

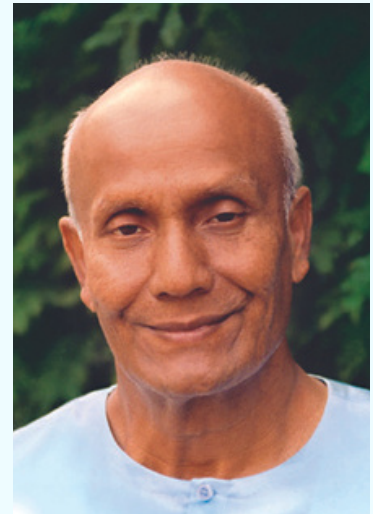
The Oneness-Heart-Tears and Smiles
WORLDWIDE HUMANITARIAN SERVICE

The Oneness-Heart-Tears and Smiles
in Support of the United Nations
Sustainable Development Goals



The Oneness-Heart-Tears and Smiles Humanitarian Service

Founded by visionary humanitarian and international harmony leader, Sri Chinmoy, The Oneness-Heart-Tears and Smiles is a network of dedicated volunteers in the medical and educational fields, of many different nationalities and faiths, with a mission to serve communities in health care, education, sports and development, economic recovery and leadership training, often through unique methodologies involving international partnership and cross-cultural dialogue, with an eye to sustainability and community ownership of projects.



Sri Chinmoy



Inspired by the philosophy of Sri Chinmoy, each project has built into it an aspect of oneness among peoples, irrespective of race, socioeconomic conditions, creed or nationality. A goal of each project is to experience with the population served a sense of mutual inspiration, joy and gratitude in the spirit of true global sustainability—based on the inherent equality of every inhabitant of this planet.

The Oneness-Heart-Tears and Smiles Humanitarian Service

The organization is politically neutral in the purest sense; it is not affiliated with any government nor does it accept funding from any government, NGO or foundation. In fact, all of the members of The Oneness-Heart-Tears and Smiles are volunteers who provide their service in the spirit of self-giving. No one receives any form of salary.



In 1970, UN Secretary-General U Thant invited Sri Chinmoy to lead twice-weekly peace meditations for delegates and staff at UN Headquarters in New York. For nearly four decades, Sri Chinmoy offered his multifaceted inspiration to the UN community through these meditations, lectures, concerts, art exhibits and other programmes for peace, and these meditations and activities continue to this day. Through this avenue, Sri Chinmoy developed friendships with numerous UN diplomats, many of whom requested his support during periods of disaster in their countries.



How the Kids to Kids Global Initiative Began

Kids to Kids is a main programme of The Oneness-Heart-Tears and Smiles humanitarian service, founded by Sri Chinmoy in 1991.



Sri Chinmoy receiving the
"Friends of the Children of Angola" Award

with Professor Ibrahim Gambari and Maria Abrantes,
the Founder of the Friends of the Children of Angola

In 2002, Sri Chinmoy, received an urgent request from United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on Africa, Professor Ibrahim Gambari, to send food, medical supplies and educational materials to the children of Angola. A peace accord had just been signed there, after almost three decades of civil war, and the plight of countless children facing starvation and disease was on the news daily. Because of this, children in many countries became aware of the crisis.



As Sri Chinmoy wanted to respond to Professor Gambari's request on a very large scale, he asked his students in 14 countries to visit children in schools, and invite them to participate in a very direct way, by creating their own Kids to Kids gift kits for the Angolan children. Many children in these countries embraced the project with great enthusiasm, and it was an immediate success in over 50 schools throughout Europe and in North America. The donor children created thousands of gift packages, which contained items needed for school and hygiene, as well as personal notes and encouraging drawings created by the children themselves. These kits were shipped to Angola in 21 sea containers which also contained desperately needed food and medical supplies. Professor Gambari guided our efforts by arranging for the humanitarian organization "Feed the Children" to receive the gifts.

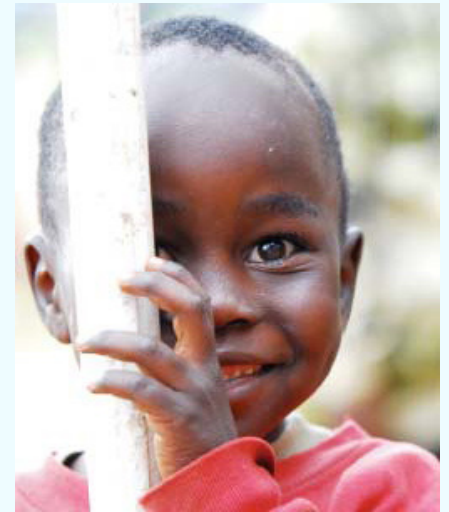


Through this simple Kids to Kids project, we all learned that individually and collectively, we can do so much to relieve suffering in the world – we need only to feel that for a friend we can do anything, and to realize that every human being is a friend currently unseen.

