



Goodwill Children's Homes

Care and Education for Destitute Children in South India

NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME BACK DEAR CHILDREN!

We are pleased to inform you about the remarkable pace of recovery from the dreadful covid-19 pandemic. We are hopeful that the pandemic is ending soon as most people in India are now vaccinated against the virus. Tamil Nadu administered covid-19 vaccinations to over seventy-five million people. About fifty-five million (nearly 80 % of the population above 18 years) received their first dose and more than twenty-six million (about 40 %) received both doses in Tamil Nadu. The government of Tamil Nadu has taken up vaccinations as a topmost priority and is working towards achieving a 100% vaccination rate in the next few months.

The impact of the pandemic is very much seen in key areas like the economy and education. Though the overall economy shows a strong recovery, the situation of people dependent on daily wages and various other forms of manual labour has been hit hard by the continued lockdowns and suspension of work in major construction and infrastructure projects.

Education has been the most affected field since March 2020. Children up to class nine have not been in school for 19-months. Children in classes 10, 11 and 12 had regular classes in schools for about eight

weeks in February and March 2021 when schools were forced to close again after the breakout of the second wave of the pandemic.

Learning activities have been badly affected despite serious efforts by the government and schools to reach out to students via online classes and telecasting lessons on the 'Kalvi' (education) TV channel. With input from Mrs Theresa, our administrator in the UK, we initiated catch-up camps in most tribal villages in our project area and informally brought the children together to help them continue their learning activities. This way, we helped them sustain their learning spirit during the schools' closures. We saw the positive impact of these efforts when the schools and colleges reopened. There was a tremendous response from the children and the school attendance is remarkably high in our project area compared to other schools in the near vicinity.

Children in the care of Goodwill Homes were sent back to their families in March 2020 due to the pandemic and the consequent closure of the schools. More than 90% of the children returned to Goodwill by the 15th



of November. The Goodwill Homes reopened on the 7th of November. Forty-one of the forty-four children at Thandigudi Home returned. Due to continued uncertainties, we have not admitted any new children to our homes between May 2020 and May this year. Sixty-three of the seventy-two boys returned to Sanarpatti boys' Home, and eighty-three of the eighty-nine girls have so far returned to Pattiveeranpatti Home. The covid-19 pandemic has changed the living

environment of many families. So far, we have had confirmation that six families of our children migrated to other places in search of job opportunities. Some of them have, in the meantime, reported having a cold and fever. As per the standard procedure given by the Government authorities, Goodwill instructed these children to return after recovery.

Mr Francis Xavier, Field Coordinator



MESSAGE FROM TRUSTEE

Dear Supporters and Friends of Goodwill,

There is no doubt that the past 18 months have been like no other the world has ever experienced. I could never have imagined a global pandemic occurring during my lifetime and yet we have all been exposed to it and have seen our lives turned upside down in so many different ways.

The trustees have continued to meet remotely, with the focus being on ensuring that the children and students at Goodwill are safe, that their education and health needs are being met and that the staff have felt supported throughout.

As you will know, children and students returned to members of their families with only a few remaining resident. Our Tribal Outreach Programme (TORP) worked closely with the Headteacher and teachers from our Goodwill Primary School to train volunteers to deliver a Back-to-School programme that focused on offering children an education whilst schools remained closed. The programme reached 246 children in sixteen of the villages TORP support. Our primary school teachers worked in their own villages and were able to provide an education for 84 children. Such commitment is a real testament to Goodwill teachers who know that it is education that so often is the vehicle to changing an individual's life.

In November the majority of children returned to Goodwill and schools reopened. We cannot underestimate what the impact of missing such large chunks of education will have on the future lives of our children and how very important health is to ensure they really will be able to flourish in the future. It is for this reason, that our Christmas Appeal this year is to raise funds to support our Catch-up Camps for Health and Education so that we can continue to provide regular health checks for all our children and students and to put in place

continued catch-up-programmes, focusing on literacy and numeracy skills. We hope that extra support will help close the educational gap that will have inevitably developed due to schools being closed.

