



Shree Ghanapathy Temple

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Easwaramma Livelihood Project - Jaffna

The opportunity has arisen for us at Temple and adjoining Sai Mandir to support the people of the Northern Province of Sri Lanka.

We hope in time to extend this support to those throughout the country.

Young Sai devotees in the Northern Province, under the guidance of Jaffna Sai Centre, have started a voluntary project to help the widows and orphans in Jaffna and the surrounding areas. They have been encouraging the local Tamil farmers to gather their crops of rice and have employed local women to process the crops using traditional methods of separating and purifying the raw rice, parboiled rice and rice flour. The Sai volunteers then package them hygienically for transport to the UK.

Devotees in the UK will be given the opportunity to purchase these items at the Temple in order to support, in a very tangible way, those who are still suffering in the aftermath of the war. This is a “not-for-profit” organisation, and all proceeds will be ploughed back into the project to help buy good quality seeds for the farmers, funds for the widows and orphans and also to purchase machinery for high quality packaging of the rice, flour and local spices, encouraging those affected by the war to regain their trust, confidence and dignity, by helping them to earn a decent living and to stand on their own two feet.

Satwic food commodities like rice, parboiled rice, rice flour, chilli powder, dhal and associated products are already being sold to the local/domestic market and the youth wish to now try to expand on a small scale to reach devotees in the UK. These products are traditional to the region and can be supplied from existing sources and hopefully, in the near future, will be completely produced by the self-sufficient farmers of the region. The young volunteers are already working on a website for the organisation, with the hope that, should this initial pilot project be successful, a small regular consignment can be shipped over on a monthly basis, with supporters having the opportunity to order items on-line, to be collected from the Temple. The hope is that, should this project blossom, similar projects will be set up in other needy areas of the Northern and Eastern Provinces, helping to encourage recovery and bring hope to the most vulnerable members of our community.

This project will be launched on:

Thaipongal Day - Sunday 15th January 2012

The first consignment of raw rice, parboiled rice and rice flour is already on its way from Jaffna and, with God's Grace, the first packet of rice will be used to make the Pongal during the morning service for Thaipongal at the Temple. The rest of the consignment will then be blessed by the priests, prior to selling to devotees on that day. Please come and support this very worthy cause and help us to send a message to our brothers and sisters that we are thinking about them, and sending them all our support and best wishes.

Let us help to restore their Hope and Faith in Humanity.

In humble service to our beloved Lord Ganesha.