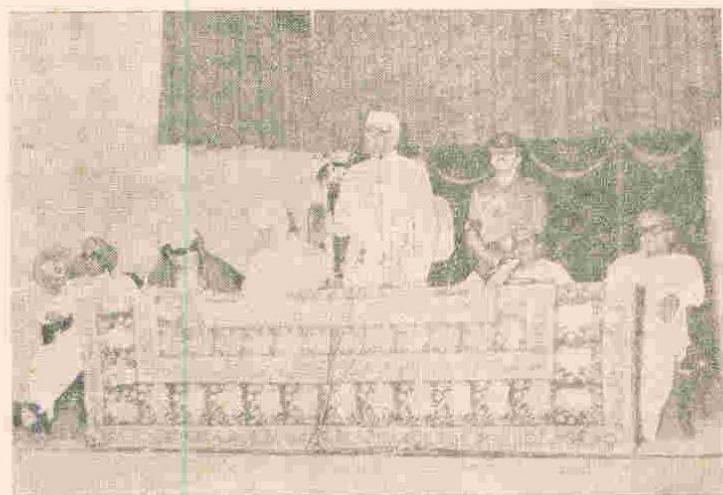


BALA MANDIR

126, GOPATHY NARAYANASWAMY ROAD
MADRAS - 600 017

Tel: 443688

FOUNDED — MARCH 1949



*Dedication of Bala Mandir as a Memorial to Thiru K. Kamaraj
by President of India Thiru Sanjeeva Reddy*

BALA MANDIR

What it is: Bala Mandir is a home for destitute and deserted children in need of a home. Any such child is admitted without distinction of caste or creed. It gives them protection and care and serves the triple role of parent, teacher and community. Admitted below the age of three years the children are given schooling and training till rehabilitated. The present strength is over 430 children.

Bala Mandir also aims to assist destitute women to get settled, earn a living and lead an honourable life. Its objective is to quicken social conscience and bring about greater awareness of the responsibility of society towards its destitute women and children.

The entire Bala Mandir complex consists of the Main Block, the Hospital Block, the Rajaji Homes, the Girls' Hostel, the Boys Hostel, the Nursery, Primary and High Schools, the Carpentry, Laundry, Tailoring and Weaving units and the German Hall. It is dedicated to Thiru K. Kamaraj, who from its inception till he passed away was the Founder President and a source of strength and inspired guidance. The area covered is over 5 acres centrally located in T. Nagar, Madras.

ACCOMMODATION

The Hospital: A vital wing of the Home, it accommodates all infants below 5 years of age. It not only nourishes but also cherishes each child. New admissions need constant care till they are normal in every respect.

A Paediatrician, a Physio-therapist, a Psychologist and a Dentist attend to the needs of all the children.

Dormitories: Boys over 10 years of age are housed in a separate building with a Warden in charge.

Girls over 10 years of age and boys between 5 and 10 years are in the dormitories of the main blocks.

In a separate building, senior girls who are undergoing training are accommodated.

Under a Central Government scheme 75 destitute children live in 3 Cottages. Named after Rajaji

KITCHEN

Kitchen is common and caters for all the children. The diet is balanced and vegetarian. Enriched flour, soya bean oil, milk powder and vitamins are donated by Welfare Organisations from abroad like the Abbe Pierres Bornehjalp, Denmark and the Catholic Relief Services.

SCHOOLS

Bala Mandir conducts a Nursery School, a Primary School and a High School, the latter named after Sri S. Sathyamurthi. Children from the neighbourhood also attend these schools. With generous donations from the public as well as Government grants, good buildings have been constructed for these schools. They are recognised and aided by the State Government.

In order to give better opportunities for education and social contact, brighter children are sent to good outside schools, where fees are paid for them.

GERMAN HALL

Mainly with a donation from Deutsche Welthungerhilfe, the German Hall was constructed with a seating capacity of over 700 members. It is used not only for the cultural activities of the children but also as a source of income for Bala Mandir. Greenrooms and a kitchen were subsequently provided.

