



Thamarai is moving!!!

A while back, we shared with the community that Thamarai was facing a funding crisis and while we got busy fundraising, this also prompted us to consider ways we could reduce our costs. One of our heaviest expenses was monthly rent and we knew that we would have to anyway leave the house by May 2014 when our lease would expire and would not be extended. After talking it over with the team and other stakeholders, we found a new solution for Thamarai - we decided to

move out 1 year earlier and have been welcomed to an empty building on the Udavi school campus to host the daily playgroup while the night



The traditional Tamil house Thamarai have been hosted for seven years

school will shift to the healing centre which is

available during the after school hours. While we realise we are losing something beautiful in the traditional house we have been fortunate to host the Thamarai activities in over the last 7 years, we have come around to feeling very happy and excited by this change. Both Udavi school and the playground across the road in Adventure and the healing centre are beautiful spaces and centrally located. We are ready for a new cycle of experience! ■

Thamarai trailer



Erika Binge

Vanakkam, y'all! I came from North Carolina, USA to join a group of 11 US college students in Auroville for 3 months. The US based travel abroad program, Living Routes, is an experiential learning program that incorporates service learning in its curriculum. I was drawn to Thamarai Learning and Community Center for my service site because I realized I could help spread the message

of Thamarai through the medium of film. I have a background in novice film making as well as a basic understanding of marketing. My aim was to combine these skills to create a provoking film that captured the essence of Thamarai and would inspire viewers to contribute to Thamarai's current funding appeal. It has been a great pleasure to work with the Thamarai team. I believe

the purpose of life is revealed through service and I am so happy I have been able to be of service to Thamarai. It is my hope that, with the help of this video, blessings will flow fluidly to Thamarai so that this community center can continue to serve the people of Edayanchavady village. ■

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPU8D5oT_Ig

End of year celebration



Jürgen the magician

To close the old chapter of Thamarai and in preparation to start the new one, we did an end of year celebration - the last in the traditional Tamil house. It was a very nice evening of co-creative fun and joyful celebration in the spirit of Thamarai.

The playgroup children opened the evening by welcoming everybody. As a special guest the magician Jürgen followed and filled the children with enthusiasm by demonstrating great tricks. Besides the nightschool children did different performances

like dancing, singing and showing yoga poses. Women who have been learning English in Thamarai for two months displayed their knowledge by telling tongue twister. The bottle and body performance was another impressive program point. Furthermore the audience could learn what the dreams of the reach for the star students are and test their knowledge about Thamarai with a Quiz. As a very nice ending the old Thamarai volunteers Ana and Tiago did a music performance with their

band. While listening the audience could watch a slideshow which showed pictures of the last seven years and gave a little impression on what was going on during this time in Thamarai.

All in all it was a beautiful way of closing and saying thank you to all the amazing people who supported Thamarai in the last years. Thank you for the great attendance and in sharing this last event, you all gave us the energy and strength to turn over a new leaf with this move. ■

Indian dance



To watch a little movie of this event [click here](#)

A look inside the healing centre

Muthu teaching students



In the healing centre, which is a health education and treatment centre belonging to Thamarai, there is a lot going on from a comprehensive primary health care program to yoga exercise, common disease management and natural treatments such as healing techniques, steam ball

massage, Bach flower remedies and other natural treatments which are part of the daily activities which Muthu Kumari and Shanti manage.

The day to day offering is growing steadily, in 2012 the register recorded 1659 consultations and 3924 visits from women and

children for the health education program. Nowadays, children from three different schools come regularly to gain an understanding of their body and how to maintain a healthy balance through hygiene, diet, nutrition and yoga. The Healing Centre not only offers children an education but also

welcomes village women to learn more about health. Every alternate Tuesday women come to cook together with Minsun, an Aurovillian from Korea. She shows them how to prepare fresh vegetables in a healthy way and give ideas for variety in their kitchens. In 2012, Muthu was given extensive training by Dr. Santosh from the School of perfect eyesight and now children's eyesight is checked regularly with effective vision strengthening programs being offered as needed. The dental clinic makes a weekly visit for dental check ups and basic treatment and programs in nutrition, first aid, child

protection, sexual health and environmental health are regularly offered.

