

THE EAST • WEST OVERSEAS AID FOUNDATION

Newsletter

Issue 22, December 2016

www.tewoaf.org.au



Saritha

Saritha came to the Uluru Children's Home with her two younger sisters after a tragic family history.

She completed Year 12, and with ongoing support from the Foundation, went on to graduate from University with a Degree in Fashion Technology.

Saritha is now employed as a fashion technology Lecturer, living in Chennai.

She is supporting her mother and two younger sisters, the eldest of whom is also now pursuing a Tertiary degree.

We are extremely proud of Saritha's achievements.

Urgent Needs List

Our Urgent Needs list this year is focused on our children's living and educational needs as well as critical infrastructure projects. Please take time to look at the details of the projects listed on the back of Founder Dr Chandran's letter, which is inserted into this newsletter, and consider supporting one of these important initiatives.

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Letter from Arjan Cheema TEWOAF Volunteer

'My time with the East West Overseas Aid Foundation has been one of the most incredible and profoundly life changing experiences I have had the opportunity of undertaking.

Upon completing my Masters of Development Studies I wanted to gain field experience with an NGO. TEWOAF provided the perfect opportunity for me to be involved in rural development programs and to apply the skills learnt through my course in a practical, hands-on manner.

The organisation is different from many other NGOs as it is involved in a number of developmental issues – child welfare, education, medical, environmental sustainability, amongst many others – rather than a single one. It focuses on holistically enhancing the livelihood of a specific group and a specific geographic area, in this case a region in rural Tamil Nadu. The value in this is that TEWOAF has been able to establish itself within the fabric of the community, thus enabling the organisation to build strong and meaningful relationships.

Having a strong relationship with the community is essential to creating lasting social change. This is something that TEWOAF, through taking time, establishing understanding and most importantly deeply caring, has been able to establish incredibly well. As a result of community trust and strong rapport, the work done is extremely effective.

For me, I found my time incredibly valuable from both a professional and personal standpoint. For someone who is passionate about social development, this organisation provided for me a deeper understanding of what it is like to live and work in the field. To be deeply engaged in almost every aspect of the organisation was incredibly empowering and through this I was able to learn, grow and change in ways I did not expect.



The work showed me the reality of community development and program implementation, along with its challenges and roadblocks, but also the incredible achievements we made that resulted in a tangible difference to the lives of the people of the Edaikazhinadu panchayat.

This experience has left a deep impression on me, who I am now and where I see myself going forward. I was

able to explore my passion for community development and realise the importance it has for me.

I also had the opportunity to form relationships with some truly incredible people. The staff of TEWFI are the life-blood of the organisation. Every day they are there working hard to either ensure projects run smoothly, programs add value and quality to the community, or that the children at UCH are growing up in a safe and holistic environment. I am truly proud and blessed to know the staff of TEWFI, who are more than friends, they are family to me. Their generosity and care is something I will never forget.

Finally, I want to thank everyone in Melbourne for their support, care and trust they showed in letting me take a hands-on roll in various projects.

The work put in by Dr. Chandran and Chitra, and everyone else involved in the organisation, has created a positive change in the lives of thousands of people. To even be a small part of this work is something that will stay with me forever.

I look forward to being involved in TEWOAF in the future, and urge anyone interested to get involved, visit Uluru, or support it in any way possible.'

Arjan

October 2016

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'Through sheer hard work and by working together we achieved what initially seemed impossible'



Davy Krishna with Pua, Kanniammal, Shipra and Chitra

In May 2016 when the year 12 exam results were released, all 6 children, Joseph, Shipra, Pua, Kanniammal, Chitra and Suganthi had passed! We had expected this, but what was disappointing was that their marks were very average.

Joseph had wanted to study Agricultural Science, Pua wanted to do Medicine and the others had their hearts on Accounts and Computer Science. Given their marks, there was no way that they could enter a Government College for a Science or Engineering course. And added to that, all of the children were orphans! However, one plus point was that they all had good marks in Languages.

Suganthi chose to go home to her brother and Suganya, her sister, who was one of our first to enter College.

We had to think and act fast. One week had passed. We had one more week to procure and submit all of the appropriate application forms.

