



Jyoti Jivanam

Light is Life

MOVEMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Celebrating

25

Years Of Service And Seva

Jyoti Jivanam Prayer



Om bhur bhuvah swah,
tat savitur varenyam,
Bhargo devasya dheemahi,
dhiyo yo nah prachodayaat

*We meditate on the glorious light of the Supreme Being.
out of whom all his creation - the earth, heavens and beyond - has come into being.
May He illumine our minds and hearts and guide our lives in the right direction.*

O Omnipresent and Omniscient God.

It is for the welfare of all that we are here in Your presence and offer our prayers.

Bless us, O Lord, so that physically we shall be strong and healthy.

**Give us Your Divine blessings, so that we may concentrate on
You and see that light is life.**

**We humbly ask You to guide the members of Jyoti Jivanam with wisdom and
understanding for the promotion of mutual harmony and co-operation among all.**

O Giver of all Peace, Prosperity and Happiness.

We offer our salutations unto You.

Om asato maa satgamaya
Tamaso maa jyotir gamaya
Mrityor maa amritam gamaya

*Lead us from untruth to truth
From darkness to light and
From death to immortality*

Om Shantih - Shantih - Shantih.

Vannakkam - Namaste - Namaskaram

The Beginning of Jyoti Jivanam

Founder's Report - 25th Anniversary of the Jyoti Jivanam Movement of South Africa



Introduction

Twenty-five years ago, the Jyoti Jivanam Movement of South Africa was born out of a simple but profound philosophy: "Light is Life." Our vision was to uplift the poor, to provide dignity through food, and to inspire a culture of service (Seva) that cuts across generations. From humble beginnings, our Movement has grown into a beacon of hope for thousands of families, shining light where darkness often prevailed.

Looking back

In the year 2000, when began with 100 hampers, it was not merely an act of charity—it was a call to action. The Movement sought to kindle the spirit of caring, urging children, schools adults, and companies and organisations alike to engage in Seva by contributing towards food hampers. Children and even pensioners saved their own money to donate, learning that even small sacrifices can create large ripples of compassion. Adults and businesses too joined hands, fostering a culture of responsibility and solidarity.

Anchored around Diwali, the Festival of Lights, we recognized that the truest light is not in lamps or fireworks, but in the radiance of kindness that illuminates the lives of those in need. Diwali became our rallying point, but our mission did not stop there. Smaller drives throughout the year extended our impact beyond a season, ensuring that care reached families when they needed it most.

Growth and Achievements

From 100 hampers in our first year to 6,000 hampers this year, our journey has been one of steady and inspiring growth. To date, the Jyoti Jivanam Movement has handed out more than 128,000 hampers—each one a symbol of light, life, and love.

Each hamper represents more than food. It represents:

- A child learning the joy of giving.
- A family experiencing dignity in times of need.
- A community living the values of compassion, generosity, and service of
- A platform for informal learning opportunities and building leadership within the organisation and beyond by empowering and building capacity for all who serve

This growth has only been possible because of the unwavering commitment of our office bearers BOTH PAST AND PRESENT, their families, volunteers, donors, and supporters. Awareness of seva was also created by engaging and collaborating with the broader community, through various media houses- radio, television and print, the website and social media . Every act of Seva, no matter how small, has built this Movement into what it is today—a family of light-bearers.



The Spirit of Seva

At its heart, Jyoti Jivanam is not about handouts—it is about upliftment. We encourage participation across age groups and communities because Seva belongs to all. By engaging children early, we have nurtured a generation that sees caring as a natural duty. By bringing in adults and companies, we have demonstrated how collective effort multiplies impact. By linking our mission to Diwali, we have celebrated light in its purest form—by dispelling hunger, loneliness, and despair.

Looking forward

As we celebrate 25 years of service, our journey is far from over. Hunger and poverty still cast shadows over many lives. But our commitment remains strong:

- To expand our reach beyond food, into holistic upliftment.
- To inspire more youth to join this culture of caring.
- To strengthen partnerships with businesses and communities.
- To ensure that Light is Life continues to shine for generations to come.

