



# Friends of TREAD

in partnership with TREAD India Trust  
*Trinity Rural Educational Association for Development*

*...giving hope and a new future to needy Indian children*

## Annual Report 2007/08

**Charity Registration Number:** 1081400    **Inland Revenue Number:** XR 41597

**Trustees:** Amanda Burling, Colin Burling, Janet Crawford, Jerry Dart,  
Timothy Overton, David Owen (Chair), Patricia Owen, Doug Robertson

**Honorary Treasurer:** Edwin Toft

**Examiner of Accounts:** Martin Fletcher

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## **STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE**

Friends of TREAD (*Trinity Rural Educational Association for Development*) was registered as a charity in July 2000 with five trustees and over the last eight years three more trustees have been appointed by invitation from the existing trustees. Charity overheads are minimal as all work is carried out by the trustees and other supporters on a voluntary basis. Expenses incurred are for costs of governance and generating funds including administration of the charity and the expenses to send one trustee to visit TREAD India Trust each year.

## **OBJECTS AND AIMS**

Friends of TREAD exists to further the work of TREAD India Trust by supporting various projects and has the following objects and aims:

- To relieve need, hardship and distress for people of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, S India
- To further the education of children and young people and to found new establishments for that purpose
- To found and maintain technical training and vocational institutes
- To provide financial assistance for children and young people upon leaving their place of study to prepare them for the workplace so that they are able to live independent lives
- To preserve and safeguard the health of persons of any age in AP and Orissa providing necessary medical aid and to found and maintain medical institutions.

## **PARTNER ORGANISATION AND PROJECTS**

TREAD India Trust is a charity whose headquarters is based in Bhadrachalam, Andhra Pradesh in South India. Its founder and director was Dr M Sounder Raj who with his wife Ranjita had devoted his life to childcare and the charity's work is targeted at children, young people and their families. Sadly Dr Sounder died unexpectedly last December but his wife continues the work. Although TREAD is based firmly on Christian foundations it seeks to help children of any religion, caste or creed and indeed two of its trustees are Hindu and Jain. Projects supported are:

### **CHILD DEVELOPMENT/ DAY CARE CENTRES**

*(to further education of children and young people)*

These centres provide care before and after school for primary school children with meals, activities and homework supervision. The children are given clothes and school uniform and are taught self-discipline, personal hygiene and a work ethic which they pass on to family and peers. The local primary schools have been transformed with full attendance rates and extra teachers provided by government. There is a waiting list at each centre.

- **Trinity Day Care Centre (TDCC), Kudunure, ANDHRA PRADESH**

Opened in 2000, 100 children attend this day care centre that is supported solely by funds raised by Friends of TREAD. It provides 6-day week care throughout the school year, 2 sets of new clothes a year and 2 nutritional meals a day. After children leave TDCC there is ongoing supervision of them. Coaching is given to help children with their exams and there are also holiday Bible schools. Funds are largely provided by regular monthly/annual donations from supporters of Friends of TREAD and are topped up by one-off donations or fundraising events.

- **Sarah Child Development Centre, Podia, ORISSA** is based on a 3.5 acre site purchased and developed through donations from Friends of TREAD. This centre is run in partnership with Compassion International's East India branch that pays for the running costs of the project, whilst Friends of TREAD takes responsibility for the costs of management and infrastructure. It opened in 2002 and now 246 children attend daily and it acts as the base for two more satellite centres in nearby villages run in partnership with Compassion:

- ❖ **Hannah CDC**, Dubathota which is in an isolated, poverty-stricken forestry tribal village. The centre opened two years ago and it now cares for 225 children
- ❖ **David CDC**, Girkinpalli opened in November 2005 and now 289 children attend daily.

### **GRACE TAILORING CENTRE, Podia, ORISSA**

*(To found and maintain technical training and vocational institutes)*

Opened in 2002, this project is mainly funded by Friends of TREAD although it does now generate a little income itself. It operates in a purpose built workshop on the Sarah site and runs 12-month courses for 20 needy tribal girls a year to give them a skill for life and independence. At the end of the course each girl receives the gift of a sewing machine. Friends of TREAD raises some of the costs through individuals sponsoring girls and the remainder from its general funds.

