



Goodwill Children's Homes

Care and Education for Destitute Children in South India

NEWSLETTER

Tel: 0117 3250 550

www.goodwillhomes.org.uk



FROM ORPHANED VILLAGE BOY TO PRESIDENT



Kalyanasundaram's journey from a young boy at Goodwill Children's Homes to his recent election as President of the Indian Executive Committee is a story of resilience,

determination, and gratitude. He was born in the village of Sitharevu, nestled below the Thandigudi hills, to Sundaram, a village priest. Life became challenging early on, as Kalyanasundaram's mother passed away when he was just six months old. Faced with overwhelming difficulty in raising him, his father sought help and, in 1982, found a place for him at Goodwill Children's Homes. At the age of ten, Kalyanasundaram joined Goodwill, marking the beginning of a journey that would shape his future.

His education began with primary school at Mangalamkompu, followed by high school at Ayyampalayam, and later higher secondary schooling in Pattiveeranpatti. Driven by a passion for learning, he went on to pursue a Bachelor of Arts at Madurai Kamaraj University in 1992 and later completed a Diploma in Footwear Manufacturing in 1996, which laid the foundation for his future career.

In 2000, Kalyanasundaram married Ramya, from

Chennai, and together they built a family rooted in love and shared values. Their son, Akash, is now in his final year of a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

Professionally, Kalyanasundaram currently serves as a Quality Manager at a shoe manufacturing company near Chennai. Throughout his life, he has credited Goodwill Children's Homes as the "Bodhi tree" of his life – a sanctuary and shelter that has made his achievements possible.

In September 2024, Kalyanasundaram was elected President of Goodwill Homes Charitable Society in Tamil Nadu. His vision for Goodwill is clear: to build stability, sustainability, independence, and transparency for its future. Working closely with the UK trustees and staff at Goodwill, he aims to strengthen the organisation. Kalyanasundaram expressed his heartfelt gratitude to his sponsors, Keith Traynor and Peter Davis, and to all those who have supported Goodwill's mission.

Through his leadership, Kalyanasundaram hopes to inspire a new chapter for Goodwill Children's Homes – one of growth, unity, and enduring support for generations to come.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Supporter,

Every additional year of schooling received by a girl in rural India can increase her future income by 10%. This newsletter is full of examples of how your support has provided education for children in Tamil Nadu. You will enjoy reading their stories. Remember that the impact goes wider than the individuals- providing greater economic stability for families and creating a positive cycle that benefits future generations and fosters overall community development.

Behind the scenes, we have continued to work hard to ensure Goodwill remains relevant and provides the most appropriate support for disadvantaged communities in modern India. I look forward to sharing all the details in a future newsletter.

I hope you feel proud of the difference that you are making. Thank you for your continuing support.

Warmest wishes this Christmas season!

Dr David Neill



IN MEMORIAM: DR B.S. NAGARAJAN

(1935 – 2024)



We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Dr B.S. Nagarajan, former President of Goodwill India, on Monday, 26th August 2024. Dr Nagarajan was a transformative leader whose vision and dedication steered Goodwill India through its golden era. His leadership was marked by groundbreaking initiatives aimed at uplifting the most disadvantaged communities, particularly through the pioneering Goodwill Tribal Outreach Programme (TORP). His tireless efforts provided hope, education, and care to countless children in Goodwill Homes, leaving an enduring legacy of compassion and service.

Widely regarded as the father of the Tribal Outreach Programme, Dr Nagarajan's visionary approach and steadfast commitment to the underprivileged shaped much of Goodwill's mission and work. He dedicated his life to serving others, bringing transformative change to the lives of the poor and marginalized.

Dr Nagarajan will be remembered not only for his contributions to Goodwill but also for the profound impact he had on the many lives he touched. His legacy will continue to inspire those who carry forward the work he began.

The UK Trustees, along with the entire Goodwill family, extend their deepest condolences to Dr Nagarajan's family and loved ones. His unwavering commitment to service and his enduring compassion will forever be remembered.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

New Mailing Address for Letters and Parcels to India

Add the child's name and ID number
Goodwill Children's Homes Charitable Society
Sponsorship Office
Gandhipuram
Pattiveeranpatti - 624 211
Nilakottai Taluk
Dindigul District
South India

REMINDER OUR ADDRESS

Goodwill Children's Homes
2B Whitefriars
Lewins Mead, Bristol. BS1 2NT
Tel: 0117 3250 550

or Email:
admin@goodwillhomes.org.uk

TRUSTEE LEADS UK TEAM ON INSPIRING VISIT TO GOODWILL HOME AND TRIBAL VILLAGES



Trustee, Elaine Clark and a group of friends from the UK visited Thandigudi Home on October 18th where they were welcomed by the newly elected Secretary and Treasurer of GCHCS. They had a tour of the site, visited the school and participated in the dance performance on stage.

