



Adventure
Ashram

Our 2016 Annual Review



Adventure Ashram CEO Fritha Vincent
enjoying spending time with some of our
sponsored children.

Introduction

Once again, another strong and successful year.

With the dedication and support of our Adventurers, UK team and Board of Trustees we have been able to implement some professional changes to our structure in 2016, whilst never losing sight of exactly why we exist: To create better lives for people in India through improved education, health and communities.

Adventure Ashram is the adventurers' charity. Through purposeful adventure we raise funds in order to make grants to small, grass roots, Indian charities improving health and education in the places we explore. During our adventures we ride motorbikes, drive cars and volunteer in the communities we have grown to love. #adventurewithpurpose

2016 saw us restructure our UK team, with Fritha Vincent taking on a new role as Chief Executive Officer and Margaret Ring becoming the Project Manager and Fundraiser. To enhance this structural professionalisation, we moved out of the 'home office' we had been working from for the past 3 years and are now based in Trident Business Centre in Tooting, South London.



Without doubt, one of the main highlights of the year became the planning and preparation to celebrate our 10th year in 2017 and the announcement of the amazing news that in the last decade Adventure Ashram has raised an incredible £1,000,000. We commissioned a wonderful film showcasing the impact our work has made and we kicked off our celebrations in December with our now famous Curry Night in London and gave the film its first viewing to great acclaim. Further celebrations and events will be taking place throughout 2017, not least our UK Rally in May.

This annual review gives details of the grants awarded, updates on our supported charities progress and sets out our plans for the coming year, 2017.

£83,500 grants awarded in 2016

In 2016 we proudly awarded grants totalling £83,500. What a wonderful achievement. As an organisation, we understand the importance of measuring impact, so we count the number of children we believe to have directly benefitted from the grants given.

In 2016 650 children have seen their lives improve through access to health care, rehabilitation programmes and education, such a great realisation of all our efforts.

We look forward to 2017 and continuing to support our inspirational charity partners to help even more children and families to improve their lives.

Adventure Ashram Trustees:

Colin Taylor - Chair
Roy Clark
Iain Crockart
Craig Jarvis
Sue Mason
Udesh Naidoo
Sue Mason
Dominic Pinkney
Tony Smith

Sarah Goodwin – Volunteer Administrator to Trustee Board

Thank you, thank you, thank you

You, our committed adventurers gave and raised a total of £83,500 in 2016. Thank you to each and every one of you.

Special thanks goes to:

Our Volunteers – Launched in 2015 our Volunteer Programme continues to gain momentum and 2016 saw the launch of a new ‘strand’ of the programme, Family Volunteering. 2016’s volunteers were:

DEBORAH SLATOR GIVE 2 WEEKS

Deborah is an experienced first aid trainer and spent time in the villages and schools in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve teaching the children, their families, Grace Charitable Trust Staff and school staff vital first aid techniques. The skills that Deborah shared and taught are sustainable and the communities will benefit from her teaching for many years to come.

MARGARET AND CHARLIE RING FAMILY VOLUNTEERING

Margaret and Charlie became our first family volunteers. Charlie spent his time taking footage of the programmes in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and the boys’ house in Mysore for our 10 years of Adventure Ashram film. As well as assisting Charlie, Margaret took the opportunity as the Project Manager and Fundraiser to gain insight into our programmes and meet our wonderful charity leaders.

UK VOLUNTEERING

We couldn’t function as efficiently as we do without the help of our UK interns and volunteers who support us with our office core functions from administration to communications to finance. We never underestimate the impact our interns and volunteers make to the smooth running of our charity and although to us they are priceless, from a monetary perspective if we value 1 volunteer hour at the rate of the London Living Wage their gift would have totalled almost £10,000 in 2016.

A huge thank you to all our volunteers, Katy, Shelbi, Jason, Megan, Emily and Sarah.