TEWFI staff realized they had to work together on this. The social workers, Sathyamoorthy and Govind were summoned from

their Summer Technology Program and sent out to 7-8 Colleges from Chennai, Cuddalore and Dindevanam to get the application forms.

Githa, Usha, Sudhakaran and I together with the social workers then worked frantically with the children, for they had very little options opened to them. The best option would have to be one that would likely acquire them a place in a decent College, giving them the head start that they needed. When counselling time came we had to choose our options very carefully.

But In the end our hard work paid off!

Shipra and Pua, whose strengths were in English, got seats in the Presidency College in Chennai following English Literature.

Kanniammal and Chitra are following Tamil Literature in the same College.

Joseph, the always positive youngster, is following Botany In Pachaiaappa's College in Chennai, which has produced Noble Price

Winners in the past! He hopes to do well in Botany and then follow his dream to go on to Agricultural Science, a field that has much scope for young men in India - and India needs them. And, although given a choice to follow Botany in Tamil, Joseph deliberately chose English medium. His reading so impressed one of his tutors that she not only praised him, but gave him a 50 Rupee note then and there! He is also attempting to work part- to support himself a little.

Chennai is a hub of opportunity. The UCH children were very lucky indeed to get places in Chennai!

Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO has said, "The equation is simple: education is the basic insurance against poverty...it empowers people with knowledge, skills and confidence they need to shape a better future".

TEWFI has done its best in guiding the children on to their next phase of life. Their future and their success is now in their hands.



Joseph



Suganthi

Davy Krishna

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TEWFI News

Your Donations Really Make a Difference

The Uluru Health Clinic has for over two decades provided not only in-clinic consultative services to the Uluru children's home, staff and surrounding 24 villages, but has also dealt with emergency situations such as snake bites, trauma, life threatening infections amongst other emergencies.

Emergency care is generally administered on site, but subsequent management demands observation and often critical care. This is provided at nearby Pondicherry at a large government hospital institution, JIPMER.

However, many debilitated, elderly or incapacitated villagers cannot even make it to the Uluru Health Clinic itself, so we have provided a Mobile Clinic service visiting villages to triage medical conditions and manage as much as possible in the village itself.

In order to provide these services the Uluru Health Clinic had an ambulance/mobile people mover to facilitate transport of the patients to hospitals, and the medical staff to the varying villages on the Mobile Clinic run.

Unfortunately we have been severely hamstrung in the last 3½ years because our mobile vehicle was stolen, hence it became a priority to raise funds for a replacement vehicle.

Earlier this year an anonymous donor contacted me to provide the entire funds required to replace the vehicle.

The vehicle has now been purchased and has been commissioned as a medical vehicle.

The Uluru Health Clinic and the Uluru Children's Home together with the surrounding 24 villages make up a very defined socially and economically disadvantaged group. Donations made have a very real demonstrable impact on this group, profoundly changing the local community's way of life by delivering a basic, but necessary infrastructure of care.

You can always see how much "Bang for your Buck" you get. This is reinforced by the fact that The East West Overseas Aid

Foundation gives it donors the opportunity to visit and contribute as volunteers - a unique opportunity.

I would strongly urge you to consider supporting The East West Overseas Aid Foundation. I understand that there is considerable demand for the "charitable dollar" and there are many substantial and worthwhile charitable causes that need help.

The Uluru Children's Home for severely disadvantaged children and the Uluru Health Clinic, which provides medical care for the poorest of the poor, are part of an organisation that is run by volunteers, where every dollar donated goes to India and is tax deductible. Both the Indian and Australian Government Regulatory Authorities have also given their tick of approval to the running of our organization.

Any help, small or large, is appreciated and I think you can see that with the staff showing their gratitude on receiving their new vehicle.

Dr Roy Karna

Prevention is the Best Cure

The Uluru Health Clinic in providing medical care for the local community has taken the initiative of introducing simple and basic preventative medical care to try and "nip in the bud" emerging medical problems.

Part of this initiative has included holding bi-annual Obesity Camps. This involves assessing the BMI (Body Mass Index) of members of the local community and providing follow up advice regarding exercise, diet, management of diabetes and hypertension, as a free medical service.

