by St. Joseph's Development Trust. Together with me, many other children were enrolled in the sponsorship program, we were attending the evening tuition centre conducted by SJDT. The scholarships, uniforms, school bags, notebooks, and writing materials provided by SJDT very much helped for my education. "Talking of her experience while working with different children, Gowsalya adds further, "When I started attending SJDT's programmes, I had no idea how to get along with so many children. I was treated by staff with utmost understanding and care. My mistakes were explained to me in a way that led me to solve them and my efforts were appreciated. I thank Bro. Sebastian in particular for providing me a good platform to work hard and work on my dream".

Gowsalya's Status at Present:

Gowsalya is now a married woman with the family of her own. When the staff of SJDT visited her recently, she welcomed us with a big smile and gratitude. She has completed her Nursing Course in 2017 and got married in 2021. She resides in the city of Tirupur with her husband. She works at a Knitwear manufacturing unit. Her husband is a JCB (Junior Caterpillar Bulldozer) Operator. He goes to nearby cities like Coimbatore, Ooty, and Pollachi with his earth mover for work.



He comes home for the weekends. Gowsalya makes a good family life with her loving and understanding nature acquired from her fruitful association with SJDT.

Conclusion:

The mission of SJDT is to foster children appropriately, provide livelihood and empower the human communities at large. SJDT has made a huge impact in the life of Gowsalya. This would not have been possible but for the generous contributions, blessings, and support of the sponsors over the years. We profusely thank the sponsors for their generous contribution for making a change in the life of Gowsalya.

S. Saranya

Introduction:

The road to success is never easy and smooth, but requires lot of patience and personal efforts. This is the reality which defines the success of S. Saranya overcoming all the challenges due to her poor family background. Once Saranya landed in Pudhu Vasantham orphanage of SJDT, her life changed thereafter.

The Situation of Saranya and her Family before coming into the care of SJDT:

When Saranya was four years old, her father eloped with a lady, leaving behind two children with her ailing mother. The whole responsibility of taking care and providing for the family fell on the sickly mother. But unfortunately, Saranya's mother also did not live longer. The sickness became more malignant, and she died without any help from the relatives. Noticing the plight of the two little girls, some concerned neighbours informed the local police authorities, who after preliminary enquiries, placed the children under the care of their grandmother. However, the grandmother couldn't take care of the grandchildren as she was already aged and ailing. The grandmother brought Saranya to SJDT, and requested to be accepted as an orphan. Thus Saranya began her life at Pudhu Vasantham in 2009 when she was nine years old.



Saranya's Development under the Care of SJDT:

Having been abandoned at a young age, life was not easy to digest for Saranya. She had to adjust to the various day-to-day activities of the new place. The program of Pudhu Vasantham was meant to provide important skills for life. Programs like weekly panchayat meetings, daily games, personality development programs, moral classes, orientation to life, interactive skills, etc. motivated and encouraged her to move on from her past life. Bro. Sebastian used to remind her "Even the biggest of one's dreams can remain the smallest of one's ideas without one's hard work and vice versa". Life was not always comfortable and cozy for Saranya. But she knew that the all programs were meant to offer a real-life enriching experience. Coupled with her continuous efforts she could transform for a better future. Saranya was able to sharpen her social, interpersonal, emotional, and cognitive skills. Pudhu Vasantham became the right place to explore all her talents and skills hidden inside of her and develop many more new valuable skills.

Saranya's Status at Present:

When one of our staff met Saranya recently, she welcomed him with a big smile. She was very happy to remember all her past life which had moments of great pain, sufferings, but finally joy and happiness. With an overwhelming voice, Saranya shared her experiences.



“The people in Pudhu Vasantham were very loving and caring. I could somehow feel that love and care were intertwined in all the activities we were involved. During my crying moments, Bro. Sebastian and all care-givers would spend long hours with me and encourage me. Over the years I started doing well in my studies

at school. I passed the 12th standard and went on to study a typewriting course. It was possible because of SJDT.”

