



## WESTONBIRT SCHOOL'S TRIP LEAVES LASTING BONDS AND IMPACT

Last month, 13 of our Year 11-13 students returned home inspired after a ten-day expedition across South India, as part of this year's Global Perspectives Trip. Our global service programme includes trips to Nepal, India and very soon, Kenya, for our older students to participate in and contribute to fundraising, development, and community initiatives as well as experience different cultures.

This ten-day excursion included visits to fishing villages, local markets, temples, tea estates, spice plantations, a jungle trail and one of India's 27 tiger reserves, Periyar at Thekaddy. The trip also included a five-day stay at the Goodwill Children's Home in Thandigudi. The students took with them nearly 400kg of donations for the children, having been inundated with donations of books, toys, stationery, clothing, and knitted hats from the Westonbirt School community. During the five days, a strong bond was made between the young children at the Home and our students – it was tough for both sides to say goodbye.

Scarlett, a Year 13 student and part of the Student Council, said:

'The trip to India was an incredible experience to be a part of. We gained a cultural understanding of a country so different to our own, and we were able to do this by visiting incredible buildings and other places. Although this trip was to benefit the children at Goodwill, the visit taught us an endless amount as well. Being part of a partnership through the school is an incredible opportunity and I hope it is something that Westonbirt continues for years to come.'

The students have come back from this global service trip with so many things – new life experiences, an appreciation of another culture, and a better understanding of some of the challenges faced by the children at Goodwill. They've also returned with a renewed determination to keep fundraising for this exceptional institution.

*Text provided by Westonbirt School*





## A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS WITH OUR NEW TEAM IN INDIA

As we embarked on the journey of September, we enthusiastically welcomed a group of highly accomplished individuals to our team in India. Their diverse backgrounds and wealth of experience promise to contribute significantly to our organisation, marking a positive and promising stride forward in our ongoing efforts to modernise the charity.



Mr Santosh, our recently appointed CEO, brings a wealth of experience to his new role. Prior to joining us, he served as the Chief Operations Manager at SWISS EMMAUS LEPROSY RW in India from 2009. In this capacity, he held a pivotal role overseeing program implementation, monitoring, and strategy development. Notably, his impressive track record involves successfully expanding a network of supporters to address both immediate and future organisational needs.



Dr Soosai joined us after a successful tenure at World Vision since 2001, and most recently held the position of Programme and Knowledge Manager. In addition to his educational and social work background, he holds a Doctorate in Philosophy and has authored a book on Micro Enterprises and their impact on livelihoods. He has been appointed as the Business and Finance Manager.



Mr Senthil Kumar, leveraging his expertise gained at the Care Earth Trust since 2019, has effectively translated his naval training into the collection of intelligence for audit and research purposes. His desire for a dynamic role in administration, operations, and public relations seamlessly matches our organisation's requirements, and we are thrilled to welcome him to our team. Mr Kumar has assumed the crucial role of Programme Coordinator of the Tribal Outreach Programme (TORP).

We are delighted to welcome them to the team and extend our best wishes for success in their new roles.

## JOIN GOODWILL'S TRANSFORMATION JOURNEY AS A TRUSTEE!

Are you passionate about making a positive difference in people's lives? If yes, then you might be the perfect candidate for joining Goodwill's Board of Trustees. As a trustee, you will help shape the strategic direction and governance of Goodwill.

Goodwill is currently in the midst of an exciting transformation and is actively seeking individuals to join its board of trustees. We are particularly interested in candidates with expertise in legal affairs, finance, business management, fundraising, communications, or environmental sustainability, as we believe diverse perspectives will enrich our leadership.

By becoming a trustee at Goodwill, you could contribute significantly to shaping a brighter future for our organisation. Join our dedicated team of trustees and play a crucial role in guiding us to new heights. The commitment is manageable, with just four meetings annually, including online options, and additional online working group meetings.

Your expertise as a trustee will be invaluable as we strive to advance our cause. To support your personal and professional growth as trustee, occasional online

training courses are available. If you possess expertise in any of the mentioned areas and are passionate about making a positive impact, we invite you to reach out.

For more information, please contact **Dr David Neill** at [chairman@goodwillhomes.org.uk](mailto:chairman@goodwillhomes.org.uk). or the **Administrator** at [admin@goodwillhomes.org.uk](mailto:admin@goodwillhomes.org.uk) or **0117 350 550**. We look forward to hearing from individuals who are eager to contribute to Goodwill's mission and be part of our dynamic team.







# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As we gather around the world to celebrate the hope of Christmas, I want to extend my gratitude on behalf of the entire team at Goodwill. It is with immense appreciation that we thank you, our generous supporters, for your unwavering commitment and compassion in making a difference in the lives of these deserving young people.

Throughout this challenging year, your dedication and support continue to be a beacon of hope, shining brightly in the lives of the children we serve. Your contributions, both financial and emotional, have helped us provide essential healthcare, education, and nourishment to those in need. Your unwavering belief in our cause inspires us daily to work harder and reach further to deliver sustainable change.

Your kindness has nurtured the dreams of countless children, empowering them to rise above their circumstances and build a better future. Your generosity has brought smiles to their faces, filled their hearts with love, and instilled in them the belief that they matter and that they are deserving of happiness and success.

May this Christmas season bring you and your loved ones joy, peace, and an abundance of blessings. Your support has not only transformed lives but also reaffirmed the indomitable power of compassion and love.

With warm wishes and heartfelt thanks,

**Dr David Neill**



## TREE PLANTING CEREMONY AT SANARPATTI BOYS' HOME

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India, in collaboration with Goodwill, spearheaded the "Plant a Life" CSR campaign at Sanarpatti Home. A generous donation of 500 saplings, including jackfruit, mahogany, teak wood, and padauk, was provided by LIC. The boys actively participated in planting and learning about environmental responsibility.

Distinguished guests from LIC, including Mr P. C. Meenakshi Sundaram and Ms A. Vijaya Karuppu, expressed admiration for the Goodwill team's dedication. This initiative not only contributed to the greening of the home but also instilled a sense of environmental stewardship in the children, emphasizing the importance of preserving our natural resources for future generations.



## CHANGES ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Goodwill trustees recently convened for their Annual General Meeting, during which several noteworthy changes were made to the board.



**Andrew Ling**

We are delighted to announce the return of Mr Andrew Ling, a seasoned professional who previously served as Treasurer and has been re-elected as a Trustee. Mr Ling is assuming the crucial role of Treasurer, succeeding Ms Deepti Sandur, who has graciously stepped down from her honorary position due to pressing work and family commitments. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Ms Sandur for her dedicated service and warmly welcome Mr Ling back to the organisation's leadership team. His wealth of experience will undoubtedly contribute to the continued success and mission of Goodwill.



**Mary Thorne**

We take this opportunity to congratulate Ms Mary Thorne, newly elected as Vice-Chair of the board, succeeding Mrs Elaine Clark, who has chosen to resign from her honorary role. We express our heartfelt gratitude to Mrs Clark for her dedicated tenure as Vice-Chair of the charity. Her contributions have been invaluable, and we sincerely appreciate the time and effort she devotes to our cause. Mrs Clark will continue to serve as trustee, ensuring her continued commitment to the organisation's mission and goals. It is noteworthy that Ms Thorne is the daughter of a former Chairman, Prof Brian Thorne, adding a legacy of distinction to her role on the board.

## A RAY OF HOPE: Magudeswarn sees the world with one restored eye, hopes for the same miracle for the other

Magudeswarn's journey began in a humble hut in Boothamalai village in 2014, born to parents facing the harsh realities of poverty and illiteracy. With an elder sister attending class 6 at the Government School in Kuppammalpatti, Magudeswarn, now in class 3 at Korancombu School, is pursuing his education through the support of the Goodwill Tribal Outreach Programme (TORP).

At the tender age of three, Magudeswarn's life took an unforeseen turn when he contracted measles, leading to a rapid decline in his eyesight. Unfortunately, his parents, unaware of the severity of the situation, did not seek medical intervention until he was enrolled in a government boarding school at the age of six.

