

# Annual Report

2006 - 2007



## Nethrodaya

LET'S SHARE THE LIGHT

### Note from Trustees



During these five short years of existence, Nethrodaya has come a long way in serving the differently abled community. Struggle for recognition, quest for identity, craving for acceptance have been the many battles Nethrodaya has fought and won!

Our small but 'hard to achieve' victories came in many forms. The State Government, as a token of acknowledgement of Nethrodaya's work, allotted six grounds of land, in a central area of the city, on 20th of November 2006. This form of unconditional support from the State Government has assured Nethrodaya a permanent residence and a strong foundation, providing us the first permanent base camp from where we can dream differently, for differently abled people and make those dreams a reality for all.

In continuation of our mission to make the differently abled self reliant, we have launched a unique residential service programme that exclusively addresses the rural physically challenged student population. With the larger goal of developing this institution as a social enterprise, this in-house living arrangement of the visually and physically challenged together, has resulted in a healthy give and take relationship, where each one enjoys the company of the other in the various day-to-day activities like assisting in reading, writing, guiding in travel, etc.

To enhance the skills of the visually challenged, Nethrodaya has launched a first of its kind, user friendly browsing center with user supportive technology which offers unlimited high speed browsing access for the visually challenged free of charge. This enables them to access e-books, send email, chat and be a part of the IT revolution.

### Our Plan for the year 2007-08



To establish a center for Excellence with all the state of the art facilities in the land allotted by the Government of Tamilnadu.

We plan to set up a post-discharge care unit for the visually challenged who are critically injured or ailing, enabling them to have a complete recovery under expert medical supervision until they return home. In the absence of this post-discharge care unit, the visually challenged patients from rural areas find it extremely difficult to shuttle between the village and the city hospital for follow-up treatment.

A unique shop is planned to retail exclusive items such as mobility aids, watches, software, educational items, playing aids, etc.

Last but not the least, the new premises will have an exclusive separate section for the differently abled aged.

We conclude this note with an appeal to our beloved donors to continue the unconditional support to identify, acknowledge, accept and encourage the potential of the differently abled and make Nethrodaya visible to your friends and well wishers.

# Nethrodaya



## Programmes

### Nethradhenu

#### How does a visually impaired villager earn a living?

Nethradhenu is a Nethrodaya programme that reaches out to the visually impaired villagers who are dependent on their families for survival. The scheme offers the dependent villager a cow as their source of income making the individual independent, self-confident and responsible. So far 10 people have benefitted from this scheme. Nethrodaya believes that Nethradhenu is a small first step towards empowering the beneficiaries to build a social enterprise out of this small activity.

### Jyothir Bhavan - Home for College Students

#### Where does a bright but blind student, burning with the fire to excel at college go?

Nethrodaya's answer is **Jyothir Bhavan**, "the house of light". This user-friendly hostel for the poor, visually impaired college going student is the first of its kind in the state of Tamilnadu. Here, students with satisfactory academic credentials from all over Tamilnadu receive all the support they need to pursue their education.



#### Free Boarding and Lodging

With the valuable contributions of people from all walks of life, Nethrodaya is able to provide free nutritious food and free quality accommodation during the entire tenure of their stay.

### A Well-Coordinated Reader Service

Numerous volunteers contribute time and read lessons for the visually impaired students. Volunteers also record lessons on tape for repeated use by students.



#### Expert Instruction in Yoga

Once a week, a qualified instructor comes to Nethrodaya and teaches residents simple yoga techniques that help them stay refreshed and healthy.

### Part Time Computer Course

Nethrodaya has initiated a unique Part-Time Diploma Course for the visually impaired. So far around 100 students have benefitted from this course.





## **Spoken English**

Qualified instructors conduct regular spoken English classes to enhance their fluency in English, for the students at Nethrodaya.



## **Interface with achievers:**

Nethrodaya organizes monthly interaction meets with visually impaired achievers in order to motivate the inmates.