Saranya got married in 2019 to a man person who is a vegetable vendor cum driver. Her learning at Pudhu Vasantham helped her to be a more understanding and loving wife. They happily now reside in a town by name Pazhani. Saranya's grandmother was responsible for arranging the marriage. For Saranya, her grandmother and SJDT are the guiding stars of her life.

Conclusion:

Despite having lived through severe poverty and hardship as a child, Saranya's residential learning at Pudhu Vasantham helped her to enhance all present opportunities for better future. We are eternally grateful to all the Sponsors for providing education and a decent life to Saranya through SJDT. Saranya is a self-made and noble member of society now.

S. Gowsalya

Introduction:

Living in poverty is not the end of hope or life. The key things needed to break down the walls that imprison those within poverty are support networks such as friends or family, awareness of opportunities, and access to resources. With this combination, a new life is possible. Yes, it was SJDT that helped S. Gowsalya to come out of her poverty through education. Here the story of new life...

The situation of Gowsalya and her Family before coming into the care of SJDT:

Gowsalya was born at Kamanpatti, near Sembati of Dindigul district. Being born and brought up in a very poor family, life was never easy for Gowsalya. Her father was a Lorry Cleaner. Gowsalya's mother was a housewife and she had to nurture four children. The salary of the father was just enough for the food. When Gowsalya was ready for primary schooling, her parents initially thought of admitting her in the Government school. The Parents found it very difficult to send their three children to school due to the paucity of funds to manage the family expenses as well as the education of the children. Though



her siblings continued their schooling, Gowsalya's hope of beginning her primary education seemed to be less likely. In the end, her parents decided not to send Gowsalya to school. They were of the opinion that her going to school was of no use to her as well as for the family. It was

at this juncture, SJDT offered the home based sponsorship for Gowsalya.

Gowsalya's Development under the Care of SJDT:

SJDT's intervention was amazing in Gowsalya's childhood, and she would talk about it at length with her parents and friends. The leadership program and other group



activities organized by SJDT helped Gowsalya in so many ways. Gowsalya never involved in extracurricular activities such as public speaking and cultural programmes. She was noticed being scared and solitary. When it was brought to the notice of Bro. Sebastian in one of the meetings, he made sure

she got involved and earned her acclaim. As a result, she found herself participating in activities she had never considered doing, or avoided. Over a period of time, Gowsalya wasn't scared to get involved where it was appropriate. She started helping her mother with washing up the dishes and clothes. Gowsalya was very happy that she was given the opportunity to grow and she made it happen. SJDT's intervention was one of the best aspects that had ever happened in her life.

Gowsalya's Status at Present:

Gowsalya at present resides in the city of Chennai and was very happy to receive SJDT staff when they visited her. She gratefully remembered her experiences with SJDT and shared the following:

"I started my first standard with the sponsorship program provided by SJDT. Together with me, many other children were enrolled in the sponsorship program. We were attending the evening tuition centre conducted by SJDT. The scholarships, uniforms, school bags, notebooks, and writing materials provided by SJDT helped me very much for my education. I was able to complete my 11th standard thanks to the sponsorship provided by SJDT."

Gowsalya got married in 2021. Her husband Murugan has a flower shop in Chennai. The flower shop is situated beside a Hindu Temple. Gowsalya's husband earns a handsome

profit and the family life is successful. Gowsalya is blessed with a baby girl. She is making good decisions in her married life, and she is indeed happy.

Conclusion:

Gowsalya was able to demonstrate her determination and hard work to achieve what was seemingly impossible given the family situation. We thank profusely all the sponsors for their continual support to Gowsalya and for making a visible transformation in her life.

K. Chella Kannu

Introduction:

Success and failures are great impetus in life. While success elevates, failures depress. There are very few who are able to withstand the hardship of failures and able to achieve success in life. Here we present to you the beautiful story of Chella Kannu's resiliency and hard work and how it paid off towards success in her life.

