

THE Sylvia Wright TRUST

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 326139

Supporting

Residential School for 200 children with hearing loss
Education & Therapy Centre for 100 disabled children
Nursing College for 120 students

Newsletter Christmas 2021

www.sylviawright.org

Dear Friends



In the last two years we have dealt with events we could never have imagined but the Indian vaccination drive is reducing infection and some sort of normality resumes.

By the grace of God, I have been spared Covid but fell again in March, fracturing my left hip. It was not safe to visit Chennai for surgery then but I did go to hospital later for a second hip replacement. I am now able to walk, albeit with a limp. I have received the vaccinations.

I will be 84 in January. After much prayer, preparation and a lengthy selection process, I am handing over the leadership and administration of all our projects to a highly effective, experienced and caring leader of charitable projects for the disabled here in India Mr P. John Rajkumar will take over as Chief Executive from January, though I will remain to advise. This change of leadership will ensure that your hard work and generosity continue to benefit those still in great need.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a New Year of health and happiness. God bless you all.

Sylvia

Covid Jobs



New Chief Executive Designate



John Rajkumar, Chief Executive Designate

In January 2022 John Rajkumar will become the Chief Executive of our nursing college, school for children with hearing loss and centre for disabled children. He has 25 years' successful experience of running *Maithree*, a large Indian charitable institution providing lifetime care to children with special needs. This 'association of parents of exceptional children' currently has eight small schools and seven vocational workshops for the disabled. maithree.org

Our student nurses are helping to vaccinate the people of Tiruvannamalai at large local camps run by the health department. Those unable to attend are visited at home. Although the programme started later than in some countries, India is catching up. Vaccine hesitancy is low.

Back to School



Parents and children brave torrential rainstorms on return to school

Torrential rains fell in Southern India in November. Extensive flooding destroyed infrastructure, damaged buildings and blocked roads, disrupting the planned return. Fortunately most of our pupils are now back in their classrooms.

Lockdown Ends



June 2020



November 2021

Life in India is returning to normal. Towns and villages normally teem with people so it was most strange to see them eerily deserted during lockdown. Our three projects closed but have now reopened. Most children are back and a huge backlog of lost learning is being tackled.

Hydrotherapy Resumes



Volunteer hydrotherapist Suzanne Rose and staff working with pupils

The education centre for children with special needs is running again. The programmes include academic learning, occupational and physical therapies, sensory development, music and art. A warm water pool is especially beneficial for children with spasticity and related difficulties.

Hearing Project



Taking impressions for a new hearing aid

The children at Rangammal School are provided with good quality, fitted digital hearing aids. These are worn behind the ear and programmed in order to compensate, as far as possible, for the loss of hearing at each frequency. After 18 months away from school, all hearing aids and ear moulds need an MOT. A number have been lost or damaged during lockdown. Audiology staff are screening and re-testing every child. They are also busy dealing with audiology for the two early intervention classes.

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