

EKAM- South Jersey Chapter Shoe Drive

Most of we kids here in USA are privileged to have various kinds of foot wear. Few for school, few for sports, and few just for fun. Nearly 1 billion of the more than 7 billion inhabitants of Earth lack shoes or have inadequate footwear. Just imagine us without shoes. Walking on dirty sidewalks, on wet grass, on very hot concrete. Well that's how life is for some kids in India. But why do we need shoes? Why are they so important? Without shoes we would be walking on sidewalks, roads, and much more, barefoot. This could expose our skin to harmful substances and infections. There could even be something sharp that could poke your leg. Walking barefoot is very dangerous. More than 1.5 billion people are infected with parasitic diseases transmitted through contaminated soil that could be prevented by wearing proper footwear. We all have seen a lot of them when we were in india. When we went to India we started a shoe drive to collect and donate footwear to help at least a few children. A few of our friends in the community donated shoes. We were able to collect about 30 pairs of shoes which we packed and took to India. Our chapter is associated with a school. Once we reached India we donated the shoes to India through the EKAM foundation to a school in Salavakkam. Salavakkam is a village panchayat located in Kanchipuram district of Tamil-Nadu state,India. Government Panchayat Union Primary School of Salavakkam Village has a strength of around 200 students pursuing their education from I to V Grade. We were able to donate these shoes along with some school supplies to the students. We wish we could have done it with our own hands.

It was very gratifying to see the student receive the items. In the future we would like to further work for the betterment of this school.

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