



**RICHMOND TAMIL SANGAM  
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY -  
ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

# EC 2024





Dear RTS members,

With great pride, I present the Richmond Tamil Sangam Annual Report! What a year it has been! From RTS's 25th celebration and vibrant cultural events to exciting sports competitions and inspiring children's contests. Our community came together in ways that made 2024 truly memorable. We started the year with 381 members and proudly ended with 423 members, reflecting the growth and vitality of our community. We organized 12 Sangam and 4 school-based events annually, bringing people together for fun and meaningful experiences. On the fundraising front, we successfully hosted initiatives like the "Back to School" drive and FeedMore.



Behind the scenes, our Executive Committee, led by Marcelin Lovismartin, demonstrated unwavering dedication and a strategic vision that played a key role in driving the success of this year's events. A special shoutout to sponsors and volunteers. We are incredibly grateful for the unwavering support of our 39 sponsors, whose support helped make this year's events a grand success. The invaluable contributions of our volunteers are the best! They were there, rain or shine, ensuring everything ran smoothly. We EC members are deeply thankful to both for their crucial support.

Let's take a moment to reflect on this incredible 2024's highlights!



**Event : Pongal Banana Leaf Feast (Food catered from Anjappar, NC)**

**Venue: Deep Run High School**

**Date: January 28th, 12 p.m. to 3:30 p.m**

Richmond Tamil Sangam's Banana Leaf Event at Deep Run School—a heroic feat after battling weather chaos that forced a reschedule from January 21! Initially set for Jr. Tucker High School, the event switched venues faster than anticipated, so guess what? It was worth every leaf! Guests devoured delicious traditional food served on banana leaves. The event also featured entertaining Tamil games and kids' activities celebrating cultural heritage, offering engaging experiences for all ages. Despite some logistical challenges, the event achieved near-full attendance and garnered highly positive feedback for its food and entertainment. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all participants and volunteers, especially those who adapted quickly to the changes, ensuring a smooth and memorable experience for everyone involved.



**Event: Indoor Sports**

**Venue: Jr. Tucker High School**

**Date: February 24th, 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

Richmond Tamil Sangam transformed Tucker High School into a battleground of board games and table tennis showdowns with their Indoor Games event! It was a Saturday of epic proportions, featuring intense chess matches, carrom, table tennis, and the surprise star of the day—good old Thayam. Seeing kids and adults fully engaged in the activities was heartening, creating an atmosphere resembling a lively games festival. At one point, it felt like the Olympics. Attendees raved about the blend of modern and traditional games, and the day ended with everyone basking in the glory of a fun-filled festival of camaraderie and cultural pride. Game on, RTS!



**Event: Ladies Night Out event “Masquerade Ball Theme.**

**Venue: Belmont Recreation Center**

**Date: March 9th, 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Richmond Tamil Sangam turned Belmont Recreation Center into a masquerade ballroom with the fabulous Ladies Night Out event! Highlights of the evening included engaging games that encouraged everyone to participate, a vibrant-themed photo booth with themed props, and delicious food that enhanced the overall experience. The night featured captivating dance performances by members and an exceptional ballroom dance showcase by instructor Elisabeth. The Masquerade Ball was a resounding success. With rave reviews for the organization, entertainment, and scrumptious bites, this event was a massive hit, leaving everyone with smiles and memories.



**Event: RTS 25th Anniversary Celebration**

**Venue: James River High School**

**Date: April 20th, 3:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.**

The festivities began with the traditional Tamil Thai Valzthu, setting the perfect cultural ambiance. Entertainment quickly followed, featuring a show-stopping performance by Super Singer, which had the audience buzzing with excitement. One of the evening's standout moments was the presentation of shields to all the past and present Executive Committee (EC) members, honoring their invaluable contributions to RTS over the years. The release of a special 25th Anniversary magazine added a memorable touch to the occasion. Distinguished guests, including Napoleon, Delegate David Owen, VA State Senator Schuyler VanValkenburg, Agathian, Lisa Martin Hudgins, and Mark Miller (board of supervisor in Midlothian), added to the event's prestige. A delicious dinner kept everyone satisfied, and more Super Singer performances rounded out the night, ensuring the audience stayed engaged until the end. The evening was a resounding success, marking 25 years of RTS with joy, recognition, and celebration.





