

Pudiyador Times

Issue 15 July 2013

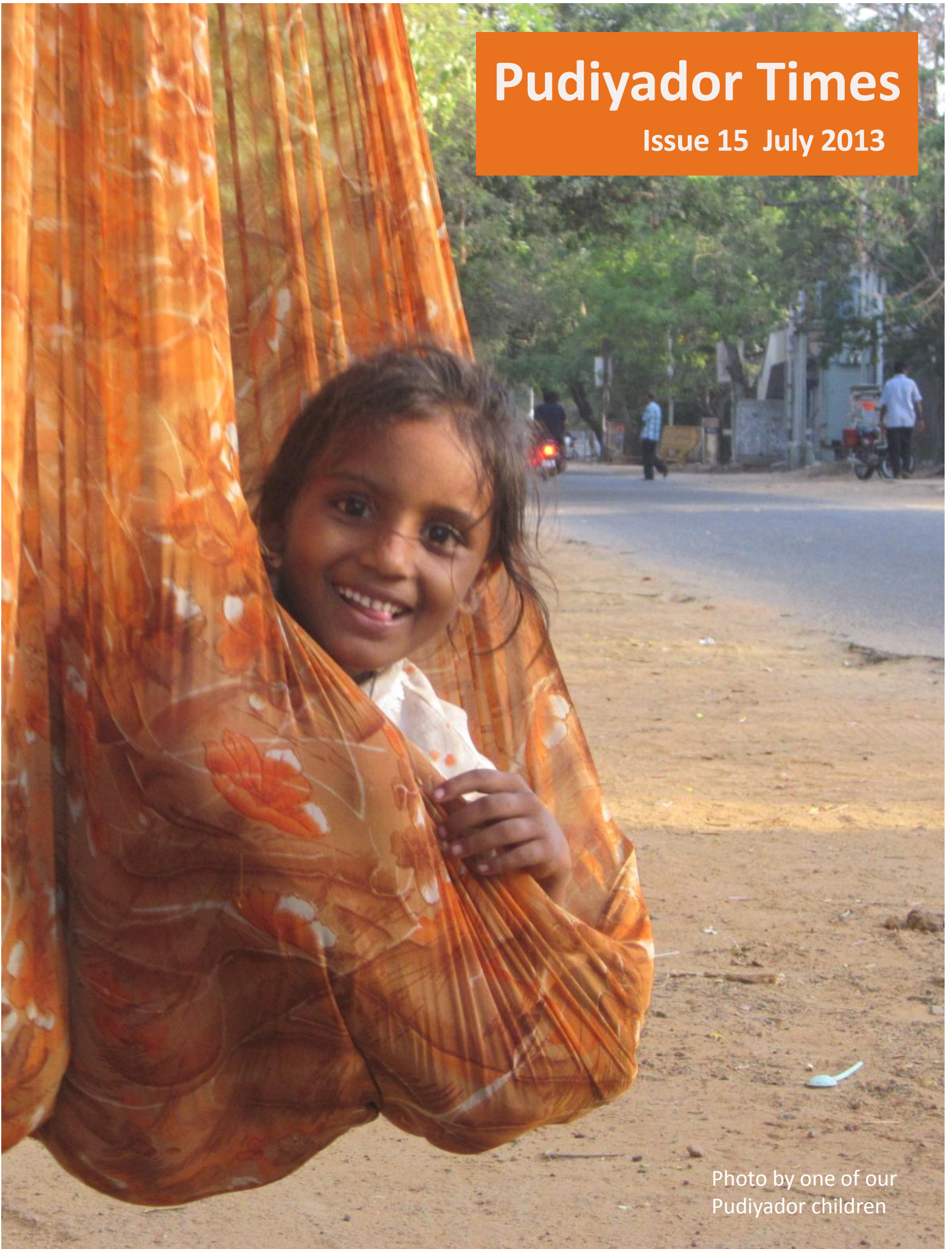


Photo by one of our
Pudiyador children

Welcome to the summer edition of Pudiyador Times! The month-long break was filled with folk dance and theater workshops, visits to the zoo, performances at a nearby village, visual arts classes, and ultimate frisbee training sessions, concluding with a mini-tournament on the beach. This was the first summer camp at our newest center in Ramapuram, and so we had 5 ultimate frisbee teams preparing every week, coached by players from Chennai Ultimate Frisbee Club, with discs donated by Ann Arbor Ultimate Association! An entire week was spent on preparing for the tournament, with staff members practicing cheer songs, making banners, with coaches and players discussing strategies.



