



FRIENDS OF SMYRNA HOME

bringing hope to those in need

BRINGING HOPE TO THOSE IN NEED

Smyrna Home was founded by a Swedish lady and her Sri Lankan husband in 1985 in Udhagamandalam (formerly called Ootacamund and still known as Ooty), in the beautiful Nilgiri Hills of South India.

Smyrna Home sits in over 6 acres and was once the home of the Governor and the local Bishop.

Today it works with the poorest in Indian society, finding sponsor parents for children in real need, providing medical help and building small homes for those with nowhere to live. The sponsorship enables children to continue at school and leave with either a practical skill or a university degree.

The mission is centred in Ooty but reaches throughout the Nilgiris with a base in Ponnani and centres in other towns.

Since 1996 Friends of Smyrna Home, a UK registered charity, has supported the work in India financially and by organising visits to encourage those who work at the Home.



Registered UK charity no. 1150384

BRINGING HOPE BY SPONSORING A CHILD

Anyone can sponsor a child for only £10 per month and make a tremendous difference to their future life. The support is used to help with the cost of their education, which may include paying school fees and providing uniforms, books and equipment. Many of the children would not be able to continue at their school or college without this help. As well as supporting able-bodied children, Smyrna Home has established the New World Centre, a day centre where disabled children and adults come for friendship, therapy, medication and a good meal at lunchtime.

A qualified team provide physiotherapy and create an atmosphere where those who come feel loved and valued. This helps them develop their full potential. The cost of sponsoring a child who attends the Centre varies according to the cost of their medication, but averages at around £25 per month.

As a new sponsor, you will receive a fact sheet about your child with a photo and details of their family. The children are encouraged to send occasional messages and from time to time, you will receive an update on their progress. You can write to them and send cards or extra money for a birthday or Christmas gift. It may even be possible to visit your sponsor child.

Smyrna Home has sponsors for over 500 children, and about a quarter of these are supported from the UK. In recent years, a good proportion of these children have gone on to higher education, many have graduated and are now working in various professions. Some are now sponsoring children themselves. Sponsorship is transformational for a child growing up in poverty without any hope and makes a real difference to the whole family.



BRINGING HOPE TO THE COMMUNITY

Many people in the 'slum' areas of Ooty do not have a sturdy house to protect them from the wind and rain, so many children survive in appalling conditions. A "home" might be made from polythene sheets, flattened tin cans and whatever other materials that are available. Where Smyrna Home are supporting children, they try to ensure that their home is adequate and are sometimes able to provide a new home. A small brick-built house (12' x 12') with a proper floor and corrugated roof can be constructed from around £1,250, providing a more permanent home for a family of four or more. Just having a lockable door to one's own home can change so much for a family. Since its inception, Friends of Smyrna Home have managed to provide funds to build many new houses in the Nilgiri Hills.



BRINGING HOPE IN PRACTICAL WAYS



Smyrna Home also provides care in the community. A rest home provides permanent accommodation for some seniors with a weekly feeding programme where 20-30 of the most needy, local, elderly people can come and enjoy a hot lunch and receive regular food parcels.

Smyrna Home is seeking to generate a good proportion of its own income and become more self-sufficient. Part of the main building is a lovely guest house, there is a coffee shop and a bakery selling produce locally. They grow strawberries, keep chickens, and operate a roadside shop, all creating additional employment opportunities. Being environmentally friendly is a priority and there are rain-water retention tanks, solar energy heaters and a rammed earth building.

AND FINALLY ...

Many view India as a modern economic power house, yet millions live on less than £1.75 a day. The caste system makes it difficult for many to escape extreme poverty. Encouragingly, over 130 of the children presently sponsored through Smyrna Home have a sponsor who lives in India. But many more need just that little help to get a proper education and you can make a huge difference by sponsoring a child. For as little as 33p a day you can bring hope to a child, transform their life, and give them a future.

- **Just £5 per month**
will provide 2-3 people with a meal each week
- **Just £10 per month**
will sponsor a child
- **Just £25 per month**
will help a disabled child to be cared for
- **From £1,250**
will build a new home for a family



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