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The Candles

Founder: Angelin Prince

Age: 28

Inception: August 2014

Number of projects: Eight

Most challenging project: Anjugam Primary School, Choolaimedu.

“When I first invited volunteers to paint the walls of a school, many were hesitant saying they were not good at drawing or graffiti,” says Angelin Prince. Today, these same volunteers get into a tussle over paint brushes when we go painting. “To give the volunteers a sense of pride, we ask them to write their name below the art work,” says Angelin, who completed her masters in social work from **Stella Maris College** before starting The Candles, an NGO working in the field of health. Varnam (meaning colour in Tamil) is its flagship project.

Volunteers of the group include college students and employees of corporate firms. “Ahead of a project, we make an announcement seeking volunteers, especially through social media. For a project, we need 20 to 30 volunteers and, so far, we have been receiving a good response and every time, there are new entrants to the group,” says Angelin.

Their first project — painting the compound wall of the government-aided Anjugam Primary School — was a challenge as the surface was marred with posters.

“We (around 35 volunteers) whitewashed the walls late in the night and drew graffiti in the morning which had the messages of education for all and conservation of environment,” she adds.

For details, call Angelin at 9940161296