The Dust Project

ANNUAL REVIEW 2024

Charity Registration No. 1155728



Annual Review

The Dust Project was established as a company limited by guarantee on 20th December 2013. Ultimate responsibility for the entity rests with the Trustees. Day-to-day management is undertaken by Sarah Chisnall and Tiffany Stokely, Trustees of the charity.

TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees meets a minimum of four times per year, with further ad-hoc meetings as required.

OBJECTIVES

Our vision is to help, support, and relieve those in desperate situations of poverty, crisis or hardship, in developing countries and communities suffering the after-effects of war, natural disaster and/or economic frailty. We focus especially on the stability of family units and the safety, nourishment and education of children and vulnerable young adults by providing shelter, food, healthcare, schooling, tuition, and other such charitable services as the trustees may from time to time think fit, as need demands. We are currently focusing on communities in Colombo and Jaffna, Sri Lanka, through the physical construction and refurbishment of a children's hostel, schools, and family homes, in addition to the support of community businesses, projects and sponsored children.







ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024

Website and Social Media

We are very prominent on social media with over 1200 followers across all platforms. Our videos have had approximately 15,000 views. We have found a wider reach of

international support and sponsorship through these. Our website continues to be successful both in gaining new followers as well as directly enabling more children to be sponsored. The Child Sponsorship page allows potential sponsors to read the bios of children living in need in our focal communities in Sri Lanka — who either attend a Paalam International School in Colombo or Jaffna, live in the Paalam Children's Hostel in Jaffna, are connected to a house build (or other project) which we have financed, or are part of our larger community outreach programs such as food parcels. Sponsors are given information about why the child needs support, along with details of his or her family and situation. We have found sponsorship to make a significant and lasting impact in a child's life, having seen and heard first hand from carers and the children themselves the difference it makes. The children's basic needs of clothing, medical attention, primary education and nourishment are met, and they feel genuinely supported, encouraged and cared for. This can only make a positive impact on their futures.

The 'Donate to a Build' page speaks of those families in our communities who are currently living in completely sub-standard housing, or are currently or soon to be homeless. They are usually in serious need of a home, a well and/or a toilet.

Partnering with Paalam

Things are going well in our partnership with Paalam— a charity based in Sri Lanka. The charity has made a huge impact in Colombo, but even more significantly in Jaffna. Through our collaboration, they have been able to receive donations through The Dust Project's website and co-ordinate, distribute and oversee the child sponsorship program. We have had over 200 children sponsored through this program.

Since our partnership, we have been able to build or help complete 35 houses for various families living in appalling conditions. We also continue to build wells (21 to date) and toilets (30 to date) as need demands.

Fundraising

We remain deeply grateful to our supporters for their continued generosity. Thanks to the funds we received in 2024, we were able to achieve the following:

- Construct four houses, each with proper sanitation facilities.
- Provide critical medical assistance to individuals in need.

- Install new play equipment at both Wattala and Jaffna school playgrounds.
- Complete landscaping around the new Jaffna school.
- Supply bicycles to two children.
- Replace all windows in our Wattala school.
- Secure the land deposit for our new school in Wattala.

Beyond these projects, we continued to support more than 100 children through our child sponsorship programme. We also extended assistance to teachers facing financial challenges brought about by rising fuel costs and inflation in Sri Lanka.

In April, we funded urgent repairs at Paalam Children's Home in Jaffna, provided new windows and building repairs at our Wattala school, and completed landscaping at the Jaffna school grounds. We also funded the construction of two homes for families in need. Through the generosity of our sponsors, two bicycles were gifted to children, and musical instruments were purchased for a local school. Additionally, we supported a family experiencing severe hardship due to illness.

In July, our valued partners from the Ware Inner Wheel Club donated funds for new playground equipment at the Wattala school.
In September, we financed the construction of another home in Jaffna and supported a computer project at a local school.

In November, we funded an additional house in Jaffna and provided resources to paint two previously completed homes. We also sponsored professional development for 24 staff members across Jaffna and Wattala schools, enabling them to complete updated ACE teacher training.

In December, we raised over £4,000 for flood relief efforts. With these funds, we distributed food parcels and medical supplies to families affected by flooding in Jaffna.

Mission

Although we were unable to carry out a mission trip in 2024, we are excited to announce that a mission trip is planned for February 2025. During this trip, volunteers will join us in building a new home for a family in Jaffna.

Finance

As a charity, we continued to support Paalam International School, New Living Flame Church, Paalam Project and Paalam Children's Home. All four organisations are under the Paalam Charity, and in total we donated £173,155.49.

The Future

In 2025, we will be taking a team of women to Jaffna to assist local builders with the construction of a new home for Jermila and her family. Jermila is a single mother of three children who are currently living in unsafe conditions in a shack made of tin and tarpaulin on the edge of a field. With an eviction order in place, the family urgently needs secure housing. While the construction of their house is already funded, we are raising additional funds to provide essential finishing touches — including painting, electricity, and furniture — to transform the building into a true home.

We also plan to contribute towards several much-needed cataract surgeries and to support local women through small business projects, empowering them to build sustainable livelihoods. More details will follow in the coming year. In addition, we will continue our commitment to providing educational support for children, distributing food parcels, and constructing safe, permanent homes for families in need.

Finally, we are actively seeking new corporate sponsors to help us raise the necessary funds to build our new school in Wattala, which will serve as a cornerstone of hope and opportunity for the community.