



Goodwill Children's Homes
Care and Education for Destitute Children in South India

NEWSLETTER

Tel: 0117 3250 550

www.goodwillhomes.org.uk



STITCHING A BRIGHTER FUTURE: TRIBAL WOMEN EMPOWERED THROUGH TAILORING SKILLS

The Tailoring Unit under the Thriving Roots project has made remarkable strides in empowering women and adolescent girls from tribal villages. Over the past few months, 27 enthusiastic trainees from 23 villages completed 93 days of intensive, hands-on training at the TORP Centre. The sessions, running from 10 am to 4 pm, combined practical demonstrations with skill-based learning, including a three-day orientation and training provided by USHA Company.

During this period, the participants mastered a wide range of tailoring skills, from stitching pillow covers, frocks, and petticoats to creating party skirts, silk skirts, churidar pants, and even sanitary napkins. Each trainee developed a strong foundation in both basic tailoring and creative garment-making, equipping them to meet household and commercial needs alike.

Looking ahead, the programme plans to introduce motorised sewing machines, provide advanced embroidery training, and organise factory visits to local garment units. Trainees were also set to interact with experienced local tailors and form a self-help group, fostering collective work, savings, and small-scale income generation.

As the current training nears completion in January 2026, the Tailoring Unit's success not only reflects the dedication of the trainees but also underscores the project's growing impact in promoting women's economic participation and self-reliance. With these foundations in place, the initiative is poised to expand, welcoming new trainees from nearby villages and building a sustainable model of skill development and livelihood empowerment.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As we close 2025, I want to extend my sincere thanks to all our supporters for making this year a milestone in Goodwill's journey. Your commitment has enabled us to strengthen our core programmes - providing safe homes, quality education, and opportunities for personal growth to children who need them most.

This year, we have seen significant progress in community development initiatives, vocational training for women, and improvements in the well-being of children in our care. These achievements reflect not only the dedication of our teams on the ground but also the trust and generosity of our supporters.

Looking ahead, our focus remains on sustainability and impact. We will continue to invest in education,

health, and livelihood programmes that empower children and families to build brighter futures. Your support is the foundation of this work, and we are deeply grateful for it.

On behalf of everyone at Goodwill Children's Homes, thank you for standing with us. Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and a successful year ahead.

Warm regards,



Dr David Neill



REMINDER: CHANGE OF POSTAL ADDRESS FOR INDIA

Child's Name and ID
GOODWILL CHILDREN'S HOMES
CHARITABLE SOCIETY
Central Office – Pethampatti,
Sanarpatti – 624304,
Dindigul District,
Tamil Nadu, INDIA



OUR UK OFFICE ADDRESS

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

or Email:
admin@goodwillhomes.org.uk

OFFICE CLOSURE NOTICE

UK Office will be closed from 15 December to 12 January

During this period, calls and donations will not be acknowledged as the administrator is on annual leave. You may leave a voice message.

SUPPORT GOODWILL EASILY THROUGH PayPal GIVING FUND!

We're excited to announce that Goodwill is now part of the PayPal Giving Fund! This platform makes it simple for people to support their favourite charities online and helps organisations like ours raise funds through PayPal, eBay, Facebook, Instagram, and more.

To donate, simply search for "*Goodwill Children's Homes*" on PayPal Giving Fund or copy and paste this link into your browser:
paypal.com/gb/fundraiser/charity/3133974



TRANSFORMING LIVES IN KADAISIKADU – A PALLIAR TRIBAL VILLAGE



Nestled deep in the hills of Kodaikanal, just 10 kilometres from Thriving Roots, lies the humble tribal village of Kadaisikadu. Home to 55 families and over 220 residents of the Palliar tribal community, this village is rich in culture but faces poverty, limited access, and underdevelopment. Goodwill India has been actively supporting Kadaisikadu through our holistic tribal development programme, providing a foundation for education, health, and community growth. Yet, many challenges remain, showing just how much more work is needed to ensure every child and family has a fair chance at a dignified life.

