## Dr. Arigapudi Vijay Kumar – Social Work driven by highmorals, strong ethics and philanthropic values.

When there is hard work, people become sages and great men - If you take these words of a poet and bring them to life... it is Lion Vijay Kumar personified. To labour is his nature. Belief in service is his second nature. It is also the source of unwavering hope for the blind. His support is a reliable one for the disabled. He is like a burning lamp of consciousness that instils trust and provides constant service and security to the elderly. Vijay Kumar's service programs have been lauded by many.

"There is no greater joy nor greater reward than to make a fundamental difference in someone's life."

- Mary Rose McGeady

Although poverty in India cannot be completely eradicated, there are many charitable organizations working with the idea that if they give their help, the less fortunate will be relieved to some extent. With the same ambition, the Lions Club, which started somewhere in 1917, began as a regional initiative and gradually expanded its reach to serve as a sheltering tree, extending the hand of protection to countless underprivileged individuals. Owing to the enthusiasm and initiative of a few committed individuals, these Lions Club programs have expanded providing direction to many, while giving a sense of belonging to the people. One such transformational individual is Mr. Arigapudi Vijay Kumar.

He has often opined that society helps every man grow as much as he can and man has to devote a significant portion of the fruits of his success to the same society which has uplifted him. Generosity is a trait passed down through generations in his family and it is one of the early lessons imbibed from his father. It was also the reason for his being attracted to the Lions Club.

"Society helps every man. Devote a significant portion of the fruits of success to the same society" – Dr. AVK's words on social service:

In his words — "I consider myself fortunate to have been able to serve society more extensively after joining it. There have been many service programs for seniors in Lions Clubs that I can proudly mention. My Market Yard program, which I have created, received accolades from the Chief Minister of the state, Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy.

Inspired by this, I have continued to initiate more service programs. Additionally, in Ranga Reddy and Mahabubnagar districts, we have set up around 20 bus shelters until now apart from organizing blood donation camps and donating ambulances. Our journey will continue."

He found immense satisfaction in being an active member of the Lions Club where he gained a sense of contentment. He believes that significance of one's earnings is in how much service has been offered to those in need.

After moving to Hyderabad, he held significant positions within the Lions Club and served as the District Governor and Vice President, among others. Irrespective of where he has been located, Dr. AVK has remainedsuccessful in touching live sin a positive way. His remarkable contributions include:

35 Balajyoti Schools constructed under Navodaya Programme

- In 2008, he donated 20 acres of land (valued at Rs 8 crores at the time) for the construction of a market yard, an initiative appreciated by then-Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy for its unwavering support to the farming community.
- As a Lions Governor, he has built many schools, bus shelters, and hospitals along with Ambulance services since 1997.
- He has done stellar work in uplifting Hameela village in Andhra Pradesh State in 1996.
- He organized blood donation camps, conducted free eye examinations, provided financial support to talented students, distributed books and uniforms, offered utensils, food, and beds during natural disasters, organized surgeries for head injuries, procured prosthetic limbs for the physically challenged, and provided wheelchairs to those in need.
- Dr. Vijay Kumar's services are expanding day by day. Here's hoping that many service programs will be organized under his leadership in the future and he will remain forever in the hearts of the poor...
- Dr. AVK receiving the Gold Medal in 2019, from Hon'ble Governor of Telangana State, Smt. Tamilisai Soundararajan in appreciation of his generous donation of a building for the Red Cross Blood Bank in Mahbubnagar.
- He has also received appreciation for his work from Shri Surjit Singh Barnala garu, Shri Chandrababu Naidu garu, and Sri Bandaru Dattatreya garu among other political figures
- Dr. Arigapudi Vijay Kumar's work has received several nominations for the prestigious "Padma Shri" under the "Social Work Category". His work since his formative years and as an active Lions Club Leader have focused solely on social service and Philanthropy. From academic Professors to Social activists, to political leaders, several Padmashri awardees have recommended Dr. AVK's candidature for the prestigious award.



## 20-acre Market yard worth more than 8 crores donated to farmers – an example of unparalleled generosity:

Sri. Purnachandra Rao and Smt. Nancharamma Memorial Market Yard – 20 acres of land worth (valued at Rs 8 crores at the time) was donated to the farmers at Jadcherla, Mahbubnagar District by Dr. AVK. At a time when even big industrialists would approach government offices for monetary benefits, he donated these 20 acres of land worth several crores to set up a market yard for the benefit of farmers. Recognizing the plight of cotton farmers in his region, who lacked a proper market yard and were compelled to sell their crops to brokers at unfavourable prices, he decided on this step.



The market yard was named after his parents and their statues were unveiled by Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy in 2008.

The fact that this yard is serving not only the farmers of Mahbubnagar but also the farmers of other districts shows how impactful this initiative has been on the local agri-economy.

Currently, Lion Vijay Kumar continues to provide invaluable guidance and recommendations to Lions Club members. He is the Chairman of K. R. Reddy Memorial Old Age Home and Orphanage, Gen. Secy. To the Economic Council, Lions Bhavan and the Lions Seva Kendra Trust.

"No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted."