



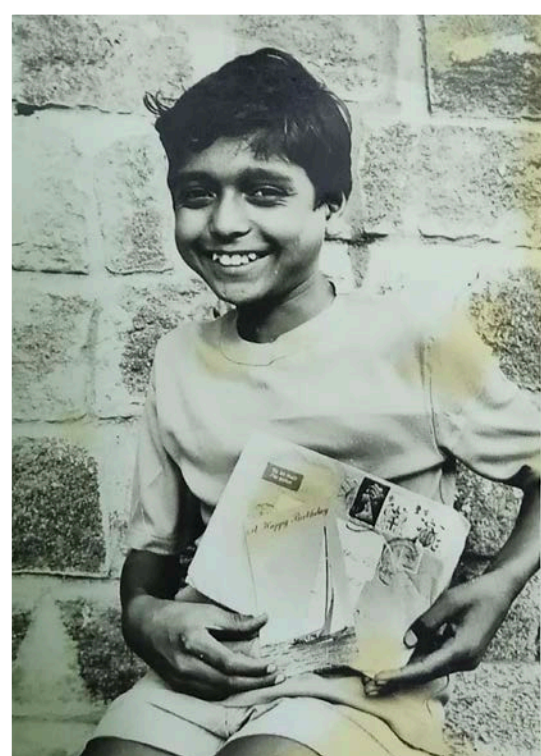
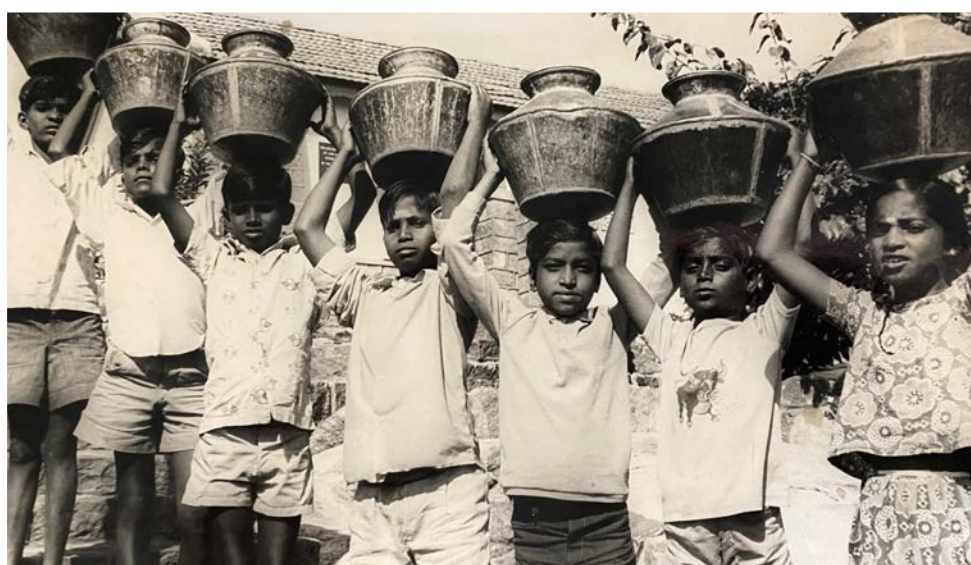
Goodwill Children's Homes
Care and Education for Destitute Children in South India

NEWSLETTER

Tel: 0117 3250 550
www.goodwillhomes.org.uk



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF COMPASSION, IMPACT AND HOPE 1974-2024



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Thank you for your continuing support of Goodwill. I hope that you will enjoy reading this newsletter. It reflects the work that we have been able to do together over the last 50 years. There are some inspiring stories to read which show how your support has transformed lives. The needs of the communities we support have changed a little since 1974 but there is still work to do. Our challenge going forward is to ensure we can respond to the realities of life in rural India in 2024.

Enjoy finding out a little more as you read about some of your success stories.



Dr David Neill



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF GOODWILL CHILDREN'S VILLAGES IN SOUTH INDIA

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Goodwill Children's Villages in south India. We dedicate this special edition to all those who have tirelessly worked and generously given their time to support the children in this region. Your efforts have touched and transformed countless lives for the better. In this commemorative edition, we share highlights from the past and heartwarming success stories of Goodwill beneficiaries. Their journeys serve as a testament to the impact of our collective commitment. Whether you've been part of Goodwill for decades or have recently joined, you should feel immensely proud of the positive change you've helped bring about.

Special thanks to Messrs Santhosh, Soosai, and Senthil for their exceptional efforts in gathering insightful stories from our Goodwill beneficiaries and enriching our newsletter with valuable content that truly makes a difference. We sincerely thank all our supporters who contributed to our newsletter and submitted photos. We also acknowledge those whose photos we are using, even if we don't have all the names.

Warm regards,

Theresa van der Merwe
Administrator

IMPORTANT UPDATE:

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

2024 CARD MAKING VOLUNTEERS

Over the years, Goodwill has had many active card-making groups, with a few still creating and selling recycled cards to raise funds for the organisation. This year, the Weston card-making group near Bath achieved a remarkable milestone, reaching their target of £100,000.



Congratulations!

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDING CHAIRMAN, PROFESSOR BRIAN THORNE



The International Goodwill Children's Village Society (UK) was legally incorporated on 31st October 1975, but the project had been up and running for a good year before that. I was its first permanently elected Chairman and held this position from 1977 until 1990.

My memories of the first pioneering days are dominated by countless vignettes of the project's charismatic founder, the exceptional English school teacher, John Foster. At an age when many others would have been thinking of 'winding down', John and his wife, Pamela, went to India with the intention of giving, at the most, a couple of years of useful service to uplift some of the most needy and desperate children in the Third World. In the event, John was to spend the rest of his life in India, most of it in the service of the project which owed its existence to his vision and seemingly boundless energy. Since the early days the Goodwill project dependent entirely on the generous support of an ever-growing number of schools, churches, organisations, and kind-hearted individuals, in short, a veritable army of 'Friends of Goodwill,' mostly British and, later on, a small community of French supporters. John Foster himself returned to Britain every year and embarked on whirlwind tours throughout the country, sometimes speaking to as many as four different audiences on the same day. I accompanied him on some of these tours and shall never forget his compelling performances, his spell-bending oratory, and the astonishing financial fruit of his gruelling efforts. Back in India, his achievements were no less remarkable. This man trained as a teacher of English language and literature, proved to be an architect of no mean talent. In the beautiful Thandigudi hills, building by building

he designed a whole village of impressive houses and communal spaces for the growing numbers of orphaned and destitute children who clamoured for entry to the village on each 'admission day' – always far more than could be admitted.

In Britain, the Trustees and committee over which I presided were hard-pressed to keep this burgeoning show on the road and meetings were often lengthy and heated. They often took place at John's home in Kettering where Pam would send out for fish and chips to keep us going. The Trust's Secretary John Cresswell was a constant rock of support, the Treasurer, Susan Beeston, kept the finances under rigorous control and the day came when we were able to appoint the National Co-ordinator the indefatigable George Kent. George proved to be almost as effective as John Foster himself at fund-raising and his energy was almost as limitless. For many groups – and especially churches – throughout the land, George became the face of Goodwill.

In a report to the Rotary Clubs of Great Britain which I made during my year as Chairman in 1990, I commented as follows:

"During the period of my Chairmanship, I have seen remarkable growth but despite this, we have not lost sense of being a close-knit community where individuals matter, whether they be children or staff, supporters or beneficiaries. From the outset, we also eschewed all exclusivity. The children we care for are Hindus, Muslims, Christians, and others; our staff are similarly heterogeneous. In Britain, we are supported by individuals of many faiths and none, by schools, churches of many denominations and by secular clubs and organisations. And yet, it is perhaps one of the most striking aspects of the genius of our Founder, John Foster, that it is precisely from the dissimilarities that he has fashioned a Society which engenders so strong a sense of corporate identity. In a world which daily becomes ever more clearly a global village that cannot be without significance."

**Prof Brian Thorne
26th May 2024**



Children going to school

FROM GOODWILL TO GREAT WILL: BAGHYARAMAN'S JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMATION



In 1974, a young boy named Baghyaraman became the third child to join the Goodwill Children's Home, a sanctuary founded by the late John Foster in Thandigudi. This pivotal moment marked the beginning of a transformative journey that would shape his entire life. Baghyaraman fondly recalls the cherishing memories of his time at the children's home, especially the lessons learned from John Foster. "It was my home," he says, reflecting on the deep sense of belonging he felt. He attended the government school at Mangalamkombu village, walking daily to

school from classes 1 to 10 until 1984. This routine instilled in him a sense of discipline and perseverance. He continued his education at the government higher secondary school in Vadipatti for classes 11 and 12 and later earned a B.A. in Tourism from the evening college at Madurai Kamaraj University. Life after school saw Baghyaraman working various jobs, including as an electrician and plumber. He also gained experience working with Jeyaraj Nadar and Pasumpon. However, for the past 27 years, he has found his calling as the Manager of a Marriage Hall in Madurai.