The TORP staff and Dr Rajkumar's team, upon discovering the gravity of Magudeswarn's condition, urged his parents to consider surgery to restore his eyesight. Despite initial hesitation, Magudeswarn's parents opted for traditional remedies, delaying the

inevitable solution. After three years of persistent persuasion, they finally agreed to the surgery. The right eye operation, supported by Goodwill TORP, took place on 16 June at the Aravind Eye Hospital in Madurai. However, the left eye still awaits the necessary intervention. Magudeswarn's family, grappling with day-to-day expenses, faces financial hardships. His father, the sole breadwinner as a daily wage worker, and a non-working mother are now seeking medical assistance from Goodwill-TORP. Witnessing a young child endure such suffering is heart-wrenching, but thanks to organisations like Goodwill, Dr Rajkumar, and the Aravind Eye Hospital, Magudeswarn has regained eyesight in his right eye. Now, the family seeks help from Goodwill to facilitate the much-needed surgery for his left eye.



*See Christmas Appeal on Page 7*

## VISIONARY WORKSHOP FOR SUSTAINABLE IMPACT

In a significant initiative, the India staff of Goodwill convened a workshop on November 6th with the aim of delving into the essence of Goodwill. Titled "Who We Are?" the workshop proved to be an enlightening experience.

On this occasion, they brought together senior staff members from the children's homes and TORP to collaboratively shape the vision, mission, and values of the organisation. UK Chairman, Dr David Neill and trustee, Mr Richard Fenwick, on one front, contributed their insights into visualising the trajectory of Goodwill over the next 5 years. Simultaneously, they sought to comprehend the perspective of the field staff, those tirelessly working at the grassroots level, on where they envision Goodwill in 5 years.

Key questions about their identity and purpose were explored, making the exercise more profound

and participatory. To enhance the depth of their exploration, they opted for a pictorial method, inviting staff to express their sentiments visually and predict the future of Goodwill at the end of 5 years.

The team was divided into three groups, each equipped with a white chart paper and a selection of magazines containing relevant images. The task assigned to each team was to formulate a theme and creatively arrange the photos to illustrate their vision of where Goodwill would stand five years from now. This hands-on approach fostered a dynamic and engaging atmosphere, encouraging active participation and thoughtful contributions from every member.



Secured Future Team



Well Wishers Team



Multi-dimensional Growth Team





# MY FULFILLING JOURNEY WITH GOODWILL

In recent weeks, I witnessed the remarkable efforts of the new team members who are diligently working to standardise and streamline organisational processes. They are also crafting a clear strategy to promote the overall well-being and development of children and communities.

I was particularly impressed by Mr Santhosh's leadership, as he skilfully guided the teams towards a unified direction, empowering each team member along the way. The entire staff has been remarkably supportive, contributing to the accomplishment of significant milestones. Together, we successfully collected data from 20 TORP villages, laying the groundwork for next year's strategy and projects. Additionally, Goodwill France initiated the journey into organic farming.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time with the Goodwill family, and I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to return.

**Amandine**

Volunteer from France



## R.M. Selvam promoted to Programme Manager Role



Recognised by numerous supporters, Mr R. M. Selvam wants to share his journey with Goodwill, an organisation that has profoundly influenced his life since he joined Thandigudi Home at the age of 11 in 1982. Goodwill not only provided him

with a safe haven, but also opened doors for education. With Goodwill's support, he successfully completed his MCom, PG Diploma in NGO Management, and a beekeeping certificate course. In 1994, he started as a beekeeper and house parent, later advancing to Project Coordinator of the Tribal Outreach Programme in 2002. In 1996, he married Jeyanthi, a highly qualified teacher, and together they have two children, Shanthosh and Soundarya, both engineering graduates.

He seized the opportunity to promote tribal student education, making a positive impact on the community. Despite initial challenges—where less than 10% of

tribal children reached class 10—he worked tirelessly to send students to college. His commitment to uplifting disadvantaged communities is unwavering.

Throughout his career, he faced hurdles and learned from challenges, developing effective practices. His passion for improving the lives of the destitute led him to dedicate his life to this cause. Proudly part of the Goodwill family, he continues to empower individuals to reach their full potential.

In various roles, such as Accounts Manager and Administration Manager, he contributed to the organisation's success. In September 2023, he was promoted to Programme Manager, overseeing donor and alumni relations, higher education, and external support for children's education and sponsorship.

Grateful for the opportunities Goodwill has provided, he eagerly anticipates continuing to make a difference in the lives of others.

