



Friends of  
**TREAD**

# Winter News

## 2012

Charity Reg No:  
1081400

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

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

### Elizabeth and Alex meet their family's children

Trustees Mandy and Colin have just returned from a November visit to India . It was arranged at short notice to coincide and overlap with St Leonards couple Alex and Elizabeth , who spent the first few days with us as part of their belated honeymoon tour of India. Elizabeth and her parents have for a number of years supported two children on our Orphan Assistance Programme. Her moving report of meeting them is on Page 2.

Elizabeth is an Educational Psychologist and Alex is a retired ballet dancer currently working in education as a mentor to gifted and talented children. The combination of their empathy and skills was a great success with the all the orphan children and the Trinity Day Care Centre children. Alex led some dance master classes which were greeted with huge enthusiasm .

Sadly we were not able to see the 860 plus children at our three Compassion aided sites. With the security situation we had problems getting authorization to travel to the area. Permission was eventually obtained then rescinded later by the local Police Chief , who said that he could not accept responsibility for foreigners safety . We remained based in the district around our relatively safe HQ in Andhra Pradesh with the three Compassion project managers and the senior Grace Tailoring Instructor Guja travelling to us. They gave us detailed inspiring briefings on their concerns and successes.

All this sounds a bit grim but enabled us to concentrate on spending more time than ever before with the children at TDCC , the orphans , TREAD India trustees, staff and family .

We visited TDCC three times including a complete day helping the team by arriving for the 7.30 am start and staying until the children were sent home at 6pm.

7.30 am is set aside for devotions, led on this occasion by Mandy, followed at 8am by study time and reading practice. Breakfast is served at 8.30am when they tucked into large helpings of rice with a very red and fearsomely hot sauce. This was clearly the favourite part of the meal but left our fingers and mouths tingling for a while after trying a minute portion ! From 9am the children departed for school in batches and later the older children to the new village high school, who escorted some of the tiny preschool children to the two nurseries in the village. Later in the day they all returned for more study , play and the main evening meal cooked by our long serving cooks Sita and Drakshma before going home in the dark at about 6pm.



We were privileged to visit a few children in their homes including Monika and her little sister Siddi Bindi, who live with their deaf and dumb dad in very poor circumstances . Monika's life was saved last year with treatment needed for a heart condition begun after our partners Drs Mary and Cat intervened .



Y.Rani with Elizabeth and Alex



### CURRENT STATISTICS

Trinity Day Care	105 children
<b>£10/month</b>	
Grace Tailoring	20 Students
<b>£15/month</b>	<b>£60 Sewing Machine</b>
Orphan Assistance	33 children
<b>£15/month</b>	
<b>Compassion Aided Child Development Centres</b>	
Sarah CDC	298 children
Hannah CDC	288 children
David CDC	279 children

### Cyclone Nilam



Within days of our arrival, the East coast of Andhra Pradesh was hit by cyclone Nilam. Although it had largely blown itself out by the time it got to us, it still produced torrential rain and thunder for a couple of days. It left a trail of devastation with roads, bridges, crops and homes damaged and numerous deaths . Many farmers are heavily in debt and the total loss of crops left some suicidal. All the work and maize seed of the farm women in the picture was washed away two days later.

The weaknesses of our TDCC building were exposed as water came through the flat concrete roof and the playground as pictured was rendered unusable by the floods. We are investigating the cost and practicality of methods needed to correct the faults in the building .It was good that we could witness at first hand the problems and will give it our urgent attention.

## My girls

by Dr Elizabeth Russell St Leonards on Sea

This was my first time to India... I was told to expect that India would be an assault on our senses; the bright colours, the pungent smells and the delicious food. What I had not expected was that India would also **steal my heart**.

A huge part of the reason for this is down to 'my girls'; **Y.Rani** (sponsored by my parents) and **G.Swapna** (sponsored by me). I had butterflies in my tummy from the moment our plane touched down in India to the moment, when I had finally met the two girls, who have been in our thoughts and prayers all these years. My husband **Alex and I** were **privileged** to be able to visit their homes and meet their families.

If you read a description of their lives on paper you may be tempted to feel sorry for them but don't be fooled. My girls have helped to totally change my perspective on some things. In terms of materialistic things they don't have much by our standards and yes, they may live in mud shacks but they have a roof over their heads, educational opportunities and a sunny outlook as well as the love and support of their families and neighbours in their villages. My girls are the lucky ones, not everyone can say this.

**Rani and Swapna** are both respectful to others and are hard workers. They are both in college and are truly thankful for all the opportunities which come their way.

Rani is the only child left at home as her two sisters have both got married. Rani told me that she was proud to recently become an Auntie, which I could relate to.

Swapna and her little brother were fortunate to be taken in by their Uncle and Auntie, when they were orphaned. Swapna is coincidentally studying the same subjects I studied at college - all the sciences. Swapna would like to become a community nurse.

We were given a wonderful welcome by this part of the TREAD family in India and this hospitality was extended when we visited TDCC. It was marvellous to see first-hand how TREAD has been making a difference in the community. I am honoured to consider myself a small part of the TREAD operation.

**This was my first time to India... but I hope it won't be my last.**

## Four fine young men and a girl



Susan Rispa Manoj Vinny Joshi Gopi

The Orphan Programme was our first project beginning with a handful of children and has now helped 58 children past and present. If there was ever any doubt about the value of this, then the five young people in the picture are **testimony to its great effect**.

Their arrival at HQ Shiloh to see us was a moment to treasure as their **maturity, courtesy and readiness to face the world** was revealed. They have either started or plan to go into areas of further education with lab tech training at the hospital, medicine and Police colleges mentioned as the next steps for some. Susan, delightful and aged 15, is a natural leader and soon had the lads organised. We think she was the apple of their eyes... so to speak.

There are currently 33 children on the programme and we met all but two of them. One is at engineering college in Hyderabad. We were moved by every one of them as they related the benefit derived and some of the huge difficulties that they have overcome in their lives.

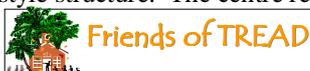
## The New and the Old at TDCC



The young men in the picture, who returned to TDCC for a day, represent some of the first three intake batches from 2000 onwards. Many are now in further education and work and showed the benefit of having attended TDCC. We were able to use their presence with us and their example as a way to inspire the newer ones in their studies.

## Hannah hall difficulties

For most of this year we have tried to build a second hall at the Hannah Child Development Centre. The July storm damaged it before completion and also the kitchen store room. The hall walls were repaired but we have had a number of problems since then with security issues and the political situation halting work. We have received plans for a new kitchen store as they are presently using a tent style structure. The centre remains operating as usual.



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## The Sounder Clinic

The storm damaged clinic at the Sarah site, operated by our partners **Love the One**, remains closed. On the visit we were handed architect drawings/costs for remedial work and have now asked for work to begin to enable its use as a temporary dormitory for the Grace Tailoring Students until conditions allow the clinic to hopefully reopen.

If you buy or sell anything online, PLEASE try out these services to raise extra funds for Friends of TREAD without costing you anything!

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/uk/tread](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/uk/tread)

[www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk) nominating Friends of TREAD

<http://tread.easysearch.org.uk> as an internet search engine.

Thanks to all our faithful supporters—we couldn't do this without you! We wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year!