Our TORP Coordinator, Mr Senthil Kumar, TORP Assistant Mrs Annakilli, and Finance and Programme Manager Dr Soosai, visited the village to understand the challenges faced by the community. Here's what they discovered.

EDUCATION CHALLENGES

Kadaisikadu has a small primary school run by two dedicated government teachers, serving only 16 children (9 boys and 7 girls). Many other children, especially from nearby Boothamal village, are unable to attend regularly due to long walking distances and harsh weather conditions, causing them to miss school frequently and affecting their foundational learning.

The school faces significant limitations. Children sit on the cold floor during classes as there are no chairs or desks, and the winter months make this particularly difficult. There is a lack of mats, bicycles, and play materials, and the school does not have an RO water system or proper drinking water facilities.

A STORY OF HOPE – GOMATHI

Amidst these challenges, Gomathi, a young woman from Kadaisikadu, shines as a story of determination. With support from Goodwill, she completed her BSc. in Microbiology and a Diploma in Cooperative Management. Today, she prepares for her government exams while living with her parents in a small, thatched house. Gomathi's

journey illustrates the transformative power of education and encouragement, even in the most remote villages.



LIVELIHOOD AND HEALTH CHALLENGES

Most families in Kadaisikadu rely on daily wage agricultural work under landowners or forage in the forest to survive. Healthcare and hygiene conditions remain limited, with no local medical facility and a lack of basic sanitation. Life in Kadaisikadu requires resilience and determination, and the village continues to face structural challenges that affect every child and family.

A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE

Kadaisikadu reflects both the rich cultural heritage of the Palliar community and the complex challenges rural tribal villages face. The stories of children like Gomathi remind us that with education, guidance, and opportunity, lives can be transformed. While much has been achieved, Kadaisikadu also shows that there is more work to be done to ensure every child and family can thrive.

“Even in the most remote corners, hope can grow when education and opportunity reach children and communities.”

STORIES OF HOPE AND GRATITUDE



N. Vijayapandian

At Goodwill Children's Homes, every child's story is a journey of resilience, care, and transformation. Through education, guidance, and unwavering support, children from humble beginnings are finding their path to independence and success. Here are three inspiring journeys that highlight the incredible impact of Goodwill.

FROM A LITTLE BOY TO A CONFIDENT PROFESSIONAL – VIJAYAPANDIAN'S JOURNEY

Vijayapandian began his journey with Goodwill as a little boy, joining the Goodwill Home in Thandigudi from Kindergarten to the 5th Standard. He continued his education at Sanarpatti Higher Secondary School up to the 11th Standard and completed his 12th at John Paul Higher Secondary School. Encouraged by Goodwill, he pursued a BSc. in Hotel Management and Catering Science at Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar College, Usilampatti and later enrolled in an MBA programme at Sree Vee College, Dindigul.

Throughout his journey, Goodwill was his family, providing love, care, and guidance. He reflected:

"I had no one else to depend on, but Goodwill stood by me like a family. Whatever I am today is because of their love and guidance."

Vijayapandian's story continued into the professional world, where he gained experience and now works confidently as an Outdoor Manager at the SRM Group of Companies in Chennai. His achievements stand as a testament to perseverance, opportunity, and the power of compassion.

FROM DEPENDENCE TO DETERMINATION – MADURAIVEERAN'S STORY

Growing up in Kanavaipatti, Natham District, Maduraiveeran faced life without his parents, cared for lovingly by his aunt. With the support of the Goodwill Boys' Home in Sanarpatti, he continued his education, studying from the 10th to 12th standard at St. Anthony's Higher Secondary School, Kosavapatti.

After school, Goodwill helped him pursue a BBA at Kangeyam Institute of Commerce, Tiruppur District, opening doors to professional growth. Today, Veeran works as a Marketing Officer, carving his own path towards independence.