We learned that most children are naturally inclined towards this universal feeling.



The Kids to Kids Service Programme has given many students worldwide the opportunity to experience United Nations ideals, firsthand, by inviting them to participate in one of the many different projects sponsored by the programme, which began in 2002.



We have learned that through this avenue, children can relate to several of the Sustainable Development Goals and are eager to participate in “making things better.”

The brief case studies will show a selection of these projects, which have been mainly within the categories of the first four sustainable development goals, as well as environmental protection, as follows:

SDG 1. No Poverty

SDG 2. Zero Hunger

SDG 3. Good Health and Wellbeing

SDG 4. Quality Education

SDG 13. Climate Action



At this time in history, when we are all thinking of the Agenda 2030, we wish to offer teachers our manual, which includes descriptions of selected projects, comments from teachers, and a blueprint of how this educational module, called Kids to Kids, has been introduced to schools over the past 22 years.



Dr. Charles Mercieca, the President of the International Association of Educators for World Peace, wrote,

“The programme called Kids to Kids was developed in response to a request to Sri Chinmoy [an international peace dreamer, and founder of several initiatives dedicated to world peace] in 2004 by United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Advisor to Africa, Professor Ibrahim Gambari to send educational materials to the children of Angola... Rather than give a lecture on equality, respect for self and others and environmental protection, the program has developed a series of projects where children participate in service programs for children in disadvantaged countries. These projects or activities foster the development of skills which will enable students to develop friendship, empathy and cooperation with children in developing countries. They create attitudes of self-respect and respect for others as well as social justice and equality.”

**Charles Mercieca,
Ph.D., President,**

International Association of Educators for World Peace, NGO, United Nations – ECOSOC





Other Results of Participation for Donor Students

As a result of their participation in Kids to Kids projects, teachers say that children can become global friends at a very young age, for their own happiness and the betterment of the world; the program widens our children's understanding of the larger world family and how one child can make a difference.

Teachers also say the projects help create a sense of community; serve as a powerful vehicle for dialogue between children from diverse backgrounds; help to teach such qualities as compassion, self-giving, tolerance and forgiveness, which, in turn, lead to happiness; give donor children the opportunity to expand their hearts and bring their own good qualities forward; and teach children that we all belong to one world family.

Participation in these projects may serve the immediate self-interest of students in the donor schools, as well, since many of the best Western universities ask applicants if they have ever engaged in projects for world service.





Drawings of Love project

Following the devastating tsunami of December 26, 2004, the First Lady of Indonesia, Kristiani Herawati, called on the children of the international community to offer messages of hope for the 8,000 children orphaned by the tsunami.



This request led to the Drawings of Love project, which was initiated by The Oneness- Heart-Tears and Smiles Kids to Kids global team, through which 22,000 children from 30 countries sent drawings and messages of love and affection for distribution to the thousands of orphaned children in Banda Aceh. This became a truly global undertaking, with artwork coming from Europe, North America, South America, New Zealand and Australia and Asia.





In America, our pioneer school was the Oneness-Family Montessori School in Chevy Chase, Maryland. This school was exceptionally eager to embrace the Kids to Kids project, and its students created hundreds and hundreds of gift kits.



Visit with the Ambassador of Angola, Josefina Pitra Diakite
and the Chairperson for the Friends of the Children of Angola, Ms. Maria Abrantes
January 13, 2003



The school was founded in 1988, by Atmatyagi Andrew Kutt, who is a student of Sri Chinmoy, and it has been dedicated to the principles and vision of the United Nations since its inception. The curriculum includes a focus on the mission of the United Nations, and the school has celebrated United Nations Day with colorful festivals every year since it was founded.

“Dear Sri Chinmoy

On behalf of all of our students, teachers and parents, I am writing to tell you what an inspiring opportunity the Oneness-Heart-Tears and Smiles Program has been for our students over the past two years. World service is a major part of our school’s mission. Your program, which helps so many people in areas of dire need around the world, has been a perfect way for our students to serve the world. I can think of no better way to inform our students about the world situation and to involve them directly in world service projects. Through the Oneness-Heart-Tears and Smiles Program, our students have gathered 80 boxes of educational and medical supplies for the children of Angola. They have also raised impressive sums of money through various activities, such as the operation of their school store. Then they have donated the money to various areas of need around the globe identified by your program. Such activities have made our students much more knowledgeable about the world. Moreover, these activities have enabled our students to “open up their hearts” to other people, especially children who are less fortunate than they are.”