The Situation of Chella Kannu and her Family before coming into the care of SJDT:

Chella Kannu comes from a small town Sembatti, near Dindigul. Her parents were very poor and had six female children. Having six female children was and would be a big problem to the family. The father was the only breadwinner and he was a Lorry Cleaner. The father's income was measly and the family would remain short of money. The mother would often go hungry so that the children could eat, and during the worst of times, there just wasn't enough to go around. It was hard for the mother as the children many times went to sleep without having taken anything. With the meagre resources at their disposal, the family could not afford even basic education for the children. The parents feared that their kids would grow up with



lower earning potentials due to lack of proper education and would never liberate themselves from the cycle of poverty. It was under such miserable situation, Chella Kannu, the youngest among six female children, was identified for the sponsorship program of SJDT.

Chella Kannu's Development under the Care of SJDT:

Chella Kannu was fortunately blessed to mingle with different types of children brought together for various activities of SJDT, such as Personality Development, Time Management, Leadership, Self & Public discipline, and service to infuse nobler qualities in children's early childhood. In the beginning, She used to be aloof and had difficulties mingling or interacting with other children. However she was motivated to participate actively in every program. She began to enjoy her participation in every activity with renewed interest and enthusiasm. As days progressed, she realized that those activities were not bad, but were meant to foster self-discipline and stability in one's life. She began to participate in the group study and group games organised in her village by the village animators of SJDT. Chella Kannu's interest in those activities were so impressive that she would invite other children of her village to participate also. Thus, the friendly and enabling approaches of SJDT with the children helped Chella Kannu to attain higher educational achievements.

Chella Kannu's Status at Present:

Recently SJDT staff had the chance of visiting Chella Kannu in her present situation. She was full of gratitude for the contributions SJDT had made in her growing years.



“I was attending the evening tuition classes organised by SJDT while I was studying in the sixth standard and I was enrolled in the sponsorship program in 2009. Since then, **SJDT had taken care of my education.** I was also provided with uniforms, notebooks, writing materials,

and toiletries. I was sponsored till the completion of my B.com degree. I can never forget the support provided by SJDT and all the sponsors, and I submit my gratitude to all of them”.

Chella Kannu completed her studies (B.com) in 2018 and got married in the subsequent year. Her husband Raja is working at one of the Textile Companies in Tirupur. Chella Kannu applied for a work in the same company where her husband had been working. The self-confidence and competency Chella Kannu had acquired during her formative years in SJDT rewarded her with a good job. At present, she leads a confident and successful married life with dignity.

Conclusion:

Struggles in life can develop one's inner strengths to a great degree. We are very happy to witness Chella Kannu's achievements overcoming her difficult childhood and we wish her all the best in her married life. We thank profusely all the sponsors for your generous contributions towards bringing out a bright future in Chella Kannu's life.

G. Sona Sree

Introduction:

Life is becoming more challenging for many children in different parts of the world right now. They all need encouragement, hope, and support. Children facing harsh situations and difficulties in the early part of their life need proper help to get inspired, move on with courage, push past challenges, and overcome obstacles. Struggles are part of every good story. This is the story of little girl Sona Sree who successfully overcame the obstacles of her childhood with the help of SJDT and its sponsorship initiatives.

The Situation of Sona Sree and her Family before coming into the care of SJDT:

Sona Sree was born in an impoverished family in a small village called, Azhagarnayakkanpatti, near Sembatti in Dindigul District. This poor family had two children. The father was the sole breadwinner of the family. He worked as a Lorry cleaner



and it was not an easy one. Though he was a good man in general, he would spend most of his earnings on drinking. This forced Sona Sree's mother to look for work on her own and make up for the livelihood of the family. Often the family would struggle

for food and other necessities. Sona Sree's mother had to lead a harsh and challenging life in order to maintain the family and rearing the two children. Under such difficult situation, school education for the two children was a mirage, rather than reality. But she didn't want her children to suffer without proper education. As she was desperately looking for some assistance for her children's education, one of her neighbours informed her about the sponsorship programme in SJDT which was already organising different programmes in her village.