The newly completed tuition centre at Chemmanthum funded by Adventurers Neil and Kate Cooper.



Volunteer Deborah Slator teaches vital first aid skills to the children of Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.

2016 UK CAR & BIKE RALLY

Thank you to everyone for coming along. What a spectacular Rally route we were treated to in the heart of Wales this year and as always huge thanks to Richie Finney for all his hard work developing the route. This year saw over 130 participants gathering together to enjoy what has become a staple in the Adventure Ashram calendar and was our largest to date. The evening Rally dinner was both fun and inspiring with talks from Returned Volunteers and supporters of Odanadi, Michael Hobbs and Tom Spencer who contributed to the boys’ house building project. The Rally raised £10,000 and all profits were given to the Odanadi Seva Trust.

Our capital appeal continued to provide the children of Mudumalai Tiger Reserve with after school education centres (known as tuition centres) throughout the 6 villages where the children and their families live. 2016 saw the completion of 4 tuition centres each with an appointed dedicated teacher and funds are in place to build one further tuition centre during 2017. These tuition centres make a great difference to the lives of the children and we sincerely thank all those who have made this project possible.

We also thank the dedicated leaders and staff of the following Indian Charities.

Action for Social health in Rural Areas

Dr. Arun Kolhatkar

Grace Charitable Trust

Solomon Daniel

Odanadi

Stanly Kizhakeparambil Varghese and Parashuram Mynakanahalli Lingegowda

Together we have helped create better lives for children in South India

Accessible healthcare for women & children in Palani Hills, Tamil Nadu

Update from project lead Dr. Arun Kolhatkar, written by Adventure Ashram Project Manager, Margaret Ring

Charity Action for Social Health in Rural Areas (ASHRA)
Project objective To run regular clinics with a Doctor, Health Worker and a facility to purchase medicines in isolated communities through project REACH (Rural Education and Comprehensive Health)

Project funding 2016 £3000.00

Funding to date £16,000

Project Commenced January 2012

ASHRA provides regular health checks within the community and both health care and health education is improved at a grass roots level. Through the REACH project visits are conducted to various villages in the Kodanikanal area of the Palani Hills in Tamil Nadi, South India.

The REACH project and ASHRA's established partnership with Bethania Foundation continues. Bethania Foundation run 3 creches, enabling mothers of pre-school children to go back to work safe in the knowledge that their children are being well care for. Working in these crèches provides Dr. Kollhartar with an opportunity to examine any child that appears unwell as well as being able to provide check-ups for all the children attending the crèche, seeing between 50 and 80 children per week. With these regular visits the number of children who fall ill has reduced significantly and the provision of dietary supplements has meant that an appreciable increase in many of the children's weight has been seen.

Dr. Kolhatkar is currently able to make visits to several villages to provide health checks for children in conjunction with the Kodaikanal Health and Medical Services (KHMS) Hospital Outreach Programme and Foundation for International Medical Relief for Children (FIMRC). These villages are populated by daily wage earners and their families and at each visit 5-15 patients are seen, many of which will need several follow up visits. FIMRC has been covering Dr. Kolhatkar's professional fees for one visit per week and provide drugs, treatment and nutritional supplements for children.



Dr Kolhatkar examines a child from one of the villages of the lower Palani Hills

For more information
<http://actiftrust.org>

Following a funding proposal submitted to Adventure Ashram in 2015, Dr. Kolhatkar has formed a new partnership with Action for Community Transformation India Foundation (ACTIF), an organisation that holds similar values as ASHRA to improve the provision of health care for tribal people in villages of the Palani Hills. Plans and aims of this partnership are currently being drawn up and Dr. Kolhatkar feels extremely gratified to be working with ACTIF as they seek to expand their work.

The next 12 months

Adventure Ashram will continue to support ASHRA and Adventurers will visit some of the projects during the Back to the Future Rally in November 2017.