Atmatyagi Andrew Kutt

Executive Director

Oneness-Family Montessori School

Excerpt from a letter to Sri Chinmoy, dated 15 December 2003

The Oneness-Family Montessori School also has a global citizenship program for children, called Peacekeepers. This program focuses on 20 different areas of skill development necessary for students to become young diplomats, and it is very popular among the students.

Over the years since students in the school first participated in 2003, its students have responded in a powerful way to requests from Kids to Kids projects to support children in many different disaster-struck countries. Many of the participating students have said that creating the Kids to Kids Kits made them feel that they were personally doing something important to help children in less fortunate parts of the world.

“Because of the Oneness-Heart-Tears and Smiles Program, I was inspired two years ago to begin our Peacekeepers Club.

The Peacekeepers Club is a voluntary after-school education program which teaches students the twenty different skill areas they need in order to become global citizens. We have designed many activities to enable the students to learn these global skills in interesting and exciting ways. Students who participate in Peacekeepers are very enthusiastic, sincere and hardworking. Yet at the same time, we have lots of fun. The club is very successful and quite a number of schools around the nation have now been starting Peacekeepers Clubs as well.

Our Peacekeepers students feel a great sense of accomplishment that they are learning such important skills and that they are doing so many good things for the world. None of this would have happened if it were not for your inspiration. I believe that this new children’s movement is due to the opportunities provided by the Oneness-Heart-Tears and Smiles Program.

I look forward to our school’s continued participation in the efforts of the Oneness-Heart-Tears and Smiles Program. I am sure we have only begun this journey of world-service, and I am confident that with our students’ help we can accomplish great things in the future. ”

**Atmatyagi Andrew Kutt
Executive Director**

**The Oneness-Family Montessori School
*Excerpt from a letter to Sri Chinmoy, dated 15 December 2003***



Educating Children in World Service

In 2011, a representative of our humanitarian service organization, Kids to Kids, was invited to an official United Nations Infopoverty Conference at UN headquarters in New York. One of the main speakers Mr. Jimmy Sherlock included our organization in his presentation, and we were asked to share Sri Chinmoy's sayings about initiating and participating in world service. In our experience, these sayings do, in fact, work to motivate children to participate.

The United Nations was looking for new ways to inspire humanity to get involved in world service to eradicate extreme poverty. Making Sri Chinmoy's thoughts available to students, schools, and service clubs, and introducing some of our Kids to Kids projects in schools, have been significant avenues to the introduction of the philosophy of universal oneness to the children of the world.

QUOTES ON THE THEME OF WORLD SERVICE from the writings of Sri Chinmoy

"The greatest mistake in life is to remain indifferent to the world situation."

"Widen your heart to include the four corners of the globe in your own life."

"If you want to leave the world better than you found it, then use your heart of compassion and your life of concern."

"Every day you must prepare yourself to be a better citizen of the world."

"To serve and never be tired is love."

"Every self-giving effort of every human being is needed to change the face of the world."

"To help others go in the right direction, we must go in that direction first."

"Only an explosion of self-giving activities from each individual can save this precarious world from destruction-night."

"The more the heart can do, the greater the life becomes."

"Be always fast, very fast, in consciously becoming one with the tears and smiles of this entire world."



The very high suicide rates among aboriginal children, and children in the South Pacific Island Nations, are caused, in part, by feelings of being isolated and rejected. Under-Secretary-General Anwarul Chowdhury has been deeply concerned about the child suicide rate in the Pacific Island Nations, and in 2004 he asked Sri Chinmoy to be of service to children in these nations.

Our humanitarian team created “sister schools,” linking students in 75 schools in Australia with students in schools of the Island Nations. The simple projects of connecting children as pen pals, and the sharing of drawings by children in donor nations, can be lifesaving for children suffering from the loneliness of isolation.

One of our projects is to encourage schools to start a Friendship Art Project in the school, to coincide with UN Volunteer Day or the International Children’s Day. We identify as recipients of the artwork children who are on the fringe, such as children from low economic groups, minority groups of different nationalities, and children in hospitals and orphanages. Often these children are rejected by other children. In another of our projects, students in schools in developed countries send messages, and artwork of friendship, to children in recipient schools. In a third type of project, students create Kids to Kids packages, which may include school supplies, books and simple hygiene items, to send to children in parts of the world suffering from serious poverty. These activities create bridges of friendship for both the children who receive the messages, artwork, and packages and those who send them. For the recipient children, the program is invaluable, because it means acceptance and friendship, while children in the donor schools benefit immensely from feeling that they can do something to make a child happy.