On Saturday, the 19th they visited two tribal villages. The trip to Panikarai village, near Kodaikanal, was an uphill trek through the jungle which took them an hour. Two girls from Goodwill, originally from the village joined them and led the way with ease. A local villager helped carry their equipment, and though the climb was tough, the team was encouraged by Goodwill's impact.

The stunning views, beautiful climate, and tempting lemongrass scent made the trek worthwhile. Despite concerns about the cloudy weather, they were relieved when they reached the bottom safely. Later, they visited Kaduguthadi Tribal village, where they handed out sweets, toys, and school supplies to the children gifted by Blundell's Prep school in Tiverton, Devon.



KAVI PRIYA'S TRANSFORMATION WITH GOODWILL'S SUPPORT

Kavi Priya's journey from adversity to achievement highlights the transformative power of love, education, and support. After losing her father at a young age, her mother brought her to Goodwill Children's Home, where she found stability and a nurturing environment. Starting her education there at age six, she thrived academically and emotionally, receiving the care and support essential for overcoming early hardships.

As she progressed, Kavi Priya moved to Goodwill Girls' Home, where she continued her education through the 12th standard. The supportive community and dedicated teachers at the Pattiveeranpatti Home fostered her academic and personal growth. Encouraged by her mentors, she pursued higher education, graduating with a BE in Civil Engineering in 2014, which marked the beginning of her professional journey with Larsen & Toubro Limited in Hyderabad.

Kavi Priya's career continued to flourish as she moved to Chennai and later to Vadipatti in Madurai, where she joined Jaya Constructions. Reflecting on her journey, she credits Goodwill's nurturing environment for her success, expressing gratitude for the opportunities and support that helped her overcome challenges and achieve greatness.



From College Dreams to Career Success: Nivetha's Story



D. Nivetha proudly shares her achievement of completing her B. com (IT) at Michael College of Arts and Science for Women, where she scored 77%. Her college life was filled with memorable experiences, including participating in cultural events, sports competitions, and track events, as well as performing in a Christmas drama with friends.

In addition to her studies, she completed courses in Tally and Export-Import (EXIM) Documentation, which she believes will be invaluable for her future career.

One of the highlights of her college journey was a tour

with her friends, where they enjoyed the beauty of nature, capturing memories by waterfalls and in the forest. With her undergraduate degree now complete, Nivetha is excited to pursue a Data Quality Analyst course at Don Bosco Institute in Chennai, bringing her closer to her dream of becoming a Data Analyst.

Nivetha expresses her deep gratitude to Goodwill Children's Homes for their unwavering support throughout her journey. She credits their help for enabling her to reach this point and extends heartfelt thanks to the generous donors whose kindness has shaped her future. Nivetha prays for their continued wellness and happiness and is forever grateful for the support that has made her dreams possible.

From Goodwill Homes to Environmental Secretary: Veeralakshmi's Journey

P. Veeralakshmi attributes her success to the support of Goodwill Children's Homes, which helped her through her 11th and 12th grades at Pattiveeranpatti. She scored 491 marks in her 12th standard and, with Goodwill's assistance, went on to complete her B. com (CA) at Bon Secours Arts and Science College for Women.

In her final year, Veeralakshmi's friends encouraged her to run for the post of Environmental Secretary. Although nervous, she decided to contest, and to her surprise, she won! As Secretary, she took the initiative to plant trees, promote waste segregation, and keep the campus plastic-free. These experiences helped shape her leadership skills and sense of responsibility.

One particularly joyful memory was being chosen as 'Santa Claus' during the college Christmas celebrations, an experience that brought happiness to everyone, including herself. After graduation, Veeralakshmi secured a job at Emerald Jewel Company in July 2024, where she enjoys a safe and comfortable work environment.



She is deeply grateful to Goodwill Homes for guiding and supporting her throughout her journey. Veeralakshmi cherishes the opportunities they provided.



Gokila's Rise: From Student to Quality Manager



Gokila expresses immense gratitude to Goodwill Children's Homes for their continuous support, which enabled her to complete her B. com (CA) from Bon Secours Arts and Science College. Her final year was filled with memorable experiences, including an industrial visit to Kodaikanal and Ooty, where she

learned about the tea manufacturing process. This trip not only allowed her to enjoy the beauty of nature but also deepened her bond with friends.

