

5th Pillar Newsletter June/July 2008

Successful Fundraising Event June 7th

5th Pillar held an extremely effective and exciting fundraising event in Reston, Virginia. The “Dheem Tha Na Na” musical group graciously provided lively entertainment for the evening.

5th Pillar volunteers gave a detailed presentation outlining the past, present, and future goals of the organization, including several inspiring accounts of success stories. President Vijay Anand, delivered a speech highlighting 5th Pillar’s ‘Corruption – A Curse; Choose to Fight not Fear’ approach to ending the cycle of corruption in India. Through these presentations, the message of 5th Pillar successfully reached the fifty-person audience, moving them to donate a generous five thousand dollars.

5th Pillar volunteers Nivethan and Siddharth made a video of the show. You can find the video in the link below: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8QYM9BtuKoY>

Afterwards, ‘Serve for Starvation,’ a non-profit group fighting hunger, donated their services to supply the energized audience with a fantastic dinner. The audience enjoyed the dinner with more lovely music.

West Virginia University – 5th Pillar Information Session June 29th

In order to spread 5th Pillar’s message and to recruit new volunteers, the Washington DC chapter of 5th Pillar held an informational event at Morgantown University, West Virginia.

Dr. Jagannathan, a professor at the University, helped to organize the event and begun the informational presentation, focusing on the general denial of basic rights in India and thus the importance of 5th Pillar’s missions.

Mr. Vijay Anand, board member Subasini Periyakarrupan, and volunteer Sneha Radhakrishnan continued the presentation, touching on India’s international corruption ranking, the RTI Act of 2005, as well as on 5th Pillar’s past, present, and future achievements. The presentation rallied together the several hundred students, mainly from campus Indian students association. The event concluded with the group pledging to never take part in corrupt activities.

As a result of the session, 5th Pillar now has several new volunteers in West Virginia University with a potential to form a chapter and was also able to collect a fair amount of donations.

Tamil Nadu Foundation (TNF) July 4th-6th

Within TNF’s larger annual event, held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania this year, 5th Pillar took several steps to spread its message and make new contacts.

In addition to handing out informational flyers, 5th Pillar volunteers gave a presentation to a group of thirty interested community members. There was an excellent response from this group, with several individuals signing-up to become members, volunteers, and advisory board members.

5th Pillar volunteers from DC were also able to network with potential donors and a larger relationship also began to be developed between 5th Pillar and various other organizations that attended the event.

Tamil Sangam of Greater Washington July 12th

During the annual Muthamizh Vizha evening of entertainment, 5th Pillar set-up an information table at the entrance and handed-out flyers.

Board member Subasini Periyakarrupan gave a ten-minute presentation on 5th Pillar during the course of the evening, which roused much applause and support from the large audience.

VIP guests’ comedian Mr. Erode Mahesh, VIT Chancellor Mr. G. Viswanathan, and Professor Mammadhu also showed their support for 5th Pillar’s mission. Mr. Mahesh even incorporated the theme into his stand-up, sharing a joke that mocked those politicians that personally benefit from corruption.

Burgeoning Youth Team June 21st

Several youth from the Washington, DC metropolitan area have come together to form a youth wing for the local 5th Pillar chapter.

The youth are taking on several responsibilities, including writing articles to publicize 5th Pillar in international news outlets, spreading the organization’s message in informational and fundraising events, revitalizing informational brochures and Research & Analysis.

Currently, the youth team is organizing a 5th Pillar concert fundraiser on August 2nd, at the King Farm community center at Rockville, MD 20850. Music group “Dheem Tha Na Na” will provide the entertainment once again, and youth team members will give an informational and inspirational presentation to our potential donors followed by dinner.

Please join the youths for this fun evening of musical entertainment, and of course invite your friends to come along and donate generously!