Conclusion

The Jyoti Jivanam Movement is not only a story of hamper distribution, but a story of lives touched and values nurtured. It is a story of how Seva transforms both the giver and the receiver. It is a story of light conquering darkness. The tireless efforts of the Durban South chapter under guidance from Vinod and his team have spread the wings of Jyoti Jivanam.

On this 25th anniversary- silver jubilee, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to every member of the team, of volunteers, donors, children, adults, companies and not forgetting our recipients that have walked this journey with us. Together, we have kept the flame of Seva alive. Together, we will continue to carry light into the lives of those who need it most.

I leave you with my Mantra

“WORK HARD IN SILENCE, LET YOUR SUCCESS BE THE NOISE “

Jyoti Jivanam – Light is Life. Let us keep the light burning.



Messages from the Founding Members



As a founding member of Jyoti Jivanam, it's truly humbling to celebrate 25 years of service, growth, and impact. What began as a shared vision has become a powerful force for change, thanks to the dedication of our team, supporters, and community. Here's to the lives we've touched—and the many more to come.

Sageran Govender



Dr Ramlachan who was a resident of Newlands had formulated the concept of Jyoti Jivanam, which means Light is Life. In his house when we were socialising he approached me and discussed the concept with me. I was excited and gave him my full support as I come from a background where we ran The Avoca Student Society and raised money over a number of years to support the students with bursaries and to help the sorting bodiers of the Avoca area.

In the first year we managed to raise money to buy 100 hampers which we bought and distributed at our local Spar. We roped in Sageran Govender who was a ex-Avoca boy to assist us in our drive because we knew that we needed to get the youth to assist us in our drive and Sageran being a secondary school teacher in our neighbouring school was the ideal person to assist us. Sageran being a person who was keen on social upliftment of people was an ideal person to assist in our mission.

In our second year we got more organised and I was tasked to draw up the constitution while Dr Ramlachan arranged the monthly meetings at his surgery and spread the word.

It was gratifying to see the number of residents that were keen to join our organisation. Our organisation grew from strength to strength over the years with Dr Ramlachan being the driving force, being the organisation in organisation. There was a time when we distributed 6000 hampers during the period of Diwali. We distributed hampers far and wide to areas like Chatsworth, Phoenix, Isipingo, Avoca, Newlands and Tongaat to name a few areas. I must congratulate and appreciate the members of the organisation for their hard work put in over the years.

Every cent collected is used to purchase hampers.

Dr Ramlachan funds the expenses for the packing of the hampers in Newlands and Vinod funds the expenses for packing of hampers in Chatsworth. We salute these 2 gentlemen for their magnanimous contribution over the years.

Ajay Singh



Message by the Founder and Durban South President



Dear JJ Family,

For 25 years, Jyoti Jivanam has walked alongside the most vulnerable, bringing hope, dignity, and relief to families in need. Our journey has been possible because of the generosity of partners like you, whose support has touched countless lives.

As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, our goal is to reach 125,000 families with practical support that makes a real difference in their daily lives.

We are preparing for this year's hamper distribution and kindly request that you forward your hamper requirements for 2025 to assist us with planning and procurement. This year, we are proud to announce that we the Jyoti Jivanam Durban South Division, will be packing 3,000 Hampers at Umhlatuzana Civic Hall No. 3 on 14 October 2025. Your cooperation and timely response will help ensure a smooth and impactful distribution.

Thank you for being an essential part of our story of compassion. Together, we can make this 25th year not only a celebration of our past but a promise of a brighter future for thousands of families.

Mr Vinod Naidoo - Jyoti Jivanam Durban South



Message by the President



I am deeply honoured to have been elected as the President of the Jyoti Jivanam Movement of South Africa. I pledge to uphold all the values and accolades of Jyoti Jivanam to the best of my ability. Being President is not an easy task, but I am blessed with dedicated members who have sacrificed their time, energy, and ideas to keep the light of this movement shining bright. The true foundation on which we stand is you — the recipients of these hampers. Without you, there would be no Jyoti Jivanam. Fulfilling this duty is my way of performing Seva.

