

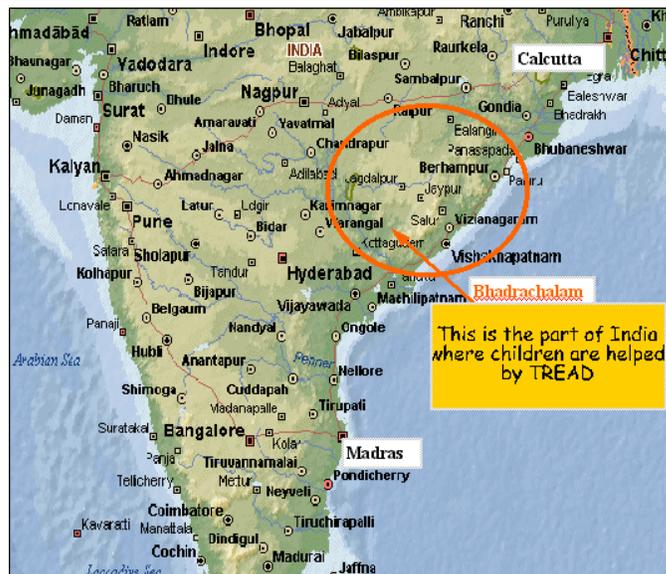


# Friends of TREAD

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

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

## Annual Report 2017/18



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

**Trustees:** Amanda Burling, Colin Burling, Janet Crawford, Clive Daniels, 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 trust in July 2000 with five trustees who have since appointed a further four trustees. 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 two trustees 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 Telengana (formerly part of ANDHRA PRADESH) and Odisha (formerly 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 these regions 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, Telangana (formerly ANDHRA PRADESH) in South India. 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; the charity's work is targeted at children, young people and their families. The charity was founded in 1999 by the late Dr M Sounder Raj and its current Director is his younger son Vasanth who had worked with his father for some years.

Projects supported are:

### **CHILD DEVELOPMENT/ DAY CARE CENTRES** (*to further education of children and young people*)

These centres for children provide care before and after school with meals, activities and homework supervision. Clothes and school uniform are provided and the children 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 improved attendance rates and extra teachers provided by government.

- **Trinity Day Care Centre** (TDCC), Kudunure, TELENGANA  
Opened in 2000, around 100 children attend this day care centre that is solely supported by funds from Friends of TREAD. It provides care from Monday - Friday 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 and they are always welcome to drop in. Coaching is given to help children with their exams and there are also holiday Bible schools. A special medical fund is in place for 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, ODISHA is based on a 3.5 acre site purchased and developed through donations from Friends of TREAD. This centre which opened in 2002 and its two satellite centres were run in partnership with Compassion International's East India branch that paid for the running costs of the projects, whilst Friends of TREAD took responsibility for the trust management costs and for infrastructure. Sadly in March 2017 Compassion International had to withdraw from India (see below) so this centre and its **two satellite centres\*** in nearby villages with a total of 675 children closed down their full projects in June 2016 and since then have been running reduced programmes.  
\***Hannah CDC**, Dubathota in an isolated, poverty-stricken forestry tribal village opened in 2004  
\***David CDC**, Girkinpalli opened in November 2005.

## **GRACE TAILORING CENTRE, Podia, ODISHA**

*(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, one of the TREAD trustees will take responsibility for him/her, whilst the child attends weekly boarding school/hostel nearby. There are currently 24 youngsters benefiting from this project, one of whom is severely disabled.