The UK trustees continue to work closely with our partners in France. This has enabled us to have a much more joined up approach as to how our financial resources are used to ensure the very best outcomes for the Goodwill community.

Our work with the Indian committee is focused on reviewing the current systems of reporting, with the view of putting in place a more robust and effective reporting system between India, the UK and France. We believe that this would enable our work to have a greater impact on the lives of the children and students we are responsible for.

Thank you to all of you – our donors and sponsors for the generosity in your giving, for your continued support and interest and for your absolute faithfulness and commitment. Without you, Goodwill Homes would not be able to provide all that it does for some of the most deprived children in our world.

Enjoy reading our newsletter that really does celebrate how Goodwill continues to transform the lives of so many.

Best wishes for a blessed Advent and Christmas.

Mary Thorne



Goodwill Alumni Now Owns A Driving School

Muthukumar joined the Goodwill Homes in 1993 when he was in class eight. His father deserted the family when he was in class six and his mother struggled to look after her four children with the meagre income earned as a manual labourer. While she considered sending Muthukumar to find work, people who knew of the Goodwill Homes referred her to us, and this is how he ended living at the Goodwill Homes.

Since childhood, Muthukumar was always interested in machines and engines. After completing his final school year, he enrolled on a Diploma course in Mechanical Engineering at the Ramakrishna Mission Polytechnic College in Coimbatore which he completed in 2002. After working as a mechanic in charge of several companies, he joined a large granite company near Madurai as maintenance manager. When the granite company closed due to changes in government policy, Muthukumar had to overcome another crisis in his life. With the support of his family, he founded the Guru Driving School near Sanarpatti in 2017. The covid-19 pandemic and the continual lockdowns impacted his business. In the meantime, his situation has changed for the better and he will soon be opening another driving school branch near Madurai.

Muthukumar regularly visits the Goodwill Homes to distribute sweets or books to the children. He is also a Goodwill Alumni donor. He always expresses his gratitude to the sponsors and supporters of Goodwill Children's Homes and sheds a few tears when recalling the support received from Goodwill which has enabled him to become a man of stature in society, today.

Muthukumar is an example of how Goodwill Children's Homes transforms the lives of the children who come to us in distress, and the support we give them to achieve a meaningful and contented life.



Nancy Gives Back to the Community

Nancy has been a diligent girl since she was admitted to Thandigudi Home in 2004. She joined Goodwill in class two. Her father, Thilagar, who worked for a non-profit organisation, suddenly died of a massive heart attack in 2003. Nancy's mother felt helpless and wanted a more secure life for Nancy. Later Nancy's mother joined Goodwill as a housemother. Nancy grew up in our Goodwill Homes and completed her final school year with exceptional marks. She was accepted to study a BSc. course in Nursing at the Christian Nursing College in Oddanchatram, and she completed her course successfully. She has now joined as a staff nurse at the Holy Cross Hospital in Batlagundu.

Nancy expresses her love and gratitude to her sponsors and Goodwill Children's Homes for helping to shape her future. She is happy to look after her mother and extend a helping hand to the activities of Goodwill Children's Homes.





REMOTE EDUCATION WAS INACCESSIBLE TO MOST CHILDREN

According to a recent national sample survey published in The Hindu newspaper on November 12, only 20% of school age children in India had access to remote education during the pandemic, of whom only half participated in live online lessons. School dropout was high due to Covid-19 and 38% of households said that at least one child had dropped out of school completely. The face-to-face survey conducted between March and August this year, covered a national representative sample of 7000 households. Only Kerala was excluded due to high Covid cases.

It was found that 80% of children aged 5-18 years, who were enrolled in schools prior to the pandemic, did not receive any educational services at all during school closure. The situation was significantly worse among those from lower socio-economic classes, where the head of the households had lower education levels, and among rural households.

Among the 20% who received education, only 55% had access to live online classes, while 68% had access to recorded audio or video lessons. Three quarter of the students had work sent to them over a smartphone, usually via WhatsApp, and 61% via text messages. Almost 70% had contact with their teachers via phone calls, while 58% had worked delivered at their homes. About half the students were also instructed to listen to educational TV and radio programmes.

