



Friends of
TREAD

Summer News

2012

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

Charity Reg No:
1081400

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

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

There have been many times in the life of **TREAD** since it was created in 2000, when we have faced trials and tribulations. 2012 has been probably the most difficult time that we have experienced since the death of Sounder and the prospect of trying to write a newsletter was not something to relish. We have suffered a number of setbacks but before we get too depressed, we can say that despite everything the projects are still functioning well and the **993** children and students, who are the **reason for our existence**, are still able to benefit from their development centres and the tailoring course. In addition the Orphan Assistance Programme still does "what it says on the tin". **The support we have received from so many recently has been most encouraging. Thank you.**

THE SOUNDER CHILDREN'S CLINIC CLOSES

A year ago we reported the opening of the clinic in our newsletter. In March this year we received reports of the kidnapping of two Italian men in Orissa state and that the security situation had become very volatile with the kidnapping of a political leader and the murder of a senior policeman. The state authorities required all foreigners working in the state to leave, so partner **Doctors Mary and Cat** made a hasty retreat to the relative safety of Hyderabad. Their Indian staff remained on site in the hope that things would improve or that Indian doctors could be found to take over the running of the clinic for Mary and Cat's charity **Love the One**. The clinic has, however, sadly remained closed since March.

The difficulties increased on 1st July, when we received a report that a severe and sudden storm had hit the Sarah site and that a number of our buildings had been damaged. This included the Clinic and its office, whose roofs were removed and the contents damaged by water. We are presently working on getting the necessary repairs done to a standard where they will hopefully be more robust against future extreme adverse weather conditions. On a positive note, the doctors have been able to work on their training and development programme for healthcare workers in the rural areas such as Podia, where medical services are minimal. The city gives them good access to other NGO's, information and internet to enable their research. Their work and huge vision for India is just at its beginning. www.lovetheone.org

The weather and politics are never far from interfering with daily life in India. A very large tree was uprooted and fortunately fell away from the much used Daniel Cottage.

There were no casualties. More recently shootings in the local market resulted in the death of one policeman with two more injured. Members of our team and some of the Sarah children witnessed this and ran for safety.



CURRENT STATISTICS

Trinity Day Care **105 children**

£10/month

Grace Tailoring **20 Students**

£15/month £60 Sewing Machine

Orphan Assistance **33 children**

£15/month

Compassion Aided Child Development Centres

Sarah CDC **298 children**

Hannah CDC **285 children**

David CDC **252 children**

WELL DONE CHILDREN !

54 children at the Sarah Child Development Centre recently sat their 10th standard exams and 48 of them passed. Several children from our nearby Centres also passed. Our partners Compassion, the parents and school teachers are "all very happy and proud". Congratulations to all of them.

The parents of children at our Hannah Centre, which is located in a politically volatile area are delighted as they feel that without the usually unaffordable opportunities offered by our Centre, their children could well have been drawn into the local lifestyle of violent groups. Sravanthi who left Trinity DCC last year has now returned there as a tutor and three children from Sarah have been accepted on a leadership development programme run by Compassion International.

Lalitha RIP



Lalitha age 30, was one of our original orphans from the 1990's, who progressed to become part of the TREAD team. She was assistant to our late director Sounder in the early days of the Sarah Child Development Centre and was involved in the many practical aspects of running the site particularly in the use of her legendary cooking skills. She could also turn her hand to cricket umpiring for the highly competitive games played amongst the children and against outside opposition.

In January she developed some worrying muscle weakness symptoms, which were not diagnosed by the local medical services, her condition worsened and she was taken to hospital and then to specialists in Hyderabad. She was then diagnosed with Polymyositis. Her condition deteriorated until she could not move, swallow or breathe normally. Doctors Mary and Cat were by now also in Hyderabad after their removal from Orissa and were able to encourage their friend and monitor her treatment. Several thousand pounds were raised from our and their kind supporters but sadly she died peacefully in a newly opened and rare local hospice, found and arranged by Mary and Cat. **She is greatly missed by them, the children and the TREAD family.**

Charlotte Overton to India in May

The reason for my visit was to carry out research for my dissertation. My project aimed to map the bore wells, collect water samples, and carry out questionnaires regarding groundwater quality and management. The two villages I was working in were Kudunure where the Trinity Day Care Centre is based and Thurukaka, where a number of the orphan assistance children live. Practically speaking my trip was a success and I collected the data I needed. On the TREAD front it was great visiting the TDCC children in their homes. I was warmly welcomed by all and it was great to hear about the difference TREAD is making in their lives. Asides from questioning them about water I had time to play games with them, a favourite of which was where we all had balloons tied to our ankles and had to try and pop each others, also a number of books had been donated by a couple of families in Bristol and these were enjoyed by the TDCC children. My last week was spent with Mary and Cat. It was fantastic getting to spend time with them, help out with an Operation Mobilisation slum ministry and enjoy the touristy side of Hyderabad.

Friends of  TREAD

www.friendsoftread.org

233 Wishing Tree Road
St Leonards on Sea TN38 9LA

Phone:

01424 853697

0117 9093592/9834300

Email: treaduk@hotmail.com

See website for annual report
and accounts or contact us for
hard copy

Clive joins the trustees

Clive Daniels of Bristol has accepted an invitation to become a Trustee of FOT. Clive visited the TREAD projects in India 5 years ago with **Tim and Charlotte Overton**. The visit left him with a lasting impression of the amazing work that is done by TREAD. Clive said, "I feel very privileged to be asked to take on this role but also humbled by the responsibilities. I hope that I am able to work as enthusiastically as the other Trustees and together continue to make very real differences to the lives of the children and their families." Clive lives in Bristol and worships at St. Michaels. He is married to Sarah and has three grown up (nearly!) children. He is a chartered surveyor in central government and hopes that his management and professional skills can be of use to FOT. His hobbies include singing, gardening, cooking and hill walking. "I am very excited about becoming more closely involved in the work of FOT. A visit back to the TREAD family in India is definitely on the cards." Watch this space!. **We welcome him** and his valuable expertise to the board.



Fundraising

- On March 26th **Alex Dart of Bristol** completed a sponsored triathlon consisting of a 750m swim, 20km cycle and 5km run in 1 hour and 51 minutes. In total Alex managed to raise **£1,088.50** half of which has been donated to TREAD to be used towards the Grace tailoring project.
- On Sunday 15th July the **Annual St Leonards BBQ** and afternoon tea event found a gap in the rainy weather to raise a record **£1300**. Many thanks to all the donors, helpers and supporters on the day.
- The **appeal** for funds to try to save **Lalitha** brought in over **£5800**. It was very moving to receive this support and to read accompanying messages of love and concern that were forwarded to Lalitha.
- **Hastings Lions Club** have made a further donation of **£350**.

Double Wedding

Those with an eagle eye might notice that the number of orphans we are supporting has declined since the edition last summer. There is a happy reason for this with the marriages of three in the last few months, which shows their progress from poverty to transformed life opportunities through the TREAD orphan assistance scheme.

On February 4th there was a double wedding when **Venkatashu** and his sister **Triveni** (left picture) were married. There was some concern from our team as they are still students but they have both married into successful families, who will support them to complete their studies and were encouraged by their guardian /uncle, who was keen for them to make good marriages.

More recently we received news of the marriage of **M.Swapna**. She had completed her nursing training and has married a farmer.



If you buy or sell anything online ANYWAY why not try-out these services to raise extra funds for **Friends of TREAD**. They are already bringing large benefits to our work.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/uk/tread or www.ebay.co.uk with TREAD nominated or use <http://tread.easysearch.org.uk> as an internet search engine.