

Pudiyador Times

Issue 14 Apr 2013



Photo by one of our
Pudiyador children

Welcome to another edition of the Pudiyador Times! Times are good at our learning centers and neighboring communities. Our team has been busy laying the groundwork for new initiatives in 2013, and in the 1st quarter, they are focused on developing relationships with the parents and communities at large. In the pages to follow, you will read about a fun event organized as part of the community outreach effort. In addition, we are making progress in connecting with parents by improving our home visit methodology. We have also started a program to work with street children in our communities, taking a human rights based approach to understand their needs and provide opportunities to enrich their childhood.

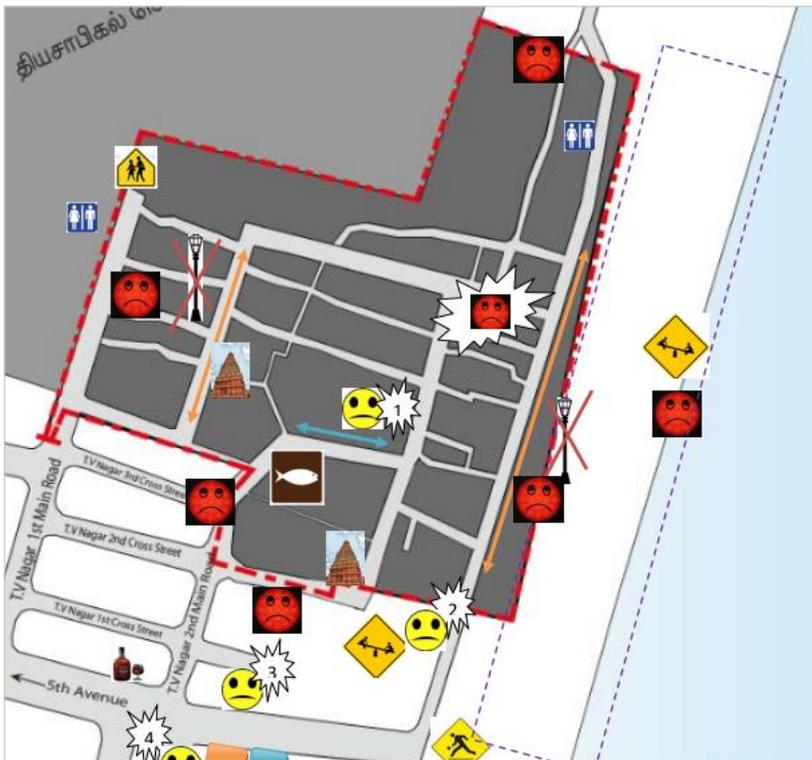
We will keep you updated with the latest news from our kids. As always, thank you very much for your interest and support!



Building bridges

Pudiyador's vision is to "transform communities one child at a time", and this quarter, we took a step forward in involving the communities our kids come from. As part of the effort, we organized a community outreach event at Pudiyador Uroor Kuppam (PUK). The focus of the event was to bring this large community together and to raise their awareness about their own children's needs. Prior to the event, we had met with Tulir, an organization that focuses on the prevention and healing of child sexual abuse. With Tulir's permission, the event featured exhibition of Tulir's posters and other literature to bring about awareness in the community about child safety.

Preparations began almost two weeks before the event. In addition to the children, around 25 women from the community (mothers and others from the community at large) signed up and gathered at PUK for the pre-event kick-off. The pre-event featured activities for the mothers and the older children that were later showcased on the big day of the community event.



We started the pre-event with a mapping activity during which the women organized themselves into two groups and identified safe and unsafe areas within their community. A similar activity was repeated by the older kids from Pudiyador. In addition to identifying the areas, there were lively discussions among all groups on why a specific area was deemed unsafe. We now have a wonderful community resource in the form of a map that demarcates safe and unsafe areas within the community. We plan on following this up in the coming months with suitable interventions in the areas identified.

After this activity, the ladies bonded over artwork projects such as *kolam* designs and painting *saris*.

A photography workshop for children of ages 9-14 was a major part of the pre-event kickoff. The workshop was conducted over 6 sessions, each covering specific aspects of photography like



Building bridges

texture, color, light, etc. Children were also taught how to portray community issues through photography. Three point-and-shoot digital cameras were shared between 15 children who were divided into groups. An adult mentor accompanied each group during their photo shoots. A total of over 1000 photos were captured, of which 200 were selected and displayed during the community event ([click here to jump ahead to see some of the pictures](#)).

