

Inspire

INSPIRE NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2017 EDITION

Dear Inspirers, it gives me great pleasure to pen the opening lines in Inspire's inaugural e-newsletter.

One fine morning three years ago, as I was driving to work, I received a call from my dear friend Param from China. Now it so happens that on many occasions during my morning drive to work, I couldn't help but think about the plight of our Indian youths in our beloved Malaysia. So it was no surprise that when I got that call from Param, our topic of discussion invariably shifted to that same topic. We wondered how we, along with our fellow Indian graduates of USM, could get together and do something meaningful for the less fortunate in our Indian community.

Since then, Param and I had a few more discussions about this matter, and eventually, on the 24th of October 2014, formed a small WhatsApp group comprising USM Indian graduates. This group started to grow and with the help of our friends, on the 5th of February 2015, the INSPIRE Society was officially

formed. As they say, the rest is history.

My dear friends, in the past two years, Inspire has done quite a bit to help the needy in our community, particularly in the field of education. Last year, we started a new initiative, which we named 'INSPIRE Financial Assistance', or IFA2016. We managed to collect RM82 000 and distributed the amount to 42 students to help with their initial expenses at the university. This year we targeted RM100 000 for IFA2017 and I am pleased to say that the Inspire members and some kind-hearted souls helped us to achieve the targeted amount within the stipulated time. We are currently planning to adopt an orphanage and look into its educational needs. Our welfare program will also be intensified.

Another thing that I feel is really worth mentioning is that Inspire will and should always maintain its policy of zero operating cost at all times. There is no point in col-

lecting money from Inspirers to help the needy if the bulk of the sum collected goes to operating cost and only a small fraction goes to the target group.

Dear Inspire members, you will always remain our greatest asset. Without your support and commitment, Inspire cannot function. The leadership of Inspire must always run the society with full integrity, accountability and transparency without any self-interest. No one should, at any time, use Inspire and its activities for any kind of personal gain.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone in Inspire for supporting our activities. I would also like to extend my gratitude to certain individuals who are not part of Inspire for their valuable contributions. To the committee members, who have been carrying out their duties with so much passion and enthusiasm, thank you for your time, effort and energy. Let us continue doing our part in helping the less fortunate in our community.

*Our community,
Our responsibility.
In TRUTH we serve! –
by Ari*



PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES BY INSPIRE FOR 2017-2018

1. Financial Assistance for first year undergraduates
2. Fund Raising activities
3. Student applications and selection
4. Graduate Development Programme
5. Education & Sports
6. Welfare
7. Orphanage Support

INCEPTION – THE BEGINNING OF A JOURNEY

December 2014 – Inspire’s first meeting was held in Klang – A gathering of old friends who were bound by a common mission to reach out to the less fortunate in our community and provide them with the means to an education.



The first official Inspire meeting was held on February 15, 2017 at the Axsel Training Center in Old Town PJ.

Central Committee Members of Inspire Society

	2015/2016	2017/2018
Designation	Name	Name
President	Mr. Ariwalagan Marappan	Mr. Ariwalagan Marappan
Vice-President	Mr. Parameswaran Nair	Mr. Parameswaran Nair
Hon. Gen. Secretary	Ms Thamil Selvi Arjunan	Mr. Titus Pereira'
Asst. Gen. Secretary		Ms Thamil Selvi Arjunan'
Hon. Treasurer	Ms Kaladevi Kumaran	Mr. Kuhan Gunaratnam
Asst. Treasurer		Mr. Rajagantham Ramasamy
Committee Member	Mr. Ponniah P. Ramiah	Mr. S. Raventharan
Committee Member	Major(B) Dr. Prebagaran Jayaraman	Mr. Ravichandran Vengadasamy
Committee Member	Mr. Aruldass Murugesu	Ms Rajalakshmi Kesavan
Committee Member	Mr. Ganesh S. Maniam	Mr. Ganesan Krishnan
Committee Member	Mr. Shanmugam Muniandy	Mr. Shanmugam Muniandy
Committee Member	Mr. Rajagantham Ramasamy	Ms. Yohambigai Vythilingam
Committee Member	Mr. Muniandy Arigasamy	Mr. Dipakkumar Vrajlal Premchand
Committee Member	Mr. Raja Selan Vadivaloo	Ms Saroja Arumugam
Committee Member	Mr. Devasagayan Ayyakkannu	
Auditor		Mr. Jaya Shankar Gurusamy

And the Journey continues – “We have miles to go before we sleep”.