## T. NithyJothi Promoted to Headmistress at Goodwill Primary School

T. NithyJothi, an accomplished teacher with 8 years of experience, has recently been promoted to the position of Headmistress at Goodwill Mazhalaiyar and Primary School. Armed with a diploma in teaching and a Bachelor of Arts in English, her journey in teaching has been characterised by unwavering dedication and a profound love for teaching. This promotion serves as a recognition of her exemplary teaching skills and ability to establish meaningful connections with students, colleagues, and parents. As the newly appointed Headmistress, NithyJothi is eager to assume

a leadership role, focusing on the holistic development of students. Her vision includes elevating academic standards, instilling character-building values, and steering the school towards excellence. With a commitment to becoming an inspirational figure in the educational field, NithyJothi pledges to ensure that every child at Goodwill Mazhalaiyar and Primary School receives top-notch education and support for future success.



## DEDICATED EDUCATOR TRANSFORMS LIVES: MS M. MAHALAKSHMI'S INSPIRING JOURNEY AT GOODWILL CHILDREN'S HOMES

Ms M. Mahalakshmi's journey at Goodwill Children's Home is highlighted by her remarkable commitment and passion for nurturing young minds. Starting as an Assistant-Teacher in 2000, she diligently served for over a decade, significantly contributing to the educational foundation of the children. In 2012, she became the Headmistress, showcasing strong leadership skills that led to the thriving of the school. Following personal adversity, Ms Mahalakshmi's deep connection with

children led her to a new role as House Mother at the boys' Home in Sanarpatti. Beyond ensuring their well-being, she actively engages in their educational journey, managing kitchen provisions and stock. Her journey reflects her unwavering dedication to the holistic development of the children at Goodwill Children's Homes.



## FROM ADVERSITY TO ACHIEVEMENT: THE INSPIRING JOURNEY OF RAGHU



In the quaint village of Korankombu, near Kuppammal Patti, a beacon of inspiration shines brightly—Raghu, a testament to resilience and determination. Despite grappling with financial constraints, Raghu harboured an unwavering determination to realise his dream of attaining

a college education.

A transformative turning point came when Goodwill TORP extended its support, propelling Raghu through the milestones of 10th and 12th-grade studies. His academic journey culminated in a triumphant achievement—a Bachelor's degree in English from the G T N College in Dindigul. Yet, Raghu's thirst for knowledge remained limitless.

Undeterred, he went on to pursue a Masters in Social Work (MSW) at the esteemed American College in

Madurai, marking the period from 2020 to 2022 as a phase of profound personal and academic growth. Today, Raghu stands as a living testament to the impact of perseverance. Employed by a prominent organisation in Kodaikanal, he draws a decent salary, emerging as the unsung hero supporting his family's aspirations. Raghu attributes his success to the unwavering support of Goodwill Children's Homes, expressing profound gratitude for the opportunities that propelled him to this pinnacle of achievement.

However, Raghu's story is far from its conclusion. His ambitions soar higher, as he actively seeks out opportunities to elevate his career, participating in interviews with organisations such as the Bangalore Child Welfare Organisation.

In the saga of Raghu's remarkable journey, he serves as a living testament to the belief that, with tenacity, determination, and a helping hand, anyone can transform their dreams into reality.

## TRIUMPH OF TENACITY: SIVARANJANI'S INSPIRATIONAL JOURNEY

Witnessing someone conquer challenges and attain academic success, particularly amidst adversity, is truly remarkable. We are impressed by Sivaranjani's unwavering dedication and hard work. It's truly inspiring to learn about her enthusiasm for acquiring new knowledge.

Inspired by her passion for continuous learning, we're delighted that she received support from Goodwill and a Charitable Trust in the UK. Being the first graduate in her family, Sivaranjani has successfully completed

her BA degree in Business at the Einstein College of Arts and Science in Tirunelveli, securing a job at our Goodwill Home Thandigudi. Congratulations to her on these accomplishments, and we wish her the very best in her new job.



# Christmas Appeal



## MAGUDESWARN'S CHRISTMAS WISH ... THE GIFT OF SIGHT This Christmas, be the beacon of hope in Magudeswarn's life!



### Magudeswarn's Christmas Wish: Help Restore His Eyesight

Magudeswarn's story is not complete. This Christmas, we invite you to join us in making his dream of seeing with both eyes come true. The left eye still requires immediate attention, and Magudeswarn's family, already burdened by day-to-day expenses, is struggling to meet the cost of the necessary surgery.