In addition, visually impaired students, who come to Chennai for entrance exams and selection interviews, are welcome at Nethrodaya for short stays.

So far 210 persons have availed these services and the current strength of Jyothir Bhavan residential home is 45.

## **Supporting the Education of Children with Visually Impaired Parents**

**How to improve the standard of the lives of the children of visually impaired parents?**

Nethrodaya believes that the impairment of the parents should not impair the future of the normal children. Accordingly, Nethrodaya gives children of blind families active support in receiving a good education. Under this project 143 children of visually impaired parents have got educational support.



## **Rehabilitating those Involved in Begging**

Begging very often becomes the default occupation of the visually impaired because nobody shows them alternatives. Nethrodaya addresses this aspect by investing time and resources to find them a viable work alternative.

## **Financial Assistance for Business**

**How do you help the visually impaired earn their bread?**

A grant of marketable goods, worth as little as Rs. 500/-, can set a visually impaired person on the path of economic self-reliance. By providing this seed money, Nethrodaya has given several visually impaired people the power to earn a living. Under this scheme 199 visually impaired persons have obtained financial assistance.

## **Shelter for the Shelter-less**

Nethrodaya is committed to help the homeless visually impaired find a home. To do that, Nethrodaya finds a house, pays the advance money and hands over the key to the visually impaired. This project has benefited 33 visually impaired families.

Nethrodaya



## Health Helpline

### Who should come to the rescue of the visually impaired when they need medical help?

When an accident or illness upsets the well being of the visually impaired, Nethrodaya rushes in with all possible assistance to ensure that health is restored. Nethrodaya also organizes medical camps for the visually impaired. This programme has benefited 79 visually impaired persons so far.

## Birthday celebrations

To foster community living among the Nethrodaya residents, the organization celebrates birthdays of all the residents in some special way.

## Activities (In-house & Out-Reach)

### Dates to look back with delight:

29<sup>th</sup> October 2006

### Launch of Browsing Center

Former Union Minister Mr. Dayanidhi Maran, inaugurated the first of its kind browsing center in the country, exclusive and user friendly browsing center for the underprivileged visually challenged students.



3<sup>rd</sup> December 2006

### Participation in Jackpot

Game shows are in abundance in all the TV channels. But Jaya TV conducted a very special JACKPOT game show for the visually impaired. Nethrodaya's team won the show. This was organized by veteran Actor Kushboo who appreciated the efforts of the organization in trying to bring the visually impaired to the mainstream, without making them feel out of place in the process.



20<sup>th</sup> December 2006

### Sabarimala trip by 8 visually challenged students.

8 visually impaired students of Nethrodaya undertook a pilgrimage to Sabarimala to seek God's help in their endeavors.

31<sup>st</sup> December 2006

### New Year Celebrations

The local community invited the Nethrodaya team to celebrate New Year's Eve. The celebration, which lasted until midnight, was indeed an evening full of entertainment.

# Nethrodaya



21<sup>st</sup> January 2007

### Ground breaking ceremony

Collector of Thiruvallur, Mr.Ranvir Prasad joined with residents of Nethrodaya in the groundbreaking ceremony of Nethrodaya's Dream Home that will soon become a reality.



18<sup>th</sup> February 2007

### Career guidance for the differently abled

226 visually impaired students studying in 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> class from all over the state of Tamil Nadu actively took part and availed this unique opportunity. The Commissioner for the Disabled inaugurated the event. Eminent visually impaired professionals guided and counseled these students on the various career options available for them. Inputs were also given to study and do well in their exams.

10<sup>th</sup> June 2007

### Carnatic Music Concert

On the occasion of the wedding of Mr.Anantha Padmanaban and Mrs. Sandya, Nethrodaya's Music Troupe conducted a Carnatic Music concert along with Padma Bhushan Gayathri Shankar, who is also visually impaired.

