Almost a decade ago, the seed for the Akshaya Home was planted in Krishnan’s mind. As he cared for the destitute on the streets of Madurai, he was reminded again and again that while tending to the needs of the body was important, solace for the troubled mind was of even greater importance. He knew that only a building that communicated peace and a sense of belonging would ensure the full recovery of those whom society had cast aside.

Krishnan’s dream began to take concrete form in June 2008. Initial progress was slow, in step with the flow of donations for material and labor, but things did move forward. Krishnan’s efforts became more widely recognized and appreciated, and his CNN 2010 Top Ten Hero award triggered a surge of contributions. We believe that the Akshaya Home will open its doors in the first half of 2012—a time of celebration for all involved.

Akshaya Trust, Krishnan, and the dedicated volunteers will find little time to enjoy the pleasure of this interim success, as there will be many new tasks to address. In addition to preparing and serving meals, Akshaya will begin to provide health care, security, and housekeeping. The work involved in administration and maintenance will swell. Some of the new challenges are hard to predict: they will be unique to the new members of the Akshaya family. This will all take dedicated people, time, and money. The coming chapter will be the most eventful in Akshaya’s story. We all know that success hinges on a great effort, and we are determined to prevail.

Public donations, institutional awards, and corporate sponsorship have carried Akshaya Trust far in the last eight years. Krishnan’s scrupulous management of the Akshaya budget, which ensures that no dollar and rupee is spent without considering the best interests of the people in need, has impressed Akshaya Trust’s benefactors. The continued operation and future growth of Akshaya Trust depend on that generous support.

There are many ways you can contribute to the timely and successful opening of the Akshaya Home. For a thorough description of Akshaya Trust’s financial operations, read Managing the Donors’ Gifts (page 4). Then be sure to read Support Akshaya Today (page 4) to learn how you can extend a hand to the helpless on the streets of Madurai.

The dictionary defines home as a place of permanent residence, a social unit such as a family, a house or apartment, an institution for people needing special care or supervision, and a place where something flourishes. While the Akshaya Home is designed to meet all five of these definitions, it is foremost a place where care, love, and compassion will flourish—a place where shattered dreams are rebuilt and lost dignity restored.

Please donate today

Akshaya’s Mission
Committed to the care of the helpless, forsaken, mentally ill, old, sick, roadside destitute living and dying on the streets of Madurai by providing healthy food, love, and opportunity to rehabilitate, thereby restoring human dignity.
synergy (n.) the interaction or cooperation of two or more organizations to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate efforts.

New Wheels for Meals

Akshaya Trust a donation of $7,900. The check was hand carried by Latha Kalaga, Akshaya USA’s Executive Director, to Madurai. She presented the donation to a very appreciative Krishnan on June 27.

The next evening, Latha joined Vi- haya and Andrews, two of Akshaya’s volunteers, to take delivery of the Madurai checks and purchased the generous donation from AMS. This three-cylinder van gets about twenty miles to a gallon of gasline—quite good for its class. It’s striking—and characteristic of the man—that Krishnan did not pick up the van. The founder wanted his trusted volunteers to have that pleasure. The gift from AMS permitted him to offer his team a different sort of gift.

Through the Eyes of a Volunteer

My first visit to Akshaya Trust to meet Narayanan Krishnan was in July 2010. The visit left me with a deep desire to return to India and assist Krishnan as he went about feeding the helpless homeles.

My desire became a reality when I landed in Madurai on the evening of July 28, 2011. Krishnan, his wife Harini, and his father picked me up at the airport. The warmth shown by the three of them was amazing. From the minute I stepped into Krishnan’s car I felt I was part of the family. After arriving at Krishnan’s home I enjoyed more warm hospi-tality and caught up on the events of the past year. As the evening progressed my host advised me that I should be ready by half past six the next morning to accompany him on the food distribution rounds. I was up by four—in part due to jet lag mostly because of excite-ment. Finally I would serve at Akshaya!

As Krishnan took me through the streets of Madurai, I became ac- quainted with those whom Akshaya serves—the helpless homeless who live and die on the streets of Madurai. I remembered a few names from my last visit, so when I saw Pandi—he had moved from living in a section of concrete pipe to a stretch of pavement in front of what looked like an ATM kiosk—I called out to him. I asked if he remembered me. He looked up, and his eyes filled with tears—so did mine. The next man we stopped to serve had bandages all over his leg. Krishnan told me that this poor man had been beaten by shopkeepers to drive him away from their stores.