## **FRIENDS OF TREAD ACTIVITIES**

Friends of TREAD is now in its eighteenth year. Five of its trustees are based in Hastings and Bristol so many regular donors come from these areas. One trustee lives in Nottingham, one has just relocated to Devon and two trustees are based in France but all keep in touch regularly through phone and email and attend the trustee meetings. The number of supporters continues to increase steadily; often people are attracted by word of mouth or through the website or Facebook page 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 through such website schemes as e-bay and easyfundraising and sometimes donations through Charity Aid Foundation; BT My Donate and Virgin Money. 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 prefer donations to be made to Friends of TREAD rather than receive gifts to mark special occasions, or to replace tributes of flowers at funerals of loved ones.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND NEWS**

### **PROJECT 200 PLUS – THE BACKGROUND AND LATEST NEWS**

In March 2017 Compassion International was forced to withdraw from working in India, leaving hundreds of projects unfunded throughout India. Amongst these were the three TREAD India Trust child development centres in Odisha and surrounding area – Sarah CDC in Podia, Hannah CDC in Dubatota and David CDC in Girkinpali with a total of 675 children in attendance. Friends of TREAD had originally paid for the buildings at all of these centres and were reluctant to let them go to waste but as a small charity we simply didn't have the longterm capacity to support so many children. We agreed with TREAD India Director Vasanth that these centres should continue to offer minimised programmes of relief for just 200 of the most vulnerable children who would otherwise go hungry. The 200 children were selected by Vasanth across the three centres and remaining staff volunteered to work sacrificially on lower salaries. Friends of TREAD then launched an appeal in March 2017 for this new Project 200+.

This year has been a real challenge and we were unsure how long we could sustain Project 200+ but have been heartened by the generous response of existing FOT supporters and encouraged by new donors who have come forward to help. Of course our general funds this year have been depleted so we haven't been able to increase funding to any of our other projects to keep up with the cost of living but thanks to a designated donation, we were able to increase the salaries of the managers and staff at the three Project 200 Plus centres to give them a more realistic wage.

Friends of TREAD trustees have agreed to continue funding this emergency project as long as we can whilst TREAD India seeks partnerships with other Indian NGOs to enable these three centres to operate once again at maximum capacity. Two organisations have so far expressed an interest in working with TREAD India in the future and TREAD are also actively seeking funding from Indian organisations.

### **TRINITY DAY CARE CENTRE (TDCC) Kudunure, Telengana**

This project has always been solely supported by Friends of TREAD and continues to operate normally. However TDCC has been affected by the rising cost of commodity prices. Jayaraj runs a very efficient and tight ship and is managing the financial situation as best he can although we are concerned that the loyal staff have only had a small increase in wages. Friends of TREAD would like to increase the level of support for TDCC in the future but priority must first be given to children who would otherwise go hungry in the Project 200 Plus and all the TREAD India team are aware and supportive of this decision.

### **ORPHANED ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME**

On their last visit in Spring 2017, FOT trustees were joined by UK supporter Jane who has sponsored Ravi for some years. Ravi was severely disabled and was cared for by his devoted grandmother with financial input from FOT. We are sad to say that Ravi passed away during this year and we extend our sympathy to his grandmother. His sponsor Jane was so glad that she had an opportunity to meet him.

There are now 24 youngsters and young adults supported by this project, many of whom are in further education. They continue to receive support from FOT until they marry or get jobs. One disabled young man who has been supported for some years expects to get a job placement this year.

### **GRACE TAILORING CENTRE, PODIA, ODISHA**

Now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, this project continues to offer life-changing opportunities to vulnerable teenagers and young women. Life skills, independence, self confidence as well as learning a trade are all on offer through this one year training course and this year 17 students have begun the new course, 14 of whom are boarding onsite. This is proving a challenge to TREAD India as staff and boarding accommodation are limited but one which they take on cheerfully.

