

Sri C. Sounder Raj

27-Nov-1936 to 07-Mar-2017

Sri C. Sounder Raj, one of the founding Trustees of the Sruti Seva Trust, a great contributor and philanthropist left his physical frame on 07-March 2017.

Sri Sounder Raj and Smt Prema Sounder Raj were introduced to Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati in 1960s and the relationship grew over time. Sri Sounder Raj was a quiet and unassuming person. He was a man of few words and listened more and spoke very little. Pujya Swamiji was looking for a place to start a Gurukulam, a place which was not far from the airport, featured hills and a stream or rivulet. Sri Sounder Raj said he knew a place nearby which may meet Swamiji's approval and if found acceptable details could be worked out. Swamiji agreed and Sri Sounder Raj brought Swamiji and others to Anaikatti Village one afternoon – there was just barren land and the drive was through a dirt road. After seeing



a couple of possible sites in the vicinity, Pujya Swamiji selected this site in Anaikatti where the Gurukulam is presently located. Thus Sri Sounder Raj was instrumental in finding the right place of the Gurukulam. He made many significant contributions in the early stages of the life of the Gurukulam.

Smt Prema and Sri Sounder Raj used to invite Pujya Swamijis for Bhiksa often. He liked being alone with Pujya Swamiji. On one occasion Pujya Swamiji invited Sri Sounder Raj to travel with him to Vizag. Sri Sounder Raj agreed and later recalled that in the few days he spent with Pujya Swamiji on this trip so many important things were discussed, he had learned so much. He cherished this period as one of the most cherished and valuable times of his life.

Professionally he was one of the leaders in the Textile industry. He was President of The Textile Association (India), President of The South India Cotton Association , Member, Research Advisory Committee, SITRA .

He was also Trustee in various religious organization

He treated his staff with respect and kindness. He helped people quietly and few people knew of his work. In one instance, he found out that one of the children of his staff was a brilliant student and wanted to study medicine but that was not affordable for the family. Sri Sounder Raj supported his education and the person is now a well qualified Physician working overseas. He helped needy temples which approached him. He was also a pillar of support behind the Ramakrishna Hospital in Coimbatore. Sri Sounder Raj helped many Brahmacharis and Swamis to get treated at the Hospital including the treatment of Swami Tarananda, one of the Gurus of Pujya Swamiji. He donated some equipment and sent a Dentist weekly to the AIM for Seva hospital at Anaikatti to help people with needs for Dental care.

We place on record our thanks to Sri Sounder Raj for his valuable contributions and pray Isvara for the best gati for his soul.