Educating tribal children from Mudumalai Tiger Reserve

Update from project lead Solomon Daniel, written by Adventure Ashram project manager Margaret Ring

Charity	Grace Charitable Trust
Project objective	To enable 230 children to attend school and continue to their graduation by providing safe access and covering the cost of their education.
Project funding 2016	£33,000
Funding to date	£183,000
Project commenced	June 2011

Grace Charitable Trust provides the framework for an education programme that enables children living in or on the outskirts of a protected tiger reserve in Tamil Nadu not only to attend school but to travel there and back safely on dedicated school buses.

The charity continues to be headed up by Solomon Daniel as the lead Trustee. Following the great news in 2015 that Grace Charitable Trust was given their FCRA by the Indian government, 2016 heralded a more secure future and saw the completion of 4 after school tuition centres for the children of the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, with funds in place to build a further one in 2017. These centres provide invaluable support to the children, giving each child the opportunity to receive any additional tutoring they may need and a comfortable space to complete their homework and be given support.

The next 12 months

Currently 400 children are helped to safely travel to and from school daily of which 230 have their educational expenses covered. Adventure Ashram will carry on supporting of Grace Charitable Trust by continuing to provide funds for the education of these children through the Child Sponsorship Programme, aiming to grow the number of children we currently sponsor in 2017 by 100. We will also be helping Solomon and his staff team develop a simple method of gathering data on their activities, to monitor accurately the impact of their work and how to present this effectively.

For more information
GRG Memorial School
www.grgmhss.com
www.gracecharitabletrust.in



Fritha handing one of the children a 'nice to meet you' form from their sponsor family.

The children get ready to board one of the school buses.



Rehabilitation of children affected by human trafficking

Update from project lead Stanly Kv, written by Adventure Ashram
Project Manager, Margaret Ring

Charity	Odanadi
Project objective	To cover the running costs of the boys' house 'Odula' in Odanadi in Mysore.
Project funding in 2016	£47,500
Funding to date	£157,000
Project commenced	January 2012

Adventure Ashram Adventurers continue their support of the boys' house by giving monthly donations for the running costs of the house, as well as making large one off donations. The 37 boys living in the house all work together to clean and maintain it and they are proud to call the big blue house their home. By being responsible for the day to day up-keep of the house the boys become empowered and learn how to look after themselves, skills that will serve them well throughout their lives.

During late spring, we set up and launched our first ever crowdfunding campaign gathering together global supporters of Odanadi Seva Trust. Ex Odanadi volunteer Tom Spencer worked closely with us on the crowdfunder and allowed us to connect with other ex Odanadi volunteers who acted as 'pillars' of the campaign. It was an enormous success and raised £22,500 and was matched by an incredible gift of £20,000. With these significant funds, work began immediately to build a wall around the perimeter of the boys' house and installation of a secure gate, which means the boys feel even further protected in their home.

The food hall, completed in 2015 continues to be at the centre of life with the boys eating together each evening after school and at the weekends, giving them a great opportunity to catch up with each other. As promised in 2015, a formal opening ceremony of the hall was held and plans are underway to use it as a venue for mixed faith marriage ceremonies.

For more information
www.odanadi.org



The boys proudly show their new boundary wall and gate and the completed food hall.

The next 12 months

Adventure Ashram will continue its support for Odanadi Seva Trust and will work with the Directors to provide funds towards the day to day running costs. Towards the end of 2016, plans were discussed to begin a pre-employment preparation programme for boys and girls from the age of 15, providing them with individual support and guidance as they move towards employment and higher or further education. We look forward to moving forward with this project in 2017.



Business Supports Adventure Ashram

Our Business Supports Adventure Ashram programme continues to grow and we now have 19 organisations that provide us with valuable support and funding.

Our grateful thanks to out to all our wonderful Business Supporters.



Contact details for further information, updates, donations or to get involved.

Adventure Ashram

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Registered Charity No. 1122629