On tournament day, over 200 kids got together at Besant Nagar beach, and the games began after a series of performances showcasing the activities from each of the centers. The energy in the tournament was wonderful, with the staff cheering for all the kids, players exhibiting a sense of camaraderie through the sport, and the coaches vicariously experiencing the sense of joy of playing the game.

Some of the best attributes of ultimate frisbee were on display that evening - spirited play, mutual respect and gender equality. This summer of sports was exciting and exhilarating for us and the children of Pudiyador. Hope you enjoy reading about it in this issue as much as we enjoyed making it!

An “Ultimate” Summer!

Its summer camp season again- and what’s summer at Pudiyador without ultimate? Our theme with the kids this summer was “emotions”, especially those surrounding gender roles and conflict resolution. But the kids had other things on their minds. The ultimate bug has taken a stronghold and with school being out that’s just what they wanted to do. So we regrouped, did some research, modified a curriculum from an Australian school to meet our 4-week timeframe and we were ready! Under the new plan our children will still explore their complex feelings and emotions but through the sport they love so much. And what a summer we’ve had!



We decided that the month-long summer camp will culminate in an ultimate tournament. Each of our five centers fielded a team of 10 to 15 players, each team played every other team through several 20-minute matches where the referee

would select 5 players randomly from each of the opposing team line-ups. To train for this tournament, we approached the ultimate Frisbee community in Chennai and Bangalore and soon had 10 coaches or 2 coaches per center.



In the meantime

The kids went on fieldtrips to a local park and a neighboring village and participated in photography workshops. They practiced folk arts like Oyilattam and Karagattam and learned Kattaikoothu - a performance art form centered around storytelling. Over several sessions, each child came up with stories which were amalgamated in the Kattaikoothu format. The kids from the teenage program (that we run for at-risk youth at the PUK center) participated in an amateur film-making workshop (all the teenagers at this program were ultimate players).



Photos from photography workshop on display



They also wrote a classic short around a rag-tag ultimate team that eventually grows together to beat a more affluent team against difficult odds. The kids wrote the script, picked the cast, directed and filmed the movie! They are now in the process of editing it and will soon arrange a premiere for their movie.

Day of the tournament!

A beautiful and festive day at the beach. Each center performed their opening acts while Winner's Bakery catered the event. Goal of the tournament: to have a good clean playing experience - it was less about winning and identifying superstars in ultimate and more about just enjoying the game and playing in front of their peers.



Important lessons learned

Throughout the month of activities leading to the tournament, the children enjoyed lively discussions and hearty disagreements. Our girls and boys learned practical lessons about the importance of gender equality. Several girls were handlers (sort of de facto captains) for their teams and this was empowering for them. This also offered the boys in these teams a different perspective when they were led by these girls. It helped break some of the stereotypes around girls and sports. At other times we had opportunities to guide our children how to handle themselves when their own personal goals were at odds with the tournament's overarching goal. They learned so much about validation, winning and losing gracefully, and teamwork. Every year, Chennai hosts Agninakshatra, a serious Ultimate Frisbee tournament featuring the best players from all over the country. Fresh from the success of our summer camp, we fielded a Pudiyaador team at this tournament, with players from every center. Ours was the only children's team at the tournament and although we lost every one of our matches, we played some amazing ultimate and walked away as the darlings of tournament. The perfect icing on the cake to one of the best summer camps we have ever had!



Photo feature: LOGO CREATION

This is the story of how our children found their group core and displayed it not only on the playing arena, but also on canvas.

A sense of belonging: logos are not only created by the players from every team, but also by all the other kids in their center.



The process

1. As a team, what qualities would we like to stand for?

Hard work

Patience

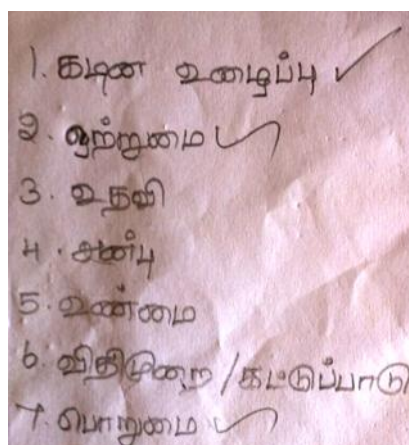
Love

Fairness

Unity

Truth

Helping each other

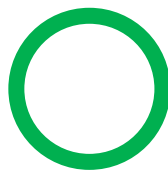


* Examples from one center (PSA)

2. What shapes, forms and colors can we use to represent such qualities?



Helping each other



For unity



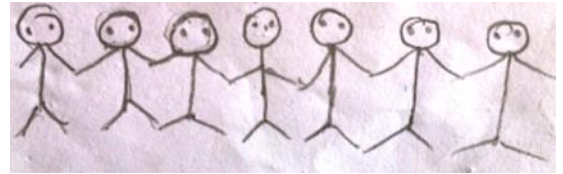
For strength

3. Let's vote!

All the kids voted on the concept they liked best. In this example, they chose the joint virtues of **hard work, unity, and patience** :)

... logo creation

4. Now its drawing time! We put up our designs on the wall and explained what they mean to everyone else.



Joined hands (help, unity)



Tortoise (hard work, patience).