**Event: Camping Event**

**Venue: Claytor Lake State Park**

**Date: May 25th to 27th**

The Camping Event at Claytor Lake State Park turned into an adventure of epic proportions! Day 1 kicked off smoothly, with members arriving at 5:00 PM, setting up their tents, followed by snacks, storytime, and kids' games that made the night feel like a festive carnival. Day 2 Fiesta Theme: Start with sunny beach fun, but just when things were getting perfect—bam! An unexpected storm rolled in, turning our tents into giant, soggy water balloons—but did that stop us? Not at all! Despite the weather chaos, our campers made the best of it, enjoying a live biryani-making session in the gazebo, and winning the challenge against downpour. For those seeking shelter, the fun continued indoors with a lively game of Pattuku Pattu and a Fiesta-themed photo booth with props that sparked colors and creativity. Despite the storm, the spirit of togetherness and joy shone through, making it a night to remember! A few campers waved goodbye to their soggy shelters and exited early. By Day 3, the crowd had thinned, but those who remained banded together over a breakfast. Despite the weather's curveballs, the event became a legendary tale of resilience, laughter, and wet socks!



**Event: Cricket Tournament**

**Venue: Deep Run Park and Duncroft**

**Date August 3rd and August 4th**

2024 marked the inaugural cricket event for Richmond Tamil Sangam, with 19 teams participating in this exciting competition. The event was a resounding success, with the winning teams receiving well-deserved trophies. But the excitement didn't stop there—kids were absolutely inspired by the action on the field, and a lively kids' match was happening on the side, with young cricketers showing off their skills and dreaming big! It was an unforgettable day filled with passion, friendly competition, and plenty of cricketing spirit!"



**Event: Back-to-School Supply Drive**

**Venue: Twin Hickory Library**

**Date: August 6th**

The Back-to-School Supply Drive was a resounding success! High school students generously donated various school supplies, and our community members joined in, contributing even more to support the cause. The event saw an excellent turnout, demonstrating the collective effort to help students in need as they prepared for the upcoming school year. On August 8th, all the collected supplies were delivered to VCU, making the drive both impactful and meaningful. This drive truly reflected the spirit and generosity of our community!



**Event: Kalai Thiruvizha: Math Bee and College Readiness Event**

**Venue: Twin Hickory Library**

**Date: September 14th 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Kalai Thiruvizha was a tremendous success, featuring two standout events: “The very first Math Bee” and the College Readiness Session. The morning kicked off with the Math Bee, where over 80 students from Grades 3 to 8 demonstrated their math skills in a friendly but competitive environment. Every participant was awarded a medal, while the top performers earned well-deserved trophies. In the afternoon, the spotlight shifted to the College Readiness session. In the afternoon, that provided valuable insights for parents, with expert presentations covering essential aspects of preparing for higher education. Key speakers included Dr. Devi Vasu, who shared advice on emotional well-being throughout high school and college, a financial expert from 595 who offered guidance on financial planning for higher education, and Srilatha Muthu, who conducted a helpful college workshop for parents. The event ran seamlessly and received positive feedback, effectively blending academic achievement with practical advice for future college planning. Another standout moment was the Feed More Donation Collection, run by high schoolers. Our members went above and beyond, donating more than expected.



**Event: Volleyball and Throwball Tournament**

**Venue: Twin Hickory Library**

**Date: September 21st, 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

The Volleyball and Throwball Tournament was a full-day event that brought together over a dozen teams and a vibrant community spirit. The tournament kicked off at 7:30 a.m. In Throwball, two new recreational teams added a fun and inclusive dimension to the event, while five competitive teams demonstrated their skills in intense matches. The Volleyball tournament saw participation from 12 teams, all playing with enthusiasm and teamwork. And, of course, no day of sports is complete without food, so we made sure there was plenty of breakfast, lunch, and snack. The event wrapped up at 7:30 p.m., after 12 hours of exciting sports, with winners receiving trophies. The tournament successfully blended competition with recreational fun, making it a memorable and enjoyable experience for everyone involved.



**Event: Men's Night Out event "Disco Theme"**

**Venue: Eastern Henrico recreation**

**Date: September 27th 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

The Men's Night Out was truly an unforgettable experience! Set against a vibrant and lively disco theme, the entire evening was infused with fun and excitement. Guests enjoyed an array of engaging games that got everyone involved and laughing, adding an extra layer of friendly competition and fun to the night.

