

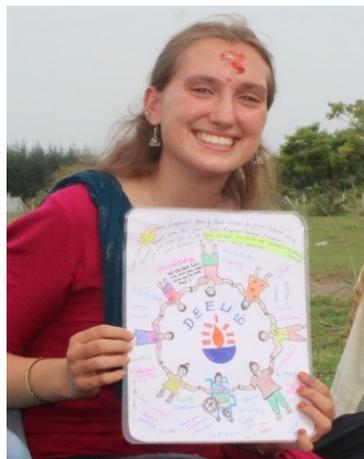
Auroville, November 2025

Dear Friends and Donors,

We wanted to share with you some moments from our recent months.

With Ida's goodbye, a chapter comes to a close

Since 2008, we have welcomed a total of 20 volunteers through 'Weltwärts', the German volunteer program for young people. Each of them spent a full year working with us, contributing their skills and good energy. Sadly, due to increased administrative requirements, this program will no longer be available for Auroville. Ida was our last volunteer through Weltwärts, a program from which we have benefited immensely. Together with the children in our weekly pottery class, Ida created a beautiful mosaic that will remain as a lasting memory of her time here.



“Dear Deepam children and team,

*I want to thank you with all my heart for the unforgettable year I was able to spend with you. Through your dedication, knowledge, and loving nature, each and every one of you has inspired me deeply. From the very beginning, I was welcomed with open arms, and you made it so easy for me to feel at home at Deepam. I will never forget the time I spent here and will always carry you and all my memories of Deepam with me. This year has been filled with so many wonderful experiences, and I've learned more than ever before, thanks to your openness, kindness, and hard work. What you are achieving through this project is truly impressive, and I am incredibly grateful and proud to have been part of Deepam. I will miss the warm, family-like atmosphere, the laughter, and of course, each one of you so much for everything!
Lots of love, **Ida**”*



Kasmitha was only thirteen.

She was the only child of loving parents who did everything possible to support their daughter, born with a rare form of spinal muscular dystrophy. Kasmitha came to Deepam for intensive physiotherapy for 11 years. For a time, she made progress, but gradually her muscle strength declined, and walking became increasingly difficult, even with calipers and despite expensive medication. Eventually, the disease began to affect her respiratory muscles as well. Kasmitha attended a local school and was a bright student, though she struggled to write quickly because her fine motor skills were also limited. What a special opportunity it was when her aunt invited her to visit Singapore during the school holidays. No one could have imagined that it would be her first and last journey. Just a few days after arriving in Singapore, Kasmitha developed a fever and was admitted to hospital. She

quickly fell into a coma and passed away due to severe pneumonia. We all deeply miss this cheerful, chatty girl who loved to sing.



A Harmonious Day Trip

At the end of August when the weather became a bit more pleasant, we packed the children and youth from our daycare program, along with all our staff, into our school bus. South of Pondicherry, we visited a temple and a church, and then sat by a riverbank in the shade of a temple complex to enjoy a delicious lunch prepared early that morning by some of our team members. On the way back, we made a stop to enjoy some ice cream together. All the children behaved exceptionally well, and the atmosphere was cheerful and lively.

What made the day very special was that seven children joined us for an outing for the very first time. Four of them have been part of our daycare for quite a while but, due to their challenging behavior, had not been able to participate in such activities until now.

Eleven-year-old Pavitha and fourteen-year-old Yoga are on the autism spectrum. They struggle with changes in routine and often experience sudden mood swings. Seven-year-old Charu and seventeen-year-old Rohith have intellectual disabilities and are constantly on the move. Due to their impulsivity, they require continuous supervision. New to the group is eleven-year-old Sabiya. She previously attended a primary school but was unable to keep up and was teased by her classmates. At Deepam, she is now flourishing - although still shy, she clearly enjoys the encouragement and support she receives from us. Also joining us was six-year-old Deva, who is diagnosed with “obstructive hydrocephalus” (his skull has fused too early). He attended our early intervention program for several years but he was frequently ill and made only slow progress. All the more reason for us to celebrate that he has now successfully transitioned into the full-day group. Finally, five-year-old Lithanya is the most astonishing child with Down Syndrome we have ever encountered. She joins in with great enthusiasm, eats independently, goes to the toilet on her own, never cries, loves to dance, and is always cheerful and content. She is an absolute joy to be around.



The good atmosphere and the togetherness at Deepam helps to tackle challenges we are facing in our work. The difficulties that are being experienced worldwide, are also here in the form of additional administrative requirements and new regulations. We are grateful, as ever, for the steadfast presence of our donors in Deepam's story. Thank you for walking alongside us through all of it.

With warm wishes from all of us,
Angelika Ehrle & Lawrence Selvi

