



Adventure
Ashram

Our 2018 Annual Review



Introduction

Adventure Ashram is the adventurers' charity. We actively support, run programmes and make grants to small grassroots organisations in the beautiful places we explore. Our current focus is on anti-trafficking, accessible education and healthcare projects in South India.

What inspires us is our in-country partners and all those they are working hard to uplift and empower in India. We are very pleased to report that in 2018 our small but mighty charity helped support almost 2500 vulnerable children and young people. Behind this figure there are real individuals whose lives have been touched and changed. We are so proud and privileged to have played a small part in delivering these inspiring results and want to thank each and every one of our partners who work tirelessly in supporting their local communities.

2018 was an incredibly busy and transformational year for us as we entered into new partnerships and reached out to new audiences. We are managing this growth carefully and are very excited to welcome new like-minded individuals, trusts and businesses into the Adventure Ashram family and provide support to even more vulnerable children and young adults in India.

Last year we appointed a new CEO, Jemina Talja, as our long-term CEO Fritha Mason stepped down. Jemina comes from a long history of third sector management and fundraising and will lead the organisation into its second decade with robust plans to grow and diversify.

This annual review gives an overview of the grants we awarded and projects we delivered in 2018. Please contact the Adventure Ashram team for more details.

Thank you to Fritha Mason, Adventure Ashram CEO until December 2017

To many of our supporters Fritha was Adventure Ashram! During her tenure as the lead of our small but mighty charity it was Fritha's drive, enthusiasm and dogged determination that saw us develop. We were sad to hear that Fritha had decided the time was right for her to resign from her position but delighted for her that it meant her other passion, the Secret Pillow Project was developing and needed more of her time. I and all the trustees, past and present would like to thank Fritha for all her time, energy, passion and enthusiasm she has put into the charity and for her support to the Board of Trustees.

Chair of Trustees, Colin Taylor

Adventure Ashram Team 2018:

Fritha Mason/Jemina Talja – CEO

Margaret Ring – Fundraiser & Project Manager

Sam White – Finance Manager

CAPA Interns: Margaret Spivey, Kelsey Whelan, Elise Ford, Meghan Speckman

Adventure Ashram Trustees:

Colin Taylor – Chair

Roy Clark

Iain Crockart

Mark Edwards

Craig Jarvis

Udesh Naidoo

Dominic Pinkney

Tony Smith

Aimee Faunt – Volunteer Administrator to Trustee Board

Our impact:

In 2018 we awarded grants and delivered our own charitable activities totalling **£99,791.00** in value.

Throughout the year our partners in India:

175

Delivered health checks for 175 vulnerable crèche aged children.



3000

Provided access to education for 300 underprivileged tribal children.

Rescued, brought to safety and gave one to one therapeutic support and information to 2000 survivors of human trafficking



2000

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

Direct grants provided in 2018 = £3,100.00

Adventure Ashram works tirelessly to provide opportunities and support for some of the most vulnerable children in India. Since 2012 we have helped maintain a Doctor/Health Worker service in the remote Palani Hills area of Tamil Nadu. Every week Dr. Kolhatkar visits three local creches, occupied by the children of some of the poorest families in these communities, providing health checks and nutritional supplements, and keeping track of the children's development and any rising concerns. This service has proved invaluable in recognising malnutrition, early warning signs of acute diseases, and ensuring many of the children now develop and gain weight satisfactorily.

In 2018 Dr Kolhatkar and his team provided regular health checks and growth and weight monitoring for 175 creche-aged children from under-privileged backgrounds.

Through this service, the health and wellbeing of the children in the Palani Hills has significantly improved. In addition to this the local communities have experienced improvement in general health, they have established trusting relationships with health professionals as well as gaining access to medicines and specialist health care previously unavailable to them.

In 2019 we need to maintain this critical service so that the children of the Palani Hills can continue to thrive and receive ongoing support with their development. Just £5/month will help fund regular health checks for 3 children.

Please sign up as a monthly donor to give the children of the Palani Hills a healthy start in life:

[CLICK HERE](#)



Meet Sanjana

She has recently completed her time at a pre-school creche, where she received monthly health and development checks from Dr Kolhatkar and his Health Worker. These checks have ensured that Sanjana has gained weight satisfactorily and leaves the creche in excellent health, ready to begin a new phase in her young life, as she begins 1st Standard School.



Providing access to education for tribal children in The Mudumalai Tiger Reserve

Direct grants provided in 2018 = £35,808.00

It is clear that education is a vital need of children everywhere. Education reduces poverty, increases a person's chances of leading a healthy life, reduces maternal deaths, and combats diseases such as HIV and AIDS. Education can promote gender equality, reduce child marriage, and promote peace.

Whilst the importance of education is apparent more than 260 Million children worldwide are out of school.

In the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu, tribal children often face a dangerous journey to school through the tiger and elephant reserve. The distances are long and many of the families cannot afford to pay for their children's education. Our local partner organisation Grace Charitable Trust helps support 300 children's education every year by providing them with school uniforms, shoes and books, providing support for their school fees and running a fleet of school buses to ensure safe transport to and from school every day.

In 2018 we crowdfunded for a new school bus to help the children of the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve to get to and back from school safely. We also continued to deliver our education sponsorship programme with 54 individual and corporate sponsors helping children access and gain education.

The sponsors of our education programme help cover:

- School fees
- School uniforms and bags, text and exercise books
- Regular health checks for the children
- Opportunities to attend one of our tuition centres after school to receive additional support by a village teacher
- Contribution towards the salary of a village teacher
- Places on the school bus and contribution towards the maintenance of the bus, the diesel and the driver's salary

It costs less than £22/month to provide a child with everything they need to join their peers at school and gain an education. Are you able to become one of our valued child sponsors?