The centre has many supporters who contribute regularly such as a group of healing practitioners from Langara College, Vancouver who visit bi-annually and give ten day programs of techniques for balancing energies in the body, this program is designed to teach effective healing tools for family health. The centre also has a team of short and long term volunteers giving healing treatments such as Sandra from Columbia who offers Reiki, Heidi from Auroville/Germany offering Acupuncture, Krupa from Auroville/USA offering

body awareness for teenagers, Bogi from Auroville/Hungary offering exercise for menstrual health and Devayani from Auroville/Italy who teaches dance and movement. This year the centre was also very happy to host Adriana from Thailand who gave yoga therapy treatments individually designed and did further training with Shanti and Muthu on Thai steam ball massage.

Many volunteers contribute in various ways to make the Healing Centre this beautiful place in the centre of the village. We can't name all of them as there is a constant flow coming

Playful playgroup

I'm Julia a German volunteer working in Thamarai since August. I just finished collage and decided to stay and work in Auroville for one year to experience another country with its culture. I'm really happy to be in Thamarai because there I have a close contact to the village life with all their difficulties but also beauty, openness and warmth.

I'm helping in the night school but most time I spend in the playgroup. So I want to give a little overview of the last school year in the playgroup.

When I started in August twenty children attended the playgroup but each month one child joined us. So in the end we had twenty-six children coming to Thamarai every morning. In the beginning the children were very shy, some even cried as they are just two and a half years old and the first time separated from their mother or relatives. But this changed over the months and I could observe a great

development. They got more and more talkative, started to really play with each other and build friendships. Besides they learned many English words during our circle times. So they know the numbers, colours, fruits and vegetables, names of month and weekdays, animals, shapes... I'm really impressed how much they can memorize in this foreign language!

It never got boring as we did various handicraft activities such

as colouring, tearing and cutting paper, beading work, colouring masks with finger-paints,...

This concentrated work was a good change to the very active mornings when they were jumping around in the garden, running, climbing, swinging, frolicking and playing with water what they really enjoyed.



So it was a highlight when we filled our little pool. They were giggling, laughing, splashing and

in the end it was hard to get them out of the pool – they had so much fun!

A special event was the visit of three doctors from PIMS Hospital. They offered a free health check for all our children which was very nice as many of them had a running nose and coughed all the time.

To put all in a nutshell I really enjoyed this playful time with the children and they really entered

my heart. To say good bye to them on their last day in Thamarai was very hard, but I'm already looking forward to get to know the new children in the new school year! ■

The playgroup with the teachers



Learning in the nightschool

I'm Kalvi, 20 years old. I'm living in Edanyanchavadi. I completed my 10th grade at Udavi School and my 12th grade at Seventhday Adventist Higher Secondary School. Now I am doing my graduate degree at Idhaya College of Arts & Science Bachelor of Commerce. As I studied at Udavi School I learnt English and French. I learnt Odissi dance and I have lot of interest in dance. Meanwhile doing my degree I am working at Thamarai Centre as volunteer. I'm teaching the children their

relevant subjects, art, dance, clay and some games as well. I'm so happy and heartily fulfilled to help the kids. I'm also having great time with the kids. Sundays we take the children to Sadhana Forest to give them knowledge about the environmental friendliness. Other than that weekly twice we give knowledge about Garbology. Garbology tries to give children awareness of the waste subject and shows them ways to handle litter.

Teaching the kids makes me feel so great and I'm also gaining knowledge from that.



Sharing the adventure...

If you wish to get involved please visit the „How to Help“ section on the Thamarai website www.thamarai.org or send us an E-mail on thamarai@auroville.org.in

To get the latest informations visit our facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/AV.Thamarai)

AV.Thamarai

Thamarai is self supporting therefore we gladly welcome financial support and volunteers. All funds raised will be spent on programs for the village Edayanchavadi in South East India. All donations are acknowledged with official receipt.