### How You Can Make a Difference: Support Magudeswarn's Second Eye Surgery

This festive season, let the spirit of giving illuminate Magudeswarn's world. Your support can be the Christmas miracle that changes a young boy's life forever. Contribute to the Goodwill-TORP program and help us raise the funds needed for Magudeswarn's left eye surgery.



### Give the Gift of Sight: Donate Today!

You can make a direct online donation with reference to "Christmas Appeal" or send a cheque and don't forget to complete the donation form so we could thank you. Your generosity will not only restore Magudeswarn's vision but also bring joy to a family in need.



### Together, Let's Make Magudeswarn's Christmas Wish Come True!

Thank you for being the heart of our community and making a difference in the lives of those who need it most. Wishing you a Merry Christmas filled with love, joy, and the satisfaction of changing lives.

## Donation Form

Please tick

£15

£30

£50

Other amount: £

**Bank details:** Goodwill Children's Homes **Bank:** HSBC **Sort Code:** 40-35-09 **Account Number:** 41144561  
For BACS Payment. Please use reference **Christmas Appeal.**

### GIFT DONATION

**PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: Goodwill Children's Homes**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### GIFT AID DECLARATION

**Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate**

Gift Aid can be reclaimed by Goodwill from the tax I pay for the current tax year, if you sign the following declaration:

I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_





# GOODWILL TORP EMPOWERS FAMILIES: Lakshmi's Journey to Smiles and Well-being in Boothamalai

In the picturesque village of Boothamalai, nestled among the many communities touched by TORP's compassionate initiatives, one family's story stands out – the resilient Lakshmi family. Headed by Ms Lakshmi, they face the daunting challenge of Muscular Dystrophy, a relentless condition with no cure. However, with the unwavering support of Goodwill TORP, their lives have seen a remarkable transformation.

Five members of the Lakshmi family navigate the complexities of Muscular Dystrophy, a condition that necessitates ongoing medical attention. Dr Rajkumar Ramasamy, a dedicated referral doctor affiliated with TORP, leads the charge in providing both medical treatment and emotional counselling to the family. Goodwill TORP extends crucial financial support every month, ensuring access to necessary medication and a balanced, high-fibre diet.

The impact of Goodwill's support reverberates beyond mere sustenance. Recognising the family's inability to work due to their health conditions, Goodwill steps in to prevent malnutrition deficiencies, a key concern for those with Muscular Dystrophy. Malnutrition, if left unaddressed, can lead to severe health complications, including obesity, heart disease, and diabetes.

While there is no cure for Muscular Dystrophy, Goodwill TORP's commitment lies in enhancing the quality of life for affected families. Through our Tribal Outreach Programme, Goodwill TORP provides essential food staples such as pulses, wheat, eggs, and vegetables, ensuring a more nutritious diet for the Lakshmi family and others like them.

Dr Rajkumar emphasizes the importance of a holistic approach, urging regular medical examinations and adherence to prescribed medication not only for the Lakshmi family but also for the next generation. Goodwill TORP's dedicated staff monitors the family closely, facilitating the monthly purchase of nutritious food items.

In the face of Muscular Dystrophy's challenges, the Lakshmi family exemplifies resilience and hope, and Goodwill TORP stands as a beacon of support, illuminating their path towards a brighter, healthier future.



## Empowering Education Through Teaching Aids and Science Equipment

Goodwill TORP has been instrumental in enhancing the quality of education for underprivileged children in government schools by providing essential teaching aids and science equipment. With an unwavering commitment, TORP continually equips students with the necessary tools to facilitate content comprehension, coordinate activities, and foster innovative learning approaches.

The teaching aids offered serve as valuable resources for revision, activity coordination, and engaging learning experiences. In addition, the provision of science materials supports students in their pursuit of scientific knowledge.

TORP's benevolent efforts have reached a total of 656 students across 12 government schools, comprising 433 male students and 223 female students. This impactful initiative spans various schools, including K.C Patti Primary School, K.C Patti High School, KoranKombu Govt Boarding School, and others.

The positive influence of TORP's project is evident in the individual statistics for each school, where a combined total of 400 male and 200 female students have directly benefited. This project stands as a beacon of hope, making a significant difference in the educational journey of these students. The numbers speak volumes, showcasing the profound impact TORP has had on over 600 young minds in government schools.