Beehive (unity, hard work)



Anthill (you get the idea!)

5. Democracy at its best :) Everyone (including staff) voted, and the tortoise won! (the girl who drew it is usually shy and not a great artist, so she was pleasantly surprised!)



6. But... a tortoise for a Frisbee tournament? Well, *our* tortoise has a fast spinning Frisbee for a shell (notice the speed curves). The circular shape signifies unity and we have the Pudiyaador logo in the middle!



Final logos from each center!



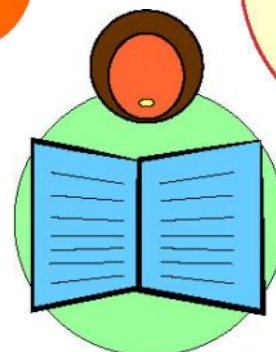
Ramapuram-2



Saligramam



Vannandurai



Urur Kuppam



Ramapuram-1

QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

April

We developed a Child Protection policy (CPP) that we hope to implement in all centers. It includes guidelines for identification of high-risk children, referral to professionals, individual treatment plans and follow-up. In June, the first counseling sessions started.



Street Kids Initiative: Some children in our communities don't have homes, some others do but for various reasons end up living on the streets. We continue to engage these worst-affected children in our outreach activities.



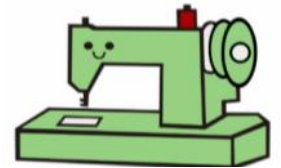
May

May = Annual Summer camp! The month was filled with a whole range of fun activities. Hope you read all about it [here!](#)



June

We started a mothers' tailoring program at PV center. When a few mothers expressed their interest in a tailoring class, we figured it's a great opportunity to enhance our reach in the community.



Alumni Club: To keep engaging our alumni in meaningful ways, we started teaching spoken English and computer lessons for kids aged 13 and above who graduated from Pudiador.



PUK Boys' Club- Teenage Sports Program: We started a teenage development program in collaboration with the Shastri Nagar J-5 Police station. Emphasis is on conducting sports-related group activities for teenagers to help them mature into healthy adults.



Have you been wondering what *you* can do to help?

Here are our *current and specific* needs —————>

YOU CAN TEACH ONLINE!

Using Skype, you can connect with our children during weekday /evenings and weekends (IST) to:

- Help with academics
- Impart any of your skills
- Demonstrate science experiments
- Hold discussions about relevant and important topics
- Simply chat with the children about their lives and yours



Sign up for a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly slot at:

www.pudiyador.org/signup

We welcome donations

([PayPal](#), [Google Checkout](#), Cash, or Cheque)

- One-time or monthly
- We're a 501(c)(3) organization
- We also have FCRA clearance

All donations are tax-exempt

Spread the word

- Partner us with other NGOs
- Ask your employer about CSR
- How about matching donations?



1. Doctors!

- Need doctors to volunteer once a month for health check-ups in our communities. Any kind doctors you know of who would be willing to help?
- Need a child psychologist who speaks Tamil. Know any?

2. Projector

- Skype classes are clearer on the big screen
- We also screen educational/fun movies

3. Educational material

- Books in English for ages 3-10
- Illustrated books for non-readers
- Picture cards for innovative story telling
- Dictionaries (English and/or Tamil)
- Puzzles/activity books, board games
- Art Material: Color pencils, crayons, water-colors, paint-brushes
- Science experiment kits

4. Music and sports equipment

- Musical instruments
- Bats/balls/frisbee for group sports
- Carrom boards / Chess boards

5. Cameras and Camcorders

- Digital cameras to record activities and share between centers

6. Others

- Computer tables, Plastic chairs, Storage cupboards/bureaus, Ceiling fans

Contact our Planning Team

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We would love your feedback!

Our newsletter team would love to hear from you—after all, you are the reason our team exists! Please let us know what we can do to make this newsletter more informative and enjoyable. Or just drop a line to say hello :)

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