Social workers are also involved in providing medical services in relation to pregnancy, alcohol related disease and also basic hygiene advice to try and limit the spread of infection.



Our new people mover for the Medical Unit has arrived. A "Pooja" for the car and the donor is taking place, with the nurses watching on.

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The Vicki Standish e-Education Computer Centre

The extremely poor education infrastructure, lack of facilities and lack of teaching staff in the Edaikazhinadu Panchayat prompted TEWFI to build the region's first rural Computer centre 10 years ago. It has since become a multifunctional village Knowledge Centre for the region, providing the community access to vital technical, educational and online employment information.

eCoW classes



eCoW (Class room on Wheels)

Community class at Marakkanam Village

TEWFI conceptualized, designed and successfully implemented the electronic classroom on wheels (eCoW) program for children, young adults and older members of the wider community living in this remote rural area.

eCoW is an information and communication technology teaching initiative using laptops loaded with useful education software and content with classes conducted in a mobile bus (funded by the Cognizant Foundation) that travels to government schools and community hubs.

We have recently added a more spacious bus equipped with 33 laptops, a 55 inch television, a sound system and fans. This is all powered by solar power.

Such a model has proven to be ideal for a rural context where public infrastructure and personal incomes are limited. The eCoW program aims to deliver contextualized and relevant local language based education and knowledge curricula to benefit students from the fifth standard onwards in schools, and more widely among the community's youth, particularly adolescent girls.

eCoW builds on other technology-led programs also designed and developed by TEWFI eg the Computer Wallah and VSeEC telecentre programs.

VSeEC classes



Community class at VSeEC

UCH classes each day and on weekends and schools holidays

Uluru Nursery and Primary school classes

Uluru Women's Tailoring Center



It is said "Learn a handicraft and earn your bread". A majority of women living in the Edaikazhinadu Town Panchayat for lack of proper education stay home, without any job and consequently without any income.

Bearing this in mind and to solve this problem the East West Overseas Aid Foundation started a Tailoring Centre to provide an opportunity for the women to earn a livelihood. With the help of this Tailoring Centre, women from the fishing and farming communities are benefitting enormously. The Centre is open five days a week. Courses last six months and certificates of successful completion of the training program are issued by the Foundation.

Sixty seven women have successfully completed the training. Of this, 30 women are working from home making a decent income. Two work for a dress manufacturing company and earn a decent income. The rest make clothes for themselves and their families, thus saving a lot of money.

They also derive a great mental satisfaction from their competence, and a sense of pride.



Solar panels being installed on top of the Uluru School. Half have been installed, however we need funding to install the other half to provide total solar sustainability for the whole TEWFI complex. Please see the Urgent Needs List for details.

We have started a nursery!

And we have planted a thousand saplings using only our students. We make trips for seeds and plant collection and we do the layering, watering and nurturing of the plants ourselves, all with the help of the students of the Uluru Children's Home.

After the plants grow to a certain level, they are transplanted and the nurturing of these plants is again taken care of by our students themselves.

We supply saplings for other schools and to the community, as well as plant around the Foundation land.

The keen interest our students show for this activity is amazing.



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The East West Overseas Aid Foundation Day Sponsorship Program



We thank all those who have taken up the Day Sponsorship Program and are so grateful for your continued kind support.

It is with great pride that we can let you know that six of our children sat this year for their year 12 examinations. Fourteen children are now in tertiary studies. Two of our girls have just completed their graduate studies and have recently been employed. A wonderfully rewarding feat for all concerned!

Coming from extraordinarily challenging and poor backgrounds, these children who have been nourished and educated by TEWOAF's marvelous staff and volunteers, have flourished and are now being guided into a more positive and fulfilling future.

As an Australian volunteer driven Foundation, we ask those of you who have not taken out Day Sponsorship to help us if you can. We do need your help! We currently have 133 full days and 52 half days covered. 159 days in total.

We have many more days to fill and need to have a steady flow of donations in order to continue running the Uluru Children's Home and the Uluru Health Care Clinic, supporting our children and the local community.