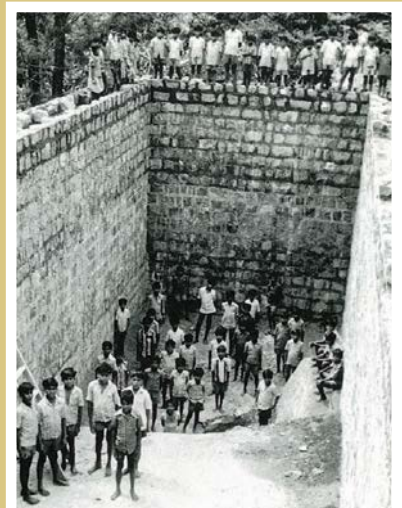
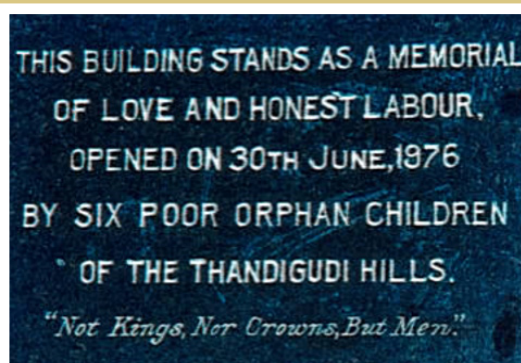
Baghyaraman's personal life flourished alongside his career. He is blessed with two daughters and one son. His eldest daughter is married, while the other two children are pursuing higher education in Madurai. Living with John Foster, Baghyaraman learned invaluable life lessons. "Even today, I wake up at six o'clock. I never sleep beyond six o'clock," he shares, highlighting the discipline that Foster instilled in him. Foster's teachings extended beyond routine; he emphasised the importance of simplicity, humility, and environmental consciousness. At the children's home, they practiced rainwater harvesting, a habit Baghyaraman continues today. "I drink only rainwater in my house. I learned the value and importance of drinking rainwater from the founder," he says with pride. Foster's influence also shaped Baghyaraman's personal values. He learned to dress neatly and live simply, without desiring wealth. This philosophy has brought him contentment and happiness. "Now I am happy and content with what I have. God blessed me with a good family and friends," Baghyaraman reflects. Grateful for the profound impact Goodwill Children's Home had on his life, Baghyaraman expresses his heartfelt thanks. "I want to thank Goodwill for the sacrifices you make for the improvement of the lives of poor and needy children in India." Baghyaraman's story is a testament to the enduring power of compassion, discipline, and simplicity, transforming not just his life, but also inspiring those around him.

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The Founder's first house.



The First Water Tank

GOODWILL A BEACON OF HOPE FOR THE POOR

I first met John Foster, the Founder of Goodwill in about 1978 when he was home on furlough from India and came to talk to the congregation of Ecclesall Church in Sheffield about his work for the children at Thandigudi. He described how he and his wife had been to India and were so upset by the number of children sleeping rough at the railway stations, that they planned to return and do something to help. Eventually, they gave up their teaching jobs, in Birmingham, bought a piece of scrubland near Thandigudi village and started looking after children. John's first efforts at house building were unsuccessful and he learnt the hard way that huts made of branches and roofed with banana leaves do not withstand monsoon rains, hence the later more substantial little castle-style houses at Thandigudi which were built of stone quarried from the hillside and are still there today. It is a beacon of hope in a very poor part of India's vastness.

Thandigudi and the Tribal Outreach Programme are the places that most stand out in my memory, and I believe the education of children at secondary level and continued support to higher education and training make Goodwill stand out as a really effective means of transforming lives long-term.

At Ecclesall, George and Angela Kent formed a group to support the work and started the first card re-cycling enterprise, still a very effective way of publicising the charity and always appreciated. That is where I learnt the very professional way of re-making cards, which I

did with the Sheffield group and still continue with a small group in St Albans.

I have visited India twice and it has been good to watch Goodwill develop and change with the times and in spite of the inevitable difficulties including Covid, it is still fulfilling the original purpose of the charity to give very poor children opportunities for a better life, regardless of their origins or creed.

I am so happy to congratulate Goodwill on 50 years of inspiration and dedication and particularly thank Theresa and all the staff in India for their hard work. Here's to the next 50 years!

Good wishes

Helen Bishop



EARLY DAYS OF THE CHARITY, AS RECOUNTED BY SURYA NARAYANAN.

The Seeds of Hope: John Foster's Journey

In the picturesque hills of Kodaikanal, nestled within the verdant beauty of Tamil Nadu, lay the small village of Thandigudi. Its lush green trees, vibrant plants, and azure hills painted a serene backdrop. Beneath this idyllic facade, a different story of poverty and struggle unfolded.

In 1974, retired UK teacher Mr John Foster visited Thandigudi. His father had already settled in nearby Kodaikanal. As John explored the breathtaking landscape, he listened to the villagers' tales. Their hardships weighed heavily on his heart, especially the plight of the tribal children. These young souls lacked proper nourishment and wore tattered clothes. Determined to make a difference, he purchased three acres of land in the neighbouring village of Patlankadu. He founded the International Goodwill Children's Village Society in the UK, rallying support from fellow teachers. Locally, he established a similar society with community members.

John and his family moved to Thandigudi, where they built a home for orphans and underprivileged children. Initially, ten children found refuge there, attending the nearby government primary school. Each year, as the academic cycle began, John selected more children to join the fold. But one home couldn't accommodate all the children. Thus, the Three Pillars Home was born, followed by Castle, Clare, Jeyam, and Zetland Homes - named after UK schools. Despite modest beginnings, the fundraising efforts gradually grew. John even acquired two cows and built a shed to provide milk for the children. A rabbit farm added to their sustenance. In memory of a UK boy named Scott, whose parents generously donated, John constructed an office building named Scott. He also purchased additional land, where he ingeniously built water tanks to collect rainwater. The hilly terrain allowed him to create a well and a drinking water tank near the kitchen. As the children's numbers increased, some attended the Mangalamcombu Government Middle

School, John expanded the facilities, including the Byre House, where he lived with his family. A building near the dining hall served as the sponsorship office, and the Bharath House - divided into portions - became a hub for children's activities and administration. Between the sponsorship building and Bharath House, staff quarters were erected, complete with rainwater harvesting tanks. These transformative efforts spanned from 1974 to 1980.

In 1988, I joined Goodwill as an office assistant, witnessing the foundation work for Lara House. By 1989, it stood as a beacon of hope. Thandigudi Children's Village, now comprising seven homes, continued to thrive. Esteemed UK figures like Chairman Brian Thorne, and fundraisers George Kent, Angela, Bob, Rita, and others graced the village with their presence.

John Foster's legacy echoed through the hills - a testament to compassion, resilience, and the unwavering belief that every child deserved a chance. And so, the early days of the charity unfolded - a story etched in the hearts of those who dared to dream of a brighter future for the children of Thandigudi.

The Legacy Unfolds:

John Foster's Tireless Journey Continues

As the sun dipped behind the hills of Thandigudi, casting a warm glow on the village, John Foster's unwavering commitment continued to shape the destiny of countless children. Let us delve deeper into this remarkable tale.

Expanding Horizons: Philip Jepps and Dust Beck

John Foster's passion knew no bounds. He traversed oceans, seeking support for the children of Thandigudi. Australia became a canvas for his fundraising efforts. There, he shared the story of hope, urging kind souls to contribute. The children's strength grew, and with it, their dreams. In Pattiveeranpatti, a new home emerged a sanctuary for senior boys and girls. Dindigul welcomed another home, exclusively for senior girls. The Pattiveeranpatti seniors found solace there. Oddanchatram, too, witnessed the birth of yet another haven. Within the Society, Mr Kannairam Pillai from Thandigudi assumed the presidency. Bapatla's Mr Rajasekara Babu stood as vice-president, while John Foster shouldered the dual role of secretary and treasurer. Thandigudi's Headmaster, Mr Ramachandran, and Patlankadu's Primary School Headmaster, Mr Sivasharma, lent their wisdom. Madurai's Mr Nagarathinam and Patlankadu's Mr Ponraj Mannadiar and Mr Shanmuga Sundaram joined the ranks.

Later, Madurai's Mr Solanki took the helm. Administrative assistant Mr Panneer Selvam, office assistant, Mr Monickam, and accountant Mr Douglas formed the backbone of the organisation. And there I was, assisting Mr Monickam - an eager witness to history. John Foster's annual pilgrimage to the UK became legendary. Schools, Lion Clubs, and Rotary gatherings resonated with his plea for support. Newsletters flowed across borders, bridging hearts. Sponsorship letters arrived from children; their dreams etched in ink. Ilam sponsors and individual sponsors alike embraced the cause.

The old firewood kitchen crackled with warmth, its scent weaving memories. But progress beckoned—a new kitchen, fuelled by a stream system, emerged. No longer did the children trek to the hilltops every Saturday, gathering firewood. Instead, they focused on their studies, while Goodwill staff ensured their well-being.

Byre House, once John Foster's abode, transformed into a space for visitors. But the pinnacle awaited—the Grafton House. Named after John's native village, it stood as a testament to resilience. On a poignant day in 1993, Chairman Mr Keith Trayner bid farewell to John Foster. The Grafton House, its doors flung wide, welcomed hope and promise.

Vice-President, Mr Peter Davis graced the occasion, a witness to the legacy that spanned from 1988 to 1993.

