



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

# NEWSLETTER

Tel: 0117 3250 550

[www.goodwillhomes.org.uk](http://www.goodwillhomes.org.uk)



## AGARAM YOUTH BRING ENERGY, EMPATHY, AND LEADERSHIP TO GOODWILL

From June 1 - 9, Goodwill Children's Home in Thandigudi welcomed vibrant young leaders from the Agaram Foundation for a transformative residential training programme. Each day began with energising physical activities, followed by dynamic sessions on Aptitude, Life Skills, and Soft Skills.

Beyond training, the participants embraced a spirit of service, dedicating a full day to cleaning the entire campus and spending meaningful time with our children. In a joyful and energetic exchange, they taught the children public speaking and dance, culminating in a lively celebration of learning and connection, and even took charge of meal preparations. The week ended in a joyful celebration of learning, connection, and community. This annual tradition continues to strengthen the bond between the Agaram Foundation and Goodwill India.





# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



As I write to you, I am preparing to visit Tamil Nadu. I am looking forward to meeting up with those members of our Goodwill family that you support so generously. I am particularly keen to meet up with the old students who have been part of Goodwill for many years. They will have views about what has gone well and what we could do even better. It is important to listen to their voices so they can help shape the future of our support.

Your feedback and comments have also been important in helping us develop the new structure for support on the ground. We are listening. I understand the need for better clarity about the progress of the young people in our care, and you'll notice improvements in how we communicate this going forward.

There have also been recent changes in staffing and structure on the ground in Tamil Nadu, which reflect the way we have adapted our approach. More details will be shared at the AGM in October.

There has been a supporter group in France since the 1990s. They have also been financing projects in our target communities. This year, we have seen greater links between the supporter group in France and the UK. I am very pleased about this development and look forward to sharing more at the AGM.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Dr David Neill



**"A child without education is like a bird without wings."**

**Tibetan Proverb**

## WELCOMING NEW TRUSTEES

We're thrilled to introduce Ms Axelle Favre and Ms Amandine ABHERVÉ-GUEGUEN, two inspiring French volunteers bringing fresh energy and international expertise to our mission.



Axelle's journey with Goodwill began at just eight years old during a visit to one of our homes in India. Now president of Goodwill France, a volunteer group, she brings a strong background in international law and development, with two Master's degrees from Paris II Assas-Sorbonne. Her academic and professional background in international law and development brings valuable insight to the board, particularly in fostering cross-border collaboration and supporting sustainable farming initiatives for tribal communities.



Amandine joined us in 2023 after a two-month stay in India, where she was deeply moved by the resilience and warmth of the children and communities we support. With over a decade of experience in multicultural environments and her current role as

Senior Consultant at Infosys, she brings valuable skills in systems integration and process improvement. A passionate advocate for social justice and education, she holds a Master's degree in Supply Chain Management from EM Normandie Business School and completed an international exchange at IBMEC Business School in Rio de Janeiro.

Their appointments not only strengthen the bond between our UK and French teams, but also bring fresh energy and an international perspective to our mission.

## NOTICE OF AGM | 18 OCT

We invite all our supporters to the 2025 Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 18th October at Whitefriars, Lewins Mead, Bristol, BS1 2NT. Start time to be confirmed.

To help reduce costs, we won't be sending individual invitations. If you would like to attend, please contact Theresa at 0117 3250 550 or [admin@goodwillhomes.org.uk](mailto:admin@goodwillhomes.org.uk).

## REMINDER OUR ADDRESS

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Lewins Mead, Bristol. BS1 2NT  
Tel: 0117 3250 550

or Email:  
[admin@goodwillhomes.org.uk](mailto:admin@goodwillhomes.org.uk)

# NEWS FROM THE INDIA OFFICE

Over the past few months, the India office has made significant strides across operations, donor engagement, and community outreach. The Easter mailing campaign to UK sponsors was completed ahead of schedule, while local donors received personalised acknowledgements, reinforcing transparency and appreciation. A generous alumni donation supported a child's annual sponsorship, and a detailed review of sponsored children is leading to improved communication with UK supporters.

A major milestone was the strategic relocation of the central office from Dindigul to Sanarpatti. The move addressed space constraints, enabled better use of existing infrastructure, and eliminated rental costs. Situated closer to programme activities, the new office enhances donor engagement and provides room for future team expansion.

## LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

On April 26, the Goodwill team gathered at Thandigudi for a special meeting to reflect, reconnect, and plan for the future. Chaired by Vice-President, Mr Karthikeyan S.N., the session was a heartfelt reminder of their shared mission that binds the team together: creating a nurturing, joyful space for vulnerable children to thrive.

Rev R. Immanuel Arunraj, Secretary, inspired the team with a message on unity, teamwork, and patience, key values for shaping the next 50 years. He also expressed gratitude to the UK Chairman and Trustees for their continued support.



Operational capacity was further strengthened with new IT equipment and a staff-wide salary revision aligned with the Minimum Wages Act. Alumni volunteers contributed to renovations at the children's home, culminating in a heartfelt reunion. A 450 kg rice donation supported children's nutrition, while kitchen gardens launched in tribal villages promoted sustainability and food security.

Academic achievements were celebrated in a special event for students completing Classes 10 to 12, complemented by a youth career guidance session held in partnership with local organisations. The office also ensured timely statutory reporting and donor updates, maintaining its commitment to accountability and trust.



**"The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit."**

**Nelson Henderson**

Treasurer, Mr M. Mayee rounded off the gathering with a heartfelt encouragement to stay true to the values that make Goodwill so special. His message was clear: keep the spirit alive and continue to make Goodwill a place filled with laughter, learning, and love.

As the team left the meeting, there was a renewed sense of purpose in the air. The Goodwill family is ready to continue its beautiful journey - one child, one smile, and one act of kindness at a time.



The admission committee meeting successfully concluded the selection of new admissions.

## JOIN US IN CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF GOODWILL UK!

**Southern India | February - March 2026**

Be part of a special journey as we mark half a century of impact, connection, and community. Travel with us to Southern India for a memorable celebration filled with culture, reflection, and shared purpose.

**Register your interest today** by contacting the Administrator at [admin@goodwillhomes.org.uk](mailto:admin@goodwillhomes.org.uk)

***Places are limited—don't miss out!***



# ALUMNI UNITE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION



This spring, the Goodwill Children's Homes Alumni Association took a heartfelt step forward in giving back to the place that once nurtured them. On March 31st, alumni office bearers visited the Thandigudi Home to kick off a series of much-needed renovation projects aimed at improving the daily lives of the children.

Among the key upgrades planned:

- A new borewell to ensure reliable access to clean water
- Repairs to the drainage system for better hygiene and safety
- A fresh coat of paint across the buildings to create a more welcoming environment

Following productive discussions with members of the Society, the renovation and painting work officially began. The Alumni Association has pledged to fully fund these improvements, with fundraising efforts already in motion.

One particularly touching gesture came from Mr Parameswaran, an alumnus who has personally committed to funding and overseeing the complete repainting of Jeyam House, the very home he once lived in as a child. His generosity is a powerful reminder of the lasting bonds formed at Goodwill.

The Alumni Secretary presented a proposal focused on sustainable welfare initiatives for the children, including goat and calf rearing, and tree planting, projects that will be led by the alumni themselves.

The meeting also finalised plans for a family get-together at Thandigudi Home. This gathering that took place in May marked the official launch of the painting project and offered alumni families a chance to reconnect, contribute, and celebrate the spirit of giving back.

From May 6 to 9, 18 alumni families, comprising 62 members, came together to renovate and revitalise the campus that had once supported them during their formative years. This special initiative was entirely alumni-led, with all planning, coordination, and costs covered by the alumni themselves.

In the days leading up to the reunion, Rev R. Immanuel Arun Raj, Secretary of the Goodwill Children's Homes Charitable Society, visited the campus to oversee arrangements and ensure that the gathering would be meaningful and well-organised.

Once on site, the alumni and their families worked together on a range of improvement projects, from deep cleaning and painting to repairing infrastructure. The involvement of their children added a powerful sense of

continuity and legacy to the occasion, as the next generation witnessed the values of service and gratitude in action.

**Some of the key contributions made by the alumni included:**

- Sponsoring and completing painting work worth ₹90,000
- Replacing an old wooden grill with a new steel one worth ₹11,300
- Donating a stone wash compressor valued at ₹4,200
- Undertaking general repair work costing over ₹10,000 (with additional work still ongoing)

These generous contributions were more than financial; they were heartfelt tributes to the home that shaped their lives. Many alumni, now thriving professionals and parents, shared how Goodwill laid the foundation for their journeys.

The reunion was both a practical effort to enhance the home and a celebration of shared memories and enduring community spirit. With their children present, the event symbolised the continuation of Goodwill's legacy into the next generation.