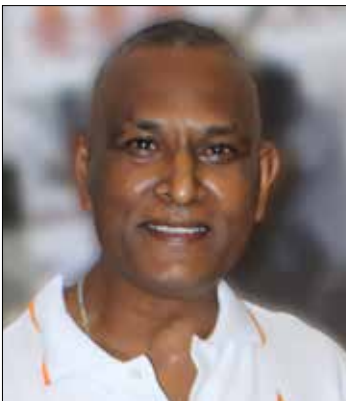
I believe Seva is the ultimate duty of every human being. If we can make even one person's life more sustainable, we have succeeded as human beings. In doing so, we also repay our "rent" for the God-given land we occupy and the air we breathe. Our duty on this earth is to care for one another. No sacrifice is greater than helping another human being in need. As the saying goes: we come with nothing and we leave with nothing, except the good memories we create through our service. To the younger generation, I humbly appeal: please partner with us and experience the true joy of Seva. We have walked a very long road together — in fact, it has taken twenty-five years of service to the community. What an achievement! If you would like to learn more about our journey, our "rags-to-25-years" story is available on our website, Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok.

I leave you with a thought that I find profoundly meaningful:

"If you can give without expecting anything in return, you have mastered the art of living."

My message to you is simple: Just be human.

Message by the Vice President



"Dear friends, supporters, sponsors, donors and well-wishers, As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of Jyoti Jivanam Movement of South Africa, we reflect on our journey of spreading light and hope to those poor families in need. Over the years, we've distributed over 120,000 food hampers. Our mission to provide food parcels to the destitute families has brought joy and dignity to countless families.

This milestone anniversary marks a significant achievement, and we're grateful for the tireless efforts of our team, donors, sponsors and community members who've made this possible. As we look ahead, we're committed to continuing our work, striving to surpass our goal of helping families and reaching 6,000 families in 2025 alone.

I'd like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our Exco team and each one of you for your contributions, donations, and support. Your kindness has been the driving force behind our success. Let's continue to spread joy and make a meaningful impact in the lives of those who need it most.

Happy 25th anniversary to Jyoti Jivanam Movement of South Africa.

May we continue to shine a beacon of hope for the underprivileged families.

Morgan Gounden

Message by the Treasurer



It is with immense pride and gratitude that I reflect on this significant 25-year anniversary. Having had the privilege of serving as both a past president and your current treasurer, I have witnessed firsthand the extraordinary journey of this organization.

As a past president, I recall the early days of laying the groundwork, building our network, and seeing our vision begin to take shape. The dedication and passion of our team were, and still are, truly inspiring. We faced challenges, celebrated victories, and, most importantly, never lost sight of our core mission to serve those in need.

Now, as the treasurer, my perspective is a bit different but no less meaningful. I see the generosity of our supporters and the careful stewardship of every single resource. Every donation, every hour volunteered, and every hamper delivered is a testament to our unwavering commitment. It is humbling to see the financial health of our organization, knowing that it directly translates into tangible hope and support for countless individuals and families.

Thank you to everyone—past and present—who has contributed to this remarkable legacy. Here's to another 25 years of making a difference in our community!

Raj Authbehari

Message by the Secretary



“Happy 25th Anniversary to Jyoti Jivanam, Congratulations & Jubilations.

I am delighted to join our members, hamper recipients, donors & sponsors to celebrate this special occasion of JJ's Silver Jubilee Anniversary. This milestone could not have been achieved without all the game players & their selfless efforts. We at JJ served the poor to help them regain their dignity & uplift their spirits for over 2 decades.

It was no easy task for the members to have accomplished their goals & ambitions. We waded through many difficult challenges such as economic recession, Covid, looting, natural disasters, etc.

A special thanks to the Exec committee for their sterling efforts to do this Seva with passion & compassion and keep the JJ light on at all times.

On behalf of my family I wish JJ every success for many years ahead, I pray & hope JJ continue to grow from strength to strength. Light is Life. God bless JJ forever.

