

# Nandri



The Joe Homan Charity – Bringing Joy and Hope to Children

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Newsletter Autumn 2016



## CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Welcome to our Autumn edition of Nandri. I hope you find the news of the work being done by The Joe Homan Charity encouraging and are reassured that after the sad loss of Joe earlier in the year his life's work is continuing.



I suppose the biggest challenge for us at the moment is to raise sufficient funds to see the work go on into future years, particularly, as reported in the accounts, our expenditure has exceeded our income by about £100K over the last two years. Fortunately we have a strong balance sheet and were able to draw on cash reserves to balance the books. Trustees have set a target to close this gap, balancing income and expenditure and reaching a sustainable position over three to four years.



Unfortunately, following the Brexit vote to leave the EU, the exchange rate between Sterling and the Indian Rupee has taken a sharp drop downwards. If current rates persist, we have to raise about 15% more to ensure that the programmes we support in India and Thailand continue to receive the funding they need. In the meantime we will also have to make some reductions in funding to our NGO's and we are working at the moment to manage this difficult situation with them.

In the longer term we are confident that we can get through these financial pressures but it will be a tough challenge and the ongoing urgent task is to recruit more individual sponsors – both for residential children and also for the new forms of sponsorship for children who attend the evening programmes and for the school bursary scheme.

**A TOUGH YEAR AHEAD - CHRISTMAS FOR OUR CHILDREN - FILLING THOSE SHOES**

## FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES

The first initiative we are launching with this edition of Nandri is our annual Christmas Appeal.

### A CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR THE CHILDREN IN INDIA



If you can contact friends and relations with one or two of the spare letters included with this copy of Nandri that would be marvellous, as we really need to get our message across to many more potential supporters. Personal advocacy from existing supporters is the ideal way to do this. However if you would rather give us the details of possible contacts we would be delighted to send them letters direct from Peterborough.



The second initiative is the Memorial Fund we are setting up in Joe's memory. It has an ambitious target of £100,000 and will be launched soon after the first anniversary of Joe's death and again on subsequent anniversaries. We hope that Boys Town Society might join us in joint fundraising for this so we can coordinate events in the UK and India.

Finally thank you for your continuing support for JHC and for the children we exist to serve.

Peter Church Chairman JHC

## CAN YOU HELP?

We rely on volunteers to assist our overseas staff by preparing child profiles and project reports. This is an excellent opportunity to meet the children, see the work of the charity at first hand, and provide the valuable personal contact our sponsors appreciate so much.



Volunteers are required for short-term work, Spring

and Summer each year. If you could help, or know some else who may be interested, an application form and information pack can be downloaded from our Website.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Back down the M40 or around the M25 and returning to the Oxford area our venue for 2016 was Kidlington Baptist Church. A very pleasant day was enjoyed by everyone, and a big thanks to those who attended, some who have not missed a meeting in many years and those attending for the first time.

The Chairman, Peter Church opened the formal meeting, welcoming everyone, and gave his annual report highlighting the work of Sponsors and Supporters, together with Trustees, Members and staff at a difficult time for the charity. Jon Crouch presented the Annual Report and Accounts, these can be read at [www.joehoman.org.uk/about-us/annual-report/](http://www.joehoman.org.uk/about-us/annual-report/).

Do you have the passion to help us fundraise?

Sometimes we have to turn down an invitation to speak to a club, school, or other group, because the distance to travel makes it uneconomical, and so a chance is lost. If you could help, by filling speaking engagements close to you, we can provide everything you need, including a PowerPoint presentation, literature.



If you are interested in helping as a Volunteer or as a Speaker, please contact our Peterborough office.

The auditors, Rawlinsons were re-appointed for the coming year. Arun Chinnaraj was elected as a Trustee, and Deborah Wetherall was co-opted to the management board. Sakthivel-Wainford was appointed as a new Member.

Geoff Foster, Vice Chairman, spoke about the future of JHC, and Rosemary Phillimore lifted spirits speaking about 'JHC People'.

The next AGM will be held In Kenilworth on Saturday 7 October 2017 – please put this in your diary now and we hope you might attend.

## FILLING JOE'S SHOES

This charity is about PEOPLE – it always has been always will be. We are not an organisation involved in disaster relief, we are about PEOPLE, mainly UK based, giving up a bit of their time and money to help out some of the POOREST PEOPLE in India and in Thailand to get a decent start in life.

### SHOES represent PEOPLENES of JHC.

Kids Flip Flops, shoes and slippers. They represent the poorest children in India and Thailand. Children we continue to support even though they are no longer running barefoot at the railway station in Madurai where Joe once found them. Conditions in Tamil Nadu have improved but India still has more of the poorest and most vulnerable children in the world and we are connected with them through the Joe Homan Charity.



Highly polished but slightly worn leather shoes represent all the amazing people with whom we work in both India and Thailand. PEOPLE we trust to do the best with the money we send to them to help the poorest of children. These shoes were chosen because our counterparts in India and Thailand are trustworthy and work in the best interest of the charity and its aims.

They represent our 50 years' experience where we have grown to understand the issues and problems. Our expertise and experience and safe shoes are in Tamil Nadu and Thailand.



The 'no shoes' Gap. Sadly there's a big gap here where there should be a pair of shoes for Joe. But there is no Joe anymore and that leaves a big space on the table, in the charity and in our hearts. His are HUGE shoes to fill.



A good stout pair of walking boots - Jon Crouch. Jon has 'walked' a 1,000,000 miles for this charity and the children it supports, has climbed a few hills and mountains on the way. Even though there are some good life and miles left in these boots they are soon to walk off in another direction.