### **ORPHANED ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME**

*(To relieve need, hardship and distress and further education)*

This project provides full care for orphans and semi-orphans and includes an educational assistance programme for education of promising students from poor families. It is funded exclusively by Friends of TREAD on a sponsorship basis. The youngsters live with a carer (who could be a relative or neighbour) or sometimes one surviving parent. Once any school expenses are paid for by TREAD India Trust, all remaining money is paid directly to this carer and often enables a whole family to stay together. If there is nobody to care for the child, it will be absorbed into the family of Sounder or one of the other trustees, whilst attending weekly boarding school/hostel nearby. There are currently 37 youngsters benefiting from this project, two of whom are severely disabled.

## FRIENDS OF TREAD ACTIVITIES

Friends of TREAD is now in its eighth year. Six of its trustees are based in Hastings and Bristol so many regular donors come from these areas. Two of the trustees are now based in France but keep in touch regularly through phone and email and attend the trustee meetings. The number of supporters has increased steadily each year; often people are attracted by word of mouth or through the website and get in touch with the trustees. Without the regular standing orders given so faithfully by many of its supporters, Friends of TREAD would be hard-pressed to continue its work. One-off donations are regularly received and are invaluable to "top-up" the projects or pay for some of the regular management and infrastructure costs incurred in India. These donations come from both individuals and organisations such as churches or schools. Many of these donations are eligible for Gift Aid to be reclaimed and this additional income has been very beneficial. We also receive donations from such website schemes as e-bay and easyfundraising and sometimes donations through Charity Aid Foundation. Additionally all the trustees and many supporters are regularly involved in giving presentations to clubs or groups, holding fundraising events or taking part in sponsored activities. Some people ask for donations to be made to Friends of TREAD instead of birthday or Christmas gifts and a gift catalogue introduced this year has been very successful.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND NEWS

When Friends of TREAD began in 2000, five young people were informally supported. Now almost eight years on, an estimated 1200 youngsters have received care and support and this number is growing. The running costs for TDCC, Grace Tailoring Centre and the Orphaned Assistance programme are funded solely by Friends of TREAD including special outings and Christmas gifts.

**Trinity Day Care Centre** is in its 8<sup>th</sup> year with 100 children attending daily. The Christmas gift to each child this year was a steel box to keep possessions protected from mildew and flood damage plus water filters for families who haven't received them to enable all the family to benefit from safe drinking water.

Another 20 girls completed their course this year at **The Grace Tailoring Centre** and each was given her own sewing machine donated by Friends of TREAD. These girls could then return to their home villages with a new skill and independence. They each received a watch and bag for Christmas.

Nine more children have been placed on the **Orphaned Assistance** programme this year and two have left the scheme to take up employment although they will still retain links to the TREAD family.

During this year, Friends of TREAD paid for the building costs of a boundary wall at the David Child Development centre whilst continuing regular monthly contributions towards general maintenance and management costs. Following terrorist attacks, the village of Dubathota site of the Hannah CDC was evacuated to a nearby town two years ago where a 20,000 strong refugee camp was set up by police and government. An emergency programme was introduced by Compassion and TREAD India Trust to support the Hannah children and families and this programme is still operating successfully until the villagers can safely return to their homes. Meantime the Hannah site remains unharmed and is regularly checked by TREAD staff.

This year Friends of TREAD was able to provide the funds for the much-needed 4-wheel drive multi-purpose vehicle which is used by all the TREAD India projects to transport goods, staff and children between sites and for emergency medical aid.

Following the untimely death of Dr Sounder Raj, Friends of TREAD deemed it necessary to ask two of its trustees to make an emergency visit to TREAD India Trust to encourage their trustees and staff and ensure that the work carried out by Sounder was continuing. They were able to report that TREAD India trust projects were still functioning as usual.

## **FUTURE PLANS**

The trustees of Friends of TREAD will continue developing and maintaining existing projects and sites according to requests and needs highlighted by TREAD India trust. Plans include:

- Building an extra hall for Sarah CDC as the number of children has increased.
- Providing resources at the Sarah site for medical outreach to nearby forestry villages and projects

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

See attached accounts

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

- Alpha State websites
- Bristol Scouts
- Bexhill WI
- Church in Society
- Church of the Good Shepherd, Bristol
- DAG Furniture, Hastings
- Easy Fundraising .org
- Hastings Lions Club
- Hooe Baptist church
- Norfield Young People's Club
- Panto Pals
- Points of Light/ebay for charity
- Purpose Plate at Sandhurst Baptist Church
- Royal Sun Alliance, Bristol
- St Barts, Bristol
- St Mary Radcliffe School
- St Mary's Stoke Bishop
- St Michael and All Angels, Bristol

Finally, Friends of TREAD would like to thank the many individuals who faithfully support the work of TREAD financially, practically and prayerfully - without your help this work could not continue.