Rani Jayarajh





Congratulations Jyoti Jivanam on reaching 25 years.

As a former President of this Team J.J. I wish to convey my heartfelt sentiments to all in always ensuring a beautiful and successful food hamper drive for the deserving in our community. The pleasure to serve is overwhelming which brings about inner peace ...satisfaction and gratitude...We have come a long way in this journey and hope to reach greater milestones with Jyoti Jivanam.

Thank You All in making this collective mission possible.
God Bless. Yours in Service.

Saras Bhanjan



My warmest congratulations to you and the entire organization on reaching this incredible 25-year milestone!

A Reflection on 20 Years of Service

As we celebrate 25 years of this organization's incredible journey, I'm filled with immense gratitude to have been a part of it for over two decades. Looking back on the past 20 years, I see a tapestry woven with countless moments of compassion, community, and resilience. We've not only delivered food hampers, but we've also delivered hope to countless families and individuals in need. We've seen firsthand the power of a simple act of kindness, and we've witnessed the profound impact our collective efforts have had on the lives of the less fortunate. This journey has been a privilege, and it's a testament to what a dedicated group of people can achieve when we come together for a common purpose. Here's to the next chapter of service, and to continuing to make a difference, one food hamper at a time.

Yasheen Authbehari



Namaste

My Heartfelt Congratulations to Jyoti Jivanam on Reaching 25years of Successful Hamper Drive. I'm with the organization from Inception and I have seen it grow from Strength to Higher purpose. I Thank All our JJ Team Donors and Sponsors and not forgetting our Receptients that's passionate in Service
God bless

Love from
Maureen Maharaj



Celebrating 25 Years of selfless Service

"Jyoti Jivanam Movement of South Africa, 25 years of selfless service and compassion have touched the lives of so many. Your commitment to providing food parcels and support to the destitute is truly commendable.

Here's to many more years of spreading love, kindness, and hope.

Morgan Gounden



Wealth is beneficial to the wealthy only when spent on dharma and in charity I am proud to be an architect of this organisation which serves the poor and destitute people of community.

Roy Singh





Jyothi Jivanam..Life is light

My late wife Nishi Nursayhe and I were involved with the Jyothi Jivanam Movement since its inception in the year 2000. A few concerned citizens residing in the Castlehill area, initiated the concept of assisting the needy during the month of Diwali.

Food hampers are packed by volunteer members and distributed through various organisations and individuals. It is an exciting experience to witness the initial distribution of 70 hampers in the year 2000 to currently 6000 food hampers per

event.

I am proud to be serving such an organisation and wish that it would grow from strength to strength distributing many more food hampers to the needy.

Roy Nursayhe

Presidents and Founding Members



2015 AGM



Honored Departed Members



Nandraj Deonarain
02.07.1932 - 12.04.2014



Rishi Maharaj
19.09.1958 - 01.07.2008



Amrit Pahlad
14.09.1958 - 14.07.2020



Shamina Panday
13.10.1959 - 16.06.2020



Mr Venugopal Naicker Dan
22-05.1947 - 25.07.2020



Randeer Singh (Johnny)
01.05.1940 - 07.2015



Ringa Ramsamy
1953 - 2022



Perumal Subramony (Vishnu)
21.10.1962 - 9.02.2023



Satish Mohan (Babloo)
10.07.1967 - 13.08.2021



Dishay Rawjee
14.12.1983 - 21.08.2021



Thangevelu Naidoo (Joe)
20.08.1945 - 06.07.2017



Mogambary Naidoo
14.09.1937 - 20.05.2025



Lucky Singh
23.09.1946 - 06.04.2018



Nishi Nzursayhe
29.01.1962 - 15.10.2016



Honsraj Ramlachan (Bones)
10.12.1954 - 14.01.2010



Lorraine Sukdeo
31.07.1974 - 01.07.2025



Our Purpose and Mission



Jyoti Jivanam Movement of South Africa: 25 Years of Service, Seva, and Sustained Impact

Founded in the year 2000 by Dr. Prithy Ramlachan and joined by like-minded visionaries Mr. Ajaicoomar Singh and Mr. Sageran Govender, the Jyoti Jivanam Movement of South Africa began with a simple yet powerful act of compassion—the distribution of 100 food hampers at Spar in Newlands West, Durban.

