

2022-2023



Annual Report



GOODWILL CHILDREN'S HOMES

Charity No. 270403



CONTENT

PAGE

- Chairman's Message 3
- GCHS, Tamil Nadu 5
- Governance 7
- Home Management Committee 10
- Thandigudi Home 11
- UK Supporters' Visits 17
- Goodwill Primary School 19
- Training 20
- Pattiveeranpatti Girls 21
- Tribal Outreach Programme (TORP) 24
- Conclusion and Contact Details 30



A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Greetings from everyone at Goodwill. It has been a positive year for the charity- thank you for all the support that has made it possible. The relationship with our supporters has remained strong with two 'Friends of Goodwill' visits taking place during the year allowing the relationships formed by regular contact over time to get stronger.

Covid had a palpable effect on life in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu. The uncertainty meant that some of our staff left to be with their extended families and that local fundraising in India has been difficult. Our commitment has been to support all of the children who had been in the homes by making full use of our remaining staff. As a result, only 13 new children have been admitted to Goodwill this year.

The hiatus, however, has been an opportunity to consider the most appropriate way to support the current needs of disadvantaged communities. We have been working hard to build on the reflection started during the COVID-19 pandemic so that we can continue our evolution into a more effective and efficient organisation.

We have worked hard to try to find the best way forward. ASA & Associates from Chennai audited our organisation and I led a UK Trustees' visit to Tamil Nadu so that we could make an assessment of current needs. There continues to be much excellent work: This year saw medical screening and art therapy for the pupils at Thandigudi, eye screening at TORP and local collaboration allowed the fitting of solar panels at Thandigudi. There is no denying, however, that changes in legislation mean that there is work to do at all the homes.

The girls' home at Pattiveeranpatti is closed at the moment due to the cost of addressing the changes required there. We continue to visit the girls regularly and offer support whether they are staying in school hostels or if they opted to stay with their families.

Goodwill is celebrating 50 years next year and the Indian Committee is working with the UK trustees to find the best possible sustainable solution to move forward. Discussions have been taking place on how to update and transform what we do. As a first step in this, we are trying to recruit from India a Chief Executive Officer to provide some expertise and assist the Indian Committee.

Trustees would like to thank all supporters for their loyalty and generous support of our charity. We would not be able to do what we do without the support of people like you, and we want you to know that your contributions have made a real difference. Thank you for your belief in what we are trying to achieve.



DR DAVID NEILL

CHAIRMAN





GOODWILL CHILDREN'S HOMES, TAMIL NADU

BY MR RM SELVAM

Goodwill Children's Homes (GCHCS) has admirably provided 49 years of dedicated service to underprivileged children facing challenging circumstances. As they entered the 2022-23 academic year, the organisation continued to achieve success through various forms of childcare.

The unwavering support from sponsors in the United Kingdom, France, and India plays a crucial role in enabling GCHCS to provide assistance to children in need. With this support, GCHCS can extend its outreach and provide care and protection to vulnerable children.

In India, Goodwill operates three residential homes for children and runs a community-based childcare programme known as the Tribal Outreach Programme. This initiative was established in 2002 in the K.C. Patti area. Over the past two decades, Goodwill has consistently supported student education, enabling many to progress to higher education levels.

A UK Trust and a key supporter acknowledges the impactful work of GCHCS in Tamil Nadu, India. Their contributions have allowed 36 students to pursue higher education studies without obstacles.

CONTINUE ...

Significant support comes from various sources, including the UK Trust, churches, schools, and compassionate individuals residing in England. The involvement and commitment of these entities are essential for the realisation of GCHCS's vision and mission.

In the face of challenges posed by Indian government regulations and departmental requirements, GCHCS had to regretfully close the girls' home at Pattiveeranpatti in 2022. Although management was disappointed by this decision, they swiftly found alternative arrangements. Children were relocated to different boarding schools, ensuring their continued education and well-being. Some girls were able to return to their own homes while attending school.

To further aid girls' education, Goodwill India provides external educational assistance. This support encompasses school fees, examination fees, as well as food and accommodation expenses. GCHCS remains dedicated to fulfilling all the essential needs of its students, ensuring their happiness and growth.