We wrapped up the pre-event kick-off by asking the mothers some questions (What do you know about Pudiyaator? What are your expectations from Pudiyaator? Can you spend time at Pudiyaator?) and video recorded their responses. We were surprised to find that most of them did not completely understand what Pudiyaator does, and that was an important learning moment for us. We will be doubling our efforts in getting the parents to understand our purpose. As for their expectations, mothers wanted us to teach their children to behave well, have healthy attitudes, respect their elders, and do well in school. We heard you, moms! Finally, a third of the mothers expressed interest in helping out at Pudiyaator, especially during the summer camp. We look forward to spending more time with these wonderful mothers this summer!

The final community event was held two weeks later. We invited the entire community to the Pudiyaator center. While it is typical for our children's mothers to be more involved with Pudiyaator activities, this time, we were also joined by many of the fathers, grandparents, and other members from the community: over a hundred people in total!

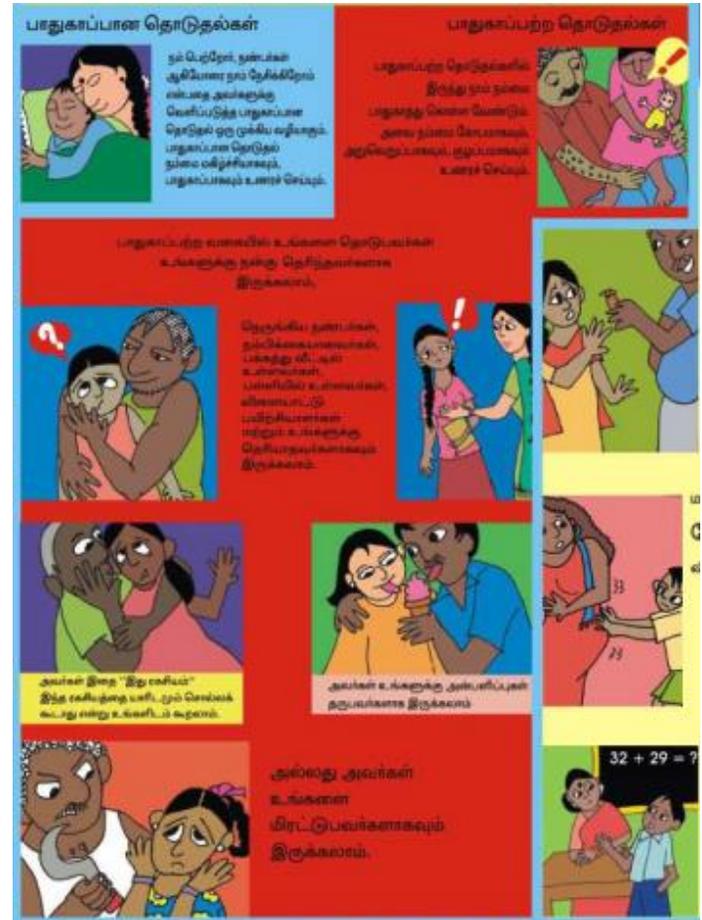


Building bridges

After registration of attendees, we began the event with a parade of the kids and volunteers from the center (which is at the edge of the community) to the heart of the community. Then our children took to the stage and entertained the audience with several wonderful dance performances. The children showcased both traditional folk and classical dances through the evening.

In addition to the entertainment, there were two exhibitions - one of Tulir posters and the other of all the photos our children had shot in the weeks before the event. We engaged the community in discussions and provided explanations of both the posters and the photos displayed.

On a lighter vein, we had a photo booth where families could play “dress up” and create exciting photo memories. And finally we ended the evening with a game of tug of war which was loads of fun while engaging all attendees.



As a follow-up to the event, we plan on introducing specific interventions that will alleviate safety issues identified during the mapping activity.

We have also identified teenagers as a demographic that we should cater to with specific and targeted activities.

A number of men in the community have indicated an interest in a photo workshop and we plan on scheduling one for them. Needless to say, our community outreach and the event has encouraged wider community participation in Pudiyaador's activities and generated a significant goodwill. We hope to continue building these bridges and strengthening our community ties.