And so, the pages turned—the story of Goodwill etched in love, sacrifice, and the unyielding spirit of one man.

As the winds whispered through the eucalyptus trees, the children of Thandigudi knew that their lives had been touched by an extraordinary force - a force that transcended borders and ignited their dreams.



Mr E Surya Narayanan was the first headmaster at Thandigudi Primary School from 27.06.1994 to 13.12.1995. He was re-appointed in 2004 and served as headmaster until 2008.

1981 ANDHRA PRADESH

The first 'Goodwill' home here was started in Bapatla in 1981, humble beginnings turned into a substantial, purpose-built facility housing about 240 children. Close by a school was built, partly funded through support from the UK. This school took children through primary and secondary education and had a good academic record. Nidamaru home, funded through generous direct support from the UK, was built in a town near the city of Vijayawada. It could house about 100 boys and girls. Today, none of the homes in Andhra Pradesh are supported by the Goodwill Children's Homes charitable trust in the UK.

FROM ORPHAN TO MENTOR: A JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMATION THROUGH GOODWILL

In 1988, Saravanan's life took a significant turn when he joined the Goodwill Children's Home at the tender age of ten. Losing his father when he was just six months old, his mother placed him in the home, which became his sanctuary and stepping stone to a brighter future. Saravanan's journey from a young boy at Goodwill to a skilled tradesman and mentor illustrates the profound impact of the organisation on his life and the lives of many others.

Saravanan thrived at the Goodwill Children's Home, progressing through his studies and eventually receiving trade training at the Goodwill Trade Training Centre in Thandigudi. This education provided him with the skills and confidence to succeed. After completing his training, Saravanan dedicated himself to giving back to the community that had nurtured him. He worked as an instructor at various Goodwill trade centres in Pattiveeranpatti, Thandigudi, and PC Patti for a total of ten years. Goodwill's support didn't end with Saravanan's education. The organisation also enabled his family to thrive. His wife, Chinnarani, works as a head nurse at the KC Patti Christian Fellowship Hospital, a facility that partners with Goodwill to serve tribal communities.

This partnership ensures that children from these communities receive much-needed education and healthcare services. Saravanan's dedication to education and skills training did not stop with his role as an instructor. He went on to establish his own mechanical workshop in KC Patti. He continued to teach and inspire his students, helping them to start their own mechanical workshops. Goodwill's achievements include starting the first trade centre for girls in Dindigul, breaking new ground and providing opportunities for young women in the region. Despite the challenges he faced, Saravanan always found solace and strength in the place that raised him. Whenever he encountered difficulties, he would visit the Goodwill Children's Home in Thandigudi, drawing inspiration from the memories and the nurturing environment that had shaped his life. The home remained his beacon of hope and a reminder of the transformative power of support and education. Saravanan's story is a testament to the life-changing impact of Goodwill. It highlights how the organisation not only provided him with the means to overcome personal adversity but also empowered him to become a mentor and pillar of his community. Through Goodwill, Saravanan's life was transformed, and he, in turn, has transformed the lives of many others.

1988 DINDIGUL HOME

The Dindigul Home began as a girls' home in 1988 and was located in a residential area of this quite large town. Since 1994 it has housed senior boys from Thandigudi. It was given the name 'Neelakal House'. The Dindigul Home was sold in 2016.



THE FUNDRAISING STORY OF OUR FAIR ISLE FRIENDS

Despite being a small community of just 65 people, our Fair Isle friends had a long-standing tradition of supporting Goodwill Villages. It all began when a teacher at the school introduced the idea of a poverty lunch featuring soup and bread to raise funds in 1989. Over the years, money was mainly raised during harvest festival time, hosting poverty lunches or Sunday teas followed by lively auctions of local produce and crafts.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF GOODWILL: A JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMATION AND TRIUMPH



It was 48 years ago that the Goodwill Founder visited my school with an Indian boy from the home in Thandigudi that he had not long before started to build. He told a fascinating story, and the children were keen to support one of the children. I moved school, and the children again decided to sponsor a boy, Alagasamy, who, much to their delight came with John Foster on his next visit. My wife and I also sponsored our first girl, Sumathi. After a first visit to Thandigudi, I was invited to be a Trustee, and since then, vice -chairman and finally UK co-ordinator/fundraiser/speaker for Goodwill. Over the years there have been great changes. At first, there were mainly boys cared for as the Tribal Hill families did not see the value of educating girls who were kept at home to do chores. The children went to a local primary school which was very basic, and many children returned after leaving school to daily agricultural work. How it has all changed! Goodwill built its own primary school, there was vocational training for school leavers, and outreach into local hill villages to support the hill schools. Girls and boys progressed to higher education with many securing sought-after government jobs. I am always delighted to read of these successes in the newsletters. Angela and I have visited the homes many times to see these changes and have received a wonderful warm welcome from children, staff, (many became personal friends) and the Indian Management Committee. Goodwill has become a beacon for childcare and education. This achievement is of course made possible through the unwavering support of numerous individuals, schools, clubs, churches, and other organisations. Congratulations to all the hardworking staff and members who give their all for the Goodwill Children.

Peter Davies



MESSAGE FROM DR B S NAGARAJAN, a former president, GOODWILL INDIA

I am 88 now, and I have known Goodwill India since the seventies. I can't believe that I have so many years of association with my beloved organisation!

I remember it was Mr S K Soundarapandian a planter and Secretary of Goodwill who introduced me to Goodwill Tamil Nadu in 1996. I was President of Goodwill India twice and secretary twice, and even after retirement, I continued to stay in touch.

What do I remember?

I remember introducing LPG Gas in the Thandigudi kitchen and limited firewood. At Pattiveeranpatti home for senior girls, higher education opportunities, including nursing studies were introduced, When I met Mr Keith Trayner, a former chairman of Goodwill UK in London at the airport, the seed was sown for TORP. Our Tribal Outreach Programme was introduced in 2002 and focused on tribal welfare including education for children and health care for tribals.

When I retired from Gandhigram Rural University as Dean, I became full-time Secretary followed by President during the time Prof Alan Hay took over as Chairman, and when Mr Dave Kirk was a trustee in the UK.



1990

We installed village toilets in the tribal belt areas and introduced Self-Help Groups for women, and we introduced technical training programmes like automobile engineering and computer training.

With the support of Goodwill UK, we also introduced a staff welfare fund. Much later with the help of Dr Balraj, we bought land at Sanarpatti and constructed two big hostels and a dining hall. We opened the new boys' home at Sanarpatti in 2008.

Now, I am living in a retirement home with my wife in Coimbatore and I remain in touch with Goodwill as an advisor. Today, younger men, most of them our Goodwill boys, are managing the Society and Dr Raja from Gandhigram University is helping. I remain in touch and visit Goodwill as a satisfied man.

I will fail if I do not express gratitude to Goodwill UK and Mr Dominique Thevenon from France. I am still in contact with all of them.

Dr B S Nagarajan



SEEDS OF HOPE: BALAMANI'S JOURNEY FROM BENEFICIARY TO BENEFACTOR



Balamani's journey with the Goodwill Children's Home Charitable Society is a testament to the power of compassion and education. Her story, which began in 1990, is one of resilience, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to giving back to the community that shaped her. At the tender age of ten, Balamani joined the Goodwill Children's Home Charitable Society as a fifth grader. Her early years were spent at Nilakal Illam in Dindigul, where she completed her middle school education. She then transitioned to Goodwill Girl's Home in Pattiveeranpatti, excelling in her studies through the completion of her secondary education. The journey took a significant turn when Goodwill India extended its financial support, enabling Balamani to complete her higher secondary education in her native village, Chettynayakkanpatti. This pivotal support laid the foundation for her future academic and professional achievements.

Married in 2001, Balamani balanced her family responsibilities with her academic aspirations. Between 2005 and 2008, she pursued a Bachelor of Arts in History from Kamaraj University. Her passion for education led her to further obtain a Bachelor of Education degree from MVM B. Ed College in Dindigul in 2010. Balamani's dedication paid off in 2014 when she was appointed as a government teacher at RVLNA Government Higher Secondary School in Sitharevu. Her role as an educator not only provides her with a stable income to support her family but also allows her to impart knowledge and values to the next generation. Her husband, a small businessman, and their two children are testaments to their hard work and perseverance. Her eldest daughter, Mohana Priya, is in her final year of a Biomedical Engineering degree, and her son, Subhash Sanjai, is pursuing his M. Tech in Kumarapalayam. Deeply moved by the mission of Goodwill Children's Homes, Balamani remains a devoted general body member of the Society. Her experiences have instilled in her a desire to ensure that other needy children receive the same opportunities she did. She reminisces fondly about the guidance of the founder, John Foster, whose teachings on simplicity, manners, and frugality have left a lasting impression on her. His lessons on using resources wisely to aid the less fortunate resonate deeply with her to this day.



GOODWILL'S LEGACY: A JOURNEY OF SUCCESS AND GIVING BACK

Murugan's life is intertwined with the essence of Goodwill, a name that ignites a rush of nostalgia within him. As a destitute boy, he found refuge in the Goodwill Children's Home in Thandigudi. Goodwill wasn't just a



shelter; it became his family, his anchor in life's storms. Reflecting on his past, Murugan realises that without Goodwill, his fate might have been that of a farmer or a daily labourer. Goodwill

gifted Murugan more than just a home; it bestowed upon him the gift of knowledge and opportunity.

