



RAY OF HOPE: Children holding lighted candles during the International Candle Light Memorial Day for the HIV affected people at Abirami Mega Mall, in the city on Sunday.

Candlelight vigil on HIV/AIDS Day Home for orphans inaugurated

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A number of people, young and old, took part in the candle light remembrance day observed in tandem with the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Day on Sunday.

It was held at the Abirami Mall in memory of those who had died of HIV/AIDS and also to support those who are living with the disease.

The programme was organized by the National Lutheran Health and Medical Board. C. Thomas Mohan Jayakumar, Assistant Commissioner, Railway Protection Force was the chief guest at the event.

"There is need to mobilize community involvement in the fight against HIV/AIDS as it is important that people are given an opportunity to come together to remember those who have been

affected by HIV/AIDS," said a member of the Lutheran Board.

People living with HIV/AIDS shared their personal vision on how it had affected their lives and what help they required from the community.

The National Lutheran Health and Medical Board is an organization which works for access to quality healthcare and social, economic and gender equity to persons vulnerable to and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Jayashankar, who had come to watch a movie at Abhirami mall went back home enlightened as he said: "Places like Abhirami Mall are the right spots for bringing about awareness of such vital issues."

While the supporters of the cause stood at the stairs, the visitors seemed to be eagerly participating in the event and by late evening, a large number of youngsters participated.

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PRATHYASHA, a home for giving hope to the lives of HIV affected children was inaugurated on Sunday on the occasion of the World AIDS orphan day.

The home, built for 25 HIV and orphan children, and spread across 2300 sq ft land at Vellanoor village in Avadi, is an initiative by Mellow Circle, an organization working for HIV affected children.

A member of the Mellow Circle said that children who lost parents due to AIDS, faced unthinkable hardships and were forced to fend for themselves. Such children were vulnerable to a cycle of abuse, neglect, malnutrition and disease.

Prathyasha will provide care for the physical, mental and emotional needs of these children by housing them together. They would get an opportunity

for a 5tnormal childhood, education, medical care a day by more than 20 count a campaign to draw att people and advocate on b than 15 million children AIDS.



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