Reflecting on his journey, he shared:

"I am deeply indebted to Goodwill for shaping my life, supporting my education, and helping me become self-reliant. My dream is to support helpless students like me and give back to Goodwill in every way I can in the future."

Veeran's story exemplifies how guidance, care, and opportunity can transform lives and inspire dreams.



Maduraiveeran



A.Sivasakthi

SEEING A BRIGHTER TOMORROW – SIVASAKTHI'S JOURNEY

Sivasakthi joined Goodwill in the 4th standard and found not just a home, but a family. Goodwill provided education, food, shelter, and love, giving her the foundation to pursue her ambitions with confidence.

She completed a BSc. in Optometry from Grace College of Allied Health Sciences and began training at the Aravind Eye Hospital, turning a lifelong dream into reality. Despite her family's financial struggles, the support from Goodwill gave her the strength to move forward.

Looking back, she said:

“Goodwill taught me much more than academics. It taught me discipline, kindness, gratitude, and the importance of helping others. Even the smallest lessons have shaped who I am today. My life and my family's life were transformed because of Goodwill and the kind sponsors who stood by me.”

Sivasakthi hopes to give back by serving others through her profession, carrying forward the same spirit of love and care she received at Goodwill.

THEATRE MANAGEMENT TRAINING INSPIRES YOUNG TALENT AT KC PATTI

In August, Goodwill's Thriving Roots hosted its first-ever one-day Theatre Management in Education training, led by experts Dr Anand and Dr Ellango from Gandhigram University and Dr Boominathan from the National Institute of Drama, New Delhi.

Thirty eager children from nearby villages took part in a day of interactive learning, creativity, and self-expression. Through fun mind games, storytelling, and role-play, they learned to overcome stage fear, think creatively, and bring characters to life.

The event, coordinated by Mr R. Senthil Kumar, was supported by Gandhigram University, which kindly provided lunch and refreshments. The training team also visited Thandigudi Home, strengthening the partnership between our organisations.

The day ended with smiles, newfound confidence, and lasting memories.



Thandigudi Home



KC Patti

These stories remind us that every child has potential, and with love, education, and guidance, they can achieve greatness. Thanks to you, dreams are being realised, futures are being built, and lives are being transformed.

Goodwill continues to light the way for children like Vijayapandian, Veeran, and Sivasakthi, turning hope into reality, one life at a time.

EMPOWERING GOODWILL STAFF TO UNDERSTAND FUNDRAISING

In August, Goodwill Children's Homes staff came together for a two-day hands-on fundraising workshop led by Mr Santhosh. Ten staff members from across Goodwill's centres joined in to learn everything from connecting with donors and telling impactful stories to setting goals and using resources effectively.

The sessions were full of practical tips on tele-calling, face-to-face fundraising, and showing how donations make a real difference in the lives of children and communities. Through group activities, discussions, and role-plays, staff sharpened their skills in communication, relationship building, and volunteer engagement.

The training equipped staff with both the mindset and tools to implement sustainable fundraising strategies aligned with Goodwill's mission.



A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM GOODWILL CHILDREN'S HOMES



Hope, Joy and Opportunity - Made Possible by You

As Christmas approaches, we're reminded of the power of kindness and community. Thanks to your support, children in rural South India are growing up in safe homes, receiving quality education, and building brighter futures.

This festive season, we invite you to give a gift that truly transforms lives—by supporting our core programmes, each rooted in the five pillars of our work.

★ **HAPPY CHILD, HAPPY HOME**

This programme embodies our Residential Care pillar, offering children a nurturing environment where they feel safe, loved and supported. Your donation helps us provide nutritious meals, clothing, and a stable home.

★ **BRIGHT BEGINNINGS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty. Bright Beginnings offers high-quality learning to children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Your gift helps us fund teachers, materials, and facilities—giving every child a strong start.

A safe, loving home is the first step toward a brighter future. Your donation helps provide shelter, nutritious meals, and emotional support to children who need it most.

