About three million people live in the poor district of Tiruvannamalai in Tamil Nadu, South India. Among them are many children with profound disabilities including cystic fibrosis, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, Down Syndrome, autism and other mental and physical difficulties.

There is very little provision and care for these children in the district. Most children suffer, make little progress and are seen as a great burden on their families. Some are left at home alone and have to be restrained while their parents go out to work – if they can find it.

About three million people live in the poor district of Tiruvannamalai in Tamil Nadu, South India. Among them are many children with profound disabilities including cystic fibrosis, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, Down Syndrome, autism and other mental and physical difficulties.

They are brought to the day centres each day from outlying villages in a special bus provided by Yorkshire supporters. Some of the children need wheelchairs and physical assistance. They have received love and care in two borrowed and dilapidated premises: the children develop and make some progress and the parents are given advice and some daily respite.

However, the old buildings and facilities have inadequate toilets, no outside play areas or much needed physiotherapy equipment. Sylvia Wright’s work is supported by the Sylvia Wright Trust, a small registered charity based in Leeds. In 1982 Sylvia Wright, a Catholic nurse, left her home, Holy Name Parish and friends in Leeds as well as her Senior Lecture post at Leeds Polytechnic – now Beckett University - to devote her life to those less fortunate than herself. Now aged 79, she is still working seven days a week. She has built a home and a small therapy pool – a wonderful facility for disabled children. The Centre will also be offered as an outpatients’ clinic and a centre of excellence in the district.

The new Centre has been championed by Sylvia Wright and Lee Morgan from San Francisco. Lee is a Canadian trained Osteopathic, Feldenkrais practitioner and movement therapist. She has been visiting Sylvia Wright in India for over 30 years each year, bringing hope, love and care to sick and disabled children. The Centre will also be offered as an outpatients’ clinic and a centre of excellence in the district.

The new Centre for Deaf Children will be completed next month. The new Centre for Deaf Children will be completed next month.

The new Centre for Deaf Children has been designed to meet the special needs of the children. The running costs of the old centres have always been largely funded by the Trust but a further £3,000 per month is needed for the new Centre to secure highly trained teachers and therapists and to pay the extra running costs.

Care and education is provided free to all children whose families cannot afford to contribute. How can you help us in this vital work?

• Make a single or a regular donation by cheque or bank transfer to The Sylvia Wright Trust, Barclays Bank, sort code: 20-49-46. Account no: 80771379.

• You can if you wish specify the building fund, the equipment fund or the monthly running fund.

• You can sponsor one of the 100 children for any amount or period you choose.

• You can fund any number of days care each month at a cost of £1 per day per child.

It will cost about £30 per month for each child’s care, education and therapy at the Centre. At £1 per child per day this is astonishing value.

The Trust wishes to thank you in advance for any help you are able to give. All donations, big or small, make a difference to these children’s lives and are gratefully received and acknowledged in due course by the children themselves.

The new Centre for Deaf Children is costing about the same amount. Most of the funding for the design and construction has so far been secured by the Sylvia Wright Trust. Rotary and donors in the USA, and the staff in all Sylvia’s projects in India are contributing on an equal basis.

The new Centre will provide a wonderful service to the children and their families in the absence of any other worthwhile provision for their care, development, dignity and happiness. It is a dream coming true.

The average UK house price in January 2017 was £205,240. Remarkably, the new Centre for 100 disabled children in Tiruvannamalai is costing about the same amount.

For more information: Tony Allinson, Chairman, Sylvia Wright Trust, 14 Kings Road, Leeds LS16 9JN. Tel 0113 2675735. Email tonyallinson2@btinternet.com Website www.sylviawright.org