A standout moment of her final year was participating in a food sale event called "I Can," where she and her classmates successfully ran a Rice Shop, earning a profit for their department. The sense of achievement and teamwork made the day particularly special. In

April, Gokila and her peers were honoured with a Farewell Day organised by their juniors, marking an emotional but unforgettable chapter in her college journey.

After completing her studies, Gokila secured a position as a Quality Manager at Gainup Industrial India Private Limited near Batlagundu. In her role, she oversees a team of 30 workers, ensuring quality standards are met, and takes pride in earning a good salary. This position has brought her great joy and fulfilment.

Gokila credits her success to Goodwill Children's Homes, whose unwavering support helped her reach this point in her career. She is forever grateful for the opportunities provided and prays for the health, happiness, and prosperity of everyone at Goodwill. Gokila extends her heartfelt thanks to Goodwill for making her dreams a reality.

Sandhiya's Path to Gratitude and Success

N. Sandhiya extends her heartfelt thanks to the kind individuals at Goodwill, acknowledging that without their support, she would not have had the opportunity to pursue higher education. Thanks to their generosity, she completed her three-year degree at Bishop Thorp College in Dharapuram with good marks, bringing her immense happiness.

Throughout her college years, Sandhiya actively participated in various events such as Pongal, Christmas, and the Farewell celebration. She enjoyed performing in cultural activities like dance and drama with her friends, cherishing every moment. The hostel warden played a significant role in her life, providing care and numerous opportunities for extracurricular activities, including performances at festivals and prayer meetings.

Despite facing financial struggles within her family, Sandhiya worked as a daily wage labourer during holidays, taking pride in the support she provided to her parents with the money she earned. One of the highlights of her college experience was a memorable trip to Wayanad, Kerala, with her friends and staff. She also participated in the National Service Scheme (N.S.S.) camp, which proved to be both fulfilling and enjoyable.

Sandhiya expresses her deep gratitude to everyone at Goodwill for their kindness, which gave her peace of mind and the joy of completing her studies. She will always be thankful for their role in making her dreams come true.



Gnana Prakasam: Hard Work and Gratitude

Gnana Prakasam proudly shared that he successfully completed his four-year BE in Computer Science and Engineering at Indra Ganesan College of Engineering in Tiruchirappalli. Despite facing a challenge in his seventh semester when he failed one subject, he prepared to reappear for the exam, remaining hopeful for success. As he approached the end of his studies, he shifted his focus toward securing a job. He participated in several campus interviews, but no offers came his way. On March 13th, he attended an 'Employment Opportunity Camp' organised by Anna University under the Chief Minister's 'Naan Mudhalvan' scheme and eagerly awaited the results. Despite facing health challenges and undergoing prolonged treatment, he remained dedicated to his studies. Although his condition prevented him from participating in extracurricular activities, he was actively involved in campus interviews and has recently received a job offer. Diagnosed with a brain tumour, he is focusing on his treatment and hoping to join the workforce post-recovery. He expresses his profound gratitude to Goodwill acknowledging that without their support, students like him would struggle to access higher or professional education. Gnana said he prays for the well-being and prosperity of all the kind-hearted people at Goodwill.

**We extend our best wishes to Gnana Prakasam and wish him a swift recovery.*



A Story of Strength and Determination – Sujesh Selvam's Journey

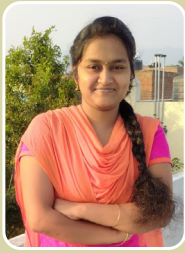
P. Sujesh Selvam shared his experiences during his working days while studying at The American College in Madurai, where he pursued a Food Safety and Maintenance course. His day began at 9 am as he worked at an auto spare parts sales shop, and in the afternoons, he attended college. As part of his course, he visited food factories and hotels to understand food quality and processes, gaining valuable insights into food safety.



After classes, Sujesh returned to work in the evening. He had lost his parents at a young age and lived with his grandmother, supporting them both through his part-time job. His studies also included internships, which added value to his education. Recently, he had the opportunity to visit an ice cream factory in Tirunelveli and a cake factory in Madurai. Despite the challenges he faced, Sujesh participated in college festivals and events, striving to enjoy life as much as possible.

He expressed deep gratitude to Goodwill Children's Homes for their support throughout his life and hoped they would continue to help him in his journey. Sujesh thanked them for everything they had done for him.