★ **SHAKTI**

Shakti empowers girls through Education and Healthcare, helping them grow in confidence and independence. Your gift ensures access to school, health check-ups, and mentoring for girls who deserve every opportunity to thrive.

★ **SADHANA**

Focused on Wellbeing and Personal Development, Sadhana supports children's emotional and mental health through yoga, mindfulness, and creative expression. Your support helps children heal, grow and flourish.

★ **THRIVING ROOTS**

This programme reflects our commitment to Sustainable Living and Community Development. Through organic farming, environmental education, and vocational training, we're building resilient communities. Your donation helps us expand this vital work.

We believe in uplifting entire communities. Your donation helps us run outreach programmes, vocational training, and support services for families in need.

Access to healthcare is essential. Your gift ensures regular check-ups, emergency care, and health education for every child in our homes.



GIVE THE GIFT OF HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS



Your generosity fuels every step of a child's journey, from safety and learning to empowerment and independence. Please consider a donation this Christmas to support these life-changing programmes.

From all of us at Goodwill Children's Homes, thank you, and we wish you a joyful, peaceful, festive season.

Donation Form

Yes, I want to help Goodwill Children thrive! I would like to donate:

£15 ☐ £30 ☐ £50 ☐ £ Other amount

Bank details: Goodwill Children's Homes **Bank:** HSBC **Sort Code:** 40-35-09 **Account Number:** 41144561
REFERENCE: CHRISTMAS

GIFT DONATION CHEQUE

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: Goodwill Children's Homes

YOUR DETAILS

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: _____



GROWING CHANGE: LAUNCH OF THE KITCHEN GARDEN PROJECT

Last time, we shared news of the pilot Kitchen Garden project. This initiative, part of the Thriving Roots programme, aims to promote sustainable nutrition, self-reliance, and environmental awareness among tribal households in the target villages of Kodayamalai, Korangkomvu, Pallathuvalaivu, Kavuchikombu, and Mandravayal.

The project encourages each family to grow their own vegetables and greens for daily use, improving food security while reducing dependency on external markets. From chilli plants to tomatoes, families are learning how to cultivate a variety of crops. In addition, families have reported an increase in the consumption of fresh vegetables and greens at home, reflecting the positive impact on nutrition. Women have taken a leading role in maintaining the gardens, often sharing seeds and knowledge with their neighbours, strengthening community ties.

This initiative has quickly become a practical model for promoting self-sustenance, environmental responsibility, and improved nutrition. With continued technical support and modest infrastructure improvements, it is set to create a lasting positive impact on the communities it serves.

As part of our ongoing efforts, Goodwill launched the Kitchen Garden project with an introductory training session for participants from five villages.

The training was conducted by Mr Gnasekaran, Deputy Agricultural Officer from Dindigul, who shared practical guidance on developing and maintaining home kitchen gardens. He explained topics such as selecting quality seeds, preparing the soil, planting with proper spacing between crops, effective watering methods, natural pest control, and sustainable ways to maintain plant growth for a longer yield. Participants also learned how to save seeds for future planting and the many benefits of growing fresh vegetables in their own backyards using natural fertilisers.

Although there is currently no government support for this initiative, the enthusiasm of the villagers was evident throughout the session. The event marked a positive beginning to this grassroots project that aims to encourage healthier and more sustainable living in tribal communities.



ST ALBANS COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

Goodwill was delighted to take part in the St Albans Community Showcase on Saturday, 25 October. The event offered the public a wonderful opportunity to learn more about local causes, explore volunteering opportunities, and find inspiration.

With around 60 charities participating, it was an excellent showcase for the community. Helen, our dedicated former trustee and volunteer, represented Goodwill at the stall, selling her handmade recycled cards to raise funds for our work. Helen reported that the day was filled with great networking, enthusiastic visitors, and plenty of positive energy, truly a celebration of charitable giving and community spirit.