GOVERNANCE

UK Trustees visit to India

Amidst the global COVID-19 pandemic, UK trustees expressed concerns about the effectiveness of the support for young people in Tamil Nadu, India. To address this, the Chairman led a group including Mary Thorne and Richard Fenwick on a visit to key locations such as Thandigudi, Pattiveeranpatti, Sanarpatti, and the Tribal Outreach Programme base in K.C. Patti. The aim was to assess current needs and optimise the UK's contributions.

During the visit, they also reconnected with local Goodwill staff. This on-the-ground interaction not only provided a clearer understanding of the challenges faced by the communities but also allowed for a more nuanced evaluation of the impact of existing initiatives.

Day Two at Thandigudi Home

Despite the absence of children during the visit, trustees received a warm welcome,

offering them an unusual chance to engage extensively with the staff and thoroughly explore the expansive premises. As the first post-COVID-19 trustees to visit, they were well received.

The teaching staff convened for discussions, providing valuable insights into their challenges and sharing their long and medium-term teaching plans. Our discussions delved into curriculum balance and its alignment with staff skills. Notably, an opportunity emerged to enhance spoken English instruction.

Thandigudi's complex site poses maintenance challenges, echoing our experiences at other locations. The relentless seasonal rains and winds challenge the local staff. Recent legislative changes demand higher standards for bathroom facilities relative to the number of children. Meeting these demands has driven recent renovation efforts.



CONTINUE ...

Day Three: Executive Committee Meeting

Meeting the Executive Committee at Sanarpatti boys' home stood out during the trip. The warm welcome from the boys was appreciated. Informal discussions with committee members preceded a productive two-hour formal session.

Visits and talks with dedicated, long-serving staff provided valuable insights into Goodwill's challenges and opportunities. The approaching 50th Jubilee in 2024 presents an ideal occasion to honour achievements and outline a visionary path forward. The Indian Executive Committee is currently prioritising this effort.

Legislative changes related to residential settings in India are posing significant challenges. Additionally, there is a growing reluctance among local families to send their children away from home, and the number of orphans in tribal communities has decreased.

Despite these obstacles, various initiatives are emerging to support education for both

children and adults in rural areas, aiming for sustainable development within these communities. These complex issues are driving future planning. The organization's focus includes three main aspects: residential facilities, a school, and the Tribal Outreach Programme (TORP). Evaluating the costs and benefits of each of these interrelated functions is crucial, given the limited resources of the charity.

Trustees have engaged in open and informative discussions with the Committee, emphasizing the intention to conduct a comprehensive review. They aim to consult extensively with stakeholders and develop a strategy that prioritizes the needs of young people in disadvantaged communities. The UK Trustees express their satisfaction at being part of this process, highlighting their commitment to the organisation's mission and future endeavours.



MORE GOVERNANCE ...

ASA & Associates team

In June 2022, a team from ASA and Associates, comprising auditors from Chennai, visited GCHCS. This visit was prompted by directives from UK trustees and aimed to comprehensively assess the project's objectives. The team conducted a thorough examination, encompassing all GCHCS sections. They conducted face-to-face meetings with staff members, reviewed existing records on policies and operating procedures, and collected information from students. Collaborating with executive members marked the initiation of the audit process. The team meticulously reviewed all spending vouchers and approval patterns, staying at Sanarpatti home to complete their investigation. The culmination of their efforts led to the presentation of ASA reports to the UK office, indicating potential implementation of effective changes.

It is anticipated that the alignment of these reports with statutory requirements will soon drive organisational development. This underscores the belief that changes, though constant, are imperative for fostering both physical and mental growth.



HOME MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is dedicated to ensuring the optimal growth and development of all children within our nation. Our goal is to foster their well-being by nurturing families, communities, and society at large.

Each Child Care Institution must establish a daily routine in collaboration with the Children's Committees, prominently displayed throughout the facility. The committee, led by the District Child Protection Officer as Chairperson, is responsible for these initiatives.

Committee sessions commence by opening the suggestion box at the institution. Extensive deliberations focus on children's needs, protection, and welfare, with outcomes meticulously documented as minutes for future reference.

