

THE EAST SHEEN-CHENGANNUR TRUST

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SPONSORSHIP SCHEME

One of our main activities that continues successfully, thanks to many regular supporters, is sponsorship of children. Our scheme started in the 1980s and we currently have around 60 active sponsorships plus a few families on the waiting list. Our sponsorships are targeted at very poor families and aim to pay for clothes, school uniform and basic foods along with other personal items that Jacob, our Project Manager, feels necessary or desirable. Each family is treated individually with personal contact through Jacob and letters to their sponsors. All the sponsorship payments are held in a specific bank account in India for the family and the full 100% of every donation is sent to India.

NEW SPONSOR APPEAL

We're currently urgently looking for a sponsor for a widow named Lekha and her young daughter and son born in 2009 & 2010. Sadly her husband was killed in a motorbike accident in 2012. Lekha had a good education and so now gives private tuition to a couple of children from which she earns about £5 a month and this is her only income. They still live in her late husband's house but her mother-in-law makes life very uncomfortable and wants to get her out. This is particularly affecting the girl Christeena. If you'd like to help please let us know and we can send further details of them.



We accept payments by standing order either monthly, quarterly or annually and we aim to collect about £8 per month. However we're very flexible on the amount and can adjust the sponsorship aid to line up with whatever amount the sponsor wishes to give.

HOUSE BUILDING AND REPAIR PROJECTS

We've continued to give help around Chengannur with repairs and rebuilding works. Two of many recent examples are:

SREEDHARAN is about 60 years old and has been blind since birth. He lives alone in a small house. His step brother Madhu is his only company and visits him whenever he has the time and sometimes brings him some food. Each day Sreedharan leaves his house in the morning and gets back in the evening and lives entirely on the support of others.

His house was run down and he wanted to make repairs as the roof and walls were falling apart. Madhu being a stone mason did a neat job for him with our help and you can see the finished house in the picture. Sreedharan lives about 9 miles from Chengannur but during the building work walked on his own to see Jacob and invited him to see the work and at the completion he was a very happy man. We spent about £250 and it was well worthwhile.



In the picture are Sreedharan and Madhu in front of the house after the repairs were completed

PRIMARY SCHOOL RE-ROOFED

We recently helped St. Joseph's Lower Primary school at Anakulam renew their roof which was in a dangerous condition. Our aid went towards new roof beams and re-laying the tiles as can be seen in the photo.



HOUSE APPEAL



We've been asked to help another lady called Ragini. She had a love marriage but her husband sadly passed away about a year ago. Her daughter is married now with two children and so Ragini now lives with her 23 year old son who is a daily labourer but doesn't have much work. Her house is totally run down and is supported on some tree stumps with plastic serving as part of the walls, the doors and windows. She is desperate to repair her house. Jacob hoped it could possibly be repaired but it's beyond that

and needs to be pulled down and reconstructed. The foundations are strong and they can build on them. Her son in law is also a mason and so can provide some labour to reduce the cost. They estimate it will cost around £1000

If you feel you can help with a donation please send any amount to us however big or small. Cheques can be sent to the address above. You can send by bank transfer direct to our Lloyds Bank account number 61385660 Sort Code 77-91-48 or you can pay by Paypal and debit or credit card by clicking on the Donations tab on our website. With any payment please put `House Appeal` in the reference box. Thank you!

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

One of our earliest scholarship children was a deaf and dumb boy in Nigeria called Godswill. We helped pay for him to attend, from an early age, a special boarding school for deaf and disabled children. He's thrived in these surroundings. Thanks to help from our supporter Grace Ekong and Safe Child Africa we've managed to channel funds to his school. He's now 18 years old but the school gives its help based on needs rather than age so he will be there a while longer. We get to see his annual reports and not only does he get mostly `A` marks with good comments from the teachers but he's won many individual sports events too. He now helps the teachers with the younger children. It would be very difficult for him to make his own way in Nigerian society so we're hoping that his assisting in the school (whilst still learning) may lead to some sort of longer term future with them.

MAGAZINES FOR SCHOOLS We've managed to provide subscriptions for about 7 magazines to two primary schools each for 2 years. The teachers were very happy with our help as many schools have no money for books and magazines. The children are very excited to receive them.

WATER SUPPLY PROVIDED FOR SPONSORED FAMILY

One of our longest standing supporters, Geoff Thorsby and his wife Ting have recently provided some additional funds to have water supplied to one of their sponsored families. Rejitha and her family of 7 are now blessed with a clean water supply.

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