Children know no boundaries; nor does suffering. In observing how the global concerns of environment, development and economic stability can bring the peoples of the world together, we strongly feel that these challenges can enable, and even compel, us to overcome differences, and dissolve boundaries, in anticipation of the day when world oneness will be a reality. We are convinced that this goal will be reached by all of humanity one day. Large-scale assistance from more fortunate countries, communities, institutions and individuals determined to think and act globally is essential to bridge the enormous gap between developed countries and developing countries. At this point, charity is no longer the issue. We are one family.



Exhibition of Paintings for Happiness United Nations Headquarters

**Commemorating
the International Day of Happiness, March 20,
a United Nations Initiative**



As children are our most cherished resource, their happiness is the main goal of Kids to Kids. Inspired by Bhutan’s visionary philosophy of Gross National Happiness (GNH) and the United Nations’ subsequent proclamation of March 20th as the International Day of Happiness, Kids to Kids began the Happiness Art Project in 2017. In this project, we aim to inspire children around the globe by raising their awareness of the International Day of Happiness and Bhutan’s pivotal role in its formation.

Children in 27 countries created over 2,000 happiness drawings for the children of Bhutan. Prof.

Harashita Sunaoshi of Kyoto Seika University, Japan, and Prof. Utsahi Nérée St-Amand of the University of Ottawa, Canada, visited seven schools and three GNH-related institutions on successive trips to Bhutan, and delivered 300 of these happiness drawings, held art exhibitions at schools, and engaged in dialogue on the theme of happiness with students, educators, GNH policy makers and practitioners.



Kindly see the Slideshow

<https://icedrive.net/s/iu817t6X2YxfAbyR8uYY2vNCzVAR>

In March, 2018, Ranjana Ghose, curator of the Jharna-Kala Art Foundation, opened a stunning exhibit, sponsored by the Mission of the Kingdom of Bhutan to the United Nations, entitled “Paintings for Happiness”, at the UN Headquarters in New York City. Featured were 15 inspiring works by Sri Chinmoy, a renowned artist as well as a humanitarian. The exhibit also included a large number of the drawings created by children worldwide as part of the Happiness Art Project. The drawings were exhibited in art portfolios as well as on two video screens. Bookmarks on the theme of happiness were offered daily to hundreds of children touring the United Nations. The response was astounding and deeply inspiring.



**Ranjana Ghose,
Curator of the Jharna-Kala Artwork
and Aye Aye Myint U**



Kids to Kids has, over many years, also offered some of Sri Chinmoy's artwork to schools in many different countries, in partnership with the Jharna-Kala Art Foundation.

We provide laminated reproductions of paintings that have uplifting titles, such as Compassion, Grace, Tolerance, Happiness, Perfection, Dream and World Harmony. Teachers have told us that this artwork, hung in the halls where students pass daily, has been more effective than words in creating positive changes in their students.



Sri Chinmoy's students in Germany, Austria and Switzerland began collecting food and clothing as part of The Oneness-Heart for Russia project in December 1990.

We filled nine trucks with 1,000 boxes of food and clothing weighing 22 tons.

The first convoy left Freiburg on 11 January 1991 and reached Moscow on 17 January.

A second convoy followed in August 1991.



In December 1991 Sri Chinmoy asked his students to send a third convoy of food and clothing to Moscow as soon as possible. Over the next 14 days, 16 tons of food was collected and purchased

Amongst the three convoys, 58 tons of food and clothing were delivered to Moscow and distributed throughout the capital and to other cities in Russia as well.

Russia

3

GOOD HEALTH AND
WELL-BEING

In 1992, the President Gorbachev was the first person to request Sri Chinmoy and his students to offer humanitarian assistance to his country.

The Oneness-Heart-Tears and Smiles humanitarian service began in 1992 with the personal request of President Gorbachev to Sri Chinmoy for assistance in treating Russian children with leukemia.

With inspiration and guidance from Raisa Maximovna Gorbachev, the primary health project selected for the Gorbachev Foundation was the amelioration of the then desolate conditions for Russian children with leukemia and other blood diseases.



Between 1993 and 1996, we sent more than USD 2.5 million worth of chemotherapeutic drugs and other pharmaceuticals, plus support equipment, to treat children with leukemia at the Research Institute of Pediatric Hematology.

We also participated in training Russian doctors in the use of the most modern and effective treatments against leukemia.

By sending large quantities of chemotherapeutic drugs, as well as multi-million dollar diagnostic and treatment equipment, Sri Chinmoy and his students, through The Oneness-Heart-Tears and Smiles, have assisted the Research Institute of Pediatric Hematology in increasing the recovery rate of the afflicted Russian children they treat from 7 per cent to 70 per cent, the same as in Western developed countries.