These discussions and resolutions are thoroughly documented.

The Child Care Institution must consistently update an individualised care plan for each student, tracking their weekly activities and progress.

Quarterly gatherings are essential, bringing together the committee to review and confirm the implementation of the daily routine by the Superintendent/Person-in-charge.





THANDIGUDI HOME

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A UK Trust and a key supporter acknowledges the impactful work of GCHCS in Tamil Nadu, India. Their contributions have allowed 36 students to pursue higher education studies without obstacles.

NEW ADMISSIONS

In the 2022-2023 academic year, Goodwill Children's Homes Charitable Society admitted new underprivileged children, continuing its mission since 1974. Located in Thandigudi, Kodaikanal, the organisation was established to provide a home for orphaned and destitute children who had lost their parents. Over the years, Goodwill faced challenges in selecting the right candidates for admission due to the high number of applications received. The pandemic further exacerbated difficulties, with online classes having a lower adoption rate compared to in-person classes.

Government restrictions and a flawed system have led to a decline in admissions, impacting the lives of disadvantaged students. Despite these challenges, Goodwill Children's Homes admitted 9 children in Thandigudi and 4 in Sanarpatti during this period. Throughout 2022-23, the organisation continued to provide care and support in its residential homes, aiding 36 youngsters pursuing higher education. Their Tribal Outreach Programme (TORP) extended assistance to 281 children in tribal hamlets.



However, due to government regulations, our Pattiveeranpatti Girls' home were closed, and 89 girls were relocated to other care units. In total, Goodwill directly supported 500 children during this time.

Residential Childcare Advancements

Over the course of 2022-23, Goodwill Children's Homes made significant strides in bolstering residential care and support services for children within its two dedicated homes situated in the heart of Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu. In response to the closure of the Pattiveeranpatti home, we initiated a transition to External Assistance, ensuring that the students previously residing in the PVP Home were seamlessly relocated to various alternative accommodations.

These two essential homes are nestled within two distinct villages: Thandigudi and Sanarpatti. Our commitment to nurturing and providing a safe haven for children remains unwavering, as we continually evolve our approach to meet the evolving needs of the children under our care.

Activities

During the period spanning 2022 to 2023, a variety of significant activities took place, reflecting the commitment and dedication of the organisation. These activities were subject to evaluation by various government officials, who conducted inspections between April 2022 and May 2023. The primary objective of these visits was to ensure the organization was aligned with its intended purposes and functioning effectively. Notably, officials from key governmental bodies such as the Department of Vigilance, the Society of Registrar, Revenue Officials, the CWC, and the DCPO Office in Dindigul were involved in these inspections.

Their scrutiny yielded positive results, as they were content with the ongoing work being undertaken by the organization. This official acknowledgement bodes well for the organization's efforts and underscores the importance of government support in facilitating smooth operations.

On June 1, 2022, the organization had the privilege of hosting distinguished guests from the UK, including Chairman Dr David Neill, Trustee Mary Thorne, and Mr Richard Fenwick. This occasion marked a significant step forward as they toured our facilities and engaged in discussions with the executive team. The objective of their visit was to collaboratively strategise essential improvements for the organization, charting a course for its future. The guests expressed a keen interest in implementing structural enhancements that would lead to the refinement of various activities. This process necessitated making difficult decisions to address prevailing challenges. While the journey presented its share of challenges, it was an opportune moment for Goodwill to address areas of concern and dissatisfaction.

We extend our admiration and gratitude to the UK Trustees for their unwavering commitment. Their continued support has proven instrumental in enabling us to provide assistance to destitute, orphaned, and economically disadvantaged students within our local community. Their dedication resonates strongly with our mission and is a beacon of hope for those we serve.



ROAD LEADING TO THANDIGUDI

The deteriorated main public road leading to GCHCS Thandigudi's entrance posed difficulties for walking and driving due to its disrepair. Taking action, the Goodwill Children's Home Treasurer and Child Welfare Officer approached the Kamanur Panchayat Chairman, Maniranjitham Sathasivam. He promptly committed to renovating the road, resulting in the construction of a new Cement Concrete Road at a cost of INR 1,10,000/-. The road is now greatly improved, facilitating smooth travel. The Chairman was thanked by presenting a garland in his office for his contribution to the new road.