28<sup>th</sup> June 2007

### Music Program for Collectors Wedding

Nethrodaya's Music Troupe was privileged to sing and entertain the guests on the occasion of Thiruvallur Collector Mr.Ranvir Prasad IAS's Wedding.

19<sup>th</sup> July 2007

### Grant-in-need Committee Membership

The Founder Trustee of Nethrodaya was chosen to be on the Panel of the prestigious Grant-in-need Committee. This Government Committee evaluates and recommends Grant of Funds to the needy NGO's.



Nethrodaya



30<sup>th</sup> June 2007

### South Indian Adapted Volleyball Tournament

This unique sporting event for the visually impaired attracted 14 teams, which included Boys and Girls Teams. The Teams had come from all over South India to compete in the tournament. Minister for Information Mr. Parithi Ellamvazhuthi inaugurated the Boy's event and DGP Mr. Mukherjee inaugurated the Girls' event.



7<sup>th</sup> July 2007

### Interview at All India Radio

To make the world know about the sporting abilities of the visually impaired, Nethrodaya was provided an opportunity to address the nation through an interview in All India Radio.



26<sup>th</sup> August 2007

### South Indian Adapted Chess Tournament

To encourage sporting activities among the visually impaired, Nethrodaya organised the South Indian Adapted Chess Tournament on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2007. Hon'ble Justice Mr. P.K. Mishra of Madras High Court inaugurated the event.





15<sup>th</sup> August 2007

### **In-house Telephone Booth**

To enable the students to interact with their parents, relatives and friends, Nethrodaya set up an in-house telephone booth.

### **Donors' Speak**

According to Mr.Dinesh of Koval Pazhamuthir Nilayam, Annanagar, who has been involved in the growth of the organization, "Its not about one time charity. The main reason why I'm involved is because the organization helps the students to develop their skills, and enables them to be self employed and independent. The purpose is great and the initiative is good."

A donor who prefers to remain unnamed said, "I have complete faith in Gopi and his ability to manage Nethrodaya. The reason why I help them again and again is that I'm sure that the money will be spent for the purpose it is intended for."

Capt. Shibu, M.D. of Force 1 Guarding Services who has been a long time supporter said, "The uniqueness of the institution is that it is managed by a person who himself is visually impaired. Unlike an able bodied person running an organization for persons with disability, this is by someone who has experienced the same disability. I wish more such persons like Gopi would come forward to start similar organizations."

### **Former Residents Speak**

"Sir, I'm Chellamuthu. I'm working as a 10th Std. teacher at Government High School, Kulathoor, Ramanathapuram. I'm from a rural area. While I was staying at Nethrodaya, in addition to good food and a place to stay, I got all the required support to complete my studies.

The organization is helping visually impaired people seeking aims in the train by providing financial assistance. The organization is reaching out to these people to enable them to set up small business, so that they can be independent."

A heartfelt thank you comes from Muthuswamy: "My name is Muthuswamy. I'm a vendor in the Chennai-Arakkonam route suburban trains. I work from 10 am to 10 pm. Nethrodaya provided me with financial support to start my business. They are providing Medical assistance through their Helpline Project. They are also providing fee support. For the past three years Nethrodaya has been paying fees for both my children. But for Nethrodaya, I don't know what my future would have been. They also provide House Rent and Advance for more than 75 people like me. Nethrodaya is really a God's gift".

According to Mrs. Geetha Umesh, Principal of Gracepark Convent Matriculation school, Thirunavukkarasu, "Both the daughters of Mr. Murugesan (a visually impaired beneficiary of Nethrodaya) are studying in my school. They take extra care and interest in the children's studies. In fact they are Role Models for other parents. For Sports Day or other School celebrations they are the ones to get the children ready ahead of other sighted parents. I often quote them while speaking to other parents".

A former student Mr.Ramamurthy said, "its an Educational Center. They provide good stay and food. They share lots of information for our studies. I got unlimited access to resources towards my studies. Without Nethrodaya it would have been very difficult to complete my course, I would have ended up spending lots of money for the same".