There are two options: full day \$400 or half day \$200.

You can nominate the day and/or the loved one you wish to honour. The children in turn honour you and are made aware of your kindness.

Once again, we thank Seasol who continue to run the administration costs for this program. We are truly thankful.

'The heart that gives, gathers' Tao Te ching



twitter.com/TEWFIndia



facebook.com/TEWOAF



instagram.com/eastwestfoundation

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2016 DINNER DANCE



On Friday 7th October guests arrived at Lincoln of Toorak in their best Bollywood finery to attend the Annual East West Foundation Dinner Dance, helping to celebrate 24 years of this glittering event.

As they arrived flower bedecked glasses of champagne were on offer for the price of a raffle ticket for a beautiful diamond ring.

Our MC David Parsons welcomed the guests and kept the evening flowing.

The Shiamak Dancers had us up and clapping to some energetic Bollywood rhythms. Then it was our turn to

dance; Shiamak leader Darshan taught us a series of Bollywood moves.

Our guest speaker Dr Beth Charles had everyone's attention with stories about the children at Uluru, both happy and sad. It gave us an excellent picture of where these children came from and where they are now, helped by the Foundation and its supporters.

Auctioneer Arch Staver, with his usual panache, then ran a pacey auction. On offer were diamond earrings, wine, a Queensland holiday and an exotic necklace. All were sold after plenty of excited bidding.

Over 150 guests shared an evening of entertainment, dancing, excellent cuisine and the chance to see and hear what the Foundation is all about.



Our heartfelt thanks go to all who attended and contributed so generously to the evening. The profit from the event was approximately \$28,000, which will go a long way towards the Foundation's operations.

As always the Dinner Dance Committee and its helpers did a wonderful job in planning and organising the event. Thanks to them

and all their hard work that the evening was the success that it was.

Denise Hutchins



Shiamak Dancers entertain



Shiamak dancers show their skills not only dancing but teaching!



Dr Beth Charles, Chair of the East West Overseas Aid Foundation, describes the Foundation's achievements in supporting the children in its care.

7

SAVE THE DATE NOW !

Our 25th Silver Anniversary Dinner Dance

Friday 6th October 2017



*Help us
celebrate this
significant
milestone*

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**What a Difference
a Golf Day Makes!**

**Your Support
is our Success!**

Financial Index
Jellis Craig
Radisson

Seasol
Shaw and Partners

ROBE
River Capital
ANZ
NELSON ALEXANDER

Ladbrokes.com.au

TEWOAF ANNUAL GOLF DAY Friday February 24 2017 Southern Golf Club

*Get a group together or come by
yourself and join us for a fantastic
day at one of Melbourne's finest
sand belt courses.*

\$200 per player
with great prizes
Lunch, finger food
and drinks afterwards

Sponsorship packages available

Call John 0419 887 294

Judy 0403 324 557

Seasol[®]
INTERNATIONAL PTY LTD

We wish to thank Lisa Boyd and Seasol International once again for their support of the Annual Golf Day, the Day Sponsorship Program and its administration, as well as the cost of printing this newsletter. This longstanding and ongoing support of TEWOAF and TEWFI continues to be critical to our capacity to provide support for the UCH children, the local community and the wonderful and extremely important local natural environment.

Seasol has a special interest in environmental issues and is a family owned company dedicated to organically based water saving horticultural products.



**The East West Overseas
Aid Foundation**
ABN: 18 002 155 029

Ross House
247 Flinders Lane
Melbourne
Victoria 3000
AUSTRALIA

Tel: +61 3 9650 0514

Email:
admin@tewoaf.org.au

Website:
www.tewoaf.org.au

PATRONS

Dr. T.J. Rao
OAM, MS, FRACS, FACS

The Hon. Ron Merkel QC

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Managing Director, PGA Group

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Mrs. Denise Hutchins

Mr. Naga Nagasundaram

Ms. Kerrie Carstensen

Dr. Natterji V Chandran

Ms. Lea Romanella

The East West Overseas Aid Foundation of Australia was founded in 1992 with the aim of assisting the poor and disadvantaged overseas through Healthcare, Child Relief, Education, and Community Development initiatives.