MEDICAL SCREENING

A medical screening test was conducted for children at Thandigudi home by a team of doctors and nurses from the local Government hospital. The screening covered common conditions like hearing and vision, aiming to identify potential health problems. The screenings were offered for free and included medication distribution to those in need. Fortunately, no major health issues were found in the children. The effort highlights the importance of routine health checks for primary school children aged 6 to 10 in preventing diseases.



SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION

SELCO Foundation in Bangalore advertised for solar lighting subsidies, prompting Goodwill Children's Homes Charitable Society (GCHCS) to apply for solar energy system installation at Goodwill Home Thandigudi. Their request was approved on November 30, 2022. The home is situated in a pristine hill area, but power cuts made studying difficult for the children. Recognizing the importance of electricity for education and safety, GCHCS secured a grant, covering 80% of the project's Rs.5,23,200 total cost. This grant facilitated the installation of solar panels, batteries, lights, fans, wiring, and insulation, improving the children's quality of life.

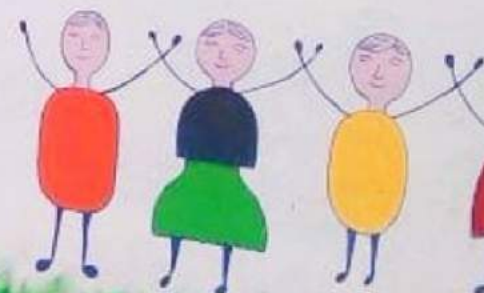
Unit one encompasses various areas, including Three Pillar, Scott House, Claire House, Jayam House, Roseberry House, the medical room, Layard House, and the office room, with a maximum daily energy usage of 4.17 kWh. The second unit covers Lara House and staff quarters, also with a maximum daily energy usage of 4.17 kWh.



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**GOODWILL
CHILDREN'S HOME
THANDIGUDI**

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ಓಲ್ಱಮ್.**



UK SUPPORTERS' VISITS

Visits to Thandigudi have left Goodwill supporters and sponsors impressed. In October 2023, former UK Chairman, Mr Quentin Edwards and his family visited. In January 2023, the UK Administrator Mrs Theresa van der Merwe brought longstanding supporters to meet their sponsored children and families. The supporters were truly moved by the seamless execution of the visit, a testament to the dedication and efficiency of the Goodwill staff.

A March 2023 visit, led by Mrs Mary Needham due to Mrs Elaine Clark's health setback, continued the tradition. These encounters highlight the profound connections between supporters, sponsors, and Goodwill's cause.



UK ADMINISTRATOR'S VISIT

After the supporters returned to England, the UK Administrator remained in India from February 2 to 7, 2023 to explore and train GCHCS staff. She focused on understanding Goodwill's progress, visited Thandigudi and Sanarpatti Homes including the senior girls boarding at the CSI Higher Secondary school in Batlagunda, visited Korancombu School for distributing gifts, and conducted valuable training sessions. Her impactful training covered budgeting and wider skill development. The training sessions were well-prepared and effectively delivered. Notably, the training encompassed budgetary considerations, enabling senior staff to develop informed budget plans. The guidelines shared were particularly beneficial, providing insights into budget formulation and its impact.

The administrator's dedication and adeptness in conducting these sessions were evident through the positive feedback received from senior staff members. Her approach and communication style were commended for their effectiveness in conveying essential information.

An additional highlight was the productive meeting held with executive members of the Indian Committee at Sanarpatti. This session facilitated discussions on various GCHCS activities, fostering a deeper understanding among participants.

In summary, the UK Administrator's visit and engagement efforts significantly contributed to enhancing staff knowledge and organisational cohesion. The impact of the training, insightful discussions, and Goodwill initiatives were met with appreciation from both staff and management alike.





GOODWILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

The primary school's reopening on June 13, 2022, was marked by students' cheerful faces and excitement for the new academic year. A medical team visited the school on June 29, 2022, to educate students about hygiene practices and administer COVID-19 booster doses to the teachers.