[CLICK HERE](#)



My name is Badichi

I live in Theppakadu village with my parents and I have two younger siblings. My father is a forestry worker and he couldn't support us to get an education. When Grace Charitable Trust came to our village to support us all I had a special dream to become a forest officer. With the support of Grace Charitable Trust I continued my studies and passed my 12th grade and now I am studying History in Government Arts College, Ooty. I would like to thank each and every one who helped me to come this far in my life to achieve my ambition. I promise that I also will support few children's education when I get a job after my studies.



Rehabilitation of children affected by human trafficking

Direct grants provided in 2018 = £28,266.00

South Asia, with India at its centre, is one of the fastest growing regions for human trafficking in the world. Many victims are from poor rural areas and lured by traffickers with promises of good jobs, only to find themselves or their children forced to work in fields or brick kilns, enslaved in homes as domestic workers, or sold to brothels. Many trafficked children are also sold by their own families too poor to provide for them, and an estimated 135,000 children are believed to be trafficked in India alone every year.

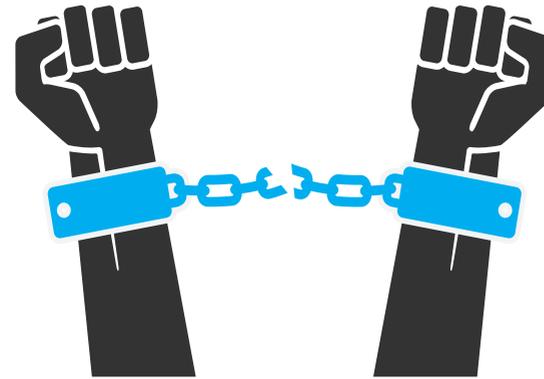
Odanadi Seva Trust, an Indian grassroots charity based in Mysore, has 20 years of experience developing initiatives to combat human trafficking. Not only do they concentrate on helping one survivor at a time, they lobby the regional and national government on ways to tackle this countrywide problem.

We initially worked with Odanadi Seva Trust to build a safe house for trafficked boys as a replacement dwelling for their previous inadequate accommodation. Since completing the build we have been supporting the annual running costs of the safe house, including food, clothing and rehabilitation activities for the boys.

In 2019 we are commencing with a new exciting project as we construct a new mechanics workshop building at the boy's safe house. The building will be stocked with the necessary tools and equipment and every year up to 30 bright young boys from Odanadi and the surrounding area will be able to get trained here as the bright mechanics of the future. This project will help the participants learn a trade and the skills they need to make a living and support themselves.

Please help us maintain the Odanadi boys house for survivors of human trafficking and run the mechanics workshop to give these young people a chance of a brighter future:

[CLICK HERE](#)



India contains an estimated 18.4 million victims of modern slavery. Of that number 26% or 5.5 million, are children.



Our 2018 key activities and achievements

A great deal of work and heart goes into delivering the Adventure Ashram offerings and programmes over the course of a year. In 2018 some of our key achievements and activities included:

The 5th Adventure Ashram **UK Car & Bike Rally**, which took place at Robin Hood's Bay in Yorkshire raising over £12,000 to support Adventure Ashram and our programmes and partners in India.



With our long-term partners and friends at Nomadic Knights we launched a new exciting **Back to the Future 2** ride taking place in July 2019. This incredible 2 week motorbike adventure across the Himalayas and the Roof of India will provide a once in a lifetime experience for the participants and raise valuable funds to support our small but mighty charity.



Proudly delivering our second **Employment Preparation Programme** for survivors of human trafficking in South India. This intensive training programme helped 10 young people gain the skills and tools to search and prepare for employment and set their sights on future opportunities as they move forward with their young lives.



Group of our supporters travelled to Thailand for an exciting **Off-Road Motorbiking Adventure** organised by Christopher Wilson and Theerapong Subsapanwong. The trip raised more than £3,000 for our projects and partners in India.

Crowdfunding for a new school bus to help the children of the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve to get to school and back safely. With the aid of our valued supporter Gordon Robinson, the bus was purchased in the summer of 2018 and has been on the road since, enabling up to 40 children to get to school every day.



Volunteers Louise Crockart and Amanda Porter travelled to our partners at Odanadi Seva Trust to deliver a series of **workshops in self-care techniques** to the house mothers, staff and residents.

First grants were given out from the **Ted Jervis Fund** to help two budding entrepreneurs with their exciting plans for the future. Mohana, a resident of the Odanadi girls' house, will use her grant to train as a Karate instructor. Raja, from the Odanadi boys' house, is an experienced baker and will undertake further, specialist bakery training with the aid of the grant.



THE TED JERVIS FUND FOR EXCELLENCE IN IDEAS AND ADVENTURE



Finalising our plans to take on the **Yoga Stops Traffick** initiative. This annual campaign brings together yoga practitioners across the globe, raising awareness and funds to support survivors of human trafficking in India. The first Adventure Ashram led Yoga Stops Traffick campaign will be delivered in March 2019.

It would have been impossible to have had such a productive year without the enthusiasm and commitment of all our supporters. Our valued friends donated time and money, ran their own events and attended ours, gave their expertise and contacts and supported us all the way. **Thank you to each and every one of you!**

Thank you to our 2018 Corporate and Trust & Foundation Partners

Adventure Ashram continues to partner with like-minded organisations and businesses in delivering our impact. At the end of 2018 we were working with 24 organisations providing us with valuable support and funding.

Our heartfelt thanks go to:



Trusts:

Tula Trust, Ravenwood Children's Trust and Fairweather Trust.

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

Adventure Ashram

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