

Mudhiyor Balar Kudumba Grama Pannai

(Family Village Farm)

Kasam, Katpadi, Vellore - 632007

Dear Partners,

June 2020

We hope you and your loved ones are safe and keeping well during COVID- 19 Pandemic.

A lot of unfortunate things have happened since the beginning of 2020. With a sequence of dreaded events with the COVID-19 pandemic, Australian bush-fires, cyclones, the locust invasion in India amongst others, not to mention the geopolitical tensions, the world has turned to be one chaotic place. We hope the stressful season ends soon and we get back to our normal lives.

Closer Home, things seemed to have brightened up considerably in the end of May, with the country nearing the end of lock down and beginning the first phase of "unlocking". A semblance of normality has been restored. Our small staffed admin office has started working from June 1st after 68 days of lock down with strict adherence with National COVID - 19 norms. However, the country remains in lock down till July 31 with fewer relaxation week by week depending on the COVID - 19 cases.

At the Orphanage, initially in the third week of March, at the height of panic and uncertainty in the country due to the killer virus, the government for the first-time announced lock down just for a week from March 24 to March 31. (unfortunately, the lock down seems to be never ending). Following the lock down, we were instructed by the district administration and the Social Welfare Office to send those children that had a parent or a guardian to their respective homes to avoid crowding at the orphanage thereby preventing quick spread of the virus. The other children stay on campus. Similarly, the older ones studying in colleges were also sent to the orphanage as their educational institutions closed. Elderly women were advised to stay in the orphanage. Also, the house mothers stayed back to take care of the children and elders.

The director and the essential staff such as the three wardens and the cooks were on duty to take care of the residents. As per the instruction from the Child Welfare office, the wardens make phone calls to the children staying outside every day to check on their wellbeing. Moreover, a daily report on the health status of residents is sent to the district administration. So far, none of the MBKG Pannai members on the campus were affected by the virus. Daily, disinfection by fumigation and spray, social distancing, wearing face masks and hand washing are being carried out. No outsiders are allowed inside the campus except for the 10-admin staff from outside.

All the needs of the children and the elders such as food, medical and miscellaneous are met on time and without interruption by the director and the team of essential staff. We will call back the children only when we get orders from the district administration.

Regarding finances, the orphanage faces acute shortage of funds due to lack of active fundraising and absence of food donors. We are raising funds to meet the ends. Any amount of donation at this critical time will be highly appreciated. For further information, you may contact the director or the Sponsorship Coordinator at mbkgpdirector@gmail.com / mbkgpdirector@gmail.com / mbkgpdirector@gmail.com / mbkgpsponsorship@gmail.com / mbkgpdirector@gmail.com / mbkgpdirector@gmail.com / mbkgpdirector@gmail.com / <a href="mailto:mbkgpdirector@gmail.

With very best wishes for your safety and well-being,

DIRECTOR MBKG Pannai (Family Village Farm)