TRAINING

The Carpentry, Tailoring, Laundry and Weaving Units conducted by Bala Mandir provide preliminary training as well as employment. Boys and girls are also sent to outside institutions for training in various vocations which will ultimately help them to obtain suitable jobs.

REHABILITATION

A welcome feature is the giving in adoption of all infants without claimants to suitable Indian foster parents of whom there is a waiting list. Apart from providing jobs after training, marriages are arranged for most of the girls before they are discharged from Bala Mandir. Every boy or girl leaves Bala Mandir only with an assured future.



Sri Kamaraj with the Children

HOW EXPENSES ARE MET

Private contributions are made by individuals, business concerns and service organisations in India and Abroad annually. Donations are also received for feeding on special occasions and feasts.

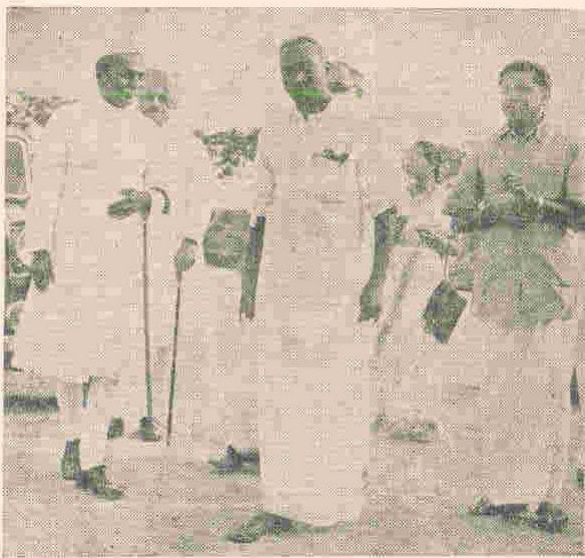
Individual children are maintained by foster parents under the sponsorship programme.

Some donations are made in kind in the form of clothing, medicine, food materials, books, toys etc.

Government: State grant is received towards the maintenance of children sent by the Juvenile Court and Central Grant is received for children in the Rajaji Home.

FUTURE PLANS

The entire Bala Mandir property has been formed into a Trust and it is planned to make the institution economically self-supporting. A Rupee Annexe Fund has been started for collecting a lakh of rupees. Endowments are also being built up and income producing projects taken up. A beginning has been made and with the help of a generous public, it is hoped that this objective will be achieved.



Dr. Rajendra Prasad's Visit 1951

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM 1949—1981

- 1949 Bala Mandir was started with two foundlings.
- 1950 The Government of Madras assigned 29 grounds in G.N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar, Madras-17 for a building.
- 1951 Recognised by the Madras Government as a Fit Person Institution for destitute and deprived children sent by Juvenile Courts. The Main Building was started and completed in 1952—children moved in.
- 1952 The Nursery School was started.
- 1954 The Sri Srinivasa Iyengar Memorial Committee and others gave money for the construction of the Hospital Block.
- 1956 Nearly 20 grounds were alienated by the Government as a playground. The Primary School was started. A Carpentry Unit, intended as a Hobby Centre, was inaugurated.
- 1956 The Krishna Building for a patasala was donated by Smt. Dharma Bai Takoor.
- 1957 Over 5 grounds of land contiguous to Bala Mandir was purchased.

- 1959 The Union Ministry of Education gave a grant for the Nursery School building, completed with a donation from the Volkart Foundation.
- 1961 The Sri S. Satyamurthy High School was started.
- 1962 Recognition and a grant were given by the Central Social Welfare Board to the Carpentry Unit, for the training and rehabilitation of young women.
- 1963 Nearly 25 grounds of land was alienated by the State Government for the High School.
A sponsorship programme was started by Aktionsgemeinschaft Soli arische Welt e.v. a West German Welfare Organisation.
- 1965 The Laundry Section was inaugurated.
A building with 16 grounds adjoining Bala Mandir was purchased for the boys hostel.
- 1968 Oxfam donated the kitchen and Dining Hall.
- 1969 Oxfam donated the first floor of the Hospital Block.
- 1974 The Silver Jubilee of the Bala Mandir was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Srimathi Indira Gandhi. Foundation-stones for the Satyamurthy High School and for the Bala Mandir Primary School buildings were laid by Sri K. Kamaraj.
- 1975 A home Tailoring Unit was started, later expanded with aid from A.S.W., West Germany.
- 1976 The Government of India under their scheme for Care of Destitute Children sanctioned two units, with building grant for two blocks.
- 1976 A sponsorship programme was started by the Deutsche Welthungerhilfe a West German Welfare Organisation.