### **PUBLICITY/FUNDRAISING**

- During this year Friends of TREAD updated its website [www.friendsoftread.org](http://www.friendsoftread.org) with the blessing and input from Peter of Alphastate websites. This has enabled us to provide up to the minute information and news for our supporters and is a useful point of reference for would-be donors.
- We have begun a blog *Postcards from India* which gives a snapshot of life in the areas where TREAD works and is linked to our website whilst our Facebook page and Twitter account continue to bring news snippets and photos of TREAD projects.
- Last autumn two young volunteers spent three months living at TREAD HQ and spent most of their days at Trinity Day Care centre where they proved to be a hit with the children and staff. We enjoyed their regular photos and news which we were able to put on to our blog and FB, bringing welcome publicity to FOT work.
- Other young volunteers have begun a one-year running challenge aptly named TREAD2India to jointly clock up 4858 miles (the distance between FOT and TREAD India Trust HQs) aiming to raise money and awareness enroute which is monitored on a separate blog linked to our website.
- A British chaplaincy in SW France has named Friends of TREAD as its charity this year and we continue to enjoy regular support from other groups.
- Our trustees in St Leonards held a record-breaking annual afternoon tea at the end of the summer.

### **FUTURE PLANS/REQUESTS**

- To a certain extent we are treading water whilst we explore other funding possibilities but shall continue working with TREAD India Trust to seek partnerships and funding to support and develop Project 200+. Once this is achieved we can then look at TDCC and Grace Tailoring centre to consider their needs and future plans.
- We shall continue publicising the work of TREAD and hope to make up the shortfall in general funds through fundraising events and applications for grants. If anyone knows of a charity/trust who might look favourably upon the work that TREAD is doing, please let us know.
- The annual FOT trustees' visit will take place in Oct/Nov 2018 when two representatives of the Board will spend time discussing the work closely with our Indian counterparts, the staff and the children on the projects. Whenever we visit and meet the children and young people, we are reminded of what this charity is all about and return with a fresh passion.

## FRIENDS OF TREAD FINANCIAL REPORT 2017/18

We have again had a very challenging year but our supporters have been amazing and have risen to that challenge and for this we are extremely grateful.

### 1. Voluntary Income

It is only as a result of the generosity of our supporters that we have been able to keep all the projects going this year. It is difficult to compare individual giving year on year as people respond to different appeals, but our regular donor numbers are remaining steady. We cannot thank them individually but do thank them through this report. We are grateful again to the continued support from a number of churches: Bishopston and St Andrew's PCC, Bristol; St Leonard and St Ethelburga PCC, St Leonards on Sea; and Les Mains Ouvertes in France. We are also grateful to a number of people who have encouraged their friends and family to donate to FOT in lieu of presents for a significant event.

Until there is more clarity about the future financial security of Project 200+ we have requested that supporters give to general funds which the trustees then designate to Project 200+ so this shows in the accounts as unrestricted funds.

### 2. Fundraising

The annual afternoon tea at the Burlings' was again a great success and the weather was good! The amazing total raised this year was £3,310 including individual donations and gift aid. Tricia and David also held an afternoon tea in France (an interesting concept to their neighbours) and raise £155. Colin again covered the park and walk for the Hastings Half Marathon but the donation from the Hastings Lions wasn't received in time for this year's accounts so will show next year.

We had a very unexpected grant from the North Nibley Festival of £4,140 and a donation of £100 from a coffee morning held in Nottingham. We continue to receive donations through Easyfundraising.

### 3. Grant to TREAD India

During the year the number of Grace girls increased to 17 with many being residential students. The costs of the sewing machines have now been included as part of the Grace Tailoring Project. TDCC numbers remained steady but the number of orphans has dropped to 24 as the youngsters grow up and no longer need support from the programme. We were able to increase the support for Project 200+ during the year to cover an increase in wages for the staff.

### 4. Governance Costs

The trustees of FOT aim to keep the cost of running the charity to a minimum by donating their services free of charge where possible. The only governance costs were bank charges for the transfer of money to India; stationery and postage. We changed the administration of the website at a one-off cost of £200 so that we are able to update more frequently. There will be an ongoing annual fee of £30 and we are grateful to Peter at Alpha State Websites for all his help and advice.

The trustees didn't have a visit to India in this financial year but are planning one for October/November 18. We are grateful to Martin Fletcher for completing the Independent Examination of the accounts.