St. Joseph Leprosy Patients Society

Kalasapakkam – 606751

Annual Report for the period – 2012 - 2013

St. Joseph’s Leprosy Patients Society is a non-Governmental voluntary Organization founded in 1989 with the main aim of serving the cause of patients affected by leprocy and their families. The Founders of this society were Fr. Schlooz and Mr. John. The Main Objectives of the Organization is to undertake education and awareness programs aimed to spell out misinformation about the disease and the stigma attached that leads to discrimination of persons affected by leprocy that had resulted in many patients turned out from their homes by their own kith and kin and to serve the cause of the leprocy affected and the cured patients in as many ways and fields as possible in order that they live on equal footing with rest of the community members. In the recent Past STJLPS Has also been serving he needs of the other disabled persons in communities in and around the service area villages. Besides the above, the organization has also been working with Self-help groups of women in the villages. In addition, the organization has also been instrumental in the formation and maintenance of self-Help groups exclusively for the disabled.

During the Years of its existence, STJLPS Has undertaken many programs for the benefit of the leprocy affected and the other disabled persons in the communities it serves. The Programs are in conformation with the stipulated objectives of the organization that include awareness education on early detection and prompt and continued treatment, rehabilitation programs, Skill Development training Programs, Educational Sponsorship programs for children of leprocy affected persons etc. AS in the Previous Years, During 2012-1023 also SJLPS Has undertaken many programs and activities. The Following is the brief record of all the activities that were undertaken by the organization during 2012-2013. STJLPS makes it a point to record its sincere thanks to Sitaram Jindal Foundation, Bangalore for the Financial help it had rendered for charitable activities undertaken by SJLPS and to Godrej Foundation, Mumbai for its contribution toward the maintenance of the special school for the mentally retarded children. SJLPS takes this opportunity to thank other organizations and individuals that have helped the organization in one way or the other. It is also befitting that SJLPS thanks the staffs and committee members of the organization for their efforts in making things possible.

The On-Going Programs of the SJLPS as listed hereunder were continued this year also. SJLPS had continued to follow-up of all programs and acivities that were undertaken in earlier years.

- Participation in the health camps organized by Government health Department in the villages of the Service area of SJLPS by giving wide publicity to the programs with the help of Self-Help Groups of women in the Villages
- Motivation of leprosy patients to continue the full course of treatment, discussion about their felt and real needs and to help the individuals and families to take informed decisions in these matters.
- Health Education on Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, as the Two diseases also pose problems in society very much similar to leprocy.
Specific Programs

- **Educational Sponsorship Program**
  STJLPS continued to do its level best to extend help to the education of children of the leprosy affected and other disabled and children from the poorer categories of the population. SJLPS had helped the children by bearing the cost of books, Notebooks and other Stationeries, Dress materials etc. Some of the other needs of the children like cosmetics, casual wear, and inner wear and pocket expenses etc were also met through the organization. More than 300 children were given the help during the financial period. It is to be mentioned that 40 of them are disabled children.

- **SCHOLARSHIP For Education of the Disabled children**
  In 2012-2013, SJLPS has helped 60 children in securing government scholarship and other benefits for the children of leprosy affected and disabled persons and this is in addition to the direct help it renders to the children.

- **Maintenance Grant for the Disabled**
  SJLPS has also been working with the government departments to help the leprosy affected and the disabled in securing all the benefits available for them through government schemes. In the Year 2012-2013, SJLPS has helped 360 disabled persons to secure Rs 1000 Per Head Per Month as Maintenance Grants.

- **Fulfilling the Basic Needs —Charity Work**
  STJPS has the realization that no individual or community should become dependent on any outsiders but should become as independent as possible. But, the Organization also has the realization that there are individuals in communities whose basic needs have to be fulfilled only with outside help. Therefore SJLPS has been supporting these individuals in meeting their basic needs. SJLPS provided food, clothing, footwear and other essentials for these individuals. SJLPS has also has provided regular supply of rice, dhal and other essential food items to 136 persons. 5 families in which at least one person is affected by leprosy have been living in the campus of the organization.

- **Medical help**
  SJLPS has found that many people under its care are so poor that they cannot spend on medical expenses. Lack of money necessitates many people to postpone seeking proper medical help from qualified persons. SJLPS realizes that postponing treatment could result in serious complications to the individuals. Hence, SJLPS has been rendering timely help to persons with health problems so that they get cured as early as possible. In 2012-2013, SJLPS has helped 35 persons to undergo treatment as soon as they were found sick.
Organization of the special school for the mentally retarded children
SJLPS has been organizing the special school for 30 mentally retarded children receiving continued help from the government. The four special teachers in the school have been rendering their services with total dedication and commitment. The committee members continue to provide all the cooperation and support that are needed for the teachers and children.

Vazhi Kattum Thittam
The Tamilnadu government has selected the SJLPS to implement a government program for the Differently abled people. This selection is based on the good work done by SJLPS. The program known in the regional language as “vazhi kattum thittam” simply means “a program that shows the way”. This program is in effect since 2011.

The government has provided 45 field staffs and a project coordinator for this program. The salaries of these staffs are paid by the government. Through this program, differently abled people are enabled to access facilities and schemes provided by the government for the differently abled people without any difficulty with the field staffs making regular home visits of all families in their respective villages. Through this program, it has become possible that a good data base is available to the government about the differently abled people in the state so that the government could plan suitable programs for the benefit of the differently abled people in the state.

Conclusion
In terms of the number of activities, indeed, what has been done is only small. St. Joseph’s Leprosy Patients’ Society has always wanted to pay attention to the quality of whatever it does. In this respect, St. Joseph’s Leprosy Patients’ Society is not lagging behind for it has done things to the satisfaction of its own conscience and to the satisfaction of the people. St. Joseph’s Leprosy Patients’ Society has plans to expand its activities to new areas. It has also plans to increase the number of activities. However, these will very much depend on mobilization of funds from outside. St. Joseph’s Leprosy Patients’ Society hopes that god willing this should happen in the years to come.