Our morning’s mission continued. We stopped and fed a pregnant woman, then a man who believes he is on his way to the Balaji temple in the state of Andhra Pradesh, nearly three hundred miles from Madu-rai, followed by a woman and her five-year-old son Kartik. This short- less boy was so happy to see the food I could not help but think of my children, who have so much—a home, two parents, clean clothes, and other “necessities” that are unheard of in the kitchen. I told them how much I wanted to help. They were very thankful; their desire to show appreciation for and to return kindness. The quality of being thankful, readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.

A growing list of items needed for the Akshaya Home will be posted and periodically updated on the Akshaya USA website. Visit the often site and see if there are items you may want pur-chased in your name through a donation. These are examples of the types of items needed:

- Air-conditioning unit for medical areas
- Bedding—linens, blankets, and pillows
- Blood pressure apparatus
- Chapathi dough kneader
- Chapathi maker
- Commercial laundry machine
- Cooking, serving, and eating utensils
- Cot side rails
- Cots—sleeping and medical
- Fans
- First aid kits
- Fully equipped ambulance
- Idli steamer
- Lightbulbs
- Mattresses
- Rice cooker
- Saladine water stands
- Scale
- Scissors
- Stainless steel bowls
- Stethoscopes
- Stretchers—several types
- Vegetable mandoline
- Washbasins with stands
- Wheelchairs

Please donate today

My Akshaya Experience

During June and July of this year my parents and I went on a long-awaited trip to India to visit our relatives. We stayed at my grand-parents’ house in Madurai for three weeks, during which I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to work with the Akshaya Trust. I had heard about Akshaya a few months before when Mr. Krishnan was selected as a CNN 2010 Top Ten Hero. I read about the amaz-ing help he provided to Madurai’s destitute, and immediately I felt that I should do something to help the people in my father’s hometown. Unfortunately, I couldn’t do anything to directly help people, but I thought I could at least donate to Akshaya Trust some of the allow-ance money that I had saved up.

Visiting Akshaya’s kitchen, meeting Mr. Krishnan, and seeing the site for the Akshaya Home were great experiences for me. They taught me the hard work and dedication of the people involved in Akshaya. My wish is for Madurai to have a completed home and Akshaya Trust a donation of $7,900.

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Founder's Corner

I had no idea what to expect when I committed myself to help the home-less men and women of Madurai. How would they react? Would others join me? What do I need to do? I knew just one thing: compassion would lead me to success.

While the years since I first set out to feed my city’s hungry have brought many challenges, I have been enriched beyond my greatest expectations by the kindness and generosity showered on Akshaya Trust, my dedicated volunteers, and the many souls to whom we strive to comfort. I will mention just a few of the things for which I am thankful:

- The needs of the homeless and hungry men and women of Madurai have been heard by the world. And the world has responded.
- Many of our donations come from children, some as young as four.
- Parents are raising their children with caring discipline, sharing with them the significance of their cultural heritage as well as the value of money.
- Many contributions made in the last few years, especially those from the United States, have enabled us to realize our great ambition: the Akshaya Home is nearly complete.

Soon the destitute people Akshaya has been caring for on the streets of Madurai will move into the Akshaya Home. They will be sheltered, fed, and looked after, but they will not be fed. Central to their rehabilitation will be the assistance they lend Akshaya—meaning themselves. Some will help with meals, others with cleaning, maintaining the gardens, assisting those in greater need than themselves. The residents of the Akshaya Home will soon be useful to society and to themselves, living, working, even dreaming with dignity. My own training in hotel kitchens will permit me to teach some to prepare spice mixtures, pickles and relishes, and a number of prepared foods. Others will be taught the skills of the task; they will, under supervision, produce a variety of crafts. All of these items will be sold, and we hope that some of the residents will take on the roles of artisans or merchants. This process of rehabilitation will greatly improve their self-confidence and reduce the need for our help.

