



## Greetings from Eureka Superkidz!

*This month we have had many donors visit Eureka villages and share their feedback with us. It is one of our objectives that donors regularly visit the villages they support and directly connect with the children and the tutors.*

*Your visits constantly inspire our team and motivate us to deliver better. In this report we share with you feedback from some of these visits. We also bring you the story of Pudhukandigai village which demonstrated how collective community will and effort made a change to the children of the village. Hope you enjoy reading it.*



## Pudhukandigai Village shows its children it cares!

The story of Pudhukandigai is of a village that got together to put its children's needs before everything else. It is a story of large-hearted people who have shown that they can share even when they have very little for themselves. Eureka classes have been running in Pudhukandigai for nearly 2 years now. Venkatesan is one of the Eureka tutors there. He is eldest son in his family. His parents sell fish for a living. He is an extremely dedicated teacher and takes classes even on festival days and Sundays if children need help. He works night shifts as a weaver to earn 100 Rs a day to support himself. Even though parents pay him fees regularly for the classes, he saves the money to take children on tours or uses it to buy pencils or notebooks for them. In addition to academic skills, he also teaches children yoga and dance.

In October last year, parents came together to discuss with the Eureka team how they could arrange for a better space for their children to learn. The issue was raised in the next Gram Sabha and a resolution was passed by the Panchayat to donate land for constructing a learning center in the village. Soon, the local ward member and the Panchayat President gave money and arranged for a tractor to clear the land. An individual donor from Chennai, Mr. K.E. Ranganathan contributed towards constructing the center.



As the center was being constructed, more contributions poured in. The Panchayat officials and other people in the village collected another 5000 rupees and 15 bags of cement. Eureka Tutor Venkatesan contributed 7000 rupees from the money he had saved for several months! Local people talked to contractors and helped procure bricks at lower rates.

Finally on February 8<sup>th</sup> the Pudhukandigai Learning Center was inaugurated. The whole village was decorated and sported a festive look. The local Govt. school closed at noon so that children could participate in the function.

People collected money and arranged for a stage, chairs and acoustics. Education officials and Panchayat members came for the event. A local company Ashok Aqua Services sponsored snacks and tea for the invitees and children. A software engineer from the nearby block town gave notebooks for every child. Children put up several cultural programs for the audience.

Now children learn undisturbed and with better lighting. A new children's library has also been started. Pudhukandigai's community has demonstrated to its children that they care enough to walk the extra mile.

## Eureka is a second home for Swetha and Pavithra

Sitara from the Eureka State Team visited Nagal Colony village last month and met sisters Swetha (Class 6) and Pavithra (Class 3) at the Eureka Center. Swetha was busy reading a story card, while Pavithra was learning addition from her Eureka teacher.



When Sitara asked Swetha about her family and what she liked about her Eureka class, she said, "*My sister Pavithra*

*and I live with my grandmother. My grandmother is very old. My mother, father and brother also used to live in this village until a few months back. Someone cheated my father of money and he couldn't pay back his debts. So they left us and went away to Chennai one night when Pavi and I were asleep. They called us up the next day and told us they took my brother Boothy with them because he was a baby. My mother calls us once in a while to tell us that they are coming to take us to live with them. We wait at the bust stop every time she calls but nobody comes. They love us though, so I'm sure they will come back one day.*

*"Patti (grandmother) is too old to cook and clean, so our neighbors sometimes bring us the rice from the ration shop and Pavi & I try growing some vegetables and cook food for ourselves. It's difficult to finish all the work in the morning and get to school on time. My schoolteacher scolds me if I don't go neatly dressed to school, so I miss school on many days. I come to Eureka everyday because my teacher here sits with me separately and helps me learn. I can now read stories and do all the addition and subtraction problems. I'm going to become a nurse soon, pay off all the debts and bring my parents back. My Eureka teacher told me that if I attend class everyday she will help me learn well and join a nursing school when I grow up".*

For Pavithra and Swetha, the Eureka class is more than just an after-school center. It's a second home where they are free of their worries, where they can share their feelings with their teacher akka and friends. We hope that they get reunited with their family very soon.

## Donors share their visit experiences

**Karthik Manivasagam, Asst.Manager, PwC** visited the villages that PwC supports in Tiruttani. He shares, "*It was heartening to see the enthusiasm and determination of the young children we met at Tiruttani. I could see the dream in their eyes and how driven they are at such a young age to reach their goals. Tutors have a very special responsibility to execute.*



*Eureka can ensure that these teachers are trained well in conversational English and any other subjects of their choice so that they feel valued and responsible towards further development of the kids they teach.*

*The whole experience did teach me a few things and I was moved by the friendliness, warmth and hospitality displayed by all the people we met yesterday. Project Manager Chitra is doing an excellent job by taking lead as a volunteer on these projects. Keep it up!! Work experience from even the best in business is no match to the job that you are doing right now.*

*It has now set me thinking on how best I can contribute to the success of this initiative in my free time over weekends. Please do keep me posted on such visits in future so that my colleagues and I in PwC can join you and your team in your mission of quality education for every child.*

**Premkumar, Volunteer, AID UK**, writes, "*Our visit to Eureka centers in Tiruvallur was an inspiring experience. It is a fantastic achievement for all those who have been involved in creating this program.*

*My wife and I were very impressed with the program structure, the well thought-through content, and the enthusiasm of the tutors and the children who make this happen. I liked the grouping of kids, the personal attention given to them based on their reading level and the practical methods to help them overcome their learning difficulties.*

*This kind of initiative is much needed in a world where competition is at its peak and the foundation needs to be strongly laid. I wish you good luck to continue this effort for many years to come."*