## OUTSTANDING RESULTS IN 12TH STANDARD BOARD EXAMS!



We are proud to celebrate the stellar achievements of our students in the 12th Standard Public Examinations! Rajagowri M scored an outstanding 545/600, and Boomika K followed closely with 542/600.

Their success reflects not only their dedication and perseverance but also the unwavering support of our passionate teachers and staff.

At Goodwill, we nurture more than just academic excellence; we build confidence, character, and resilience. These results are a shining example of what's possible with the right support and determination.

## EMPOWERING DREAMS: GOODWILL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

In March, Goodwill India hosted an event at the Goodwill Girls' Home, Pattiveeranpatti, supporting students pursuing higher education and school children with a total of Rs. 17,00,000/- in aid. With generous contributions from Goodwill UK, the event provided crucial financial relief, enabling students to continue their education without barriers. The gathering was filled with gratitude and nostalgia as former Goodwill Home residents reunited, shared memories, and expressed heartfelt appreciation. Goodwill India remains committed to empowering young minds through education, thanks to the unwavering support of donors and well-wishers.



## HONOURING OUR STUDENTS' ACADEMIC SUCCESS

On May 22nd, Goodwill Boys' Home in Sanarpatti was filled with joy as we celebrated the academic achievements of 30 students from Classes 10, 11, and 12. The event, attended by Executive Committee members, parents, staff, and students, kicked off with a warm welcome.

The highlight of the day was the award ceremony, where each student was honoured for their academic accomplishments. The recognition served as a reminder of the transformative power of education and the rewards of dedication and resilience. Proud parents expressed their heartfelt thanks for the support and guidance provided by Goodwill Homes.



From March 29–31, Goodwill Boys' Home in Sanarpatti proudly welcomed 66 students and two staff members from the Agaram Foundation for an educational exposure visit.



## GROWING HOPE: KITCHEN GARDENS TAKE ROOT IN KADAIKADU AND PARAIPATTI

In the quiet hills near KC Patti, something beautiful is beginning to grow.

Thriving Roots, a dedicated initiative of the Goodwill Children's Homes Charitable Society, is continuing its mission to uplift tribal communities through sustainable living. Working across 23 villages, the team is planting more than just seeds; they're cultivating resilience, health, and hope.

Recently, Mr Senthil Kumar, Manager of Thriving Roots, visited the tribal villages of Kadaiikadu and Paraipatti to launch a new chapter in this journey. With a warm welcome from the community, he distributed vegetable seeds and encouraged families to start their own Kitchen Gardens.

The response was inspiring. Women and young people, in particular, embraced the idea with enthusiasm. Many have already begun preparing small garden plots beside their homes, eager to grow fresh vegetables for their families. These gardens promise more than just food; they offer a path to better nutrition, reduced reliance on outside markets, and a renewed sense of self-sufficiency.

Kitchen Gardens are a simple yet powerful tool. They bring nutritious food to the table, foster environmental awareness, and strengthen community bonds. For Thriving Roots, this is just one part of a broader mission to promote sustainable practices and improve the quality of life in remote tribal areas.

With every seed sown, a new story of empowerment begins. And with continued support and community spirit, Thriving Roots is helping these stories flourish, one garden at a time.

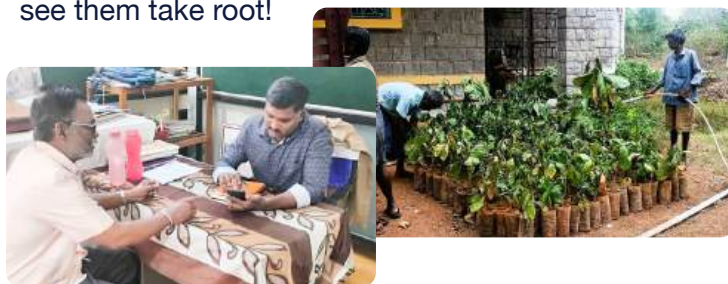


**"Thriving Roots"** is our tribal outreach initiative designed to enhance living conditions, education, healthcare, and economic opportunities of the indigenous tribal communities in the Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu.

## FOREST DEPARTMENT BACKS GREENING DRIVE AT SANARPATTI

We are excited to share a green milestone! Mr R. Senthil Kumar, Manager at Thriving Roots (TORP), met with the Forest Department to request support for our Sanarpatti campus greening initiative. Thanks to his efforts, the department has generously pledged 4,000 tree saplings over the coming months! The first batch of 500 saplings, mostly teak, arrived from the Moolachattram Forest Office and were safely delivered to Sanarpatti. Mr Senthil Kumar was present to oversee the handover.