Preethi's Tale of Gratitude and Achievement



R. Preethi expressed her excitement in sharing that she successfully completed her MSc in Microbiology in April 2024, thanks to the unwavering support she received. Her hard work paid off as she achieved high scores in her third semester, and she felt confident

that she would do the same in her final semester. This accomplishment made her a respected member of her community, and she credited it all to the kindness of others.

At that time, she worked as a Quality Checker at AGS IT Solution, where her skills and dedication were recognized with a promotion within just four months. She took pride in her role and enjoyed her work wholeheartedly.

Throughout her final year, Preethi experienced some of the happiest moments of her life. She undertook a project titled "Essential Oil Extract from Betel Leaves," which received positive feedback from her college principal, who awarded her a book as a token of appreciation. She aspired to develop this project into a

consumer product and was fortunate to participate in a government workshop at the Government General Hospital in Theni, further fuelling her passion for learning.

Preethi also had the opportunity to publish her project at a National Conference, showcasing her work in a book format. Additionally, during a campus interview held at her college, she excelled and was selected on her first attempt. The Human Resource Manager awarded her a pen for her performance, a moment she would cherish forever.

Her journey would not be complete without mentioning her parents, who worked as cooks at Goodwill Children's Homes. Preethi extended her heartfelt gratitude to her sponsor and Goodwill Children's Homes for providing her with a meaningful education and the honour of carrying the suffix "M.Sc." with pride. She expressed her thanks for making her dreams a reality.



A Year of Growth and Celebration for Sivasakthi

Sivasakthi shared his experiences as he completed his third year in the BSc Optometry programme at Grace Institute in Kanyakumari. The past year had been filled with joy, learning, and cherished memories that shaped his college life.

One of the highlights was the Onam Festival on August 23, 2023, where he participated in the traditional Kolappoutti competition with his friends. Their vibrant designs earned them the first prize, allowing him to connect with his roots and celebrate his culture. In October, Sivasakthi took part in a drawing competition themed "Vote for a Better India," and he was honoured to receive a prize for his artwork, which ignited his passion for social issues and civic engagement.

His college prioritised community health, hosting a Free Community Health Camp on World Diabetes Day, November 14. Alongside his classmates, he helped provide dietary plans to attendees. In January, he gained invaluable experience at an Eye Camp, assisting individuals with various eye problems. These hands-on opportunities deepened his understanding of optometry and strengthened his commitment to serving the community.

They also celebrated Pongal for the first time at the college, cooking and enjoying the traditional dish together, which strengthened their bonds. As third-year students, they looked forward to the heartfelt 'Farewell Day' organised by the juniors. Although parting was difficult, Sivasakthi's focus shifted back to his studies, especially in the challenging subjects of Orthoptics and Contact Lenses. His dedication paid off, as he achieved distinctions in these subjects and scored over 80% in all others. He acknowledged that none of this would have been possible without the support of Goodwill Children's Homes and its compassionate community. Their encouragement fuelled his aspirations and made his achievements possible. Sivasakthi expressed his gratitude and looked forward to what the future holds.



Friendship, Growth, and Gratitude – Saran Raj's Story

S. Saran Raj proudly reflects on completing his undergraduate course at Arulmigu Palaniyandavar College of Arts and Culture, a milestone made possible by the unwavering support of Goodwill Children's Homes. His college journey was filled with both highs and lows—he excelled in his first semester, scored average marks in the second, and faced challenges in the third. However, what made his college experience truly unforgettable were the support from Goodwill and the lifelong friendships he formed.

With his friends, Saran Raj enjoyed every moment of college life. They went on memorable trips to Kerala and Kodaikanal, experiencing the beauty of nature together. He also participated in various college events and competitions,

proudly winning a prize in volleyball. The college, nestled amidst the scenic hills of Palani, provided a serene environment for learning, with the nearby Lord Murugan Temple adding to its charm.

In January, Saran Raj took part in a meaningful 'Plastic-Free Environment' awareness campaign, which gave him great satisfaction in knowing he contributed to a better future. Though he still had two subjects to clear in October, he remains confident and excited about what lies ahead.

Saran Raj said he is deeply grateful to Goodwill Children's Homes for their constant support and will always cherish the opportunities they have provided.



Hope and Joy: The Story of P. Sathya Priya

P. Sathya Priya pursued a Diploma in Health Care Assistance (DHCA) at St. John's Educational Institution in Dindigul. As she approached the end of her first year, she felt excitement for the upcoming examinations. She had prepared diligently and hoped to achieve good marks. In addition to her studies, she looked forward to the college's Cultural Festival, which promised to be a lively celebration of talent and creativity. It was a great opportunity for all students to showcase their skills and bond as a community.