Sona Sree's Development under the Care of SJDT:

The Tuition centre based programmes organised by SJDT had been attracting many children who otherwise had no way of improving their academic standards in their respective schools. Sona Sree gladly got enrolled in the Tuition centre programme and started involving in other extracurricular activities. By attending fun games, group games and other leisure activities she was motivated to work and interact with all other children. As a result, she was able to speak, discuss and work with different types of people during

large gatherings both at SJDT as well as in her village. She learnt to be respectful, mild mannered, and congenial by spending more time with children studying together, playing together, and working together. She was able to pick up new skills by her active participation in different programs organized by SJDT. This has helped her to develop effective interactive skills for her present life.

Sona Sree's Status at Present:

When one of the SJDT staff met Sona Sree at her home recently, she looked confident and convincing about her present situation. Recalling the past bitter experience with her father, she said,



“Having a father with incurable alcoholism was an endless disappointment during my childhood. I knew it was not really “my father”, it was the alcohol, and I was hopeful the horrors will end soon. That hope kept me going, even when I was very confused, distracted and sad. My hope did not go in vain as came in contact with

SJDT and all its outreach initiatives in my village.”

While talking about the turning point in her life, she explained, “St. Joseph’s Development Trust was conducting evening tuitions in our village. I joined and studied in that tuition centre. In 2003, while I was studying 3rd standard I was enrolled in the sponsorship program. The scholarships, uniforms, notebooks, and the writing materials provided by St. Joseph’s Development Trust kept me going in my studies. Otherwise it would not have been possible to do my studies. I was sponsored until the completion of my Diploma in nursing studies as well as and Diploma in Computer Application (DCA)”.

Sona Sree got married to Mr. Soundrapandi in 2020 and living in Azhagarnayakkanpatti. The husband is a Bus Driver. She leads a happy married life at

present. Now She is successful interacting, conversing, and understanding her husband, in-laws' family members, and her children.

Conclusion:

Every obstacle we come across allows us to improve our circumstances by working hard on the given opportunities through perseverance, and willingness to get things done. Sona Sree is the true example of the qualities above-mentioned. We thank profusely all sponsors for your generous contribution and generosity as Sona Sree worked hard and prevailed against the odds of her family situation.

S. Minnal Oli

Introduction:

Born into an extremely poor family in a marginalized village, Minnal Oli's chances of overcoming poverty were slim. However Minnal Oli was more than tough and she was determined to face her challenging situations squarely. Nothing could hold Minnal Oli back, and so she worked hard and finally prevailed.

The Situation of Minnal Oli and her Family before coming into the care of SJDT:

Minnal Oli was from the Narasingapuram, near Sembatti of Dindigul District. Her parents were very poor, with three children and had no permanent employment. Minnal Oli would wake up every day feeling hungry, thirsty, and weak. She often was not sure when her next meal would come. Her family struggled a lot to take care of her. Because of her parents' financial burdens, in 2008, she was forced to stop her schooling at the age of 10. She was tired, hungry, angry, and wondered if there was anything more to life than what she was experiencing. At that crucial juncture, she came to know and got in touch with SJDT's initiatives. She started attending the Evening Tuition, and in 2008, she was enrolled in the SJDT's sponsorship programme.



Minnal Oli's Development under the Care of SJDT:

Minnal Oli knew that her difficult life was not by choice and her poor family background was in no way the fault of hers. So she considered it a blessing to receive the timely support from SJDT. Considering the sensitivity about her poor background, SJDT staff counselled her with all the love and care. Different educational and motivational programs organized by SJDT in her village as well as at SJDT enabled Minnal Oli to develop a strong belief in personal transformation through education. She was fully focused on her daily study and timely completion of homework. Minnal Oli had full faith in SJDT's organizational objectives and goals. She never missed any program arranged by SJDT. She kept working on her skills to achieve her dream. She had a strong belief in herself and so stayed focused in the face of discouragement and failures. She fostered her growth-oriented mind set and resilience. She constantly reminded herself with the quote, "A girl without education is like a bird without wings". We are indeed happy that Minnal Oli has acquired her own wings to fly.

Minnal Oli's Status at Present:

Minnal Oli was delighted to receive our staff in her house. She was grateful to SJDT and her sponsors for the immense assistance she had received for her studies.