These saplings mark the beginning of a greener, healthier future for our campus, and we can't wait to see them take root!



## CAREER GUIDANCE AT KC PATTI

Goodwill's Thriving Roots programme, in partnership with the Agam Foundation and Arogya Agam Foundation, hosted a career guidance programme at the KC Patti centre. The event welcomed 23 tribal students and their parents, focusing on educational and career planning for Classes 10 and 12.

The day began with a prayer and oath, followed by inspiring talks. Mr Sathasivam from the Arogya Agam Foundation highlighted the power of informed choices. Mr Bharathan from the Agam Foundation encouraged students to explore diverse academic paths beyond the conventional. Mr R. Senthil Kumar of Goodwill India addressed the unique challenges tribal youth face and shared accessible government schemes and study options.

An interactive Q&A session wrapped up the event, leaving students and parents empowered with clarity and confidence.





# SUMMER APPEAL 2025

## Help Tribal Families in Tamil Nadu Grow, Earn, and Thrive

### Support Livelihoods Projects in 23 Tribal Villages

In the hills of **Dindigul, Tamil Nadu**, tribal families are working hard to build a better future, and you can help them get there. Through our **Thrivng Roots** programme, Goodwill is supporting **23 tribal villages** with projects that focus on **education, healthcare, livelihoods, and community development**.

This summer, we're raising vital funds for our **Livelihoods Projects**, which help **women and youth** gain the skills they need to earn a living and become self-reliant.

### What Your Donation Supports

#### Help children stay in school and complete their education.

When children can go to school and complete their education, they unlock a future full of possibilities. "I want my daughter to be the first girl in our family to finish school. "– Meenakshi, mother from Boothamalai village

#### Improve access to medical care and nutrition.

Healthy children learn better. Healthy parents can work. With Kitchen Gardens and access to basic healthcare, families can fight malnutrition and prevent disease before it starts.

#### Support families with skills and tools for self-sufficiency.

From tailoring classes for women to mechanical skills for young people, our training programmes empower individuals with sustainable income. That means dignity, independence, and security.

#### Every gift helps roots thrive and futures grow

Whether it's seeds for a garden, materials for a training course, or travel support for a student, your generosity makes a lasting difference. Please join us in supporting this transformational work.

### **DONATE TODAY AND BE PART OF LONG-TERM CHANGE.**



## Donation Form

## SUMMER APPEAL 2025

**Yes, I want to help tribal families thrive!**

I would like to donate:

**£15 Kitchen Garden** ☐ **£30 Education** ☐ **£50 Tailoring** ☐ **£**  **Other amount**

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

REFERENCE: **THRIVING ROOTS**

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_



## HEALTH CAMP BRINGS CARE TO GOODWILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Goodwill Primary School hosted a one-day health screening camp, led by Dr Praveen and his team from the Tamil Nadu Government Medical Department. The camp focused on early detection and preventive care for our students.

Children received basic health checks, including height and weight checks, and general clinical examinations. Doctors screened for nutritional deficiencies, ENT issues, skin and respiratory infections, and provided free medication for common ailments like colds, wounds, and digestive problems.

A few developmental concerns were identified:

Two children in the 3rd Standard showed signs of speech delay and were referred for speech therapy. One child in the 2nd Standard was diagnosed with

tongue-tie and advised to undergo a minor procedure to support her speech development.

The team also conducted health education sessions on hygiene, nutrition, and physical activity.



## SUPPORT A CHILD, SHAPE A FUTURE

In rural Tamil Nadu, many children are forced to leave school early due to poverty. At Goodwill Children's Homes, we're working to change that through education, healthcare, and sustainable community development.

Our **Child Sponsorship Drive** is underway, and it's a powerful way to make a lasting impact. By sponsoring a child at Goodwill Children's Homes, you're not just providing education, food, and healthcare; you're giving hope, stability, and the chance for a brighter future.

With your support, we're helping children stay in school and families gain the tools they need to build better futures. Many of our staff were once supported through our programmes are proof of the long-term impact we can create together.



If you would like to find out more about child sponsorship or are already a sponsor and know someone else who might like to make the same kind of fulfilling connection, please contact us today.

Sponsor a child today and invest in a future filled with hope.

