

THUVAKKAM



# BE THE CHANGE

Monthly Newsletter - November Edition: Vol 1. Issue 5 [www.thuvakkam.org](http://www.thuvakkam.org)



# Letter from our Board of Director



**Karthik Shiva**

Director -  
Research & Development

Hello,

Welcome to Thuvakkam's October Newsletter. A lot has changed in the month of October in the country, with the people cautiously trying to venture out. And Thuvakkam has ramped up efforts in returning to normalcy, in the new normal.

Thuvakkam usually celebrates the first week of October as "Eegai Thiruvizha – The Joy of Giving Week." However, Thuvakkam has adapted to the times and made changes to how, where and when events could be organized. Engaging and appreciating volunteers, especially those who braved the Covid pandemic, took center stage in this year's Eegai Thiruvizha. All the details are covered in the special Spotlight event segment in this newsletter.

And another update is on the "Chennai Vanam" project that Thuvakkam is undertaking with the Greater Chennai Corporation. Thuvakkam organized events for maintenance activities at Mugalivakkam and Poonamallee, while a new plantation activity was held at Saidapet. All while ensuring SOP protocols are maintained to prevent Covid19.

Thuvakkam has expanded this idea into setting up afforestation efforts at Thoothukudi, co-operating with the Tuticorin Collectorate and the Airport Authority of India. Next month's Thuvakkam newsletter will take an in depth look at the massive undertaking in that area.

With people becoming accustomed to the new normal, it is heartening to see volunteers and supporters (re)emerging to work with Thuvakkam. Be it virtual, during Thuvakkam's sessions, or On-Field, a huge thanks to the people who continue to make this possible.

Read on to get a glimpse of Thuvakkam's activities in the month of October, and we'll meet again with next month's Newsletter.