As the music played, the delicious spread of food kept everyone energized, with various mouthwatering dishes to choose from, all prepared to perfection. The highlight of the evening was the live kitchen.

Another special was the epic moments on the dance floor. It was a perfect blend of fun, flavor, and fellowship, making it an evening cherished by all who attended!



**Event: Mupperum Vizha & AGM**

**Venue: Deep Run High School**

**Date: November 16th 11:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

RTS hosted a spectacular Mupperum Vizha, bringing together our community for a celebration and connection. The event started with a beautiful Rich Melodies music performance from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM, setting a festive mood. From 1:30 PM to 5:30 PM, the children took the stage, showcasing their impressive talents in a series of cultural performances highlighting their creativity and dedication.

The Nangai segment provided a vibrant marketplace for women entrepreneurs, with stalls running from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

This was an excellent opportunity for local businesses to connect with the community and offer unique products and services. In the evening, from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM, the celebration continued with the Annual General Meeting (AGM), introducing the new Executive Committee, and more cultural performances featuring youth and adult participants. The event was a huge success, drawing a large crowd and encouraging active participation from families and community members alike. It was a day full of energy, talent, and community spirit that we'll remember for years.



**Event: First aid, CPR &AED training**

**Venue: Tuckahoe Library**

**Date: December 7th, 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

In collaboration with CSRE, RTS provided members with essential lifesaving skills through a comprehensive training session. The CSRE leader expertly guided participants in CPR, AED use, and first aid techniques, ensuring they gained confidence in handling emergencies. Members had the opportunity to practice CPR on mannequins, further enhancing their hands-on experience. By equipping community members with CPR, AED, and first aid knowledge, the training not only improved individual response capabilities but also contributed to the overall safety and well-being of the community. The session was highly informative, and participants appreciated the valuable training.





## Tamil School

Tamil School has experienced remarkable growth and exciting changes this year. There was a relocated to a new venue, offering an enhanced learning environment for our students. Throughout the year, there were various competitions, providing children with opportunities to showcase their talents in a fun and engaging way. Additionally, our students enjoyed a field trip and a memorable picnic, which contributed to a well-rounded educational experience. The year's highlight was our Annual Day celebration, where we were honored to have Dr. Bala Swaminathan as our distinguished chief guest. During this event, we also took the opportunity to recognize and appreciate our dedicated teachers for their hard work and commitment. Adding up a moment of pride—our very first batch of graduates! A few of our students reached an important educational milestone, and it was indeed a proud moment for the entire Tamil School community.



## Thrilled announcement in Tamil school!

Our school officially received accreditation from the Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) in June 2024. This remarkable achievement is a testament to our entire school community's hard work, dedication, and commitment, including our teachers, staff, students, and families. It reflects the high standards of education we strive to maintain and marks a significant milestone in our journey toward excellence.



## Newsletter

Publishing a Kadambam Newsletter is a great way for us to keep our members informed and connected to the organization's mission and activities. Your contributions help make the newsletter more engaging, diverse, and reflective of the vibrant community we are building together.



## Executive Committee 2025-2026:

We are thrilled to welcome our new Executive Committee members for 2025-2026. Their fresh perspectives, enthusiasm, and dedication will help elevate Richmond Tamil Sangam to new heights—a warm welcome to each one of them.

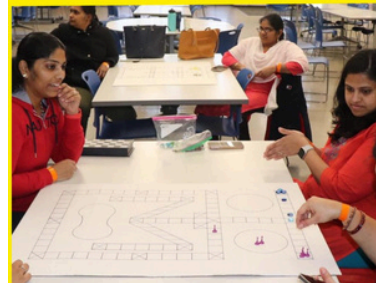
# Through the Lens: Milestones and Memories



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## A Heartfelt Thank You

Over the past two years, the Executive Committee has worked tirelessly to organize each event, and we hope they have been as enjoyable and beneficial for you as they have been for us. We remain committed to supporting the Richmond Tamil Sangam and its mission as we move forward. Thank you for being part of this incredible journey.

Warm regards,  
Subhashini Arunachala  
Secretary, Richmond Tamil Sangam