A Melbourne-based, volunteer-driven aid organisation, The East West Overseas Aid Foundation has supporters worldwide who have helped to raise funds for its projects in Papua New Guinea and India.



November 2016

Dear Friend,

It is hard to believe that The East West Overseas Aid Foundation is in its 25th year!

We will be celebrating its silver anniversary at the 25th Annual Dinner Dance on Friday October 6th 2017. Please do pencil in this date in your diary. You will receive further information about the event in the coming year. As is your support, your presence on that occasion would be much valued.

We have had good news this year on our governance status both here in Australia and in India. There has been a lot of concern in both countries about the operation of Charities. The ACNC (Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission) this year has reviewed and is satisfied with the operations of TEWOAF. Concomitantly the Government of India earlier this year had cancelled the permits of all NGOs there to receive funds from overseas - prior to a detailed review of all their operations. The East West Foundation of India was one of the first batch of NGOs that ticked all the boxes and were reissued with the FCRA (Foreign Currency Regulatory Authority) permit in August this year.

On the ground the Foundation continues doing excellent work in Health, Education, Child rights, Community Development and in its Environmental initiatives – a glimpse of which is in the accompanying newsletter.

Your continuing encouragement and support is deeply appreciated. I have included our Urgent Needs list and Donation slip on the rear side of this page. Donations and Day Sponsorships are tax deductible.

Wishing you and your near and dear the very best for the festive season and the coming New Year.

In gratitude

Chandran

PTO

Please ensure all Donations are payable to:
'The East West Overseas Aid Fund'
Donations are Tax deductible

A Volunteer-Driven Australian Overseas Aid Foundation
Assisting the poor and disadvantaged overseas through
Health Care, Child Relief, Education, and Community Development initiatives

URGENT NEEDS DECEMBER 2016

Day Sponsorship: \$400 per day or \$200 per half day.

A Day Sponsorship donation means that the general operations and activities will be able to continue.

1. Higher Education Fund: \$1,600 per student per year.

Five of the children have completed year 12 and are eligible for further education. This means we will have a total of 14 children in higher education next year.

2. Social Worker: \$250 per month.

The Uluru Children's Home House Mother urgently requires a female social worker for the new children arriving at the home.

3. Upgrade of the Kitchen: \$12,000

There is a demand for an urgent upgrade of the existing kitchen. i.e. cooking facilities.

4. Maintenance: \$1,300 per month.

The existing buildings and facilities managed by TEWFI have to be continually maintained and the cost of fuel and electricity has to be met to maintain the high standard we have achieved.

5. New TEWOAF Website: \$18,000.

A completely new website is to be developed to replace the existing one. It will use the latest available website functions and will be managed and updated regularly. One of the features will enable donations to be made directly from the website.

6. Waste & Water Infrastructure: \$25,000.

This project is partially funded and planning has been done to implement the overall development.

7. Off Grid Power System: \$13,000.

Because of the unreliability of the local grid, we have a standby generator. The sustainable energy project has been partially funded but we need to add more solar panels. A battery system and wind generation will complete the project.

8. Recreational Pathways: \$80 per metre.

This is an ongoing initiative and small donations would be appreciated as these pathways can be completed in 10 metre sections as funds are received.



Donations

☐ **Full Day Sponsorship \$400 per day** \$.....

☐ **Half Day Sponsorship \$200 per day** \$.....

Date/s for Dedication _____ **Name/s of Dedication** _____

I give permission for ☐\$400 or ☐\$200 to be deducted annually from my credit card YES / NO

☐ **Family Fellowship (\$3,300)** \$.....

☐ **Urgent Needs Item** **Item No.** _____ \$.....

☐ **General Donation** \$.....

TOTAL \$.....

Name:

.....

Address:

.....

..... **Postcode**.....

Email:.....**Phone:**.....

Date.....

☐ **Payment by Cheque** *Please make cheques payable to The East West Overseas Aid Fund*

☐ **Payment by Credit Card**

☐ **VISA** ☐ **MASTERCARD** **Expiry Date**.....

Cardholder Name

Card Number..... **Signature**.....