That moment of giving became the seed of a movement that has grown for 25 years, rooted in the belief that no one should go hungry. Today, we proudly work toward distributing 6,000 hampers in 2025, bringing our 25-year milestone total to 120,000 families served.

At the heart of our mission is a commitment to UNSDG Goal 2: Zero Hunger. This act of food distribution is more than a service—it is our identity. It's how we began, how we grew, and how we continue to serve. Year after year, it is the one act that has consistently defined who we are.

As we mark this 25th anniversary, we know there is no better way to celebrate than with those who have always been central to our journey—our recipients. Their stories, struggles, and gratitude have kept us grounded and driven us to continue our work with humility and love.

We also take this moment to honour the late members of Jyoti Jivanam, whose dedication and selfless service remain an enduring source of inspiration. Though they are no longer with us, their light still shines in every action we take and every family we help.

In short, we are not merely celebrating 25 years of existence—we are celebrating 25 years of service. Let this milestone be a reaffirmation of our purpose, a rededication to our community, and a promise that Jyoti Jivanam is still here, still giving, and still grounded in the spirit of seva.

Together, let us seize this moment and continue to shine the light of humanity.



A journey of 25 years
The first hamper distributed 2000



2002



Jyoti Jivanam
Light In Life

Celebrating 25 Years Of Service And Seva

2003



2004



2005



2006



Jyoti Jivanam
Light In Life

Celebrating **25** Years Of Service And Seva

2007

ate Ellama Cooper



2008



2009



2010



2011



2012





2013





2015



2016



Sarva Dharma Ashram Seva Trust - Welbedacht 2016



Collaboration with Servest Feedy Needy



Sikhona Charity Organisation - Ekuthuleni Primary School



Collaboration with Prashanti Niketan



2016 High Tea



2017



2018



2020



2021



2020 & 2021



2020 & 2021



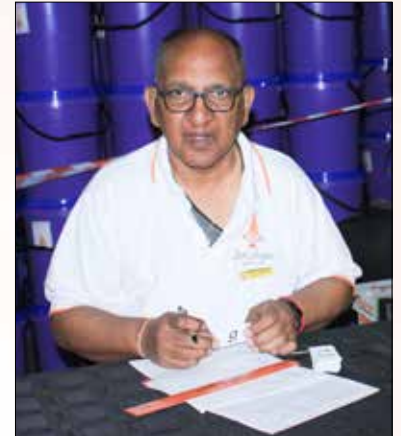
2022



Jyoti Jivanam
Light Is Life

Celebrating 25 Years Of Service And Seva

2024

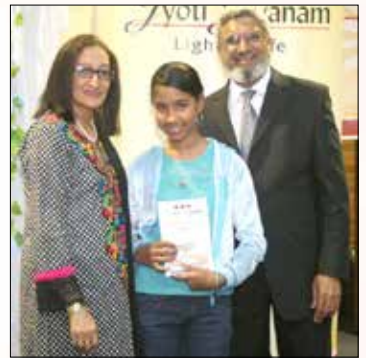
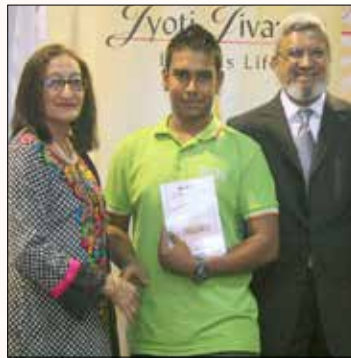








Youth Development Programs



Social Movement Learning: Collective, Participatory Learning within the Jyoti Jivanam Movement Of South Africa

By Molly Ramlachan



in partial fulfilment of Masters degree in Education with UWC (SA), Monash(Australia), Linkoping (Sweden), British Columbia (Canada)
Abstract

