

DEPARTMENT OF SERVICE LEARNING

# KERALA

## FLOOD RELIEF

AUG-16 TO SEP-13, 2018 NEWS LETTER



LOYOLA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)

College of Excellence

Chennai-34



# FOREWORD

All of us are shocked by the unprecedented damage caused by recent torrential rains and are moved to alleviate the suffering of our brethren in Kerala. The devastation and destruction in the State of Kerala are immeasurable due to recent floods. At this moment of grief, distress and damage, Loyola College reaches out to the affected people. The staff, students and the likeminded people make their contribution in cash, cheque and relief materials.

All these materials will be handed over to the affected persons. Considering the urgency of situation, we fix the deadline for the collection of materials and cash on Monday (August 20, 2018). Loyola college team will distribute the materials to the most disadvantaged people. I earnestly appeal the Loyola fraternity to generously express our support and solidarity.

**Rev. Dr. Andrew Francis SJ,**  
**Principal,**  
Loyola College,  
Chennai



# INTRODUCTION

The state of Kerala has been severely devastated by its worst floods in nearly a century, with over 400 people dead and more than three lakh people rendered homeless after it received unprecedented rainfall in the month of August 2018.

The Loyola college management had convened an emergency meeting on 13th August with all the officials of the college to decide about the relief measures which were to be undertaken for the people affected by the floods in Kerala. During the meeting, it was decided that the Department of Service Learning will be directly involved in sourcing and collecting resource materials for the victims. Kerala has gone through one of its devastating calamities in the last few weeks. We are all well aware of the catastrophic effect that the incessant rain and flood left on Kerala. The college management expressed its solidarity with the sufferers by raising our hearts and minds in prayers and by burning both the end of the candle to help materially and financially. In addition to prayer and relief material, what Kerala needed perhaps more after the flood were volunteers to help the people to recover from the disaster. The role of Loyola College, in helping people in times of need, has always been admirable and very commendable. The students along with the alumni responded very quickly in cash and kind.

Under the direction of Rev. Fr. Principal, Rev. Fr. Louie Albert, the Director of the Department of Service learning, conducted a meeting with the staff members of the department where they discussed about relief work which would be undertaken by the Department. The staff members conducted a meeting with the UG students and team leaders belonging to the second-year Undergraduate Outreach Intervention teams. The teams and their staff swung into action and undertook intensive programmes to source materials and raise funds.



# Official Meeting

An official meeting was convened on August 13, 2018 at JD Hall under the auspices of Rev. Fr. Principal and it was unanimously decided that the Department of Service Learning would take charge of the Kerala Flood Relief Activities.



# Meeting of Staff

The staff members of the Department of Service Learning held a meeting at 8:30am on august-14 and the role of each staff member as heads of various committees was allotted, with their responsibilities detailed out. Plans were drawn up to survey and research the extent of damage and loss, and strategies were implemented to effectively assist and reach out to the people of Kerala.



# Committes

Staff members met with their class representatives of both Shift-1 and Shift-2 second year UG programmes at 01:30 pm and 03:30 pm respectively, in addition to Team Leaders of the outreach programme. The ultimate aim was to sensitize students to the plight of their brethren in Kerala and to draw attention to ways each individual could make a difference.

S. no	Work Assigned	Professor Incharge
1	Help desk & Cashbox Collection	Prof. Richard & Prof. Anand
2	stock in charge	Prof. Priya & Prof. Antonysamy
3	Media team	Prof. Antony Anbarasan & Prof. Beula
4	Accounts	Prof. Rathna
5	Resouce Mobilising team	Prof. Kumanan, Jaiprakash & Prof. Baskar
6	Coordinator for Rain Relief	Prof. Melson

# Preparatory Work

The first course of action was to sensitize Loyolites to the conditions prevailing in Kerala. Accordingly banners were erected in strategic points within the college premises. Creative charts were drawn up and placed in full view of the public with key statistics and calls to help. Announcements were made over the PA system informing Loyolites of the burgeoning needs of Keralites as well as strides made in efforts to reach out to them. Digital Media was extensively employed and the LED display boards as well as media screens cycled through content was updated regularly. This widened the reach and appealed to a larger circle. On August 16, Help Desks with Cash Boxes were set up near the Main Entrance Digital Board, the Jubilee Building Quadrangle, the entrance to Bertram Hall, the Department of Visual Communication and near the Food Court. Students had begun providing relief material as well as support in other ways they could.



