

CHILD AID UK NEWSLETTEN

WHAT'S NEW FROM TAMIL NADU?

Puton

It doesn't take much to make some people happy

Laugh, and the world laughs with you;
Weep, and you weep alone.
For the sad old earth must borrow it's mirth,
But has trouble enough of its own.
Sing, and the hills will answer;
Sigh, it is lost on the air.
The echoes bound to a joyful sound,
But shrink from voicing care.

Rejoice, and men will seek you; Grieve, and they turn and go. They want full measure of all your pleasure,

But they do not need your woe. Be glad, and your friends are many; Be sad, and you lose them all.

There are none to decline your nectared wine, But alone you must drink life's gall.

Feast, and your halls are crowded;
Fast, and the world goes by.
Succeed and give, and it helps you live,
But no man can help you die.
There is room in the halls of pleasure
For a long and lordly train,
But one by one we must all file on
Through the narrow aisles of pain.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox

world

Face

and the whole smiles with you

Find out why these girls are so happy, see back page >>



Some of their stories are amazing.

Take this little family of Kanaga (15), Bhuvaneswari (14), Karthiga (10) and Aiswarya (6). Their mother committed suicide, father died of a viral infection, but was indebted to a landlord. The landlord wanted the girls to be under his custody to clear the debt. Kanaga worked for the landlord for some time; finally a social worker heard of the situation and took them away. All are now in Amala Anbu Karangal, happy and cared for no more forced work! They can at last be children.

ended up in the Salem new bus stand, before being found and taken to Amala Anbu Karangal.



Shenbagam (10) lost her father and her mother is a rag picker who lived under a bridge. Unfortunately she was unable to feed Shenbagam who luckily was brought to the Shelter.

... these are just a few of the many stories, some are much worse than simple poverty or abandonment; so where do you stop, we feel these few tales give you some idea as to what is behind this project.

It is giving a life back to children who really didn't know what one was.

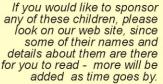
And here are a few more stories



This is Laksahmi (13), she was one of the first two girls to come to Amala Anbu Karangal, her father died at an early age with AIDS, she was then taken care of by her mother, but she deserted her when she got remarried. She lived for a time in a bus stand in Salem.

Punitha (12) has no mother, her father married another woman. Later her father was affected with AIDS, she was illtreated by her stepmother, but was found and started a new life in Amala Anbu Karangal.









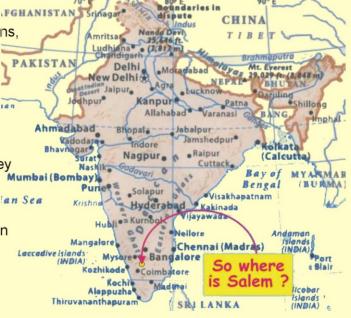
A little more information about this project

All these children are at risk, their contact with their parents, if they have any, is occasional to rare. A normal child up to 18 years of age becomes a street child for a number of reasons, obviously a broken family, the death of one or both of their parents, negligence of their parents, alcoholism and immoral behaviour of their parents. Poverty is the prime cause for the deprivation of these children who many run away from their families and live alone in another area.

They all have a lack of education and peer group influence which leads them into rag picking, begging and robbery for survival. None go to school and most are drop outs before they complete **even primary school**. In the Salem area alone the hostel is in contact with more than 600 of these children.

Neither the parents or the child can be blamed for the situation that develops, often the parents have to work for incredibly long hours to keep even themselves alive; home life is non-existent and if the children have relatives, most relatives do not want girls to live with them since they are a responsibility, so the children end up on the streets.

The problems of girls in this situation are enormous. They face sexual abuse and exploitation. They are often trafficked to unknown places to work as domestic help, baby sitting and to do all sorts of menial work and when no longer required, back to the streets. The life of a street girl is something no one should allow for a child, hence - the centre for girls in difficult circumstances and **Child Aid**'s intent to help.



It is, of course, hard to believe that all the girls pictured on this double page were once living on the Streets. Yes, they look well clothed and happy - and they are, the days of the streets are gone. Some might remember, but most have the past shut out and this is their new life.

Child Aid is trying to help to keep it this way!

CHILD AID

From the girls at Makkiyad - a big thank you ... why?



The 'kick' for these girls was to do their homework,don't believe it! You have to believe it! It is true, they liked school so much that homework for them is a relaxation, but it was not easy, they had to do it by candlelight and that was no joke - so we helped them a little and bought them a solar panel so that they could have uninterrupted electricity.

Have you ever wondered what other people do for `kicks`?

.... Well, Jim Ewan, one of Child Aid's supporters decided that he wanted to tackle the Sahara Marathon, already having done a number of Marathons, none the least of which being thirty half-marathons in thirty consequetive days, he felt that the time was right for the BIG one. He survived to tell the tale; foot sore, weary and vowing never to go anywhere near another



Marathon ... at least until he can find one in a Jungle! As you can see, Jim gave **Child Aid** a little PR, we supplied the T-Shirt, all Jim had to do was run a few miles in delightful sunny weather! Jim is a professional speaker and now, of course, he has a tale to tell; discarding some of the equipment he had to carry - to make his load lighter - he threw away his Passport, thank goodness they didn't want to keep him in Morocco.





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Your Gifts please think about them and the best way to give your child that something extra

We know you want to help, and most certainly you do with your sponsorship monies. However, some of you over the years have helped even more with a

However, some of you over the years have helped even more with a small gift at Christmas, or at your child's birthday.

We do not want to ask you to stop doing this but would ask you to think seriously; many of the items you buy can be purchased far cheaper in India - no, our children cannot buy them, first they do not have the money and second, they do not live in a major town, so what you do for them is very much appreciated.

However,
what we are trying to say is, think
how much your gift costs, tell us
what you would like to provide and let
us buy it for you in India.
We know there is always some fun
in finding a gift for your child,
but if we tell you
that last year we estimated that all
the gifts sent would have cost our
sponsors, some £ 70 but the
cost to send it to India was £ 180,
you will see what we mean.

£ 5 at Christmas will buy your child a year's wardrobe; £ 10 and the child would have a marvellous time and a new wardrobe. £ 35 would buy a bicycle that in the UK would cost upwards of £ 180 and it would be as good as in the UK... And for your child it would

be as good as in the UK,.
And for your child it would
be like buying him a car
if he, or she, were living
in our country.

So you can see, a little really does go a long way in India.