"I have been in the sponsorship program promoted by SJDT since 2008. I enjoyed the Evening Tuition, where I improved my reading and writing skills. We had specially designed workshops, in which we had lot of fun. We learnt how to express ourselves, and how to improve our thinking for arriving at better ideas. Since I was enrolled in the sponsorship program, many benefits such as the scholarship, uniforms, school bags,



notebooks, and writing materials provided by SJDT were very much helpful for my education. I was sponsored until the completion of my schooling as well as my college degree."

Minnal Oli completed her Master's Degree in Computer Applications (M.C.A) in 2019 and got

married in the same year. He parents are happy to witness her success in her studies as well as being a responsible married woman. Mr. Suresh, her husband is working as a Data Entry Operator at Chakkara Private Limited. He draws a good salary and the family is settled in Athoor near Dindigul. Minnal Oli is taking care of her two children.

Conclusion:

“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I – I took the one few travelled made all the difference.” We are probably familiar with this famous quote from Robert Frost’s poem “The Road Not Taken”. Minnal Oli has travelled on the unfamiliar, rough road and walked towards success without turning back. We thank profusely all the sponsors for their sponsorship and continuous support towards a bright future in Minnal Oli’s life

S. Nanthini

Introduction:

People try their best to earn millions of money, but we know it's still a long and hard way to achieve. But most of the people fail because the journey to success is not easy. However here is an underprivileged girl Nanthini, whose hope, hard work, and resilience, has finally enabled her for a successful settlement in life.

The Situation of Nanthini and her Family before coming into the care of SJDT:

Nanthini was from the Nallakaruppanpatti, near Periyakulam of Theni District. Her parents were just ordinary daily agricultural labourers. The parents had two children and it was difficult to manage their family expenses. Both the children, especially Nanthini were severely malnourished. The family was so poor that Nanthini was not treated well by neighbours and relatives. Her parents tried to overcome their poverty by starting a business. Hence Nanthini’s mother joined a Self-Help Group in the village, promoted by SJDT and got a loan to start a small business. In addition, Nanthini



joined the Evening Tuition Centre animated by SJDT for the children of the Self-Help Group Women. In the meantime, SJDT started to include all the children attending the Evening Tuition Centre in the sponsorship program. Thus, Nanthini was also absorbed in the sponsorship program and it helped her to continue with her third standard in the local school.

Nanthini's Development under the Care of SJDT:

As a sponsored child, Nanthini began to receive regular financial assistance for her schooling, involvement in programs and activities on the value of education, hard work, responsibility and perseverance which were offered to her periodically. Nanthini benefited a lot from those programs and activities. Few of those events were challenging at times, but invaluable in so many ways. She was not hesitant to ask for help from others. She was able to benefit a lot from her seniors the group study organised in her village. She learned the importance of hard work to achieve success. Nanthini considered all her struggles as learning moments towards gradual success. For Nanthini, dedication and work ethics meant to get a task completed. She learned to see a work through until it was done well. Thus her self-confidence grew and she was able to handle many tasks given to her. This led her to have positive outcomes in her studies at college. Her leadership quality, positive attitude, good work ethics, and commitment enabled her to be in the good book of her teachers and instructors in the college. Nanthini was thankful for the opportunity to get involved more than she had ever imagined.

Nanthini's Status at Present:

Our staff recently visited Nanthini at her home. She was able to recall her painful childhood at home and the personal transformation she has gone through. "I could remember vividly how my parents would get into oral fight over money every day and the family was pushed over the brink- from subsistence to hunger and lack of necessities." However she also remembered and cherished the moments she had with SJDT.

"The assistance from SJDT has been very crucial and has benefitted me much in terms of what I needed. I was enrolled in the sponsorship program while I was studying 3rd standard in the year 2003. Since then, I have been provided with scholarships, school uniforms, school bags, notebooks, writing materials, etc. The education gave me the

motivation and ambition to live with confidence in me. My heart felt gratitude for Bro. I. Sebastian, and SJDT is beyond any wordy expression.” She concluded.

