

ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS LAUNCHES INAUGURATION OF THREE GROUNDBREAKING PROJECTS WORTH 2.42 CRORES - *Transforming Lives through Rural Sanitation, Homes for the Homeless, and Water Body Restoration*

Chennai, July 9, 2023

The Rotary Club of Madras (RCM) stands as a beacon of service and community impact, devoted to enhancing lives and fostering positive change within our community. With an unwavering focus on education, healthcare, and environmental sustainability, the club has been instrumental in implementing impactful projects and initiatives. Proudly unveiling the inauguration of three revolutionary projects, RCM aims to revolutionize rural sanitation, provide shelter for the homeless, and restore precious water bodies. This momentous occasion, held on July 9th, 2023, marks a pivotal milestone in the club's ongoing commitment to address vital social and environmental challenges in three villages in Gummidipoondi. The total budget allocated for all three projects amounts to Rs. 2.42 crores.

The first project is centered around revolutionizing rural sanitation, paving the way for improved hygiene and well-being in JJ Nagar. With a vision of delivering clean sanitation facilities and preventing waterborne diseases, the Rotary Club of Madras has undertaken the construction of approximately 205 modern and sustainable toilets. This initiative aims to promote good sanitation practices among the rural public, ultimately striving for an open defecation-free region in JJ Nagar. The total budget allocated for this project is Rs. 62 lakhs.

The second project addresses the pressing issue of homelessness by offering safe and secure homes to 45 "Narikuravar" families residing in Thathiyarkandigai village. Collaborating with local stakeholders, the Rotary Club of Madras has launched an extensive housing program to construct affordable shelters for homeless individuals and families. Each beneficiary of this project will be provided with a well-built house valued at Rs. 3 lakhs. The total cost of the project is approximately Rs. 1.35 crores.

The third project focuses on the restoration of water bodies located in Poovalembedu, Keemalur, and Thathiyarkandigai villages, with a budget of about Rs. 45 lakhs. Acknowledging the significance of preserving our natural resources and fostering environmental sustainability, the Rotary Club of Madras has undertaken the noble task of revitalizing water bodies that have suffered from pollution, encroachment, and neglect. Leveraging innovative technologies and community engagement, this project aims to restore ecological balance and revive the vibrant biodiversity associated with these water bodies. The restoration efforts will not only enhance our environmental landscape but also provide communities with access to clean water and rejuvenating recreational spaces, benefiting approximately 25,000 people residing in and around these villages. Additionally, this project also includes the construction of a pond at Boys Town, where the club has successfully been running a home for around 100-120 economically weaker boys till the age group below 16 since 1985.

The inaugural ceremony took place at Boys Town, Gummidipoondi on July 9th, 2023, from 11:45 am to 1:30 pm. Thiru. T.J. Govindarajan, Honourable M.L.A of the Gummidipoondi constituency, graced the event as the Chief Guest, accompanied by Ms. Catherine Sarany, I.A.S, Assistant Collector of Thiruvalluvar District, Rtn. N.S. Saravanan, District Governor-Elect, RI Dist 3234, Chennai Mitra, Rtn. AKS Vinod Sarogi, District Governor-Nominee, RC Madras Central, as the Guests of Honour. Thiru. T.J. Govindarajan, Honourable M.L.A of the Gummidipoondi constituency and Chief Guest of the event expressed profound admiration for the Rotary Club of Madras and its transformative projects, followed by him Ms. Catherine Sarany, I.A.S, Assistant Collector of Thiruvalluvar District highly commended the club's unwavering commitment to addressing vital social and environmental challenges in the region. The guests expressed their gratitude to the Rotary Club of Madras for its tireless efforts and dedication to serving the community.

Special invitees for the inauguration ceremony included Rtn. N.K. Bhatia, mentor of the Boys Town Committee, RCM, Rtn. PP. George B. Cherian, RCM, and Rtn. PP. Dr. ArulMozhi Varman, RCM.

The event was successfully coordinated by Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan, President of RCM, Rtn. Sessa Sai, Honorary Secretary of RCM, Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan, Director of Community Services 1, Rtn. Sumit Kalra, Chairman of Water Body Management, Rtn. Viswanath, Chairman of Home for the Homeless, and Rtn. Bobby Balakrishna, Chairman of Rural Sanitation and Rtn. Rakesh, Chairman of Boys Town. Other esteemed members of the Rotary Club of Madras and project beneficiaries gathered at the venue to celebrate the commencement of these transformative endeavors.

RCM expressed heartfelt gratitude to all stakeholders involved and emphasized the club's unwavering commitment to serving the community by addressing critical social and environmental issues. The Rotary Club of Madras extended an open invitation to individuals, organizations, and businesses to join hands and support these projects, fostering lasting change and making a profound impact on the lives of those in need.