1977 A generous donation by the Chimata Sesachalam Trust and other donors and a grant from State Government helped to complete the Primary School Building.

A permanent Office block was constructed with a grant from the Madhuran Narayanan Memorial Trust

A Multi-purpose Hall donated by the Deutsche Welthungerhilfe was opened by the German Ambassador.

1978 Construction of the Satyamurthi High School building was started. It included the G. Rajagopalan Memorial Hall. With a loom donated by a well-wisher a weaving unit on a small scale was started.

The Lida cow, a mechanical contrivance donated by the Abbe Pierre's Bornehjelp of Denmark was installed. It made it possible to re-constitute milk powder and give a cup of milk to 1,500 children in neighbouring schools.

1978 The Bala Mandir complex was dedicated as a memorial to the late Thiru K. Kamaraj by the President Dr. Sanjeeva Reddy.

1979 The Bala Mandir property was formed into a Trust. A diesel van to take children to schools and hospitals was donated by Deutsche Welthungerhilfe.

1980 The second floor of the Satyamurthi High School Building was completed with the help of donations, a Government grant and a Government loan.

A hostel for 50 Senior girls was donated by Mrs. G. C. Daswani in memory of her husband.

1980 The Government of India, under their scheme for destitute children, sanctioned a third unit for 25 children.



Pandit Nehru's Visit 1952

FROM OUR VISITOR'S BOOK

One can judge an institution like this not so much by the buildings, but by the happy faces of little children. The bright and cheerful faces of the children showed how well they were kept and how much you (management and staff) bring that human touch in dealing with them.

October 1952.

(Sd.) JAWAHARLAL NEHRU.

It has been a special pleasure to visit the Bala Mandir and to see the unique work which is being done here. I have been vastly impressed at what I have seen and with the spirit of all those associated with it.

18th February 1953.

(Sd.) EDWINA MOUNTBATTEN.

A lovely institution doing lovely work and I am so happy to have seen it with my own eyes at last. That every thing here—including land and buildings—has been donated speaks well for the generosity of the donors. This is an exemplary home and could expand if only more funds were available. I am sure these will come in due course. Meantime those in charge must be sincerely congratulated for their labour of love. I wish them every good wish for the future progress of a very vital service.

(Sd.) AMRIT KAUR.

*Minister for Health,
Government of India.*

1st August 1954.

9

It will be a real pleasure to interpret the fine work of this institution to concerned CARE donors in the U.S.A.

(Sd.) FRANK L. GOFFIO,
5th December 1958. *Deputy Executive Director, CARE.*

For purposes of food Control and Storage the position is excellent. It is a pleasure to assist the fine work of this institution in even our small way.

(Sd.) R. PARKER,
9th April 1965 *Catholic Relief Services.*

We were very happy to inaugurate the new Dining Hall and Kitchen given by OXFAM. We congratulate all the committee and staff of Bala Mandir on the wonderful work they are doing for children. I wish them all success in the future.

(Sd.) AUSMA AND BILL ACWORTH,
8th December 1967. *Oxfam, Oxford.*

At Bala Mandir I notice that the old order is changing and yielding place to new. The infants who are going to be citizens of tomorrow are receiving the attention they deserve. I admire the patience and the pains that are being taken by those running the institution. I wish them well.

(Sd.) S. GUHAPRASAD,
15th June 1971. *UNICEF Field Representative in South India.*

I had the pleasure and privilege of visting the Bala Mandir though I had been wanting to visit earlier.