Under its care, he flourished, surrounded by peers who became his brothers and sisters, and guardians who treated them with boundless love and care. Even after leaving the Home, Murugan's dedication to Goodwill remained unwavering. Together with friends, he contributed to its betterment, drilling a bore well to ensure the well-being of its current inhabitants. Driven by gratitude and a desire to pay it forward, Murugan established the IDL Academy in Bodinayakanur, where he guides students through the rigours of Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC) exams.

His efforts have borne fruit, with many of his students securing government jobs, a testament to the impact of his teachings. Beyond the confines of his academy, Murugan and his team extend their outreach, teaching English in schools and colleges, spreading the light of knowledge far and wide. Murugan's vision extends beyond personal success; he dreams of expanding his academy's reach across Tamil Nadu, providing education to countless underprivileged children. Inspired by the support received from Goodwill donors, he's determined to give back, ensuring that others have the same opportunities he had. Amidst his journey, Murugan found love and support in his family. His wife, Mahalakshmi, stands by his side, managing the academy while caring for their two children, Monish and Haswanthi. Theirs is a story of resilience, triumph over adversity, and compassion's transformative power.

In the annals of Goodwill's history stands the tale of Murugan, a testament to the enduring legacy of kindness and the boundless possibilities it unlocks.



MR KEITH TRAYNER

Keith Trayner served as Chairman of the Trustees from 1991 to 2000. As the headteacher of a large primary school, he inspired his pupils to raise funds for the first houses, which occurred in 1973/4. His unwavering enthusiasm for the "Goodwill family" continued even after his retirement. Upon retiring, he became a Goodwill Trustee and was subsequently elected Chairman. Through Goodwill, he aimed to make a positive impact on children in India. Under his leadership, the Goodwill Primary School was established, Trade Training courses were developed, and Goodwill care was extended to tribal communities. Additionally, he advocated for a new style of care in small family groups within the organisation.



1990 SHERRIF HOUSE

Oddanchattram is a small town to the northwest of Dindigul and a home was set up here in 1990. Called 'Sherrif House' this home had 36 boys who attended senior schools, polytechnics and colleges nearby.

1992 HYDERABAD

In 1992 a home was set up in Hyderabad. This home was later deemed unsuitable and remote by some but successfully housed around fifty children.

THREADS OF GOODWILL: CANFORD'S TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEYS

Canford first visited during the Easter break of 1996. It was a stark life-changing experience for all. The Canford School visits were more than routine outings; they were transformative journeys. For me, they held a special place. There is also no doubt that the visits have established many deep and cherished memories in all our lives. The great partnership between the Thandigudi Home and the students who have experienced wonderful times there is very strong I feel, although it is some years since I led the Canford team in 2008.

The main drives for good in Goodwill I think are firstly and most importantly Dr B S Nagarajan. He was the president of Goodwill TN for many years and inspired the great work that was started to develop the Tribal Outreach Project. This activity in the heart of the tribal communities in the Palani Hills set the standard for others to follow in giving better life chances to so many who otherwise would have little choice. He created a loyal team who have worked for over 20 years on this project. The loyal fundraiser at the time, George Kent, was also a man who should be remembered with heartfelt thanks for his unstinting work to supply the charity with enough funds to do its superb work for the needy children. It was George who introduced Canford to Goodwill, planting the seed for yearly visits. Those visits became more than mere excursions; they were soulful exchanges - a bridge between cultures. The others who made a big impact are the trusted Child Welfare Officers of the charity who set up the homes to make the most of the resources and enable the children to receive a better education. Sponsorships developed between UK and Indian children and for many this link is still there. My

wife and I sponsored, and I am still in regular contact with a young man who has graduated in engineering to become a gas engineer working in Dubai to send money back to his family. He is now living with his wife and baby back in India having built a beautiful house for his parents. They previously occupied a tiny leaking shack in the plantation hill area of Poomallai. I visited their hillside home several times and my memories are strong of the huge progress that the family has made due to the Goodwill influence. I know there are many such examples of success, and long may it continue. As trustee for Goodwill UK's Indian activities, I felt the weight of responsibility. My visits, both with Canford and independently, deepened my understanding. The Indian community, their resilience, their dreams became intertwined with my own. My wife saw it too, the importance of this link, this shared purpose. I am still involved in charity work in the area and have often visited Goodwill to see my old Indian friends at the various sites. They were and still are, some of the most loyal workers in difficult circumstances with reduced resources, who love seeing children from the most basic backgrounds make an improvement to their lives and those of their families.

I hope that the celebrations go very well.

Dave Kirk



FROM STRUGGLE TO SUCCESS: THE INSPIRATIONAL NARRATIVE OF MR PANDIDURAI



Mr Pandidurai's life is a testament to resilience and the transformative power of support and opportunity. From the depths of hardship to the heights of

success, his journey is a remarkable example of how one can rise above challenges with determination and the kindness of others. Born into difficult circumstances, Mr Pandidurai faced the tragedy of losing his father at a young age. Left with his struggling mother, life seemed bleak. However, it was through the intervention of a children's home at Thandigudi that his trajectory changed.

Entering the children's home in class six began Mr Pandidurai's transformative journey. Amidst the nurturing environment of the home, he found solace and support. Through the years, he not only completed his education but also discovered his passion for mechanics. The children's home allowed Mr Pandidurai to pursue his interest in mechanics, enrolling him in an ITI program for two-wheeler mechanics. Armed with newfound skills, he ventured into the workforce, gaining valuable experience in Madurai. In 2000, Mr Pandidurai's life took another turn as he joined Good Day as a marketing person. Through dedication and hard work, he steadily climbed the

ranks to become the marketing manager, a testament to his determination and ability to seize opportunities. Today, Mr Pandidurai enjoys the blessings of a beautiful family, with his wife Helen being an entrepreneur in her own right. Their two children, Alwin Kishore and Ashwin Joshua, are pursuing their dreams with dedication and support. Reflecting on his journey, Mr Pandidurai acknowledges the invaluable lessons learned during his time at the children's home. From discipline to the importance of community and care, the home instilled in him values that continue to guide him. He extends his heartfelt gratitude to Goodwill and the generous donors whose support made his journey possible. Their sacrifices and kindness not only transformed his life but also empowered him to create a better future for himself and his family.

Mr Pandidurai's story is a poignant reminder of the power of compassion, opportunity, and resilience. From humble beginnings to achieving success against all odds, his journey inspires us to believe in the potential for positive change, even in the face of adversity.



MILLBROOK JUNIOR SCHOOL, KETTERING

At Millbrook Junior School, we have been proud to support Goodwill India for over 30 years. We have many highlights and special memories over the years. One that stood out was when all of the children in our large junior school exchanged homemade Christmas cards with the children in the Goodwill homes. It was a huge operation to organise but incredibly worthwhile and meaningful. Our children were hugely excited to receive Christmas cards that had travelled halfway around the world! We also fondly recall when we had a visit from Nithin, someone who grew up in one of the homes. He gave an assembly to our children, which for years has been warmly remembered. At Millbrook Junior School, we used to hold an annual 'market day', named 'Thandigudi Day' and this was always the highlight of the school year and the day most remembered by past pupils. In more recent years, our fundraising efforts have included Christmas jumper days and donations from staff during special occasions. We greatly look forward to resuming our fundraising efforts for a charity which is very close to our hearts and to continue to support such a worthy cause.



FROM PLANTATION TO PROSPERITY: THE AYYASAMY CHRONICLES



In the misty hills of Kodaikanal, where the aroma of coffee permeates the air, a story of resilience and triumph unfolds. Meet Ayyasamy, a beacon of hope and determination, whose journey from the shackles of bonded labour to becoming a thriving entrepreneur is nothing short of extraordinary. Born

into a life of hardship, Ayyasamy's parents worked tirelessly as bonded labourers on a coffee estate barely scraping by on meagre wages. But amidst the adversity, a glimmer of opportunity emerged when Ayyasamy was enrolled in the Goodwill Home at Thandigudi. Little did he know that this humble beginning would lay the foundation for his remarkable ascent.

From the tender age of six, Ayyasamy embarked on his educational journey at the Goodwill Home, where he received not only academic guidance but also unwavering support and encouragement. The primary school nestled within the Goodwill campus became his sanctuary, offering education of unparalleled quality, akin to that of an international institution. It was here that Ayyasamy's thirst for knowledge was nurtured, and his dreams began to take flight. As he progressed through the grades, Ayyasamy's determination remained unyielding. Despite the challenges, he continued to pursue his education, eventually completing his Class 10 in Dindigul. Fuelled by his passion for learning, he furthered his studies, earning a Diploma in Electrical and Electronics Engineering in Palani.

Ayyasamy's quest for knowledge did not end there.

With the unwavering support of Goodwill and the assistance of a bank loan, he pursued a BE in Computer Science, breaking barriers and defying odds along the way. Armed with a solid education and a relentless drive, Ayyasamy embarked on a new chapter of his life, one filled with boundless opportunities.

