

Certificate of Appreciation

**to Sr. Madhalai Vinnarasi, Community Leader of
Good Shepherd Convent, Amaravathi**

Since 1994, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd through different community-based as well as institutional-based interventions have been working with, among and for the emancipation of people on the fringe of society. Over the past 29 years, social development ministries were established addressing the issues and problems related to child labour, children living in especially difficult circumstances, human trafficking, child marriage, human rights violations within the families and communities, unemployment of youth and economic injustice on women. Their mission is supported by a team of Partners-in-Mission who include staff, volunteers and collaborators.

Currently Sisters have spread their mission to both Guntur and Palnadu Districts. Following is a brief description of the mission of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Amaravathi:

CHILDLINE 1098, Guntur

Since 2012, Sisters of the Good Shepherd were identified as the fitting Collaborative Organisation of CHILDLINE India Foundation, Mumbai to manage CHILDLINE 1098 in Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh. We have completed 11 glorious years serving children and their families. A team of 9 dedicated workers worked round the clock to protect the children in need of care and distress. Until 2023, every month around 60 to 100 children were protected from different forms of abuses and a series of campaigns were organised reaching various community groups to sensitize them on child rights.

Economic Freedom for Women

Sisters work with women in 16 villages of 3 mandals of Palnadu District i.e. Krosur, Pedakurupadu and Amaravathi to cater to around 1500 women empowering them with Leadership, Personality and Business Management trainings. Sisters initiated a Co-operative Society which at the present time has a membership of 600 women who are provided loans for small business setups. Strengthening the capacities of Dalit women for cooperative business management was focused to promoting economic freedom for Dalit women.

Protection of Children from Abuse

Sisters of the Good Shepherd have been addressing these issues of child rights in Amaravathi, Pedakurupadu and Krosur mandals of Andhra Pradesh, India, through appropriate strategies and strategic interventions. Under this initiative, Sisters and their Partners-in-Mission are striving to create a safe and positive environment for every child in the community and leading them to be productive citizens of the nation. This is done through awareness creation

among the public, parents and children; strengthening the value of child protection laws and procedures, creating opportunities through CBOs for children's holistic development and nurturing their self-esteem and self-confidence. Efforts are made to establish preventive measures and child safeguarding mechanisms in collaboration with like-minded NGOs and GOs. On the whole, the entire intervention aims at creating 'Child Friendly Villages' which in turn help the children to turn out to be contributing citizens.

CHALICE Educational & Community Sponsorship Program

Since 2000, children and their communities are being supported through several ways and means to become responsible citizens. While children in need of support are being provided with Educational Sponsorship until they pursue formal and vocational education, the families are supported with housing and medical care. This year 2023, the maximum number of children supported were 285 - 129 boys and 156 girls, of which 8 are physically challenged. Our goal is that 80% of 'Direct Family Fund' be utilized for nutrition, education and family development and families grow economically sound. 100 families maintain kitchen gardens and produce their own nutrition with home grow vegetables and fruit. This also promotes ecology.

Adolescent Girls' Project

In response to a field-level study about the problems faced by the Adolescent Girls in the vicinity of Amaravathi, Krosuru and Pedakurapadu Mandals of the erstwhile Guntur District, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in association with their Partners-in-Mission have been working among the Adolescent Girls since 2016. This project strives to address the issues and problems faced by the Adolescent Girls which include gender discrimination, human trafficking, child marriage, adolescent pregnancy, rape, cybercrimes and violence in different forms. The annual target was to cover 1200 Adolescent Girls with Life Skills Education and around 100 School-dropout Adolescent Girls with Computer Literacy Skills and Spoken English. Developing Life Skills in life makes adolescents fit to face the challenges in life, instils leadership qualities, moreover they help children be more adaptable, confident, and empathetic. Life skills education contributes to basic education, gender equality, good citizenship, child care and protection, quality and the promotion of lifelong learning, quality of life and the promotion of peace within themselves.

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77th Independence Day Celebrations

Palnadu is a district in coastal Andhra Region in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. With Narasaraopet as its administrative headquarters, it was formed on 4 April 2022 to become one

of the resultant twenty-six districts The district was formed from Gurazala, Sattenapalli and Narasaraopet revenue divisions from Guntur district.

On 15th August 2023, the District Administration decided to celebrate India's 77th Independent Day celebration on a grand scale. On this occasion while each Department of the Government displayed their mission through a demonstration cum rally, the eminent contributors from different disciplines were identified and were issued with an award in the form of Certificate of Appreciation. Sr. Madhalai Vinnarasi from Good Shepherd Convent, Amaravathi was identified for the best Social Worker Award from the Social Service Sector. It was a moment of joy, pride and happiness for all the Partners-in-Mission who work with the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. Hereunder we present the news clipping that depicted the function and the award given away to Sr. Madhalai Vinnarasi.

సిస్టర్ విన్నరసి కి సామాజిక సేవ విభాగంలో ఉత్తమ అవార్డు

అమరావతి వి ఎన్ కే వార్త : 77వ స్వాతంత్ర దినోత్సవం సందర్భంగా పల్నాడు జిల్లా కేంద్రం నరసరావుపేట లోని కోడెల శివప్రసాదరావు పరేడ్ గ్రౌండ్లో జరిగిన స్వాతంత్ర దినోత్సవ వేడుకల లో గుడ్ షెఫర్డ్ స్వచ్ఛంద సంస్థ సుపీరియర్ అయినటువంటి సిస్టర్ విన్నరసి కి సామాజిక సేవ విభాగంలో ఉత్తమ అవార్డు మరియు ప్రశంస పత్రమును జిల్లా ఇంచార్జ్ మంత్రి, ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ షౌరసరఫరాల శాఖ మంత్రి కారుమూరి వెంకట నాగేశ్వరరావు చేతుల మీదగా



అవార్డు ను అందుకున్నారు. ఉత్తమ సేవలు చేసినందుకు గుర్తుగా ఈ అవార్డ్ ను అందజేశారు. ఈ కార్యక్రమంలో నరసరావుపేట ఎంపీ లావు శ్రీకృష్ణ దేవరాయలు, జిల్లా కలెక్టర్ శివశంకర్ లతోటి, జిల్లా ఎస్పీ మహేందర్ రెడ్డి సిస్టర్స్ డియానా, సిస్టర్ గ్రేసి, జాన్ అరుందాస్, సంస్థ కోఆర్డినేటర్ తండు లక్ష్మణ్ జిల్లా అధికారులు పాల్గొన్నారు.

Amaravathi VKN News: On the occasion of the 77th Independence Day celebrations held at the Kodela Siva Prasad Rao Parade Ground in Narasaraopet, the district head quarter Palnadu District. On this special occasion, Sr. Vinnarasi, who is the Community Leader of Good Shepherd Convent, Amaravathi, was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation in the Social Service category by Palnadu District. In the presence of Sri Siva Sankar Lotheti, I.A.S., the Collector & District Magistrate, and Sri Krishna Devarayalu Lavu, Member of Parliament (MP), the Certificate of Appreciation was given by Sri Karumuri Venkata Nageswara Rao, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Civil Supplies, Government of Andhra Pradesh. This award was presented in recognition of the best

services by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd and their Partners-in-Mission in the region. Sr.Deanna and Sr. Gracy of Good Shepherd Convent, and their Partner-in-Mission, namely, Sri John Aruldass, Sri Thandu Laxman, and Mr. Pawan participated in the remarkable celebration.

Thanks to Christ, our Shepherd God.