Russia

3

GOOD HEALTH AND
WELL-BEING

Sri Chinmoy's
Humanitarian service
"The Oneness-Heart Tears and Smiles"

For the Raisa Gorbacheva
Memorial Institute of children's
oncology, hematology and
transplantation in St. Petersburg
opened in 2007



Sri Chinmoy student doctors/nurse
team who visited the hospital
and had the honor
of serving in some way



Clowns from Slovakia,
Canada and Austria

Russia

3

GOOD HEALTH AND
WELL-BEING

**PARTNERSHIP IN HAPPINESS:
FRIENDSHIP ART BETWEEN
CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS**



We connected children from Raisa Maximovna's Hospital in Saint-Petersburg, Russia, who were being treated with chemotherapy

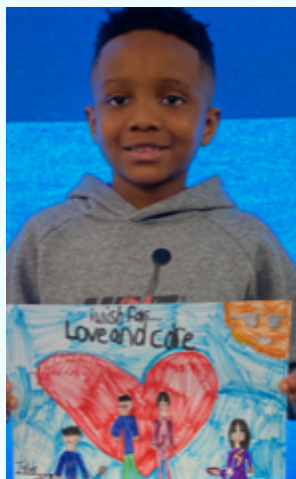
**project coordinator: Alisa Georgievna Volkova
pediatrician, hematologist**

with children in the Policlinico – Vittorio Emanuele, in Catania, Italy

**project coordinator: Dr. Cinzia Favara Scacco,
Art Therapist, Psycho Oncologist, President, LAD ONLUS**

We have also received drawings from children from schools in Italy, Portugal and the United States.

They shared inspiring and encouraging artwork and messages with children in hospitals.



Dolls for Africa

Our mission: to make sweet, simple cloth dolls that African children can relate to.

**"Dolls for Africa
is a project of great
compassion
and caring.
I endorse it enthusiastically."**

**Archbishop
Desmond Tutu**

Young children in the Gifted Education Program from one of the Madison County Schools in Mississippi make dolls for the "Dolls for Africa" project in 2021.



Dolls for Africa

1
NO POVERTY

4
QUALITY EDUCATION

"I am deeply grateful that I was able offer my students the opportunity to be involved in the Dolls For Africa Project.

I have been a teacher for thirty five years, and this is one of the most rewarding endeavors of my career."

**Sibyl Ross,
Gifted Education Teacher Highland Elementary School Madison County Schools,
Ridgeland, MS. (recently retired)**



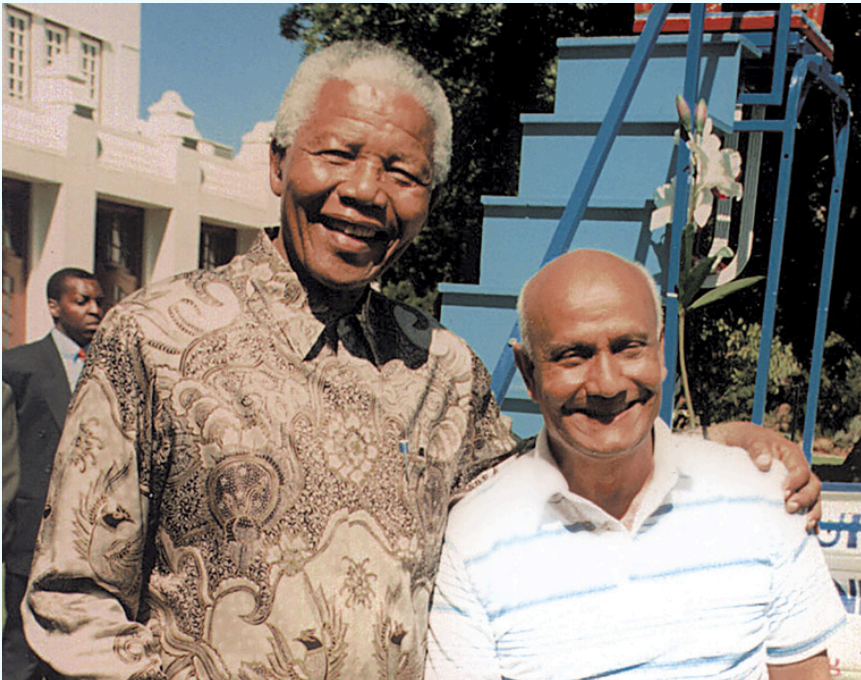
Dolls for Africa



1
NO POVERTY

4
QUALITY EDUCATION

The dolls were offered to children in one of the orphanages under the umbrella of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund.