The survey also found that of households with school aged children, 64% had internet connections, but only 31% of those received remote education, often because of a lack of access to devices or a lack of larger screen devices. However, among those without internet connections the situation was worse, with only 8% receiving remote education. Respondents listed insufficient number of devices, poor 3G/4G signal and high data cost as among the biggest hurdles. Even

among those receiving remote education, a third of the households said that schools were not prepared to deliver online education. However, only 5% of households had laptops, while 4% had desktop computers. The vast majority relied on smartphones, which were available in 68% of households.

Source: The Hindu, November 12, 2021



Goodwill Office Bearers Visited The Homes

Mr Stanly Manoharan, Secretary of the Indian Committee, visited Sanarpatti and Pattiveeranpatti to inspect the homes and to guide staff on childcare and safeguarding, especially as the children returned after an absence of 19-months. Messrs Sundaram, Treasurer, and Seeman Karthikeyan, Vice-President, visited Pattiveeranpatti to inspect the worksite.





BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAMME



In June, our Tribal Outreach Programme (TORP) made a special effort to reach children who were greatest at risk of discontinuing education. The aim was to help bring struggling students to the right skills level for their age, and to support and encourage children and their families to commit to the long-term benefits of formal education. To help the children, Goodwill TORP has been hosting education catch-up camps in the villages. Volunteers were recruited and trained by teachers from our Goodwill Primary School, Thandigudi. Training was organised by our TORP coordinator, Selvam, and headteacher, Maha. Our primary school teachers brought waste materials to the training session to show them how to make teaching aids from things they would normally throw away. Everyone had time to interact and learn from the teachers. A monthly learning and activity plan was worked out by our Headteacher to guide the volunteers.

Initially the Back-To-School programme kicked off in four villages and later covered sixteen villages. Staff and volunteers covered the TORP villages and reached 246 children while our primary school teachers worked in their native villages and reached a total of 84 children. Meetings were held at the end of each month to give feedback and share experiences so everyone could learn from one another. They reported that the children regularly attended the classes and that there was a noticeable improvement in their writing skills. The story of The Little Red Hen was a favourite. They have been taught devotional songs and how to worship. Songs were recorded on mobile phones so they could learn and sing along. The children were also taught about



Trained Volunteer Teachers



personal hygiene and encouraged to wash and wear clean clothes. They were taught about the road rules and traffic signals, sports competitions were held, and prizes were given to students.

Despite difficult circumstances they continued with these informal education catch-up sessions that included active play activities.

The informal Back-to-School programme was well received amongst the parents and children and continued until the lockdown restrictions were lifted and the schools reopened on 1 November.

We would like to thank all our staff, volunteers and teacher for the magnificent job they did to prepare the children for returning to the classroom.



A Gift in your Will could Transform a Child's Life

Gifts in Wills are a vital source of funding for our work and is a simple yet meaningful way to leave a lasting gift to future generations of children living in poverty. Your gift could educate a child, make sure they are healthy and happy, and help them achieve incredible things. No matter the size of the gift. A gift in your Will to Goodwill is a promise of a better future, a promise that means we can continue to take care of orphaned and destitute children and give them better opportunities in life.

If you have already made a Will, a bequest to Goodwill Children's Homes can be easily added by means of

a codicil. Your solicitor can help you with this or you can contact The Goodwill Partnership and one of their trained counsellors will come to your home to take your Will instructions at a time convenient to you, whether daytime, evenings, or weekends. They charge a low fixed price, however, detailed your Will, wherever you live, with no hidden costs or upsell of any other products. Their home-visit service is free of charge, and they also provide a small discount on a second Will for your spouse or partner. You can look them up online at <https://www.thegoodwillpartnership.co.uk/>



Raise FREE funds
for us every time you
Shop online



Please remember to use easyfundraising every time you shop online. Over 6,000 shops and sites will donate to Goodwill Children's Homes, including all the big names like eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, ASOS, M&S and Just Eat!

