

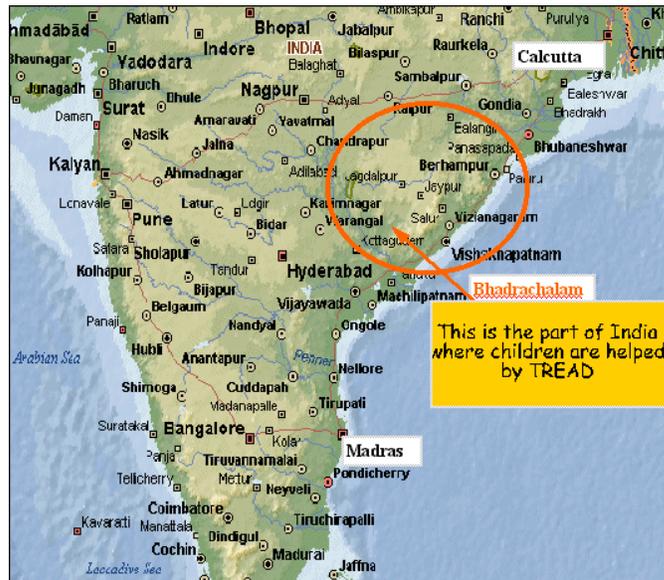


# Friends of TREAD

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

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

## Annual Report 2009/10



**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

**Hon. Treasurer:** Janet Crawford

**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 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 basic 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; 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 provide 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 286 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 275 children attend

### **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 tenth 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 or Charity Choice. 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

It is over 2 years since the death of TREAD India Trust founder Dr Sounder Raj and during their annual visit in October/November 2009, Friends of TREAD trustees were reassured to see that partner organisation TREAD India continues to operate smoothly and efficiently. The family and trustees have taken on new roles and responsibilities and work as a close-knit team, sharing out tasks and liaising with one another over everyday and long-term decisions.

### TRINITY DAY CARE CENTRE (TDCC)

The project is in its 10<sup>th</sup> year with 100 children attending daily and all costs met by Friends of TREAD (FOT).

- The building is an old house and in the future FOT would like to replace it with a purpose built building to offer more space and better accommodation for the children. TREAD India Trust is negotiating to buy adjoining land to be funded by FOT.
- We have increased the monthly grant to TDCC and the medical budget to allow for higher cost of living
- We have paid for new boundary fencing, a replacement motorbike and gas stove.
- TDCC's manager Jayaraj, a qualified teacher has established a library at the centre with books and also copies of the daily newspapers, to enable the children to keep up to date with world and local news. Friends of TREAD received a grant which has been set aside to fund this and in certain cases provide future students with books for college
- We have agreed with the TREAD staff to let the children continue here beyond primary school age to 10th standard (ie 16-17 yr) when they sit their important national exams.
- During Friends of TREAD Trustees' visit, several of the TDCC leavers came to meet them again. These young people in their late teens at college gave moving testimonies about what TREAD had done for them, emphasizing the importance they placed on discipline, education and spiritual values. Here are some of their testimonies:

*"I would never have imagined that someone like me would ever have the chance to go to Hyderabad Film City – never would I have expected it in my whole lifetime. Now anything is possible"*

*"Before TDCC I never knew what it was like to be clean or have clothes that weren't old, torn and dirty. "*

*"When I joined TDCC I would wake up in the morning so excited thinking about going to the centre."*

*"When I left TDCC I missed it so much."*

TREAD's founder Sounder recognised the importance of educating children to bring about long-term change in attitudes and self esteem. At TDCC, girls are treated equally to boys and everyone is treated with respect. We are confident that TDCC students will one day pass on these values to their children.

### SARAH CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

- In November 2009, Compassion International (who run 3 projects in partnership with TREAD India trust) agreed to offer places to 50 more children at the Sarah site, confirming that TREAD offers a first rate service. The Sarah Child Dev't Centre now has almost 300 children so the construction of a 2nd multi purpose hall funded by Friends of TREAD is underway to provide extra space for these growing youngsters.
- We have also paid for new outside play equipment and a replacement motorbike .
- During the Trustees' visit, a show was put on for them by the children and the villagers all came along to watch, underlining the importance of the Sarah site as a community centre for the

village. During terrorist threats earlier in the year, the villagers had stood by the TREAD team helping to guard the site from attack.

#### **DAVID CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**

- There is no main water supply in this village so a new bore well as well as a storage tank and motor pump have been provided for this centre by a donation to Friends of TREAD.
- A new generator, toilets and a replacement motorbike have also been funded by Friends of TREAD and an area between study halls has been concreted.

