

AMMA'S TSUNAMI DISASTER RELIEF FUND

Dear Devotee / Friend of Amma,

The devastating tsunami struck Amma's Amritapuri Ashram and neighbouring villages on the morning of December 26th, 2004. 140 villagers were killed. Thousands of people including the 20,000 people in Amma's ashram that day, were evacuated by boat. The evacuation was supervised by Amma. Within hours of the disaster the Amrita University's colleges, nearby, on the mainland, were converted into relief camps. Amma arranged the distribution of all necessary supplies, considering every last detail.

In the immediate aftermath the Ashram fed not only 2,000 village evacuees and 3,000 ashram residents in its own camps, but also 15,000 people in the 12 government shelters nearby. For months afterwards, the Ashram kitchen served 10,000 meals three times a day to the relief camps and to 18 food counters in the devastated villages near Amritapuri.

In January 2005, Amma's organisation, Mata Amritanandamayi Math (MAM), pledged US\$23 million in tsunami relief aid. It proposed to rebuild all the homes that were completely destroyed by the tsunami in Kerala, as well as take up reconstruction in Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. After meeting with the President of Sri Lanka, Amma offered additional aid for relief work in both Sinhalese and Tamil communities. By the end of 2006, after two years of relief effort, MAM had given double its original pledge at more than \$46 million, due to higher than expected expenditures, especially in housing and the evacuation bridge, as well as the fact that so much of the work is being done by volunteers.

The Amrita Tsunami Relief & Rehabilitation Project is a massive undertaking, covering a broad range of relief efforts and long-term rehabilitation projects in India and Sri Lanka, including:

- Emergency shelter and food for 4,100 homeless families
- Three meals a day for an additional 32,000 people
- Extensive medical care through AIMS Hospital & psychological counseling by trained experts
- Clothing for 90,000 people
- Cash for 16,000 families
- Rebuilding more than 6,000 homes of which, 4,500 were built as of September 2007
- 700 fishing boats, motors, fishing nets
- Job camps for 2,000 adolescents
- Vacation camps for 10,000 children
- Provisions for 10,000 families
- 10,000 children participated in educational camps

Ongoing relief projects and long term rehabilitation programmes continue to require funding and assistance. If you would like to help, contributions can be made to:

**Amrita Limited - Indian Tsunami Relief Fund,
PO Box 2969, Cheltenham, VIC 3192, AUSTRALIA**

Payment can be made by cheque/money order and posted to the above address or by credit card (Visa or MasterCard) through our Online Donation service accessed via the Home page of our website www.ammaaustralia.org.au

Alternatively, if you would like to directly transfer funds into the Amrita Limited Account over the internet please email amritalimited@ammaaustralia.org.au or call Merilyn on 0428 483 093 to get the account details.

Amrita Limited can be also be contacted on 03 9782 9398 by leaving a message or via fax 03 9782 9032.
Thank you for your kind contribution!