INSPIRE'S EARLY EFFORTS

Identified needy students in several schools and provided school uniforms, school bags and school shoes.



SEKOLAH MENENGAH AMBROSE



SJK(T) LADANG BUKIT RAJAH



SJK(T) LADANG RESAK BUKIT SUBANG



SEKOLAH SAAS SHAH ALAM

From school based projects, Inspire started to reach out to families in dire need of financial support.

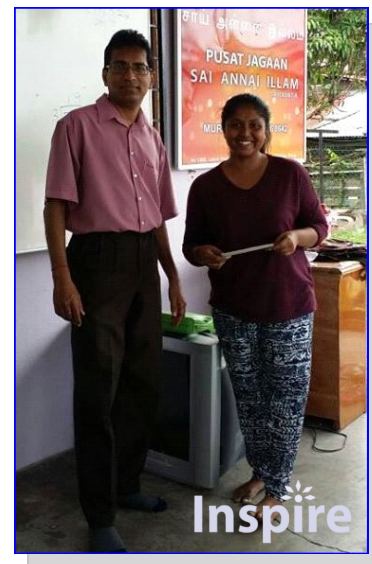


April 6, 2015 was the first day at school for these children from Bukit Mertajam. With the help of Inspire members in the North and the person on the right in the picture, these children finally obtained their birth cert, a home to stay in, and school registration.



Inspire's contribution also helped another family in Penang, Mdm Santhi and her seven kids, with basic needs like food, shelter and furniture.

In June, 2016, Inspire presented the 1st tuition fee to teacher Ms Ranjita at the Pusat Jagaan Sai Annai Illam.



Inspire had engaged the services of Ms Ranjita to run classes at the home twice a week. Inspire also provided the Orphanage with furniture, lights, fan and awning.

It wasn't long before Inspire started to step up its efforts to provide for youths seeking financial assistance to pursue higher education. Apart from generous donations from Inspire members and supporters, several members also donated laptops to the students. Initially, Inspire provided such assistance on a case by case basis. Two of the recipients, Thinesh and Usha, can be seen in the pictures.



The Inspire team members extending financial assistance to Banting matriculation student Thinesh (in red T-shirt)



Inspire members with Usha (third from right) who received financial assistance

INSPIRE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (IFA)

Eventually, Inspire made the decision that the Inspire Financial Assistance (IFA) initiative, aimed at ensuring that outstanding Indian youths do not miss out on a college education due to financial difficulties, would form the thrust of Inspire's community outreach programmes.



Inspiring speakers from Inspire at IFA 2016, PJ – Ms Shanti, Ms Puva and Ms Rajee