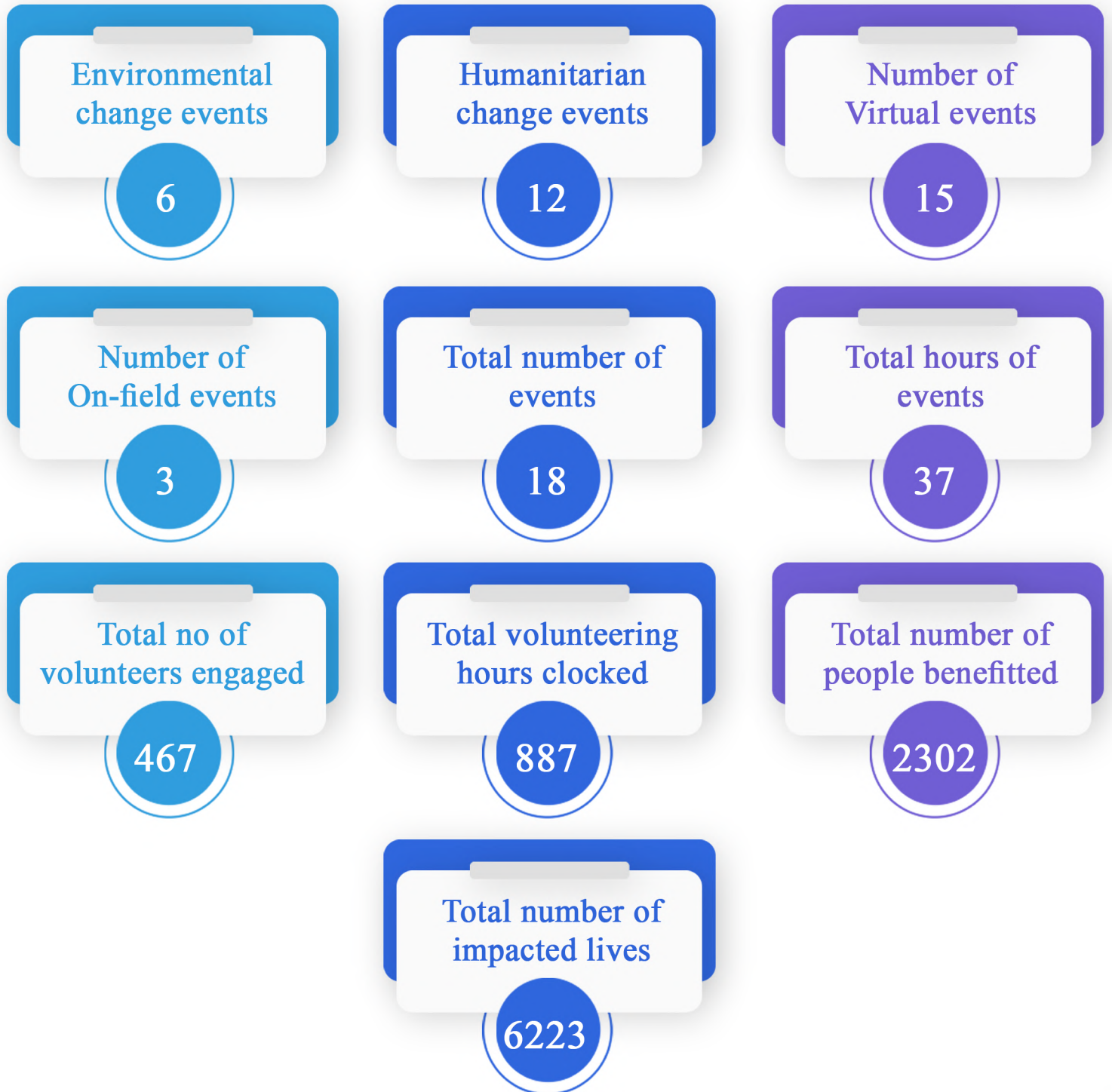
# Change Happenings



# Change Created - October 2020

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

— Margaret Mead





# Spotlight of the Month



**Eegai Thiruvizha** Thuvakkam holds its annual “Eegai Thiruvizha – The Joy of giving” celebration the first week of October, to coincide with the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi . But with 2020, the Covid pandemic looked set to disrupt this yearly celebration. But Thuvakkam took it up as a challenge and powered through with the “New Normal Eegai Thiruvizha.”

Extending the celebration for the entire month, instead of limiting the events to a week, Thuvakkam’s Eegai Thiruvizha started with the first weekend of October. Partnering with Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWP), Thuvakkam held a virtual seminar on “The

Joy of Leadership in Social Service). Hosted by WFWP member Srruthilekha, and joined by international leaders from their organization, Thuvakkam’s first Eegai event marked an international collaboration milestone. This was followed by the flagship Eegai event “Zero Hunger Drive”, where members put their culinary skills to work, creating meals for the underprivileged in the city. After each volunteer was temperature checked and hand sanitized, they got to work prepping vegetables before cooking the meal. The outcome was over 300 food packets, that were then donated all over the city of Chennai.

With the mantra of “The Joy of Giving” guiding the way, Thuvakkam organized plantation events, virtual debate on “Paperbacks vs Ebooks”, a webinar on the importance of Mental health and more. All while taking the necessary precautions to keep Covid at bay. On the penultimate weekend of the month, Thuvakkam took this a step further in honoring the “Covid Frontline Warriors”. Sanitary workers around the city, in each volunteer’s locality, were identified and thanked with a kit for their essential efforts in fighting against this disease.

Thuvakkam’s “Eyalvadhu Karavel” (Donate what you can) moved this onto the virtual platform. Since the official declaration of Covid-19/Coronavirus as a pandemic, Thuvakkam realized their role as an NGO was the need of the hour. Within 10 days of the announcement of Tamilnadu’s Lockdown, members of Thuvakkam drafted a plan to help those impacted by it. The daily wagers, construction laborers, shopkeepers, village folk and so many more, who’s livelihood had been shattered by the shutdown. With the help of local volunteers and government officials, Thuvakkam was able to help the people of different localities survive this economic setback. Thuvakkam honored them during the Digital meeting of Eyalvadhu Karavel, by inviting them to share their experience and retell their stories of courage.

Thuvakkam’s Eegai Thiruvizha adapted to the changes of the times, but the core of the cause remained the same. To share the “Joy of Giving” with all.





# Change movements captured!



# Wall of Praise

*“The roots of all goodness lie in the soil of appreciation for goodness.”*

~ Dalai Lama

## “Thuvakkam Members and volunteers”

Thank you for all the efforts this shows how good team we are, in this difficult situations you all have been supporting to pull off every event virtually.

- Guna

## “Sirajudeen”

He has done a great job coordinating the new Afforestation projects in Thoothukudi and Shollinganallur, which are currently growing at a rapid pace.

- Krishna Kumar

## “Sayee Prasath”

Did a great job organizing Thuvakkam's first ever Pattimandram (Debate show) online on the topic of "Ebook vs Print book".

- Karthik Shiva

## “CNSI”

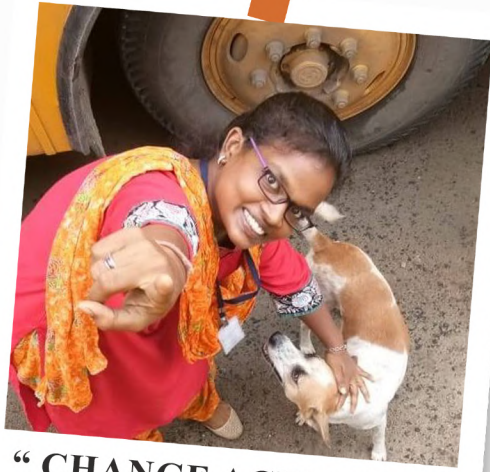
We would like to express our sincere gratitude to CNSI and their entire team for motivating and supporting us in the EEGAI Thiruvizha 2020. It is because of such like minded people's support, we are able to constantly work for the betterment of society!

- External Relations

Every month this wall of praise will host up all the thanks notes that we get. You can send your thank you notes to Director - Operations by mail [externalrelation@thuvakkam.org](mailto:externalrelation@thuvakkam.org) (or) WhatsApp - 9444888937 (or) DM on discord - for members.

**Let us together count our blessings and be thankful for all that we have.**





**“CHANGE ACTIVIST”**

ARULS ELVI  
**“Volunteer of the  
Month-October”**



**“CHANGE CRUSADER”**

SAYEE PRASATH  
**“Coordinator of the  
Month-October”**



**Virtual "Best out of Waste - Do it yourself" session  
to the Cipla volunteers - 4,980 people reached**

**FB Change Impacts**



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