A celebration on July 15, 2022, honoured the birthday of Kamarajar, a revered leader who introduced the mid-day meal scheme for underprivileged students in Tamil Nadu. The day was declared an Educational Development Day, featuring student speeches and attire inspired by Kamarajar.

The school continued to commemorate significant national events, with the 75th

Independence Day celebrated on August 15, 2022, and Republic Day on January 26, 2023

The former was highlighted by flag hoisting and speeches, while the latter marked the adoption of the Indian constitution, with the President raising the national flag at the Red Fort.

Additionally, on December 17, 2022, the school embraced the festive spirit through a Christmas function where students participated in a drama and dance performance, receiving prizes for their involvement.

TRAINING

ART THERAPY

The 2022-2023 period saw the establishment of skill-stimulating and career-focused training initiatives by Goodwill Children's Homes. Notable among these were the Art Therapy workshops aimed at helping tribal children recover from pandemic-induced trauma through creative expression and engagement. These children, often hailing from single-parent households or without parental support, faced challenges exacerbated by the pandemic-related lockdowns.

The workshops were well-supported by funding from the Keithan Sathya Trust and were facilitated by dedicated professionals and volunteers.



PATTIVEERANPATTI GIRLS

EXTERNAL SUPPORT

In July 2022, Goodwill Home Pattiveeranpatii was forced to close due to government regulations. As a result, the 89 students from the home were transferred to various schools in the Dindigul district, including CSI HIGHER SECONDARY, NSVV, Malaisaral, and others. Following the closure, the students received supervision and support from one of the staff members to ensure they remained enrolled. The girls appeared content and adapted well to their new environment, actively participating in their classes under the guidance of teachers and wardens.

To summarise:

CSI Higher Secondary School, Batlagundu - 45
 NSVV - Girls Higher Secondary School - 12
 Malaisaral Home - Pannaikadu - 9
 Schools in Different Locations - 24
 Total: 89





EDUCATION / COUNSELLING / ACHIEVEMENTS

This programme helps children make a successful transition from elementary to higher education by strengthening school governance and providing them with special support to access quality education. It also addresses the high percentage of school dropouts.

Goodwill India engaged in outreach efforts targeting youth, offering counseling sessions from start to finish. Their activities included raising awareness, providing career guidance, and conducting life skills sessions. These efforts were extended to senior boys and girls in various locations within the TORP target areas. The overall goal was to assist these children in transitioning back into mainstream education.

In Class X, all 16 students took the March 2023 Board exams. One boy from Sanarpatti, failed in 3 subjects, scoring only 106 out of 500 marks. Rajagowri from PVP Home scored 471 out of 500, ranking first among Goodwill students and school scholars. She will choose her field of study for the two-year higher secondary course, such as science, commerce, mathematics, or vocational education.

In Class XII, 31 students (10 boys and 20 girls) successfully completed their higher secondary board exams in March 2023, with all of them passing. They are now preparing for college and selecting subjects for their future careers. R. Kaleeswari scored 481 out of 600, the highest in her institution, while M. Kaleeswari achieved a perfect 100 in Commerce at CSI Higher Secondary School. These accomplishments showcase their dedication and promising educational futures.

CAREER GUIDANCE



A career-oriented program targeting 10th and 12th-grade students was organised by TORP staff, Arogya Agam - Aundipaaty, and Agam Foundations Chennai at the TORP training centre in K.C.Patti. This inaugural event aimed to expose students to a wide range of opportunities often unknown to those in rural areas. With over 60 attendees, the program shed light on diverse study options like geology, archaeology, and marine engineering, encouraging students to pursue their interests. The Agam Foundation counsellor stressed the importance of choosing fields aligned with personal interests rather than external influence.

The event successfully provided education guidance and resolved queries for rural students and parents, ultimately aiding them in making informed educational choices.





TRIBAL OUTREACH PROGRAMME (TORP)

Goodwill Children's Homes (GCHCS) has admirably provided 49 years of dedicated service to underprivileged children facing challenging circumstances. As they entered the 2022-23 academic year, the organisation continued to achieve success through various forms of childcare.