Nelson Mandela and Sri Chinmoy





**Kids to Kids celebrate
Mother Teresa's canonization
by sending 5,500 Kids gift packs
to India for the Missionaries of
Charity**

**"The greatest good is what we do
for one another."**

**"If you cannot feed a hundred
people, then feed just one."**

Mother Teresa



**1
NO POVERTY**

**4
QUALITY EDUCATION**



To pay homage to Mother Teresa on the occasion of her canonization, organizers of Sri Chinmoy's ongoing humanitarian program, the Oneness-Heart-Tears and Smiles, arranged for 50 schools in the Czech Republic to put together 5,500 Kids-to-Kids packs containing hygiene and school supplies for Nirmala Shishu Bhavan - the Mother Teresa Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, Indian - for distribution to destitute and orphaned children.



1
NO POVERTY

4
QUALITY EDUCATION

**Kids to Kids celebrate
Mother Teresa's canonization
by sending 5,500 Kids gift packs to
India for the Missionaries of Charity**



Sister Mercina, a sister of Mother Teresa order in Calcutta said upon receiving the humanitarian container:

"We are very grateful for these gifts for they will bring joy and ease to many children. We will distribute the packages partly here in Calcutta, West Bengal and thousand will go to Urisa and other places in India."



Peace visionary Sri Chinmoy was a dear friend of Mother Teresa's.

Since first meeting her in October 1975 at an interfaith conference at United Nations headquarters in New York, they met and spoke together several times about their shared vision of a peaceful world and their efforts to help those in need.



**Sri Chinmoy with Mother Teresa
Missionaries of Charity House
Bronx, New-York, June 17th, 1997**

On Mother Teresa requests, Sri Chinmoy's organization sent over the years humanitarian supplies to the Missionaries around the world for distribution to the poor and needy.

Once she said to Sri Chinmoy: "I am so pleased with all the good work you are doing for world peace and for people in so many countries. May we continue to work together and to share together all for the glory of God and for the good of man."



**"Thank you, thank you.
How much work you do for the poor and
the needy—those poor in the spirit and
those needy in the body!...
You do beautiful work!"**

**Mother Teresa
June 17th, 1997, meeting with Sri Chinmoy**

Mother Teresa speaks with Sri Chinmoy just after viewing through a window at her Missionaries of Charity house in the Bronx the 98 boxes of medicines and medical supplies offered to her by Sri Chinmoy, June 17th, 1997.

Friendship Across Canada Programme in Celebration of National Aboriginal Awareness Day



“We want children to be aware of the difference they can make through everyday actions,”

said Nanette Braun,

Director of Campaigns in the UN Department of Global Communications

“Lifelong behaviours are shaped at an early age and we hope that providing the knowledge and tools to help build a more sustainable future will have lasting impact.”

On 9 May 2007 students from the Kitigan Zibi School in Maniwaki, Quebec, received 200 Kids to Kids packs on behalf of Peter Ballantyne Cree Nations Reserve at Pelican Narrows in Saskatchewan, which were prepared individually by students at Maple Ridge Elementary School, in Orleans, Ontario.



Friendship Across Canada Programme in Celebration of National Aboriginal Awareness Day



Students from the audience were invited to the stage to join in the Friendship Circle Dance.



“National Aboriginal Awareness Day is an opportunity for all Canadians to celebrate the contributions of First Nations, Metis and Inuit people to our country and our province. And even more importantly, it is a reminder to young Aboriginal people that their heritage and culture are a proud and strong foundation on which to build their future”.

**The Hon. James K. Bartleman,
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario**

Connecting children in the Czech and Slovak Republics, Indonesia and Guatemala

With great care and affection, our Kids to Kids volunteers from eight schools in the Czech and Slovak Republics had prepared many hundreds of Kids to Kids kits for Indonesian children.

The Kids to Kids kits, which have been delivered to millions of children worldwide during countless crises, contain school and art supplies, a small toy or plush animal, a personal note of encouragement and friendship, and a photo of the child who gave the gifts.



Such simple but heartfelt offerings serve as a powerful vehicle for dialogue between the children of different countries and backgrounds.



The Guatemalan sea container delivered 1,249 packages, 6,015 exercise books, 554 plush toys, 30 musical instruments, 40 bicycles and other sports equipment, and much more.

The total number of items was 33,763 weighing 2110 kg.

Sharing gifts and happiness in Indonesia 2020-2021

Princess Febri Dipokusumo, a district Governor of “Rotary International” in Java, instead suggested that we provide service to the children of Indonesia in a different way.

She invited Kids to Kids to be a partner in the Rotary Door to Door project, which would arrange for our gift bags to be delivered to disadvantaged children in 14 cities across five islands and six provinces in Indonesia.