At home, her family was doing well; her parents and younger brother were happy, and she was grateful for the support they shared. She felt fortunate to have wonderful friends at college, including Prabha, Manju,

Nikki, Gobika, and Priya, who had become like family. They enjoyed playing games like Skipping, Pallanguli, and Thaayam, which brought them joy and strengthened their bonds.

As she prepared to finish her first year, Sathya Priya was excited about what the second year would hold. Goodwill Children's Homes had been instrumental in her educational journey, providing invaluable support. She expressed her deep gratitude to everyone who contributed to her education and growth, thanking them for their unwavering support.



Empowered by Support – Madhumita's Story of Success and Gratitude

C. Madhumita, who stayed at Goodwill Children's Home in Pattiveeranpatti, expresses her heartfelt gratitude for the unwavering support of Goodwill, which enabled her to successfully complete her Bcom at Mary Matha Arts and Science College in Periyakulam. She excelled in her fifth semester and feels confident about her final semester results.

Madhumita has always had a passion for cultural events, and with the encouragement of her class teacher, she actively participated in many of them, receiving appreciation for her contributions. During the Onam festival, she enjoyed the various small competitions held in college, and the grand celebration for Pongal, where all the students cooked and shared sweet Pongal, was particularly memorable.

One of the highlights of her college experience was the final year tour, during which she visited beautiful tourist spots and captured countless photos with friends. Madhumita is incredibly grateful to Goodwill Children's Homes for their support throughout her journey, acknowledging that their kindness has made her achievements possible.



G. Vigneshwaran's Journey Towards Success

With the invaluable support of Goodwill Children's Homes, G. Vigneshwaran is thriving in his MBA studies at Kathir College of Engineering. Reflecting on his journey, he shares that his undergraduate experience in BBA was challenging due to a lack of connection with his previous college environment. Now he is excelling academically and feels genuinely happy and motivated in his new college setting.

During his first year, Vigneshwaran gained numerous experiences that have shaped both his studies and his personal growth. He notes that he has learned a great deal and looks forward to deepening his knowledge and skills by the end of his programme. His hard work and dedication were rewarded when he took first place in a college essay competition. The recognition he received from peers and faculty for this achievement

was especially meaningful to him and served as encouragement on his journey.

As Vigneshwaran enters his final year of postgraduate studies, he is inspired to join Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and work toward ambitious roles such as Human Resources Manager and, ultimately, Chief Executive Officer. He is wholeheartedly committed to achieving these goals and is confident that his studies and dedication will serve him well in reaching them.

Vigneshwaran expresses his deep gratitude to Goodwill for supporting him every step of the way and for empowering him to pursue his dreams.



From Rags to Riches: Ajith's Journey of Transformation



Ajith, from Kanalkadu, faced early hardships after losing his parents but found hope at Goodwill Children's Homes. Starting in 2002, he received education and support, progressing from Class 1 to 10 across Goodwill's facilities. He completed his higher education in Pattiveeranpatti and earned a commerce degree in Coimbatore in 2019, followed by an MBA. He entered the workforce at IDFC First Bank in Coimbatore, where he gained three years of valuable experience before moving on to the TESPACalibration Centre as an accountant. Here, his dedication and skills not only earned him a respectable position but also a rewarding income.

Grateful for Goodwill's support, he cherishes the sense of belonging and the care he received.

Today Ajith stands as a successful professional, carrying forward the lessons and values imparted by Goodwill. His story is a testament to the power of compassion, education, and community to uplift lives, guiding individuals from hardship to hope and from challenge to achievement. Ajith's journey from adversity to professional success highlights the transformative power of compassion and community.



From Goodwill to Amazon

A. Ananthi reflects on how her life has been profoundly shaped by the support of Goodwill Children's Homes. From 5th grade to 12th grade at Pattiveeranpatti, Goodwill provided for all her needs, laying a strong foundation for her future success. She passed her 10th grade with 300 marks and her 12th grade with 408 marks, and with Goodwill's continued support, she went on to complete her B.com (CA) at Michael Arts and Science College for Women in Coimbatore, without any arrears.

College life opened new doors for Ananthi, offering her the chance to make friends from across India and exposing her to different cultures and languages. The education she received gave her confidence and strength, which she now carries with her in her role at Amazon Warehouse in Coimbatore.

Ananthi is deeply grateful to Goodwill for guiding her throughout her journey. Their support has been invaluable to her success, and she humbly asks that they continue their generous assistance to other girls in Goodwill Homes. She credits her happiness and accomplishments to their kindness and prays for their ongoing joy and wellness.