The purpose of this research paper is to explore and examine the nature of learning within the context of and situated within a social movement. Based on an exploratory qualitative study of learning within the Jyoti Jivanam Movement of South Africa, this research explores the nature and purpose/s of learning within a social movement. Accordingly, this study is guided by the research questions: How and why do adults learn as they collectively participate in social movements; and what factors facilitate, contribute, hinder and influence learning within social movement. This study confirms that

social movements are important sites for collective learning and knowledge construction. For this reason, social movements need to be acknowledged as pedagogical sites that afford adults worthwhile learning opportunities. Furthermore, social movements, as pedagogical sites, not only contribute to conceptions of what constitute legitimate knowledge(s), social movements also contribute to the creation of transformative knowledge(s). This research finding was abundantly demonstrated within the Jyoti Jivanam organisation, moreover the research acknowledges the opportunities created to empower women within the leadership structures

Hamper Packing Workflow



Jyoti Jivanam
Light In Life

Celebrating 25 Years Of Service And Seva



NPO Reg No.: 068/612

PBO No.: 930032411

Movement of S.A.

est. 2000

Jyoti Jivanam

celebrates its 25th Anniversary
with recipients on

Sunday 12 October 2025.

As we prepare to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Jyoti Jivanam (light is life), we are presented with a unique opportunity—not just to celebrate our longevity, but to highlight our legacy and reaffirm our mission.

Over the past 25 years, one act has consistently defined who we are: the distribution of food hampers for the past 24 years, which aligns to UNSDG WORLD Goal 2 - Zero Hunger. This is not only our most visible and impactful service—it is our identity. It is how we started, how we grew, and how we continue to serve today. Who better to celebrate our 25th anniversary, than with our recipients. Would you celebrate your birthday without your family, children and grandchildren????

That's why we strongly believe the 25th anniversary must be centered around a symbolic recipient food hamper distribution which centers around giving, reflecting and remembering.

This approach offers several key advantages:

A united one-time preparation with lots of support and assistance from educators, scholars, senior citizens, places of worship, spiritual and non-profit organisations

- **Mission Alignment:** It directly reflects our founding values—compassion, dignity, and service.
- **Public Visibility & Engagement:** A tangible, high-impact activity that speaks to the heart of our community and attracts media, donors, and partners.
- **Legacy & Unity:** A meaningful way to honour those who have served before us and bring together all who carry the mission forward.
- **All other initiatives:** A shout out and constant call to the youth to join and maintain the sustainability of our organisation going forward together with fundraising and marketing opportunities like the Banyard and the Bangra (musical).

We will enhance this event with storytelling, media outreach, a commemorative hamper distribution, and public participation —creating an anniversary that is both memorable and mission-driven.

In short, we are not merely celebrating 25 years of existence—we are extending 25 years of service. Let us seize this moment to show our community and ourselves that Jyoti Jivanam is still here, still giving, and still grounded to serve humanity.

Should you wish to donate: kindly use the details below:

The Jyoti Jivanam Movement of South Africa

Name of Bank: Standard Bank

Name of Branch: Durban North

Branch code: 051001

Account number: 055463952

Type of Account: Savings

All monies go for the purchasing of food hampers only.

Yours in nation building and zero hunger

scan me
to learn more about
Jyoti Jivanam





Jyoti Jivanam says Thank you
Light is Life

We would like to express our
heartfelt gratitude to all our

Members | Sponsors | Donors
Friends | Colleagues & Followers

for their unwavering support,
guidance, and assistance
over the past 25 years.

We eagerly anticipate your
continued support
in the years ahead...



Are you looking for more images from



Jyoti Jivanam
Light is Life



scan me ▶▶▶



If we have erred or unintentionally omitted anyone, we kindly ask for your forgiveness.

This booklet was prepared by Lashika Ravjee-Ooka, Tivash Vithal and Prem Ramlachan.

Design & Layout



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Jyoti Jivanam
Light is Life

Celebrating **25** Years Of Service And Seva



Tyoti Jivanam

Light is Life

MOVEMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA



the legacy lives on....