His journey took him to the bustling city of Dubai, where he spent a decade honing his skills in the oil and gas industry. With each passing year, Ayyasamy's expertise grew, propelling him towards greater heights of success. Yet, amidst the glitz and glamour of city life, his roots remained firmly planted in the soil of his homeland. Returning to Tamil Nadu, Ayyasamy embarked on his entrepreneurial venture, establishing Alwa Kadai Karupatti Coffee in the vibrant textile city of Tiruppur. Through sheer grit and determination, he transformed his vision into reality, carving a niche for himself in the competitive market.

Ayyasamy's success is not measured solely by his professional achievements. It is epitomised by the love and gratitude he harbours for those who supported him along the way. In a testament to his generosity, he donated generously to the Goodwill Home, ensuring that others may receive the same opportunities that shaped his destiny. Today, Ayyasamy stands as a beacon of inspiration, a testament to the power of perseverance and the resilience of the human spirit. His journey serves as



a reminder that no obstacle is insurmountable and that with unwavering determination, even the humblest beginnings can lead to extraordinary success.

POONGODI'S SUCCESS: EDUCATION, DETERMINATION, AND GRATITUDE



In the heart of Tamil Nadu, amidst the rolling hills and vibrant communities, lies a tale of resilience and determination. It's the story of Poongodi, a woman whose journey from difficulty to success is a testament to the transformative power of education and unwavering support. Born into

a family touched by tragedy, Poongodi's life took a sharp turn when her father passed away during her tender years. Left with the weight of loss, her mother sought refuge for her daughter in Goodwill Children's

Home at Thandigudi when Poongodi was just seven years old.

It was within the walls of this home that Poongodi's odyssey began. With only the second standard of education under her belt, she embarked on a path illuminated by the guiding light of Goodwill, committed to nurturing the potential of underprivileged children. Under the caring wings of Goodwill, Poongodi flourished. From Thandigudi to the Goodwill girl's home at Pattiveeranpatti, she journeyed, each step accompanied by the unwavering support of her mentors and peers. With determination as her compass, she traversed the academic landscape,

reaching milestones and overcoming obstacles with unwavering resolve.

Completing her 12th standard marked a significant triumph, a testament to her diligence and the foundation of education laid by Goodwill. But Poongodi's journey didn't end there. With the organisation's support, she pursued higher education, earning a coveted spot at Jeppiaar Engineering College in Chennai, where she obtained her B. Tech in IT.

Armed with knowledge and fuelled by ambition, Poongodi stepped into the professional world, securing a position as a Quality Executive at TAG Corporation. Her career trajectory soared, each accomplishment a tribute to her perseverance and the opportunities afforded to her by Goodwill. During her professional pursuits, love blossomed, and Poongodi found companionship in Ramesh, a dedicated Transportation Supervisor at Meenambakkam Airport in Chennai. Their union brought forth a beacon of joy named Srinithi, their beloved daughter, who became the embodiment of their shared dreams and aspirations.

Reflecting on her journey, Poongodi acknowledges the pivotal role of her teachers and mentors at Goodwill. Their guidance and unwavering belief in her potential fuelled her success and instilled within her a sense of gratitude and responsibility. As she looks towards the future, Poongodi remains steadfast in her commitment to give back. With a heart overflowing with gratitude, she pledges to support the next generation of students, ensuring that they too have the opportunity to realise their dreams.

In Poongodi's narrative, the echoes of resilience and triumph resound, a testament to the transformative power of education, support, and the determined human spirit. Her story stands as a beacon of hope, inspiring others to persevere in the face of adversity and seize the opportunities that pave the way to success.



A TALE OF TRANSFORMATION: MALIKA'S BOND WITH GOODWILL



In the quiet corners of memory, there exists a story of resilience, love, and the transformative power of goodwill. It is the tale of Malika, a child who found solace and purpose in the embrace of an organisation that became

her family: Goodwill.

Malika's journey began amidst the echoes of loss, with her father's departure followed swiftly by her mother's departure. These early sorrows cast shadows of uncertainty over her future, but fate had a plan intertwined with the benevolent hands of Goodwill. In 1996, a young Malika found herself welcomed into the warm embrace of the children's home in Thandigudi, where the seeds of hope were sown amidst the laughter of newfound companions. Goodwill became more than an organisation; it became the anchor in her stormy sea, providing shelter and a nurturing environment where dreams could take root and flourish.

As Malika progressed through her schooling, Goodwill stood steadfast by her side, ensuring that education became her beacon of light. From Thandigudi to Pattiveeranpatti, and eventually to Palani for her Diploma in Electrical and Electronics Engineering. Goodwill's unwavering support paved the path for her success. Malika's story doesn't end with academic

achievements. It's a testament to the transformative power of love and opportunity. Empowered by Goodwill's guidance, she didn't just find her footing; she soared.

Settling in Chennai, the bustling heart of Tamil Nadu, Malika and her husband embarked on an entrepreneurial journey, crafting a future with their own hands. Their Appalam-making business (a popular Indian snack) became more than just a source of income; it was a testament to Malika's resilience and determination. Beyond the confines of her business, Malika's heart remained tethered to the values instilled in her by Goodwill. As an educator in the Illam Thedi (Education at the Doorstep) scheme, she paid forward the kindness she received, nurturing young minds with the same care she once received.

Her journey from orphan to entrepreneur is a tribute to the transformative power of kindness and community. Goodwill wasn't just an organisation; it was her home, her family, and her guiding light. Through tears of gratitude, Malika's voice echoes a sentiment shared by many whose lives were touched by Goodwill: "Thank you, Goodwill, for the support. I am the product of Goodwill. I love you, Goodwill."



CAPTURING DREAMS: AMSAVANI'S JOURNEY FROM THANDIGUDI HILLS TO THE WORLD OF WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY



In the tranquil hills of Kodaikanal, nestled amidst the serene beauty of Thandigudi village, a young girl named Amsavani embarked on a journey that would lead her to the heights of success, fueled by her passion for education and wildlife photography. Amsavani's educational journey began in the humble corridors of Goodwill Primary School, a haven of learning situated within the premises of the

Goodwill Children's Home. From the tender age of Lower Kindergarten to the completion of class 5, she soaked up the foundations of knowledge that would shape her future. Under the guidance of dedicated teachers, Amsavani not only mastered the intricacies of spoken and written English but also developed a deep appreciation for academic excellence.

It wasn't just textbooks and classroom lessons that filled Amsavani's primary school days. The school embraced a holistic approach to education, fostering a rich tapestry of extracurricular activities that ignited her creativity and passion for exploration. Amidst the academic rigours, she found joy in engaging with nature, her love for wildlife blossoming with each passing day.

As she bid farewell to her beloved alma mater, Amsavani carried with her a profound gratitude for the education she had received at the Goodwill Primary School. It laid the cornerstone for her future endeavours, instilling in her the drive to reach for the stars. With a thirst for knowledge and a hunger for adventure, Amsavani pursued higher education at Mother Theresa's Women's University in Kodaikanal,

where she completed her Master's in Computer Applications (MCA). Armed with a solid academic background, she ventured into the bustling metropolis of Bangalore, where she honed her skills at IBM for three fruitful years.

However, it was her unwavering passion for wildlife that truly set her soul ablaze. Driven by an insatiable curiosity and a keen eye for beauty, Amsavani embarked on a journey as a wildlife photographer, capturing the enchanting diversity of nature through her lens. From the majestic wings of soaring birds to the elusive charm of forest dwellers, her photographs spoke volumes of her deep connection with the natural world.

Today, Amsavani stands as a shining beacon of success, her talent and dedication recognised in the esteemed halls of Perficient, a reputable IT company in Chennai. Yet, amidst the hustle and bustle of corporate life, her heart remains tethered to the wilderness, where she continues to roam, capturing the untamed beauty of the world around her.

As her story unfolds, Amsavani remains eternally grateful to Goodwill for kindling the flames of her aspirations. To those who wish to witness the magic she creates through her lens, her captivating portfolio awaits, showcased on Amsavani's instagram:

www.instagram.com/amsavani.rajendran

In the end, Amsavani's journey is not just a tale of success but a testament to the transformative power of education and the boundless possibilities that await those who dare to dream.



1994 GOODWILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

In 1994 a primary school was built where most 'Goodwill' children begin their school years. This facility, government-registered, takes them through to the age of eleven or thereabouts. Once children reach the end of their primary education they have to be moved to be within reach of a secondary school.



PATTIVEERANPATTI HOME

Pattiveeranpatti Home was set up in 1994 to provide a residence for senior girls. In previous years they were housed in the Dindigul home. Pattiveeranpatti is on the plains just to the east of the Palani Hills - about twenty miles from Thandigudi.



FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO MILITARY EXCELLENCE: THE INSPIRING JOURNEY OF KARTHIK



In the rugged terrain of Kanal Kadu, amidst the tranquillity of Thandigudi, a young boy named Karthik began his journey—a journey that would defy odds, scale heights, and inspire countless others. Karthik's early years were marked by resilience and determination. Raised in the nurturing embrace of the Children's Home in Thandigudi, he embarked on his academic voyage, navigating through different schools and challenges with unwavering grit. From Managalamkombu to Dindigul, and finally, the Goodwill Boys Home at Sanarpatti, each milestone etched a tale of perseverance and hope. His pursuit of knowledge led him to the corridors of higher education, where he pursued his Bachelor of Business Administration, fuelled by an ambition to carve a path of significance. Fate had grander plans for Karthik. Amidst his academic pursuits, the call to serve his nation beckoned him. In 2013, with a heart brimming with patriotism and a spirit ready to soar, Karthik donned the uniform of the Indian Military. His tenure in the military became a testament to his dedication and valour. Stationed in the challenging terrains of Jammu and later relocated to the vibrant cityscape of Bangalore, Karthik exemplified excellence in every endeavour. As a certified trainer, he imparted

wisdom and skills to the next generation of defenders, shaping them into formidable guardians of the nation. The pinnacle of Karthik's journey came in the form of a Gallantry Award bestowed upon him by the Ministry of Defence, a recognition of his exemplary service and unwavering courage. Yet, amidst the accolades and achievements, Karthik remained grounded, attributing his success to the nurturing haven of Goodwill. Reflecting on his journey, Karthik acknowledges the pivotal role played by Goodwill in shaping his destiny. It was within the embrace of Goodwill that he found not just shelter, but a family that nurtured his dreams and propelled him towards greatness. With gratitude in his heart, Karthik extends his heartfelt appreciation to Goodwill, acknowledging their unwavering support and love.

Today, as Karthik's family thrives in the warmth of Kanal Kadu, his story stands as a beacon of hope and inspiration—a testament to the power of resilience, determination, and the transformative impact of Goodwill. Through his remarkable journey, Karthik exemplifies that with courage and perseverance, even the humblest beginnings can lead to extraordinary destinations.



1998 TRADE TRAINING

In 1998 Goodwill set up four vocational training courses within the Pattiveeranpatti and Thandigudi campuses with funding from the UK Government and the European Union.



Goodwill Children's



Homes

More than 25 years of caring for destitute children in South India



2000

THE BIRTH OF 'GOODWILL FRANCE' – A FRENCH SUPPORT GROUP

In the 1970s former supporter Richard Hayward became associated with Prof Brian Thorne, the then Chairman of Goodwill, through his Directorship of a healing and counselling centre. In exchange for his assistance in setting up the centre, Richard provided whatever help he could to the charity. Later, he moved to France and became acquainted with Dominique Thevenon and his family. In 2002, Dominique expressed interest in visiting India. Having heard about Goodwill, he asked for information and visited Thandigudi with his daughter Claire and her friend Pauline. The girls were so moved by their experience that they immediately sponsored a child and decided they would get another dozen sponsorships for Goodwill. This was followed by an inspiration: "Why don't we organise, properly, some way of helping Goodwill from France?" This marked the beginning of a French supporter group that is still thriving today.



FROM ADVERSITY TO ACHIEVEMENT: PRIYANKA'S JOURNEY OF EMPOWERMENT

In the quiet hills of Thandigudi, a young girl named Priyanka found herself navigating life's challenges with resilience and determination. Born into humble circumstances, she was faced with the harsh reality of poverty from a young age. However, Priyanka's spirit remained unbroken, fuelled by an inner drive to rise above her circumstances and make a difference in the world.

Priyanka's journey began when her father, unable to provide regular meals, directed her to the Goodwill Children's Home in Thandigudi. It was there that she found nourishment not just for her body, but also for her dreams. Despite the hardships, Priyanka embraced her studies wholeheartedly, excelling both academically and athletically, earning accolades in sports and studies alike. Her path took a pivotal turn when she transitioned to the Girls' Home in Pattiveeranpatti to pursue her education further. Undeterred by the challenges, Priyanka set her sights on becoming a nurse, driven by a deep-seated desire to serve the underprivileged.

Through sheer determination and hard work, Priyanka fulfilled her dream, completing her General Nursing and Midwifery course and embarking on a career in nursing. Her journey took her from the corridors of education to the front lines of healthcare, where she served with unwavering dedication in the Life Saving Ambulance Scheme. Despite facing numerous obstacles along the way, Priyanka's commitment never wavered. Her dedication caught the attention of those around her, and she was eventually appointed as a government nurse in her hometown of Thandigudi, a testament to her perseverance and resilience.

As Priyanka reflects on her journey, she is filled with gratitude for the support she received from organisations like Goodwill. Their generosity not only transformed her life but also empowered her to make a difference in the lives of others.



Today, Priyanka stands as a beacon of hope and inspiration, a living testament to the power of determination and resilience. Through her tireless efforts, she has not only overcome adversity but has also become a symbol of empowerment for her community.

Her story serves as a poignant reminder that with perseverance and a steadfast belief in oneself, even the most challenging circumstances can be overcome, and dreams can be turned into reality.



2002 TRIBAL OUTREACH PROGRAMME (TORP)

Some years ago, Dr B S Nagarajan, a former President of Goodwill Children's Homes Society in Tamil Nadu, voiced his wish that we diversify into non-residential projects to ease over-crowding in the Goodwill homes. The implementation of TORP was subsequently proposed to the Goodwill Trustees in the UK.

He reasoned that by implementing this project a large number of destitute children could be cared for at very low expense without compromising the objectives of Goodwill. While residential care could remain available to fully orphaned children, less costly non-residential help could be extended to single-parent families and children from large households of very poor parents, thus letting us help more destitute children.

Thus in 2002, the Tribal Outreach Programme was introduced in the Palani Hills. The main objective was to improve a child's health, education, and life opportunities without removing them from their home village. If the programme was deemed successful after a trial period of three years (2005) it would be extended to the non-tribal population of this area. A Tribal Outreach sponsorship scheme was introduced in November 2004.



THANDIGUDI DINING HALL OPENING

The dining hall was opened on the 19th of December 2002.

The timing of the opening ceremony was the visit by one of the UK trustees, Mr David Kirk. The new building adjoins the old one and they decided that the dividing wall would be demolished in time, and the tired old roof modified, unifying the two structures. This has been a major piece of construction work for Goodwill



CHAIRMAN, DR DAVID NEILL

David teaches Chemistry at Canford School in Dorset where he is currently a Deputy Head. His first trip to Goodwill was with a Canford group in 2001 and he has enjoyed continuing that contact ever since. Having been associated with Goodwill for more than twenty years he has seen first-hand the opportunities it provides for its target communities in rural Tamil Nadu. David joined as a Trustee in 2014 and was elected Chairman in 2018 when Quentin Edwards retired.



INSPIRED BY HOPE: SUPPORTING GOODWILL CHILDREN'S HOMES FROM DEVON TO INDIA

We remember hearing about Goodwill's work at a retreat held in North Devon and we began our interest at that point. We were provided with Newsletters regularly and enjoyed reading about the work with Indian children coming from very poor backgrounds. We enjoyed it even more so when we received cards from the children. We have always felt how worthwhile your work is. We hope to continue our support.

With our very best wishes,

Revd Peter and Brenda Alexander

FROM FIELDS TO FORTUNE: KARTHIK'S JOURNEY OF RESILIENCE AND GRATITUDE



In the verdant hills of Kodaikanal, amidst the toil of agriculture from a small village called Nadanam Kalvai, Karthik's story begins. Born to labourer parents, his fate seemed tethered to the fields until fate intervened in the form of Goodwill Children's Homes. Here, amidst its nurturing embrace, Karthik found not just shelter, but a gateway to a world of education and opportunity. From the humble beginnings of classes 1 to 5 at the Children's Home in Thandigudi, to the formative years at the Goodwill Boys Home in Sanarpatti, Karthik's journey was one of unwavering determination. With each stride, he defied the odds, transcending barriers to education that his peers succumbed to. Through sheer perseverance, he completed his schooling and ventured into the realm of vocational training, securing a diploma in customer service.

His journey took him from the lush landscapes of his upbringing to the bustling streets of Bangalore, where he honed his skills as a customer service professional at Cogent. Yet, his journey didn't end there. Today, amidst the vibrant chaos of Chennai, he diligently serves as a data entry specialist in a supermarket, a testament to his adaptability and resilience. Karthik's success isn't measured merely by his professional achievements. It's in the sacrifices made for his elder and younger sisters, ensuring their dreams find fruition through marriage. It's in the gratitude he extends to Goodwill, recognising it as the cornerstone of his transformation. For in Goodwill, he found not just sustenance, but the seeds of his potential nurtured to fruition.

Today, as Karthik stands tall, a beacon of hope amidst the shadows of adversity, he acknowledges the debt of gratitude owed to Goodwill. It provided more than just good food and education; it offered a sanctuary of possibility, a refuge from the confines of circumstance. His success story echoes his triumph and the transformative power of compassion and opportunity. In the annals of Karthik's journey, the echoes of his gratitude resound, a testament to the strong spirit that dares to dream amidst the harshest of realities. From fields to fortune, his tale inspires, reminding us that with resilience and goodwill, the human spirit can transcend any obstacle, illuminating even the darkest of paths with the light of possibility.

NIGARIHA - A BEACON OF HOPE AND INSPIRATION FOR COUNTLESS SOULS



In the tapestry of life, some threads are woven with extraordinary resilience and determination. Such is the story of Nigariha, a beacon of hope and inspiration for countless souls. From the tender age of one and a half, Nigariha faced the harsh reality of life's unpredictability, losing her father. Left in the care of her courageous mother, the journey ahead was laden with challenges. Financial constraints weighed heavily on their shoulders, making it arduous to secure the basics of sustenance, let alone education.

