

**JEEVA DHANAM, ADYAR, CHENNAI,  
TAMILNADU - 5th APRIL 2003.**

It was the loving command of Rev.Mother Franceschina to look for a suitable land to build the Provincialate of newly erected South Province either in Chennai or in Chengalpattu. It was in November 2000, with the assistance of Fr.Peter Thumma, the Parish Priest of St.Louis Church, Adyar, Rev.Sr. Mildred Thambusamy purchased a property of two grounds, i.e 11 cents with a small two storied house in Gandhinagar, Adyar, Chennai- 600 020, with the approval of Mother Franceschina and her council even though it was a great struggle to mobilize the funds to purchase it. On 30<sup>th</sup> March 2003 the house was blessed by Fr. Peter Thumma, the Parish Priest of St. Louis Church, Adyar in the presence of Sr.Mildred the Provincial superior and Sr. Sagaya Cruz the Provincial Secretary and few other sisters and well-wishers. Sr. Lidwina, Sr. Balapushpam and Sr. Rajitha Putti were also present who were the first 3 pioneers. From May 1<sup>st</sup> 2003 a new Community was formed with Sr. Priscilla as the first animator of the Community till then it as affiliated to St. Mary's convent, Chengalpattu. Sr. Lidwina, Sr. Punitha and Sr. Vimala were the new members of the Community.

On 5<sup>th</sup> April 2003 Most. Rev. Dr. Aruldas James the Archbishop of Madras, Mylapore inaugurated and blessed the house as "Jeevadhanam, Carlo Giulia Home" for the street children by cutting the ribbon in the presence of Fr. Peter Thumma, Fr. C.M. Joe, Fr.Jude the Secretary, Fr. Simon Thomas the Procurator and Sr. Mildred Thambusamy. The neighbouring religious Fathers, Brothers and our Sisters from Chengalpattu, Mambakkam, Kilachery and Melamiyur witnessed the event.



The house was given the name Jeevadhanam means “Life Giving” i.e. giving life to the poverty stricken and miserable children on the streets. This is the first home for the under privileged children who are abandoned on the streets, orphans, rag pickers, children from slum areas, unwed mothers etc...

This Home was registered as Jeevadhanam Society Open Shelter Home and Rehabilitation center for street girls under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act 1975 at Chennai South on the 4th of August 2003. Jeevadhanam Society was registered as a public Charitable Trust U / S 12AA of the Income Act 1961. Thus Jeevadhanam Society was exempted from income tax and also came under 80 G.

On 14<sup>th</sup> April 2008, Jeevadhanam was shifted to Amala Deepam, Mangadu, as the old Jeevadhanam building had to be demolished. Foundation stone for the new Jeevadhanam building was laid by Fr.S.J. Antonyswamy, the Parish Priest of St.Louis Church,Gandhinagar, Adyar, Chennai. Hats off to Sr.Mildred, the Provincial Superior, and her team for sparing a thought for the destitute and distressed. The new home was blessed by Rt.Rev.Dr.Lawrence Pius, the Auxiliary Bishop of Madras – Mylapore and inaugurated by Sr.Mildred on 24th May 2009. Sr. Priscilla as the first superior of the home.

Apart from basic necessities, children are given holistic development programmes like regular education, spiritual help, medication, sanitation facilities,

recreation, counseling, outings, guidance, celebrations etc., At present there are 35 children in Jeevadhanam. They are studying in Rani Meyyammai primary and higher secondary schools. The children are talented and do well in studies. The benefactors contribute much towards the welfare of the children. Jeevadhanam Society conducts awareness programme and celebrations for children and women belong to slums in Canal Bank Road, Adyar, Rag pickers colony in Kotturpuram, and other areas that deserve help. Sisters also visit patients who are admitted in nearby Cancer hospital and talks to them words of comfort and distribute useful gifts. Jeevadhanam home is a home for the homeless, deprived and neglected ones of the society.