10

The institution is well-run and the children are generally healthy and happy. What impressed me most is the personal interest taken in the welfare of each one of the children. The Bala Mandir is also running two units for destitute children. The building is getting completed in respect of one and the other one has been completed. The children look well taken care of.

The institution is doing well and under the leadership of Smt. S. Manjubhashini, I am confident, it will climb even to greater heights of usefulness to the children of the State.

3rd March 1976.

(Sd.) M. M. RAJENDRAN,
*Joint Secretary, to Government of
India, Department of Social Welfare,
New Delhi.*

I am exceedingly delighted to be in the Temple of God with true ambassadors of God here. Children are taken the best care and the institution is well kept.

15th July 1977.

(Sd.) PRABHUDAS B. PATWARI,
Governor of Tamil Nadu.

Thirty years have gone by, since I last visited Bala Mandir. From all I have seen today, I know that there have been thirty years of dedicated service and imaginative progress. This would not have been possible without the leadership and faith of Thirumathi Manjubhashini and her helpers. May they have the courage to carry on for another century and may they get continued and increasing support from all those who can afford to help them.

10th February 1978.

(Sd.) COLLEN NYE.

I was happy to visit the Bala Mandir. The organisers have to be congratulated for the good work they are doing in helping abandoned children to live a happy and useful life. I wish the institution success in their noble work.

3rd February 1978.

(Sd.) J. B. KRIPALANI.

I have visited Bala Mandir today. I am extremely happy to see the children in this institution. The institution is rendering yeoman service to the children without considering the caste or creed, rich or poor. I wish this institution every success. I want to convey my congratulations for the people, who are rendering their services with dedication.

6th August 1978.

(Sd.) K. RAJARAM,
Special Representative of the
Government of Tamil Nadu
at Delhi.

பாலமந்திர் நிறுவனத்தின் பல்வேறு அறப்பணி நடவடிக்கைகளைக் கண்டு களிக்கும் வாய்ப்பினை இன்று பெற்றேன். திக்கற்ற இளம் குழந்தைகளை எடுத்து, அவர்களைப் பாதுகாத்து வளர்த்துக் கல்விப் பயிற்சித் தந்து, தொழிற் பயிற்சிக் கொடுத்து, அவர்களின் அறிவுத்திறனை வளர்த்து, ஆற்றல் திறனைப் பெருக்கி, பண்பாட்டுத் திறனைப் பேணிச் சிறந்த சமூகத் தொண்டினை இந்த நிலையம் செய்து வருவது மிகவும் பாராட்டுதற்குரியது. இந்த நிலையத்தினைச் சிறப்புறக் கட்டி காத்து வளர்த்து வரும் திரும்தி மஞ்சபாஷிணி அம்மையார் அவர்களைப் பாராட்டுகிறேன்! போற்றுகிறேன்!

வாழ்க பாலமந்திர்! வளர்க அதன் முயற்சி!
வெல்க அதன் தொண்டு!

Visited Bala Mandir. I was very impressed by the commitment, direction and hard work that has gone behind the establishment of such a fine group of institutions. I wish them all success.

12th May 1981.

(Sd.) A. B. BOSE,
*Director, Ministry of Social
Welfare, Government of India,
New Delhi.*

It is a great pleasure to visit an institution like this which provides a home to number of unfortunate children who are denied this great comfort. My best wishes and congratulations to the management.

Thanking you,

12th August 1981.

MRS. O. SOSAMMA, I.A.S.,
Director of Social Welfare.

I am very happy to have had the opportunity to visit Bala Mandir about which I have heard so much. It is a unique institution with a rich past and I am confident of an even brighter future. I wish it all success and the workers who are so dedicated and committed to a noble cause, my good wishes and congratulations.

13th January 1982.

(Sd.) SHANTI SADIQ ALI.

I am very happy to visit Bala Mandir and see the tremendous progress it has achieved. The dedication of Srimathi Manjubhashini has few parallels in India and the institution owes its success to her and her band of devoted workers. May the institution grow from strength to strength and serve the unfortunate in life.

16th February 1982.

(Sd.) R. VENKATARAMAN,
Minister for Defence.

16 - 6 - 82