Akshaya has proved that it can meet the needs of the destitute help-less people now living on the streets of Madurai. This will embolden those who witness our work to come forward, volunteering to train the residents to take on a wider array of responsibilities, callings suited to their abilities and temperaments. This work, the work made possible by opening a compassionate heart to the world, is a gift not just to the helpless and hungry—it is a gift to ourselves. To rehabilitate others is to lift one’s own soul higher.

―Narayanan Krishnan
Managing the Donors’ Gifts

Akshaya Trust and Akshaya USA are managed by a team of highly dedicated volunteers. As a result we are very efficient in providing a high percentage of donor’s money to the intended beneficiaries. The breakdown of all expenses for the first half of 2011 is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Akshaya Home Construction</td>
<td>74.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feeding Program</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Costs</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

This level of efficiency significantly helps us feed approximately 450 deserving people three meals a day and make notable progress in the construction of the Akshaya Home.

Support Akshaya Today

Akshaya Trust is 100% donor supported—all funds come from the hearts of our donors and sponsors, not from coffers of state agencies or programs. We have done much with the many donations, including the construction of the Akshaya Home and the provision of three meals a day to approximately 450 deserving people.

As we near the completion of the Akshaya Home, we will be faced with a new array of expenses, as described in The Akshaya Home article on page 1. Help us bring comfort and a sense of dignity to the poor abandoned people on the streets of Madurai. You can donate in many ways—select the one that best suits your wishes.

From North America

Donate to Akshaya Trust through Akshaya USA via PayPal. – Click here –

Send a check to:

Akshaya USA
17359 E. Caley Place
Aurora, Colorado 80016 USA

Checks should be made out to Akshaya USA. Be sure your correct address appears on the check so a printed receipt can be sent to you. Also include your email address.

Gifting equities:

To gift equities, transfer them to the Akshaya USA account at Fidelity Investments using these details:

DTC# 0226
Accoun# Z69-216542

Akshaya USA is exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code – Public Charity.

From India

Donate directly through the Akshaya Trust website. – Click here –

Akshaya Trust is registered in India:

FCRA Regn No. 075940512 Min. of Home Affairs, Govt. of India
IT. 80(G) Regn. No. 108/2003-04 ITC Madurai 80(G) exemption

Contacting Us

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Email: info@akshayausa.org
Website: www.akshayausa.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/AkshayaTrust

Your comments and suggestions are most welcome. Please send them to me at Editor@AkshayaUSA.org.

Contributions for future issues of Akshaya Cares are also welcome. Please contact me for more information regarding the submission process.

– Ed DiTomas

Akshaya Cares, the quarterly newsletter of Akshaya Trust, was designed by Venessa Lee and edited by Sam Gilbert. Many people dedicated to Akshaya’s cause contributed photos and articles to Akshaya Cares—thank you all.

Editor’s Info

Akshaya’s sponsors

Akshaya Home Construction Status

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<tr>
<td>Medical clinic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsor: LIC Golden Jubilee Foundation, Mumbai</td>
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<td>Medical office, sick bay, resident dormitory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsor: Well-wisher, Madurai</td>
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<td>Sponsor: Chandrasekar Memorial Block, Doha</td>
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<td>Sponsor: V RHYTHM Foundation, Malaysia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsor: Donors from USA and India</td>
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<tr>
<td>80% completed</td>
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The Akshaya Home at Melamathur, India

Through the Eyes of a Volunteer

Continued from page 2

My visit achieved completion when I spent a few hours helping cook meals in the Akshaya kitchen. Washing carrots, slicing eggplant, and grinding coriander seeds assumed a special meaning after having seen the pleasure on the faces of those we fed the day before. It also added to my appreciation of the hard work undertaken every day of the year by the Akshaya volunteers—buying food, preparing and delivering meals, managing the office, reaching out to the world to spread the word—all the time giving support to each other, a crucial task as the emotions of their mission take their toll. This amazing and tireless group includes Vidhya, Andrews, Mani, Muthu, Ganesh, and Krishnamurthy.

My eyes and heart captured far more than my words can express. I can confidently say that for those who seek satisfaction and the emotional rewards of helping, there is no substitute for serving those who are as destitute as the help- less homeless.

– Latha Kalaga, Akshaya USA volunteer

Contacting Us

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