

Sponsor Programme

Following our visit in August, we had a list of twelve new children from desperately needy families for whom we were trying to find sponsors. At the time of writing, we're pleased to say that we've found sponsors for all but three of these children thanks to the generosity of friends. It would be fantastic if we could find sponsors for the remaining three - if you think you can help, please contact us. Just £10 per month will support one of these children through their education and make a life-changing difference to the child and their family.

From time to time we receive reports that demonstrate the value of the child sponsorship - See news from Sandhiya and Arun Kumar below:

Sandhiya's Story

My name is Sandhiya and I grew up in Ooty, where my mother and I lived alone, with no help. My mother knew I needed to go to school but this was not easy.



But, someone told my mother about Smyrna Home and she plucked up courage to contact them. They were very happy to help her and they provided me with education as well as moral support. This article gives me an opportunity to thank them again because in my whole life I've never had such support as I received from Smyrna. When I went to college, the Smyrna team continued to support me financially and were very helpful in advising and guiding me in everything, they encouraged me to use all my talents and abilities. I was sponsored for 12 years which transformed my life. Today I'm working for a company called Hewlett Packard and am amazed that a girl like me, from a very small, poor family would have this chance. I thank God for this and also my sponsors who supported me. Although I don't really know who you are, thank you. I pray that God will bless you always so that you can keep supporting children through Smyrna Home.

News from Arun Kumar



Arun Kumar has been sponsored by Tonbridge Methodist Church since he was 7 years old and is now at university in Coimbatore, 50 miles from Ooty, where he is studying automobile engineering. He and his friends built a student race car and competed in a national level competition, where they came 8th in all India and 2nd in Tamil Nadu. Arun was the lead in the engine department. Following this success they entered the Formula Student Competition (FFS 2019) from 28 September 2019 - 3 October 2019 organised by Fraternity of Mechanical and Automotive Engineers (founded in 2016) to help engineering students learn more about motorsport and vehicle manufacturing.

Teams from different Colleges, Institutes and Universities participated in various events to design, build and develop a formula style prototype car under the specific rules. Eighteen teams participated in the event and the overall championship of the FFS 2019 was won by Arun Kumar's 'Team Sakthi Racing' of Kumaraguru College of Technology, Coimbatore. They were overall champions, winners of autocross, endurance, skidpan, and fastest vehicle, and runners up in design evaluation.



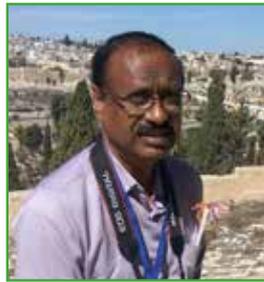
Who's Who at Smyrna?

Samuel Prabhakar

Smyrna Home is run by the Smyrna Fellowship Trust whose Chairman is Samuel Prabhakar.

From 1981 Samuel taught chemistry in both Tamil and English in a Government higher secondary school and later became the Head Master. He became a Christian in 1986 and since then has been involved with youth related activities as a member of the Ootacamund Gospel Union. He and his sister run three tuition centres which offer additional coaching to young people. He is also the honorary chairman of the Scripture Union camp committee in the town of Avalanche. He studied advanced leadership at the Haggai Institute in Singapore.

A Trustee since 1999, he was appointed the Managing Trustee and Chairman in 2010. He is a Sunday school teacher and an advocate of Sholas (native forests), and is at Smyrna Home most days where he brings a focus to their work of serving the poorest of the community.



Visit to Smyrna Home - August 2019

Seven of us, aged from 16 to 70+, visited Smyrna Home in August and we had a great time. Unfortunately, it coincided with the wettest monsoon weather for many years, which affected local roads and transport so our activities were restricted, but we managed to do most of the things we'd planned: visiting sponsor children; organising one of the regular meetings for the sponsor children; helping at the New World Centre and the feeding programme; running some lessons and games at the school in Kotagiri; and a training day where our team combined with all the folk who work at Smyrna and had a fun day learning together.



The Smyrna team also organised a complete



Before ...

house rebuild, for a family whose children are sponsored through Smyrna.



... grateful, happy smiles after.



Prayer Point

Visit India in 2020 - Our visits from UK to Smyrna Home over the past few years have been a great success, especially in terms of the encouragement for the team who work there, and for those who visit! We are thinking of another visit in Summer 2020 and are keen to hear from anyone who may be interested to join our group. If that's you, please contact tonyandvalneal@gmail.com.

Anik and Peace - Arise Project

The rain gave us more time to spend with Peace and Anik. They have spent the last few years visiting prisons, building relationships with the inmates and prison warders but wondered what they could bring to the prison. They then felt God was telling them to use the rubbish on the streets and recycle it into beautiful jewellery, decorations for the home and items of clothing! The idea of making something beautiful out of brokenness gave them an easy 'in' to share the gospel with the prisoners and to raise hope. The skills that they've been able to teach inmates have also been shared with those involved in Smyrna Home and are incredible. Originally working in a tent on the roof of their house in Ooty, they've now moved onto the Smyrna campus where they have a permanent workshop and sell some of their goods at the Smyrna Guest House cafe. Peace and Anik hope to one day open a half-way home for prisoners so they can continue to receive the restoration that they are seeing in these objects that they are re-cycling, every day in their own lives.



Accounts summary to 31 March 2019

With a trip to India our income increased from £34,673 to £52,211

This was utilised with £17,650 for child sponsorship, £3,480 for the weekly feeding programme and £22,538 for the house building, medical expenses and help with running Smyrna Home.

Our visit cost £14,270 and our administration costs were £537, 1% of income.

This created a deficit of £6,264 reducing our reserves to £30,313. *Full accounts are available.*