
The Dust Project

ANNUAL REVIEW 2020

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 orphanages, schools, and family homes, in addition to the support of community businesses, projects and sponsored children.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2020

Website and Social Media

We are very prominent on social media (especially Facebook), with over 600 supporters. Our videos have had approximately 12,000 views. We are also on Instagram, Twitter and

LinkedIn, and 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 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, or are connected to a house build (or other project) which we have financed. 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 firsthand 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 tells of several families who are currently living in shacks. They are in desperate need of a home, a well and a toilet. We have had an amazing response from supporters through this page throughout the year.

We have added new videos of our volunteer trips and testimonies from volunteers, with a focus on the impact it has made on their lives through being able to help families. In many cases this is a life-changing experience for the volunteer.

Partnering with Paalam

Things are still going from strength to strength 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 100 children sponsored through this program.

Since our partnership, we have been able to build or help complete 20 houses for various families living in appalling conditions. We also continue to build wells and toilets as need demands. We are in the process of building a school in Jaffna. Due to Covid, this is taking a lot longer than expected, but we hope to have it completed by spring 2022.

Fundraising

- In 2020, we continued to receive enormous donations from Hiscox London, who are keen to help to complete the building of the Paalam School, Jaffna. This has been a slow process due to Covid, but we are making great progress.
- We have also been able to send business grants to Grecian for his garage and Sinarasa for his hardware store. Both will pay back their grants monthly, once they have been established for approximately 6 months.
- Because our Paalam schools were closed, we were asked to support the teachers who are unable to work due to the Covid crisis. Our very generous trustees sent over £10,000 to support the teachers as well as the upkeep of the schools for the year.
- From April to July, we received over £1,200 for our food drive. Paalam were inundated with calls for help because of families unable to access food due to the Covid crisis. The Dust Projects' generous supporters didn't let us down and we were able to support many families who would have gone without food. After another food drive later in the year, our total donations for food reached £11,694.40.
- Early in the year, The Dust Project was able to provide £2,000 to help provide extra food, female toiletries, etc. for those needing it in the Jaffna Prison system, as part of an outreach program.
- Throughout 2020, we continued to receive Child Sponsorship funds from our incredibly generous sponsors, which meant every sponsored child was able to receive food. Our Paalam school children were able to study from home, with the help from our teachers who delivered teaching materials.

Mission

Sadly, due to the Covid crisis, we were unable to arrange any mission trips. We are still very keen to take out teams to help build houses for those families in need of a safe and secure home. We hope this can happen in 2022.

Finance

As a charity, we continued to support Paalam International School, New Living Flame Church and the Paalam Project. All three organisations are under the Paalam Charity, and in total we donated over £89,000.

The Future

Sadly, at the moment any kind of fundraising event is impossible due to the Covid crisis. We continue to promote the Dust Project on our social media platforms and our supporters are so generous with helping families who are without food. Our main aim is to feed as many families as possible and continue to complete the school build in Jaffna, as well as houses for families in need.