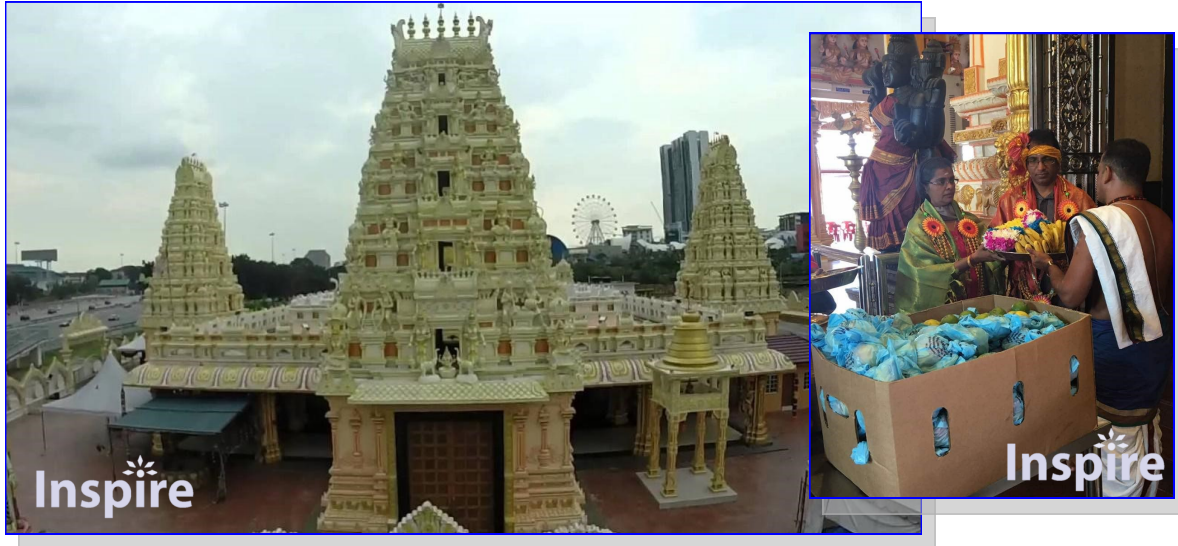


Three of the recipients of IFA 2016 in PJ receiving their cheques from Inspire committee members Mr Kuhan, Mr Shan and Mr Ponniah



IFA 2016 recipients and Inspire members at the cheque handover ceremony in Johor Bahru on 23 August 2017

THANKSGIVING – TEMPLE TRIP



I-City Midlands Maha Mariamman Temple

TEMPLE TRIP by Ambi

On the 30th July 2017, on a fine Sunday morning, the INSPIRE Team organised a prayer session at the I-City Midlands Maha Mariamman Temple in Section 7, Sham Alam. This temple was chosen as it is situated in a central location which made it easily accessible for those in the Klang Valley. The Prayers began at 9am and was followed by a Bhajan session by our members. Light refreshments were served at the temple premises after that.

The idea of a temple prayer was mooted by some of our committee members as a platform where some of us, together with our family members, could have a chance to interact and build on the relationship and connections that we have made amongst us. It was also intended to be a thanksgiving prayer for Inspire's successful activities in a spiritual environment. To those who attended, it was a nostalgic event as it brought us back to our USM days when we all used to go by bus to the different temples in Penang (such sweet memories!).

The INSPIRE team hopes that this will be an annual event. We also hope that each and every one of you will not only help us in cash but also in kind. Do be part of the team and take part in our future activities and feel 30 years younger when you link up with all your "old" friends. This is the chance for us to go back to "anthanal nyabagam."



MOVING ON – THE WAY FORWARD



Inspire Graduate Development Programme (IGDP) *by Param*

Aligned with INSPIRE’s core focus on [community development through education](#), an initiative is being embarked to support the undergraduates who are the recipients of Inspire’s financial assistance with a personal development programme through mentorship and other relevant activities that will focus on three key primary areas:

1. Coaching, guidance and monitoring to ensure they consistently excel in their studies in the university.

2. Work closely with the undergraduates in their final year to pave the way for career development.

3. Once they start working, close the loop by ensuring that this group plays an integral role and acts as a role model for other potential Indian undergraduates.

Mentors & Mentees have been identified in the respective regions. Initial discussion and play-book have been shared with our regional leaders. We will officially kick-off this program on August

19th 2017. This program will be launched in conjunction with the IFA 2017 Cheque Handover Ceremony for the new intake of undergraduates. This will provide a unique setting, providing our 2016 recipients the exposure to IGDP rigor and by the same token have the new IFA 2017 recipients understand the framework of IGDP which they will embark on from 2017 onwards as well.



“His Name is Today”

"We are guilty of many errors and many faults,
But our worst crime is abandoning the children,
Neglecting the fountain of life.
Many of the things we need can wait.
Right now is the time his bones are being formed,
His blood is being made,
And his senses are being developed.
To him we cannot answer 'tomorrow'
His name is Today".

*by Gabriela Mistral
(Nobel Prize winning poet from Chile)*



Inspire

PERSATUAN KEBAJIKAN INSPIRE [INSPIRE SOCIETY]

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