However, the difficulty could not dim the spark within Nigariha. Fuelled by an insatiable thirst for knowledge and a relentless pursuit of excellence, she emerged as the shining star in her class. Topping her peers was not merely a goal; it was a testament to her unwavering resolve and determined spirit. Unable to afford her education and provide adequately for Nigariha and her younger brother, her mother made the heart-wrenching decision to seek refuge in a children's home. Despite the initial upheaval, it became the cradle of her dreams, nurturing her aspirations with love and support.

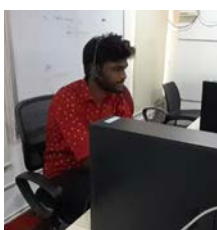
From the corridors of the children's home to the classrooms of Pattiveeranpatti Girls High School, Nigariha's journey was marked by resilience and determination. Surrounded by peers who became her family, she found solace in their companionship, transcending the absence of her biological family. Her academic prowess opened doors to a brighter future. With the benevolent support of Goodwill and generous donors, she pursued her dreams, embarking on a path of higher education. From a Bachelor's in Electronics and Communication Engineering to a flourishing career in the corporate world, Nigariha's trajectory was nothing short of remarkable.

Success, for Nigariha, was never merely about personal accolades. It was a beacon of hope for those who tread a similar path of adversity. With humility and gratitude, she acknowledges the role of those who extended a helping hand in her darkest hours. As the Assistant-Branch Manager at Aakash Institute, Nigariha stands as a symbol of resilience

and determination. Her journey, despite encountering numerous challenges, inspires many individuals striving to carve their own path in the face of adversity. With unwavering gratitude, she extends her heartfelt thanks to the benevolent souls who made her journey possible. Yet, her message resonates beyond mere gratitude—it is a call to action. Let us, she urges, extend our hands to the orphaned and vulnerable, offering them the gift of hope and opportunity. Nigariha's story is not just a narrative of triumph over adversity; it is a testament to the human spirit's capacity to soar, undeterred by the shackles of circumstance. In her journey, we find echoes of our own struggles and the unwavering belief that, against all odds, we too can write our own tale of triumph.



EMPOWERED BY GOODWILL: THE INSPIRATIONAL TALE OF DINESH VIJAYAKUMAR



Dinesh Vijayakumar's story begins with a challenging childhood, marked by the unique circumstances of having both parents born blind. In 2007, his journey took a transformative turn when he found refuge at Goodwill Children's Home in Thandigudi. It was here that he experienced love, compassion, and a solid foundation for his education. The home, built on hearts full of generosity, became a sanctuary where Dinesh eagerly awaited visits from donors and supporters from Goodwill UK, cherishing the moments of play, learning, and the thoughtful gifts they brought. His early years at Goodwill Children's Home from 1st to 5th standard, followed by his time at the Boy's Home in Sanarpatti from 6th to 10th standard, were filled with memories of nurturing care and invaluable life lessons.



Dinesh's academic journey culminated in a Bachelor's degree (BCA), which he pursued with dedication, and a Master's in Computer Applications (MCA) through distance education. Alongside his studies, he worked in Theni Anandam as a digital marketing person for a year. His passion for digital media led him to complete a certified course in Digital Video Production in Chennai, which paved the way for his current role as a designer at PV Events (Ponnu Vinayaga Events).

Goodwill's influence extended beyond Dinesh's academic and professional achievements. The annual Christmas programmes at Goodwill Homes symbolized community joy and unity for him. At the Boy's Home in Sanarpatti, Dinesh took on farm and cattle care responsibilities, which instilled a strong work ethic. His beautiful handwriting, honed at Goodwill, reflects his diligence and attention to detail.

Today, Dinesh Vijayakumar exemplifies the transformative power of compassion and support. His journey from uncertain prospects to a successful designer capable of supporting his family is a narrative of resilience and gratitude. His sister, Rajeswari, also benefited from Goodwill's opportunities, further highlighting the organisation's profound impact. Dinesh credits Goodwill for shaping him into the capable and compassionate individual he is today.

PROF ALAN HAY



At the 2014 AGM, Professor Alan Hay concluded his tenure as Chairman of Goodwill, ending nearly three decades of significant contributions. His efforts shaped the Charity, evidenced by numerous plaques in Tamil Nadu. Prof Hay was pivotal in establishing the new Home at Sanarpatti and creating the Trust's constitutional framework. He also facilitated international collaborations with Goodwill France and the Indian Committee. As Chairman, he maintained meeting discipline and ensured appropriate support for India. His frequent visits provided deep insight into local issues, earning him widespread appreciation from colleagues in India.



GOODWILL CHILDREN'S HOMES TRANSFORMED LIVES THROUGH THE GIFT OF EDUCATION AND CARE

My association with Goodwill Children's Homes first began in 2007 when, with my husband, we visited many of the hospitals, universities and colleges in south India which had links with Canterbury Christ Church University.



Staff and student links had been formed with Goodwill and so we were able to visit all three sites. We were greatly impressed by the practical ethos of giving children a chance to improve their lot and that of their families through education, but it does not stop there; to educate those whose primary objective is just survival is not enough, they must be nurtured physically and mentally too, and this Goodwill does. It was then that my husband and I took on the sponsorship of a young man who has now 'flown the nest' and become qualified enough to support himself and his wider family. We then took on the sponsorship of two girls who have grown through their education to the final years of secondary school.

Ten years later in 2017 when my husband retired, we returned to South India to give a month to Goodwill in English conversation and direct teaching at primary level.

We lived with the children first in Thandigudi and then at Pattiveeranpatti at the girls' boarding house and finally at Sanarpatti with the boys. We learned



how they are funded, how the supply of water can be challenging, how the farm around Sanarpatti provides income and how all the children are cared for, nurtured, supported, fed, clothed, and educated. We also visited the Tribal Outreach Project and most of all we experienced the pure joy of all of the children who started life in destitution.

After returning from India in 2017 we added two more little boys to our 'brood' and have watched them develop into bright, enthusiastic, and capable human beings who can contribute to their world and support their families. Many youngsters have been given that 'chance' to return to work for the organisation.

What greater gift can you give to any child other than a chance to be all they can be?

Pamela Wright

2006 TORP COMMUNITY CENTRE

The challenges faced by tribal youngsters are overwhelming; low literacy, no training and few job opportunities. In early 2005, two small training programmes were set up in rented accommodation in the village of KC Patti, these proved to be extremely popular. With support from Guernsey Overseas Aid in 2006 Goodwill was able to construct and equip two units for job-based training adjacent to the new TORP community centre.



2007 LAYARD HOUSE

Layard House was funded by Canford School in Dorset and accommodated sixteen boys studying 4th and 5th classes with Mrs Vasanthi as their housemother.

2008 SANARPATTI BOYS' HOME

New land had been purchased, and two new homes on this 37-acre plot were now occupied by the older boys of Goodwill. Sanarpatti home is our most recent and final project, completed in 2008.



VICE CHAIRMAN, PHILLIP JEPPI RETIRED

At the Annual General Meeting of Trustees on September 22nd the Trustees marked the retirement of Philip Jepps as Vice Chairman and Trustee. He had supported Goodwill for many years, even before becoming a Trustee in the mid-1990s.



FORMER CHAIRMAN, QUENTIN EDWARDS

Quentin Edwards's involvement with Goodwill began in 1993 when his school, Bilton Grange in Warwickshire, where he was headmaster, sponsored several children. In 2003, he retired from teaching and began a new career in cattle farming on his family farm in Wiltshire. The following year he became a Goodwill Trustee when he replaced Philip Jepps as Vice-Chairman. He took on the Chairmanship of Goodwill following the retirement of Prof Alan Hay in 2014 and steered Goodwill through many changes. These included fundraising for a new boy's hostel, improving the classroom provision at Thandigudi and always uppermost, the care of destitute children. In 2018 Quentin retired as Chairman as his cattle farm needed more attention.



2016 FRIENDS OF GOODWILL TOURS

These tours were introduced in 2016 with the aim to connect supporters directly with the impact of their contributions, allowing them to visit the Goodwill Homes, meet the children they support and witness firsthand the positive changes brought about by the charity's work. This experience aimed to strengthen the bond between the charity and its benefactors, fostering a deeper understanding and commitment to the ongoing support of these vital community programmes.



MEMORIES OF GOODWILL

I have been fortunate to visit Goodwill several times, initially when I was teaching at St Margaret's, Exeter and latterly with supporters. We always received an amazingly warm welcome, surrounded by little hands for a high five and children desperate to lead us up the slopes to the dining hall. They had so little but were always willing to share their sweets or a packet of biscuits. These children had one plastic box for all their belongings, what a contrast to us! Perhaps one of the most moving memories was meeting our alumni. In February we met a 26 year old mother in a tribal village who had been cared for by Goodwill. Silvi was now a nurse in the local hospital and without Goodwill support; she would not have continued her education, married above her caste which allowed her to pursue a career. We also met 19 year old Sathypriya who we have sponsored for many years. She is studying nursing at Dindigul. Her mother, a manual worker picking pepper and mangoes, was in tears thanking us for supporting her daughter and giving her a better future.

