



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 2008/09

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

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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 who have appointed a further three trustees since then. Charity overheads are minimal as all work is carried out by the trustees and other supporters on a voluntary basis. Expenses incurred are costs of governance and generating funds including administration of the charity and the expenses for 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. Since the untimely death of Sounder in December 2007, his wife has taken on the role of Director and continues the work of TREAD with support from their adult children. 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 children have vaccinations against common diseases and receive additional medical

care when necessary. 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. A special medical fund is in place to enable appropriate medical care when needed. 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 240 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 in 2004 and it now cares for 222 children
- ❖ **David CDC**, Girkinpalli opened in November 2005 and currently 276 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 up to 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 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. If there is nobody to care for the child, he or she will be absorbed into the family of Ranji or one of the other trustees, whilst attending weekly boarding school/hostel nearby. There are currently 36 youngsters benefiting from this project, two of whom are severely disabled.

FRIENDS OF TREAD ACTIVITIES

Friends of TREAD is now in its ninth 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 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 receiving birthday or Christmas gifts and a gift catalogue introduced last year has been very successful.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND NEWS

The last year has been one of adjustment for Friends of TREAD and TREAD India Trust since the loss of their dynamic Founder Dr Sounder Raj. His family and staff have needed time to grieve and reorganise their responsibilities and job roles. Yet they have maintained regular contact with us, giving up to date reports on all the projects and the children despite coping with political unrest in the area. In the last year, throughout Orissa and neighbouring states, there have been shocking incidents of violence against Christians with outbreaks of violence in Podia and Girkinpali where threats were made to TREAD projects. The TREAD staff and trustees have been under enormous pressure, liaising with police and villagers and trying to diffuse the tensions, whilst often patrolling the centres at night to guard against attacks. Ranji has found travelling between projects even more difficult and dangerous this year.

In March 2008, two paediatric doctors accompanied the FOT trustees to India and poorly children were brought to their notice at the various TREAD projects. They discovered many previously unidentified conditions/sicknesses, some of which need ongoing treatment. Since their visit, the doctors have kept in touch with TREAD staff by email and phone and have been able to give some advice in emergencies.

Trinity Day Care Centre is in its 9th year with 100 children attending daily and all costs met by Friends of TREAD.

- During this year, we paid for the building costs of a veranda and roof repairs at Trinity Day Care Centre.

- At Christmas, each child received household items as a gift for their family.
- During the last Friends of TREAD visit to TREAD India, it was agreed that a special medical fund would be allocated each month to enable children to receive proper care. The new Manager of TDCC, Jayraj, supervises any ongoing medical treatment and ensures that any sick child is taken to the doctor or hospital with costs met by Friends of TREAD from general funds.
- Children leaving TDCC this year to go on to secondary education enjoyed the annual trip to Film City in Hyderabad, together with the Grace Tailoring students. For many of them, this trip would be the first time they had left their village or surrounding area, and is a great treat.

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. (Four of these were donated through Friends of TREAD Gift Catalogue.) These girls were able to return to their home villages with a new skill and independence. They each received a watch and bag for Christmas.

37 youngsters were cared for on the **Orphaned Assistance** programme this year. One girl has recently married so has now left the scheme but will retain links with TREAD.

Following terrorist attacks three years ago, the village of Dubatota site of the Hannah CDC was evacuated to a nearby town 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.

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. During the next Trustees' visit in October 2009, we hope to further plans for the much needed medical outreach in Orissa.

FINANCIAL REVIEW See attached accounts

1. The income for the year is very similar to last year, which is very encouraging in the current economic climate.
2. The only exceptional grants to Tread India were for the repair to the roof and for the verandah. We have established a separate fund to supply medicines for the TDCC children as needed
3. The governance costs were higher than last year, but did include the purchase of an upgrade for the computer finance package and two years' payment for the

website. We also purchased a quantity of stamps in advance of the price increase. The governance costs amount to 4% of the income.

4. One exceptional item was the repayment of some gift aid to the Inland Revenue. This was due to an incorrect claim for gift aid on a fundraising event. As the repayment was after the end of the financial year, it is shown in the accounts under sundry creditors.
5. We have two reserve restricted funds - one for TDCC and one for Grace tailoring as a result of funds being provided to cover the costs over a period of time rather than being available for immediate use.
6. As agreed at the last AGM, expenses were paid for two trustees to visit the projects in March 2008, because of the exceptional circumstances.
7. The short term investments for the reserve accounts are held in a Special Interest account at the bank.
8. The funds for Grace Tailoring and for the purchase of sewing machines have been show separately in the accounts this year. This is because of the reserve account for Grace and the additional purchases of sewing machines this year resulting in funds being carried forward to next year.

SPECIAL THANKS

- 179th Rainbows, Bristol
- Alpha State Website Services
- Bristol Church Youth Group
- Church of the Good Shepherd, Bristol
- Concert at St Leonard's Church:- Anna Wilson;
Roland Friday: Bernard Perkins
- Fitzer Lacey Trust
- Martin Fletcher
- Hastings Lions
- Hooe Baptist Church
- Panto Pals
- Points of Light/e bay for charity
- R Overton and Swimming Club
- Ryarsh Church, Kent
- St Bartholomew's Church, Bristol
- St Leonards Baptist Church
- St Mary's Church. West Horsley
- St Michael's Church, Bristol
- Mrs & Mrs A Tarling
- UIA Charitable Foundation

Friends of TREAD would also 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.