# Awareness

On August 18, Loyola Students Union had taken the initiative to create awareness amongst their peers and their parents through street plays that highlighted the dire need for aid in any possible form. The student volunteers of the cash-box team did a commendable job in raising funds, working round the clock, tirelessly. Students embraced the calls for help and donated generously, both in cash and kind. Other students helped in sourcing materials and funds, while few others organized and worked with the authorities in charge.



# CASH BOX COLLECTION

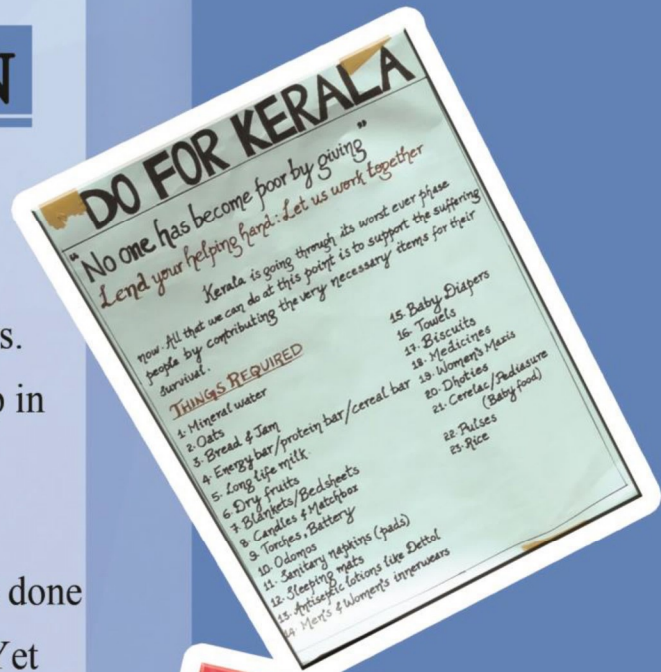
On August 19, a class-wise cash-box collection was done in the Pondicherry University – Loyola College Society twinning program (PU-LCS) classes. The students donated generously and offered to help in any other way they could.

On August 20, a class-wise cash-box collection was done in all Loyola College’s Arts and Sciences classes. Yet again, the students rose to the occasion and contributed over and above the requirements. Some students went the extra mile and advocated on behalf of their neighbours in need.

On August 21, the first consignment of collected relief material was sent to TUDI of Wayanad district.

From August 22 until the 28th, more relief material was sourced with the support of Loyola Alumni as well as outsiders and the same was collected and organized in the campus.

On August 28, all the collected relief material was sent to Devikulam located in the Idukki District.



**TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED**

Rs. 13,32,000 /-

*(Thirteen lakhs thirty two thousand )*

# GALLERY





Rev.Fr. Rector flagging off the relief materials to **Wayanad**





# FOLLOW UP

## REPORT OF FLOOD RELIEF WORK IN KERALA

(Department of Philosophy, Loyola College)

Trucks with relief materials were dispatched to Waynad and to the Tea-Estate workers in Moonar! Once the flood waters subsided, a special relief work was organized by the Department of Philosophy of Loyola College. The first year M A students, 48 in number, guided by the Kerala Jesuits in Ernakulam and Waynad, meticulously planned and sent five groups consisting ten or nine students in each to five different places in Kerala. The whole flood relief work was a seven day program (27/8/2018 to 1/09/2018).