Plus, you could raise up to £50 donations when you use easyfundraising to save money on your household bills including car and home insurance, energy, phone contract or broadband. Uswitch, GoCompare, Confused.com and many more will all donate to us for FREE!

If you haven't yet signed up to support us, it's easy and completely FREE. These donations really help us, so it would be great if you could take a moment to get started!

You can find our easyfundraising page here:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/goodwillchildrenshomes>



Memory Giving

Memory Giving lets you make an on-line donation in memory of a loved one.

Memory Giving can set up a donation page for your loved one when the appointed funeral director is not already using our service. Please check with your funeral director or you can complete the online form and Memory Giving will do the rest. Once you have submitted the form, they will set up a donation page for your loved one and notify you when the page is ready.

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Christmas Appeal

HEALTH CHECKS, READING & MATHS

This Christmas please support our Catch-up Camps for Health and Education. These follow on from our very successful Catch-up Camps held over the past few months to prepare children for when schools reopen. These have been extremely well received by the rural communities and have been a good way to tailor our support to meet the needs of the Covid pandemic. Our Christmas Appeal is raising money to continue our health checks and health education, and to help improve the literacy and numeracy skills of the children by providing extra support.

For young children, there is no significant learning possible unless a relationship has been built up with their teachers. Catch-up Camps have been a way of maintaining that relationship. Now that they have returned to school there will be lots of catch-up to do with the children, but we are trying to ensure they have enough of the basic skills to access the curriculum.

Donation Form



Please tick

£10

£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 **CATCH-UP CAMPS**

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 Accountant Marries

Ms Tamilselvi Maruthamuthu joined Goodwill Homes in Tamil Nadu as an accountant in December 2017. She served Goodwill Children's Homes with great enthusiasm, and loved the Goodwill children, especially those who had lost their parents.



On September 9, she married Mr Gowthaman, a quality control officer at Global Textile Alliance India, Coimbatore. She left her job at Goodwill as she moved to the city of Coimbatore. Goodwill wishes Tamilselvi and Gowthaman a long and happy married life.

Staff Moved Between Workplaces

There has been an internal move between workplaces. Mr Perumal (previously from Thandigudi) is now the Child Welfare Officer (CWO) at Sanarpatti Boys' Home while Mr Balamurugan CWO of Sanarpatti is now in charge at Thandigudi. Mrs Eswari Ravi and Mr Ravi, the chef at Thandigudi, also moved to Sanarpatti Home while Mrs Santhi Asir and Mr Asir, chef at Sanarpatti Home, have moved to Thandigudi.



Moved to Thandigudi



Moved to Sanarpatti

New Laundry Area For Girls' Home

The girls' home will soon have a new and more spacious laundry area. Vimala, the Child Welfare Officer at PVP Home, proposed converting the old bathroom area as it would require minor alterations. The old bathrooms were too narrow, and the walls were unsafe, so the internal walls were demolished, and the area converted into a laundry for washing and drying clothes. The girls previously had little space for washing their clothes. Work commenced at the beginning of November but was delayed because of continuous rain.



A Story With A Happy Ending

Ramayee was born in Mangalamcobu and grew up with her parents and younger sister. Her father passed away due to a heart attack when she was only two years old, and her mother was forced to take full responsibility for both the children without any help from her family or friends. During this desperate time, Ramayee's mother took her children to Goodwill, hoping they would provide them with care and education. As she anticipated, Goodwill accepted them and provided them with the necessary care and schooling. Ramayee attempted to write her 10th public exam but unfortunately, she did not pass. As a result, she joined the tailoring course offered at the Pattiveeranpatti Home and then later completed the embroidery course at Thandigudi Home. She worked at Goodwill for a year after her marriage and then left to settle down with her husband. Unfortunately, he was an alcoholic and died from alcohol poisoning seven years after their marriage. This made her decide to go back to Goodwill where she was provided with shelter and a job as a kitchen assistant. She worked there for four years and met a former student from Goodwill whom she married. Staff were able to attend their beautiful wedding and gave them their blessings.