We arranged for the purchase of the items, and our gift bags were prepared and distributed by Rotary International.



Prince Dipokusumo, Princess Febri and family

Sharing gifts and happiness in Indonesia 2020-2021

“All Rotarians and Rotaractors helped distribute holiday gifts for these children, in various areas from Central Java, East Java, Bali, Nusa Tenggara to Sulawesi. All worked together to share. In each of our visits to children’s homes or to homes for children with disabilities, we learned a lot about the importance of gratitude.

Myself and my family, also Rotarians and Rotaractors not only came to bring gifts but we really brought happiness to Indonesian children. We walked from village to village, along small alleys, visiting tenements. From there we increasingly realized that our lives and our children were far more fortunate. We learned a lot from this simple project. As Sri Chinmoy said when we give without expecting, then Peace will be ours.”

Febri H Dipokusumo

District Governor Rotary District 3420 Indonesia 2019 - 2020



In support of the United Nations ACT NOW Campaign

We initiated a new project, inviting the Youth in Sudaji to plant 200 fruit trees in the community starting in September 2022.



In support of the United Nations Ocean Conference

An Exhibit from the artwork and writings of Sri Chinmoy
25 June 2022, Matosinhos, Portugal, Leixões Cruise Terminal



Professor Simone Auf der Maur
University of Porto, Porto, Portugal



UN Ocean Conference

Celebrating the UN-designated International Mother Earth Day April 22

In northern Portugal,
on the International Day of Mother Earth 2023,
little seeds of hope were planted.



Artwork by Sri Chinmoy



Planting the Olive Tree – the Tree of
Peace – at the Community Garden of São
Bernardo, Aveiro, Portugal by the
students at the Centro de Estudos de
São Bernardo

The Community Garden
of São Bernardo, Aveiro



Celebrating the UN-designated International Mother Earth Day April 22



Artwork by Sri Chinmoy

“Here today, on Earth Day, we are planting this olive tree, which has long been recognized as a symbol of peace.”

Henrique Vieira,
Parish Council of São Bernardo



Celebrating the UN-designated International Mother Earth Day April 22

27 April, Ceremony, Conservatory of Music, Porto, Portugal



Beginning of the planting of the tree



Head of School Jorge Moreira

28 April, Ceremony, Secondary School in Ermesinde, Portugal



Celebrating the UN-designated International Mother Earth Day April 22

Earth Day Activities, 30 April, Escola da Ponte, Portugal
Students planting the olive tree



21 April 2023, Secondary School in Ermesinde, Portugal



Secondary school
teachers and student
teachers from Porto
University with
Professor Simone
Auf der Maur

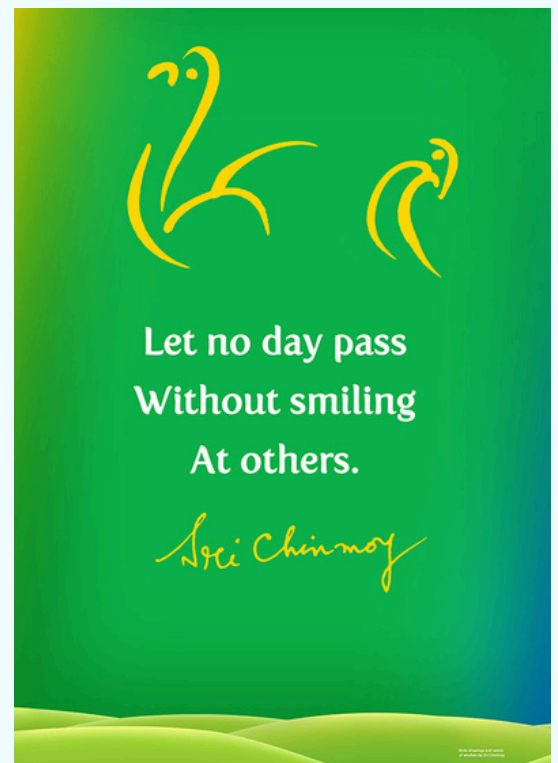
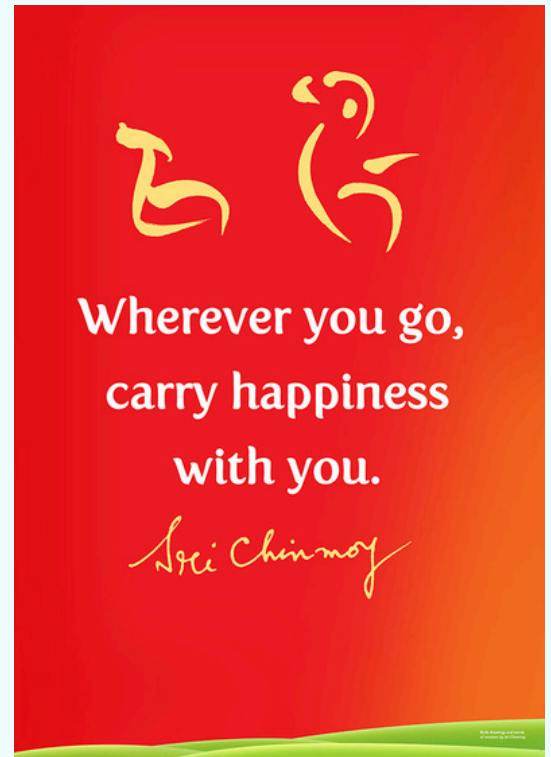
Celebration of the International Day of Happiness