Gordon and Elaine Clark



A JOURNEY OF LOVE AND LEARNING: SABITHA ELZI'S STORY



Growing up in the Goodwill Children's Home at Thandigudi, Sabitha Elzi and her sister Reethiha experienced an exceptional environment where they felt cherished and supported. Sabitha's parents, A. Tamil Selvi and K. Murugan, were integral to the Goodwill community, with her mother

serving as the Headmistress and a teacher at the Goodwill Primary School, and her father working in the Goodwill office. The sense of family extended beyond their home, encompassing the entire children's home, where staff and students lived harmoniously, nurturing a unique atmosphere of love and unity.

The children's home was more than just a place to live; it was a vibrant centre of activity-oriented learning. Sabitha and her peers enjoyed various extracurricular activities, fostering a well-rounded education. The staff's dedication ensured that every child received not only excellent academic instruction but also valuable life skills. The regular visits from Goodwill UK staff and donors further enriched their experience, filling the children with joy and a sense of belonging.

After completing her 4th standard in Thandigudi, Sabitha moved to Pattiveeranpatti, where she finished her schooling up to the 12th standard. With a strong foundation from Goodwill, she pursued a BE in Civil Engineering from Veerammal Engineering College in

Dindigul. Her sister Reethiha followed a similar path, earning a B.Tech in Information Technology. Both sisters also completed their B.Ed. degrees, reflecting their commitment to education. Today, Sabitha works as a teacher and warden at Kalvi Matriculation Higher Secondary School in Oddanchatram, while Reethiha is involved in teaching and school administration. Sabitha attributes her success to the nurturing environment at Goodwill, where she received not only a solid academic foundation but also essential life skills and values. She recalls the good food, safe accommodation, and equal treatment from the staff, which made the children feel valued and respected. Sabitha expresses heartfelt gratitude to the staff, her parents, Goodwill UK, and the generous donors and sponsors who made this enriching experience possible. The legacy of Goodwill continues to inspire her in her teaching career, where she strives to create a similar atmosphere of love and learning for her students.



WHEN DOORS WERE OPENED: A JOURNEY OF RESILIENCE AND GRATITUDE



When my father suffered a heart attack, our lives turned upside down, and I found myself with nowhere to go. Fortunately, the doors of the Goodwill Children's Home in Thandigudi opened for me, providing a safe

haven and a nurturing environment. From classes 1 to 6, I immersed myself in my studies and enjoyed a life filled with love and companionship. The home was more than just a place to live; it was a family where I never felt lonely. Surrounded by caring teachers and friends, I learned good manners, received rich and nutritious food, and grew up in a cheerful atmosphere, forming memories that would last a lifetime.

After completing my 6th class, I moved to the Goodwill Girls Home at Pattiveeranpatti, where I completed my 12th class. Thanks to the financial support from Goodwill, I pursued a Diploma in Health Assistant (DHA) at Kasthuribai Hospital. The education and care I received at Goodwill were unparalleled, and I felt immensely grateful for the opportunity. The support and encouragement from the staff and donors of

Goodwill UK played a significant role in shaping my future. Today, I am proud to work as a nurse, serving the people in the hilly areas under the Tamil Nadu government's Illam Thedi Maruthuvam initiative.

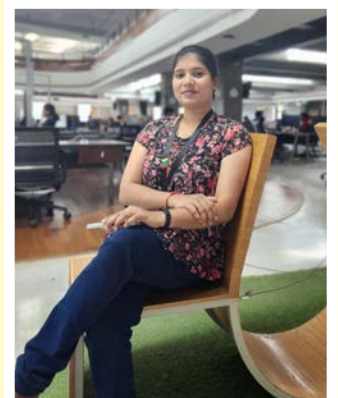
While the opportunities I had at Goodwill are no longer available for my children, I remain hopeful and grateful for the education and life lessons I received. My husband, Thirukumaran, works as an agricultural labourer, and we have two daughters, Punithasri, who is 10 years old and studying in the 5th standard, and Subasri, who is one and a half years old. Despite the challenges, I am thankful to God for the chance to be cared for by the Goodwill staff and students. The love and support I received have made me who I am today, and I am dedicated to serving my community with the same kindness and care that I was fortunate to receive.



EMPOWERED BY EDUCATION: RENUGA DEVI'S PATH TO SUCCESS

Renuga Devi's academic journey began with challenges. Initially a middle-rank student, she found motivation in her teachers' encouragement, particularly after teacher Jamuna's remark about her performance. This pivotal moment ignited a determination within her to excel. When her father suffered a stroke, Renuga's mother enrolled her in the Goodwill Children's Home in the year 2002, where she stayed from class 4 to 5, later moving to the Goodwill Girls' Home in Pattiveeranpatti, where she completed her 10th grade. The nurturing environment and support at Goodwill provided Renuga with a solid foundation, enabling her to transform her academic standing.

Renuga pursued higher education with a Diploma in Modern Office Practices and a B degree in Computer Application. Today, she works for Zoho Corporation, an IT company and married Kirubhakaran in the year 2020, whom she met at work. They have a two-year-old daughter named Saanvi. Renuga attributes her success to the comprehensive support and quality education she received at Goodwill, which not only provided her with good clothes and meals but also instilled in her the confidence and skills needed to thrive. She remains deeply grateful to her teachers and the Goodwill organisation for transforming her life and enabling her to achieve her dreams.



MESSAGE FROM FORMER FRENCH PRESIDENT: DOMINIQUE THEVENON

"THANK YOU FOR SO MUCH LOVE AND BEAUTY!"

"A forest that grows makes less noise than a tree that falls," said Gandhi.



Knowing how to discern beauty in the world is a teaching that I received through my education. In 2002, my only merit is to have been able to contemplate the beauty of the welcome of the children of Goodwill when I went there with my daughter Claire and her friend Pauline, who was 18 years old at the time. After 3 weeks of visiting

India, I had to return to France to resume my work. Claire and Pauline were so happy at Goodwill that they did not want to take the plane back home and chose to finish the last 3 weeks of their school holidays at Goodwill. On their return, they wanted our friends to sponsor too... Very quickly about fifty friends joined us and became sponsors. Goodwill was born... Over the last 20 years, what wonderful contributions has this community made? The first gift is the love that you touch with your finger when you enter a Goodwill house. And love heals! It communicates and makes us happy... How can we not mention in this regard Noemie, an 18-year-old who, in mid-September 2011, on her way to her university, had a serious car accident that then took her from hospital to hospital and finally to sink into depression in the psychiatric hospital? We made the decision to send her to Goodwill for 3 months, telling us that the joy of the children could perhaps save her. On her return, this is what she wrote: "I was saved by the radiance of the children. They have nothing but are full of joy. In contact with them, my life took on a new meaning. The poorest learn to share. One morning I got up and I realised when I opened my eyes that a truly new day had dawned in my life: that morning I discovered the beauty of humanity!" Over the years, many young French students, about a hundred, have wanted to visit Goodwill for internships or simply for their holidays. They came back transformed. Yes, Goodwill gave us a lot, they wanted to contribute by sponsoring. I think of my friend Muriel, a doctor, who, at the time of the tsunami in 2005 or 2006, decided to leave her 5 children behind to help the people of Tamil Nadu. She went to visit Goodwill. So touched by so much love, she wanted to take her whole family with her a few months later: her husband Didier and her 5 children. They arrived in Thandigudi and Goodwill became a second family to them. Axelle, the youngest of the children, was 8 years old at the time... she went back to Goodwill 8 or 10 times after that. Goodwill

became her second family. She later confided to me that not a day goes by without one of her thoughts being turned to Goodwill. One of my favourite memories at Goodwill France is from 2010 when a well-known French painter, who is a friend of mine, stayed at Goodwill for a week and organised painting workshops. I especially cherish a beautiful photo from that time in which a child is holding his friend by the neck; to me, it symbolises mutual support. In 2013 I retired, and life took me to another horizon, as a prison chaplain. Axelle then took over from me, taking with her other young people: Violaine, an architect, Charlotte, a financial management specialist who offered to keep the accounts of Goodwill France, Amandine, an IT consultant (who has just spent 3 months at Goodwill), Thibaut, a public works engineer for the government. Everyone was able to bring their skills to Goodwill. For all these contributions, I can never say thank you enough. Today the world has changed the assistance to the Third World to evolve into economic and cultural cooperation (how would it be otherwise with India becoming the fourth economic power on the planet?). We must never regret, seeing the positive developments and embrace the world as it is by trying to bend its course towards more social justice. Of course, as always, the triple temptation of power, money and honours lurks, it has sometimes brought down Goodwill, and it has sometimes been a very bad advisor. Such is the way the world goes, torn between love and generosity, the oversized ego withdrawn into its own interests. Crises have been present, sometimes bordering on viscous corruption, but fraternity has largely dominated during this beautiful 50-year history of a small corner of Tamil Nadu. The road is long from Paris to Thandigudi. Thibaut and Lola even cycled it in 2020! Yes, a long road... but there is no distance between two outstretched hands reaching out to each other in celebration of brotherhood! Thank you to Dr Nagarajan, Francis, Bala, Selvam, Mayee and all the others who have allowed me to live this adventure of universal brotherhood which has become over the years my only guide.



Dominique Thevenon