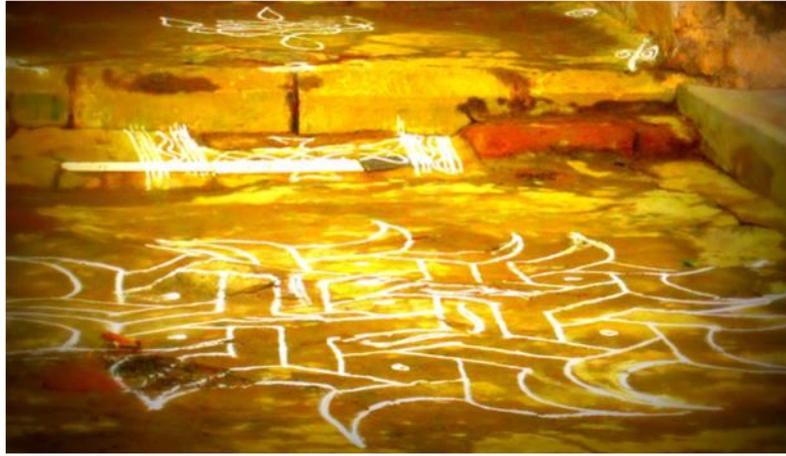
Photo workshop



Photo workshop



Photo workshop



Quarter Updates (Jan - March 2013)



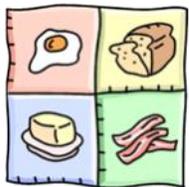
Pongal celebrations at all our centers

Winter Camp: Focus on Staff Training programs: Computer Training & Math Curriculum



PV children attended a music and dance festival at the Indian Institute of Technology

Field trip to local farm (outskirts of Chennai)

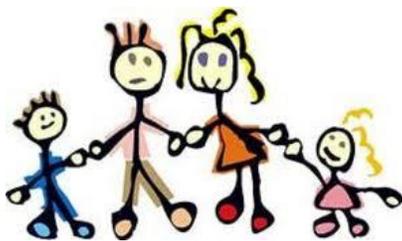


New balanced nutritious snacks introduced in all centers based on guidance from nutritionists

Medical check ups at all the centers



Weekly psychological counseling sessions: individual and group



Community event at Urur-Kuppam

New weekly reporting system rolled out in all centers.



House visits conducted by facilitators in all communities.

All staff weekly virtual meeting initiated to help share best practices across centers



Have you been wondering what *you* can do to help?

Here are our *current and specific* needs →



YOU CAN TEACH ONLINE!

Using Skype, you can connect with our children during weekday /evenings and weekends (IST) to:

- Help with academics
- Impart any of your skills
- Demonstrate science experiments
- Hold discussions about relevant and important topics
- Simply chat with the children about their lives and yours

Sign up for a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly slot at:

www.pudiyador.org/signup

We welcome donations

([PayPal](#), [Google Checkout](#), Cash, or Cheque)

- One-time or monthly
- We're a 501(c)(3) organization
- We also have FCRA clearance

All donations are tax-exempt

Spread the word

- Partner us with other NGOs
- Ask your employer about CSR
- How about matching donations?



1. Doctors!

- Need doctors to volunteer at our weekly community clinics. Any kind doctors you know of who would be willing to help?
- Need contact information for a child psychologist who speaks Tamil. Know any?

2. Projector

- Skype classes are clearer on the big screen
- We also screen educational/fun movies

3. Educational material

- Books in English for ages 3-10
- Illustrated books for non-readers
- Picture cards for innovative story telling
- Dictionaries (English and/or Tamil)
- Puzzles/activity books, board games
- Art Material: Color pencils, crayons, water-colors, paint-brushes

4. Music and sports equipment

- We urgently need guitars
- Any other musical instruments
- Bats/balls/frisbee for group sports
- Carrom boards / Chess boards

5. Cameras and Camcorders

- Digital cameras to record activities and share between centers

6. Others

- Computer tables, Plastic chairs, Storage cupboards/bureaus, Ceiling fans

Contact our Planning Team

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We would love your feedback!

Our newsletter team would love to hear from you—after all, you are the reason our team exists! Please let us know what we can do to make this newsletter more informative and enjoyable. Or just drop a line to say hello :)

newsletter@pudiyador.org