#### **HANNAH CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**

For three years, terrorist activity has forced the villagers of Dubatota to a nearby refugee site. Friends of TREAD would like to pay tribute to the faithful TREAD Hannah staff, who for three years have made the best of very limited resources yet still offered a high standard of care to these needy children. We are happy to report that the government have now allowed the villagers back to their homes and the Hannah Centre has reopened. Friends of TREAD has paid for the necessary repairs and maintenance costs to bring this site back up to standard and funded a replacement motorbike, generator, play materials and bore well.

#### **GRACE TAILORING CENTRE**

This project is now in its 9th year based in Daniel Cottage on the Sarah site and continues to deliver an excellent one year course. Sewing machines have been given to the girls who completed their course in October 2009 and Friends of TREAD have sanctioned an extra place for the new intake of students this year bringing the numbers to 21. The centre continues to have a waiting list as there is always a need for village tailors. The girls are often able to marry out of the village and use their skills elsewhere

#### **ORPHANED ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME**

36 youngsters have continued to benefit from this project and FOT Trustees met many of them in October. Some of the youngsters attend boarding schools funded by the project and this year the Trustees visited a couple of schools and were impressed by the facilities enjoyed by the children.

#### **MEDICAL NEWS**

During 2009, Friends of TREAD trustees had meetings with two paediatric doctors from Love the One charity; the doctors then revisited some of the TREAD child development centres in Orissa. From April 2010 they will run a pilot scheme reviewing the medical needs of the children based at the Sarah site. This will give them a picture of the health needs in that area and they can judge the viability of running a longer term project there in partnership with TREAD India Trust.

#### **EURO BANK ACCOUNT**

Friends of TREAD has now opened a subsidiary euro bank account to facilitate donations from eurozone countries.

### **FUTURE PLANS**

The trustees of Friends of TREAD will continue to fund the development and maintenance of existing projects and sites according to requests and needs highlighted by TREAD India trust. In this coming year, we hope to further the plans for a medical centre at the Sarah site and to move forward plans for reconstruction of the Trinity Day Care Centre. We are mindful of the rising cost of living in India which coupled with poor exchange rates could lead to insufficient funding of TREAD India Trust projects so will monitor this situation and increase grants if necessary.

## FINANCIAL REPORT 2009/2010 - see attached accounts

### 1. Income

The comparison between this year's income and last year is a little complex. Excluding legacies the overall income was just slightly lower than the previous year (-2.8%). Individual giving increased by 8.8% mainly as a result of some very generous donations from birthday celebrations, wedding anniversaries and in memory of loved ones.

Gift Aid recovery was very similar to last year after the repayment is taken into account.

We are extremely grateful to a very generous legacy, which is held in reserve for future projects.

We also received a generous donation to provide library books and equipment for the projects.

Bank interest on our funds was greatly reduced as a result of the drop in interest rates.

### 2. Grant to TREAD India

We made a number of exceptional grants to TREAD India, most of which are mentioned in the main report.

Sarah project received £890; Hannah Centre £1639 and David Centre £2959. This was in addition to the regular grants for maintenance. TDCC received £756. We also sent a grant for roof repairs at TDCC and a new generator for Sarah.

### 3. Governance Costs

These were substantially lower than last year as we didn't make any major purchases. These costs represent 2% of income (excluding legacies)

### 4. Fund Raising Events

We had a very successful and enjoyable afternoon tea last summer. We are grateful for two donations from the organisers of the Hastings Half Marathon (2009 and 2010) and also to Wendy Hopkins for donations as a result of a valiant 50m sponsored cycle ride.

### 5. Reserve Funds

We only have one restricted reserve fund for TDCC. This is as a result of funds being provided in advance to cover an extended period of time

### 6. Investments

The short term investments in the reserve account are held in a Special Interest account at the bank.

## SPECIAL THANKS

Alpha State Website services

Bristol Parish Youth group

Bristol playgroup

Church of the Good Shepherd

Easy fundraising

Pamela Evans - *birthday gifts*

Martin Fletcher

Hasting Lions - *Hastings Half Marathon*

Hooe Baptist church

Wendy Hopkins - *cycle ride*

Rob Miles - *party*

Panto Pals

Morris and Annette Passley - *25th W.A. & birthday gifts*

Doug and Mary Robertson - *25th W.A. gifts and in memory of Doug's mother*

St Bonaventure's Rainbows

St Michael's Church Bristol

St Michael's Earlybirds

*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.*