Nanthini is 25 years old at present. She completed her B.E (Electronics and



Communications Engineering) in 2016. She worked for three years in a Private Company before getting married to Mr. Kasthuri Raman in the year 2019. Nanthini’s husband is a responsible person. He works at a Car Factory in Bangalore and is very appreciative of the contribution of SJDT. He

expressed lot of admiration and gratitude for SJDT’s contribution to the growth of S. Nanthini into a young, mature and married woman. Both of them live in Bangalore city now.

Conclusion:

Of course, Nanthini’s testimony would be incomplete if we do not mention the invaluable assistance and support of the sponsors who had helped her to complete the schooling and the degree course successfully. We profusely thank all the sponsors for the compassion and generosity shown to Nanthini over the years.

P. Thamaraiselvi

Introduction:

Poor people live each day with the strong will to survive, but lack the social support and possibilities to move up on the ladder of opportunity. Thamaraiselvi’s family looked for help to provide education to her. Luckily SJDT came to Thamaraiselvi’s rescue when it mattered the most. Here is the case of Thamaraiselvi who defied the negative impacts of poverty and succeeded in her life.

The Situation of Thamaraiselvi and her Family before coming into SJDT's Care:

Thamaraiselvi is from Sriram Nagar, near Periyakulam of the Theni District. Her parents had three children. Thamaraiselvi's mother was a housewife. Thamaraiselvi's father was an agricultural coolie. He wouldn't get a regular job every day. The poor financial situation of the family made it hard to meet the basic needs of the members. Since her father was the sole breadwinner, the mother tried to bring in additional money by doing jobs such as house cleaning, etc., which were only temporary. If children were lucky, they occasionally would have two meals a day. Thamaraiselvi's mother relied on others for the schooling of the children. Life was very difficult for Thamaraiselvi. Her future seemed very bleak as the parents thought of stopping her from school, although they wished her to attend the school continuously. At this crucial junction, Thamaraiselvi was put in contact with SJDT through a family friend.



Thamaraiselvi's Development under the Care of SJDT:

Thamaraiselvi was a bright child by nature and all she needed was the right and gentle nudging for better performance. She was given plenty of chances to improve her talents on different occasions and platforms. One of the issues that Thamaraiselvi had to deal with was her tendency to be introverted. This hindered from unfolding her potentialities to the full. Bro. Sebastian noticed her problem and motivated her to come out of her introversion. SJDT staff on their part grouped her with other children to discuss a given issue and come up with appropriate solutions. Her skills were appreciated in front of others. Repetitive appreciation in front of others was a boost to Thamaraiselvi's self-confidence and in turn, helped to diminish her feelings of self-doubt and insecurity. Over a period of time, she was able to cope effectively with the outside world. Although Thamaraiselvi was lacking in self-confidence and verbal expressions, her constant interaction with others helped her to be effective in conversing and speaking in front of others. When our SJDT staff visited her recently, Thamaraiselvi welcomed them with gratitude. She expressed the following with a sense of pride: "In 2015, while I was studying the seventh standard I got enrolled in the sponsorship program provided by St. Joseph's

Development Trust. Together with me, many other children were also enrolled in the



sponsorship program. I had a beautiful experience of living together at Pudu Punal. I was brought up with love and care. The staff at Pudhu Punal accepted me with my uniqueness and motivated me to grow as I was. The scholarships, uniforms, school bags, notebooks, and writing materials provided by SJDT helped in my education. I was sponsored

till the completion of my 11th standard.”

Thamaraiselvi’s Status at Present:

Thamaraiselvi got married to Mr. Sarathkumar in 2021. He is a Lorry driver. He earns a sufficient amount of money as his salary. The couple is settled in the City of Madurai. Thamaraiselvi lives with the family of her extended in-laws, and they all are taking care of her very well.

Conclusion:

As a young girl, Thamaraiselvi had the grit and determination to overcome all the negative hurdles that tried to suppress her. She needed the opportunity and SJDT provided just that. She took full advantage of all the opportunities at Pudhu Punal orphanage. We profusely thank all the sponsors for their priceless contribution and generosity to Thamaraiselvi.



DEAR SPONSORS,

THANK

YOU!

FROM

SJDT