So now we need to get more young people involved with the charity and in the driving seat, whilst retaining our loyal supporters. We need to find people to fill those shoes – the shiny, walking and trendy, and then replace those comfortable slippers with brand new pairs.

Over the next year we will be looking at different initiatives to see how we can encourage more people to engage with JHC. Meanwhile we ask you, our existing supporters, to promote the charity to your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and also to colleagues and friends willing to help us continue the great work started 50 years ago by Joe Homan.

Rosemary Phillimore Trustee



A pair of rather trendy, useful shoes represent our Chairman Peter Church. Useful, without a doubt, and supported on the inside. Peter's real talent is being supportive to the JHC team in their endeavours – a magnificent support to all the people

A large pile of old worn out slightly pass their best pile of slippers and shoes. And who is there left? It's the majority of the people who make up this charity - the trustees, sponsors, the fundraisers and our loyal supporters who make up the largest part of this shoe collection. In amongst them is the odd pair of fashionable brighter shoes but on the whole most are aged and in need of repair. And herein lies our problem – We need to reach out to the young.



If this charity is to continue the fantastic work it's been doing over the past five decades we need younger folks taking it forward. Younger sponsors to support children. Young fundraisers, who know how to capture the power of social media.



Volunteers to go visit projects, but then stay engaged with the charity and enthuse their friends to take part. We need trustees with the time, energy and ideas to reinvigorate the charity. We need advocates and ambassadors to take the story of this charity out to young people.

A charity is all about Marketing itself so potential donors give time and money to JHC and not to another charity. Our main marketing man has gone - it was Joe, he was a one man marketing department. Many of our supporters were won over by hearing Joe or being convinced by an existing supporter that this is a great little charity. Cost effective, child effective and trustworthy.





## LEGACIES

A Will can safeguard the security of your loved ones, and making a Will is the only way to be certain that your wishes will be followed. Leaving a legacy to The Joe Homan Charity will safeguard the future of our work, and ensure that care and opportunity is provided for future generations. It is a chance to make a lasting contribution to the good causes you have supported in your lifetime.

In the last year we have received legacies that have provided funding to allow unsupported apprentices to continue and complete their training, and help unsupported community projects, which turn a less than average education into something really worthwhile.

Imagine how your legacy can give a child hope for the future and a real chance of happiness by remembering their need in your Will. We hope you will consider for a moment how you can leave a Legacy for the Future. Young children dream of going to school and leaving poverty behind by having a good job and a secure future. Many families hope this for them too. A gift in your Will can make sure this happens.

## VOLUNTEERING WITH JHC

Hi! I'm Daisy; This Summer I spent a few weeks staying in Dindigul with JHC. I spent most of my time in this incredible place volunteering at Mother Mary Special School (MMSS).

I came into contact with JHC through Catherine and Geoff Foster, and first visited Tamil Nadu 10 years ago. Throughout my childhood, I dreamed of going back and was thrilled when they suggested I volunteer this summer. I spent an adventurous 10 days backpacking around Rajasthan, then hopping on a plane to Madurai, where I was met by Gopi, the amazing JHC Project manager.

I worked 5 days each week, offering some time at DACS and visiting other JHC supported projects. MMSS was founded in 2003 by Rachal Vinitha Rani, a time when the provision for children with severe learning difficulties was negligible. MMSS has the distinct aim of helping special children gain increasing levels of education and independence – skills such as doing up buttons may seem trivial but are vital steps on the way to look after oneself. The lessons generally centred on key concepts: numbers, letters, time, colour, money – which could help the children get by in the world.

The children are divided into classes of severe, mild and moderate learning. Some of the pupils are not actually of an age we might categorise as “children”, but they are still treated with the loving care of a child.

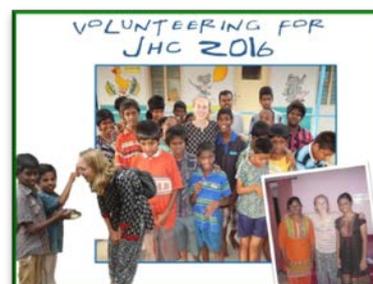


Each day I would spend one on one time with the children, or collectively with fun items and exercise. Simple things, maybe to us, like teaching a girl to walk with a bucket in hand and feed herself, or spending an hour with a small class just writing the letter A.

As a volunteer, you can, and I probably did, learn as much about myself as you can give to the children. This type of volunteer placement does mean tasks are often repetitive, and there is a language barrier, both with teachers and pupils. However, they are very important, bring happiness and are helpful for all involved. Rachel in fact did not really intend me to spend a whole hour writing the letter A, but that is what it took.

MMSS find it very difficult to find highly qualified teachers or even teachers who are willing to stay longer than a year, each volunteer helping here can bring some relieve to those teachers and a great joy to the children.

Volunteering with JHC is not all about work and I have spent some most enjoyable hours with local visits, being hosted at home by Gopi and Marimuthu, and seeing other children supported by JHC at work and play. I must not forget the incredible food from local restaurants and my Auto driver who ferried me around Dindigul. Daisy Eyre Volunteer 2016



Thank you for your continued support. It has been a sad year with Joe's passing but we must look forward to the future. Our commitment remains the same to the children, and many more youngsters are hoping for a chance. Please help – we really need your assistance to raise funds and support these youngsters.

We hope you have enjoyed our Newsletter. Once you have finished reading this issue please do pass it on to someone else who may be interested in supporting our work. The Newsletter and other news are regularly published on our website and Facebook page. Please help in anyway you can.