At **Aluva**,  
removing the muck



At **Waynad**,  
distributing the materials

These five groups worked in five different places in central Kerala, such as Aluva, Chettikad, Ayrur, Gothurathe where cleaning work was the focus. While in Waynad, the group was engaged in packing up the relief materials and reaching them to the needy in the interior places, quite often unreachable by many agencies.

Each place demanded of different kinds of work. The student team were involved in cleaning the houses which were covered with muck and slush, cleaning the muddy roads making them walkable and drivable, helping in electrical work and in distributing the necessary relief material to the people. All of them worked tirelessly with sufficient breaks whenever needed.

Though at times the team were pulled down by tiredness and weariness, the people's cooperation and their magnanimous heart to understand our limitations boosted our flagging spirit. In addition, the constant visits of our professors and the concerned authorities made us feel cared and supported. Moreover, the frequent sharing and exchange of ideas by way of constant reflection helped to be focused.



At **Gothureth**,  
cleaning the houses which were covered with muck and slush



At **Ayrur**,  
Ernakulam , dispelling the darkness

The entire team deeply appreciate the support given by the staff in helping to organise the whole program, under the guidance of Fr E.P. Mathew, the Head of the Department.

The students of the Department of Philosophy came from various parts of India and a few from other nationalities like Sri Lanka, East Timor, Kenya and Uganda.



At **Chettikad**, **Ernakulam**,  
cleaning the houses

The hard work and commitment of the students of other states and countries made the team realize that there is only one religion, one caste, one race, one creed and one group of people that is humanity and the underlying principle that glues us together is love. The help that was rendered, compared to the magnitude of the catastrophe, seemed a drop in the ocean. The entire team was confident that what they did will accelerate the whole process of getting back to the normal life.

## Kerala Flood Relief Camp-2018, Cochin, Kerala.

Loyola College organised Kerala Flood Relief Camp-2018 which was initiated by Department of Service Learning and Department of Social Work. 21 students and 4 staff volunteered for the camp.

### Date of Relief Camp

06-sep-2018 to 13-sep-2018

### Collaboration with

Rajagiri College and KIDS organisation (Cochin, Kerala)

### Manual Work

Road Cleaning, School Cleaning, Well Cleaning  
Survey and Psycho Social First Aid.



## KIDS [Kottapuram Integrated Development Society]

Students were involved in packing and distribution of relief materials at KIDS organization.

The activities were:

1. Packing provision ,
2. Medical kit ,
3. Water kit ,
4. Mats and blankets ,
5. Sorting of clothes.

Students were divided into several groups to complete the task effectively. The team worked hard and maintained the team spirit until the end of the day. Though it was not too hard labour as that of manual work, students did not neglect in doing these works but gave out their best in doing these works.

500 packs of rice bags were packed in addition to the 470 packs of sugar along with other provisions and materials required to meet the beneficiaries basic needs. The packed materials were sent to Kottapuram through the KIDS organization.



The student volunteers from the department of Social work, Sociology, MLT, Media Arts, English along with Prof Rathna and Prof Andrew, Department of Sociology were selected for the flood relief work. The selected students were trained on psycho social first aid and instructed on basic health and safety measures. Prior to the camp, all the students were vaccinated with TT. At the end of the camp Rev Fr Baby, Director of TUDI addressed the student volunteers and appreciated their good will and good work.



## Kerala Flood Relief Camp 2018, Wayanad camp

### **Date of Relief Camp**

06-sep-2018 to 13-sep-2018

### **Activities**

Road cleaning, Survey, Cutting bamboo trees, Building bamboo hut

### **Distribution of carts - to Paniya community**

(support from Action Aid India)

Sports and cultural events to tribal children.

Rev Fr Louie Albert SJ, Director, Department of Service Learning and Prof Vincent from Department of Social work visited the relief team and interacted with them to know the relief works carried out then. They also motivated and encouraged the team to complete the mission.

*"it's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving"*  
-mother teresa