### OM NAMO NARAYANI

SRIPURAM, SRI NARAYANI PEEDAM, THIRUMALAIKODI VELLORE 632 055







# A SOLAR KITCHEN

AT ANNAPOORNI MANDAPAM, SRIPURAM



#### WHAT IS ANNA DHANAM?

The literal translation of *Anna Dhanam* is "food offering" or "giving a meal". In temples throughout India, food is offered at no charge to devotees or guests visiting the temple.



### WHY IS ANNA DHANAM ESSENTIAL?

Every soul is a drop from the same ocean. Every soul is connected to their physical body. When the physical body feels hunger, the mind and soul get disturbed. When you feed a person, they will feel satisfied and happy. When the body is satisfied, the soul is satisfied. It is only by feeding a person that one can truly satisfy them. No other form of charity can do this. When someone else is happy, you will also feel happy because we all come from the same Divinity.

Feeding one person is considered equivalent to *neividyam* (offering of food) to the Goddess.

### WHY IS ANNA DHANAM THE HIGHEST FORM OF GIVING?

When you serve or honour a person, it is considered the same as honouring God. God is in all. When you see God in each individual, and serve from the heart, this is an even more meaningful way of doing puja.

## WHY IS GIVING FOOD DIFFERENT TO OTHER GIFTS?

Amma has explained that when material gifts like money or clothing are given, the recipient will never be entirely satisfied. Human nature is such that we will always, "desire more". However, when a person is offered food, at some point their desire will be satiated. because when the belly is full, complete satisfaction is reached. The person will reach a point where they can say, "I have had enough, thank you." In this way, providing food for people is a very special seva.

### WHAT IS THE SRIPURAM ANNA POORNI MANDAPAM?

This is the dining hall in Sripuram where 5,000 people have a sit down lunch everyday, from 12 - 3pm. We serve 15,000 people prasadam (blessed food) from 8am - 8pm. This is served in a bio-degradable leaf bowl.

# HOW MUCH FOOD IS COOKED EACH DAY?

Over a tonne of rice as well as many vegetables dishes.

### HOW IS A SOLAR KITCHEN BENEFICIAL?

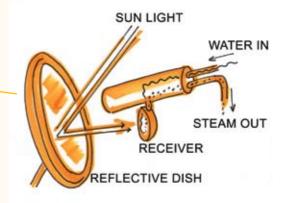
Solar Kitchens are used throughout ashrams and schools in India, where large amounts of food are cooked. The current technology is the best on the market and is produced entirely in India, so it is cost effective.

On the environmental level, solar energy is 100% non-polluting and Sripuram is in an area where there is so much sunshine!

### HOW MUCH DO WE NEED TO RAISE?

The cost of the solar kitchen is 1 CRORE INR (10 million INR) (approximately USD \$154,000)





**EXAMPLE OF A SOLAR KITCHEN** 



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