Happiness Banners in Portugal in celebration of the International Day of Happiness

The Oneness-Heart-Tears and Smiles has been offering Happiness, Health and Harmony Banners with inspiring messages during the pandemic.

Five pioneer Portuguese primary and secondary schools have chosen to participate in the Happiness-Banners project, some of them having prepared ceremonies for their reception, with the participation of the different members of the community.

The Portuguese schools made their own selection from 27 aphorisms, which were printed on Happiness-Banners that the schools wanted to post so that the whole community could read and feel inspired



Portugal

3

GOOD HEALTH AND
WELL-BEING

Celebration of the International Day of Happiness



Portugal

3

GOOD HEALTH AND
WELL-BEING

Celebration of the International Day of Happiness



During the ceremony, students at Escola Básica dos 2.º e 3.º Ciclos D. António Ferreira Gomes, performing song, "Your Heart is as Beautiful as the Rainbow", by Sri Chinmoy.

"Let us allow ourselves to be carried away by the breeze of peace and love and by the current of harmony, hope and goodness and, in this way, we build, day after day, a more fraternal and colorful world. This initiative is a hymn to solidarity and a call to the practice of well-doing."

Júlia Miranda

Teacher at the Ermesinde Secondary School, who strongly supported the preparation and performance of the ceremonies



**"A cheerful mind
Has always been
a perfect guide
To a healthy body."**

Sri Chinmoy



Bulgaria

3

GOOD HEALTH AND
WELL-BEING

Celebration

of the International Day of Happiness and the International Mother Earth Day 2023

The inspiring team in Bulgaria led by Violeta Angelova celebrated both the International Day of Happiness and Earth Day with thousands of visitors to the Plovdiv and Burgas Malls.

The mall projected inspiring “Thoughts for the Day” on the theme of Happiness and Environmental Protection, on huge screens for all visitors to enjoy, as well as welcoming Sri Chinmoy’s art exhibition in the mall in honor of the International United Nations World Ocean Day.



Celebration

of the International Day of Happiness and the International Mother Earth Day 2023

On March 20, the team organized a public discussion on the occasion of the International Day of Happiness at the St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia.

A public discussion included representatives of the Youth Group of the United Nations in Bulgaria, the European Studies Club and other students at the University.



Celebration

of the International Day of Happiness and the International Mother Earth Day 2023

A friendship happiness art exchange was arranged in a primary school giving children the opportunity to reach out to other students in friendship.

During the team visit to the school in Bulgaria, there was a discussion on the topic of "Happiness," on the occasion of the International Day of Happiness. Guests were greeted with flowers, songs and a cheerful mood. The children had created drawings that would be received by students in Serbia. Some of the Bulgarian students had written essays on the topic of happiness that touched our hearts deeply.



Seven Minutes of World Peace

Seven Minutes of World Peace was born at the United Nations on United Nations Day (October 24) in 1984.

A seven-minute lunchtime meditation to honour the occasion was led by Sri Chinmoy, in a UN conference room, with many staff and delegates present.

Individuals and organizations all around the world were inspired to join the observance at the same time. The United Nations declared that, in future years, September 21 would be observed as the UN International Day of Peace.



Portugal

Celebration of the International Day of Peace

A member of the Kids to Kids team, in Coimbra, Portugal, invited the Conceição School to participate in the Seven Minutes of World Peace observance on September 21, 2022.

Professor Fernanda Silva responded enthusiastically.

All 220 students, and 22 adults (teachers, operational assistants, cooks and the Friar who works for the parish) took part in the activity, dressed in white and forming a human frame with the word Peace.



Portugal

Celebration of the International Day of Peace

“In the classroom, all the students talked about peace and carried out activities: panels, white doves, viewing images. These activities served as preparation.

... The school also distributed posters around the village to publicize the activity.”

Professor Fernanda Silva