Mr.Janakiraman, another former student said, " Stay at Nethrodaya was very useful and helpful. Though I have stayed in different hostels, this hostel is very different because students here are very disciplined."



## Details of the Organization

Name of the Organization	:	<b>Nethrodaya</b>
Registered Office	:	No. 8, Spartan Nagar (Behind Cherian Heart Foundation) Mogappair East Chennai 600 037
Hostel	:	No. 8, Spartan Nagar (Behind Cherian Heart Foundation) Mogappair East Chennai 600 037
Chief Functionary	:	Mr. C Govindakrishnan Founder Trustee
Vision	:	Creation of a suitable environment for nurturing the abilities and talents of the visually impaired, by means of which they would be able to live their lives with a sense of dignity and self worth as productive members of society.
Mission	:	To light up the path of the visually impaired by enabling the fulfilment of their true potential.
Registered as	:	Public Charitable Trust
Registered on	:	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2002
Trust Registration details	:	430/2002/4
Year of Establishment	:	2002
Place	:	Chennai
FCRA Registration Number	:	075901108 dated 13/09/2006
Nature	:	Social Work
Patron	:	Commodore R.S. Vasan
Board of Trustees	:	C. Govindakrishnan (Gopi) Mrs. Jayanthi Karthikeyan Mr. V. L. Thomas

Nethrodaya



## Advisory Group

: Mr. Shibu Issac  
Mr. A. J. John  
Mr. M. C. Madhavan  
Ms. Mythili Ganesh  
Mr. S. Sampath Kumar  
Mr. K. S. S. Murthy  
Mr. R. Nandakumar  
Mr. Ghanesh

## Financial Information

: Cheques can be drawn in favour of  
**Nethrodaya**

## Bankers

: ICICI Bank Limited  
A-78, Plot No.3211,  
3rd Avenue, Annanagar,  
Chennai 600 102

Recurring Expense  
Account # 602701203880

FCRA  
Account # 602701215338

Vijaya Bank  
No. 30, Vellalar Street,  
V G P Panneer Nagar,  
Mogappair - West,  
Chennai - 600 037.

Building Fund  
Account # 305001011001821

## Income Tax

: Permanent Account Number  
AAATN4396E

Assessing Officer :  
The Deputy Director of Income Tax  
(Exemptions) - III  
121, Mahatma Gandhi Salai  
Chennai - 600 034

Latest Returns of Tax filed :  
2006 - 2007

Donations exempt under Section 80G of I. T. Act  
Regd. u/s 12A Appn # 2(213)/02-03

## Auditor

: G. Joseph & Co.  
Chartered Accountants  
G-4, Parkland Apts.  
Nathan Street, Off Harrington Road  
Chetpet, Chennai - 600 031

Nethrodaya



## Supporters :

Government of Tamilnadu	Wellington Corporate Foundation
Sir Ratan Tata Trust	Questnet International
Anna Nagar Times Charitable Trust	Kovai Pazhamudhir Nilayam
The Bridge	DOS Club
Force 1 Guarding Services	Pushpa Video
Infinite Dimensional Charitable Trust	Radha Park Inn
Bhoomika Trust	Theresa Women's Hostel
Spartan School	Sri Iyyappa Seva Samaj
T.V. Sundram Iyengar & Sons Ltd.	Scope International
Sundaram Medical Foundation	Hindu Mission Hospital
	Hotel Green Park

### NETHRODAYA

No 8, Spartan Nagar, Mogappair, Chennai 600 037.

### INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 2007

EXPENDITURE	Rs.	INCOME	Rs.
Audit Fees	4,495.00	Donations received	2,452,514.65
Bank charges	311.00	Program receipts	119,250.00
Vehicle Maintenance	5,108.00	Interest received	123,124.28
Library cum research training expenses	4,293.00	Sundry creditors written off	14,070.00
Postage & Courier	7,997.00		
Printing & Stationery	44,275.75		
Transportation charges	225.00		
Welfare expenses	312,801.40		
Travelling expenses	39,539.65		
Salaries & Wages	262,424.00		
Rent	144,000.00		
Telephone expenses	64,206.00		
Government land lease	5,000.00		
Electricity charges	26,852.00		
Repairs & Maintenance	31,312.00		
Books, Paper & Periodicals	1,200.00		
Program expenses	248,616.50		
Depreciation	146,512.10		
Excess of Income over expenditure for the year	<u>1,359,790.53</u>		
Total	<u>2,708,958.93</u>	Total	<u>2,708,958.93</u>

Prepared from the books of accounts  
Information and explanation provided

For Nethrodaya

For G JOSEPH & CO.,  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS.



**NETHRODAYA**  
No 8, Spartan Nagar, Mogappair, Chennai 600 037.

**BALANCE SHEET AS ON MARCH 31, 2007**

LIABILITIES	Rs.	ASSETS	Rs.
<b>CAPITAL FUND :</b>		<b>FIXED ASSETS :</b>	
Opening balance	1,867,425.44	As per Schedule I	862,315.20
Add : Excess of income over expenditure for the year	1,359,790.53	<b>DEPOSITS :</b>	
		As per Schedule II	
<b>CORPUS FUND :</b>		FD - Karur Vysya Bank	160,200.00
Building Fund	403,815.00	FD - South Indian Bank Ltd	500,000.00
Medical Fund	111,600.00	FD - TN Power Finance	1,408,894.00
Research Training Centre	300,000.00	FD - TDFC	531,836.00
		Rent deposit	343,250.00
<b>PROVISIONS :</b>		Interest receivable	875.00
Salaries payable	19,500.00	<b>CLOSING BALANCE :</b>	
Audit fees payable	4,495.00	Cash in hand	13,725.87
Outstanding liabilities - others	258.00	Cash at bank	245,787.90
			259,513.77
<b>Total</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>4,066,883.97</b>

Prepared from the books of accounts  
Information and explanation provided

For Nethrodaya

For G. JOSEPH & CO.,  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS,

Place : Chennai  
Date : August 11, 2007.

Managing Trustee

V. J. JOSEPH,  
PARTNER



## **Celebrate Your Special Days with us by Sponsoring a Day's Meal**

Breakfast Rs. 750/-

Lunch Rs. 1,000/-

Dinner Rs. 1,000/-

**Sponsor a Student's Monthly Expense Rs. 1,200/-**

**Donate a Stick for a Visually Impaired Rs. 125/-**

**Sponsor Drinking Water for a Month Rs. 1,200/-**

**Sponsor Medical Expense for a Month Rs. 5,000/-**

**Donate Cassettes & CDs for Recording Rs. 20/- per cassette**

### **Special Appeal**

Nethrodaya plans to build "THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE" at Nolambur in the 6.5 grounds granted by the Government of Tamilnadu. Around 12000 sq.ft of building will be constructed. Nethrodaya plans to raise funds for this construction in a unique manner. The "Sponsor a square feet programme" is a novel way to get maximum participation and involvement of the local community to be a part of this historic project. Each individual can sponsor a square feet at Rs.650/-.

Corporate Business establishments, Clubs, Individuals, NRIs, Students etc have already plunged into this activity. Since the construction will begin soon, we request you to spread this special appeal to all your friends in India and abroad and do your best. With all your efforts, we would be able to celebrate our next anniversary function at our own building.

### **Contact us:**

C Govindakrishnan, Nethrodaya, No. 8, Spartan Nagar (Behind Cheria Heart Foundation), Mogappair East, Chennai 600 037  
Tamil Nadu, India. Phone: 91-44-2656 5012 / 2656 3680 Mobile : 91-93828-96636 e-mail: nethrodaya@yahoo.com  
<http://www.nethrodaya.org>