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The Tribal Outreach Programme (TORP) provides ongoing support to tribal students within the K.C. Patti area. This community-based initiative enhances the educational journey of tribal students by covering school and college fees, as well as accommodation costs. Over the past two decades, TORP has organized healthcare and medical camps to benefit underserved communities. Notably, an eye camp in collaboration with CF Primary Health Centre and Aravind Eye Hospital Theni has significantly improved eye health through skilled care.

In the academic year 2022-2023, Goodwill TORP expanded its assistance to local tribal children who commute from home to school. TORP closely monitors student enrollment and retention in 25 tribal villages, supporting 264 students with essential supplies like books, notebooks, stationery, rain covers, and uniforms, even amidst the challenges posed by the pandemic. This impactful work has been made possible with the invaluable support the UK and France.

Eye Screening Camp Benefits Community

The Free Eye Screening Camp was organised in collaboration between Goodwill TORP, the Christian Fellowship Primary Health Centre, and Aravind Eye Hospital Theni. The purpose of the camp was to screen individuals for cataract surgeries and refractive errors.

This camp has been a recurring event for the past 11 years.

Summary of Activities / May 15, 2022

- Number of patients seen in the OPD: 193
- Free medicine given: 128
- Number of cataract diagnoses for surgeries: 39
- Number of non-visual glasses (NV Glasses) given: 85

Overall Findings:

Patient Examinations: A total of 193 registered patients were examined for various eye diseases.

Surgeries: Out of the total, 39 patients were diagnosed with cataracts and referred to Aravind Eye Hospital Theni for surgery under the care of hospital ophthalmologists.

Medication: Medication were prescribed for 128 patients, and these prescriptions were fulfilled in separate rooms.

Glasses: 85 individuals in need were provided with glasses after proper refractive assessment by an optometrist.

Administrative Support: The organising team efficiently managed the administrative aspects of the camp. A dedicated administrative team ensured the smooth operation of the camp.

In conclusion, the Free Eye Screening Camp held at K.C. Patti Government Primary School on May 15, 2022, was a successful initiative aimed at identifying eye conditions, providing medical assistance, and benefiting the community.





264

children from 11 primary schools benefited from our support, that is 136 boys and 128 girls.

21

Village students were supported in secondary schools or higher education institutions. 17 school students and 4 higher education students.

WORLD INDIGENOUS DAY CELEBRATIONS

The World Indigenous Day celebration at Korancombu Tribal village on August 9th, 2022, was organized by Gandhigram Rural University and supported by the Indian government's Union Education Ministry. Dr. Prof. Sivakumar highlighted the importance of preserving cultural traditions despite scientific progress. Prof. V. Rajarathinam welcomed attendees, and the Goodwill Tribal Outreach Program (TORP) played a key role in bringing together tribal communities and stakeholders.

The event centred on honouring indigenous women's role in upholding ancestral knowledge related to the environment, traditional medicine, and cultural heritage. Speakers, including those from Gandhigram University, shared experiences and strategies for sustaining communal practices, language, biodiversity, and indigenous medicine. The event concluded with a call to retain traditional cultural elements among tribal communities.



TORP UNIFORM DISTRIBUTION

In a heartwarming initiative, Goodwill TORP provided uniforms to underprivileged children on August 12, 2022. The joy that radiated from the children as they received their uniforms was truly heartening. Our commitment goes beyond merely distributing uniforms; we strive to ensure that these children not only enroll but stay engaged throughout the entire academic year.

This support plays a pivotal role in fostering regular school attendance and curbing the unfortunate trend of school dropouts.

The remarkable success of this endeavour is evident in the gradual decline of the school dropout ratio.

Notably, a significant number of children have now successfully completed at least their Class 10 education. The impact of Goodwill-TORP's efforts has reached far and wide, benefiting a total of 263 students. Each uniform distributed symbolises more than just clothing; it represents a step towards a brighter future.

Every student cherishes the opportunity to proudly wear these uniforms. Beyond the material aspect, these uniforms embody a sense of belonging and equality, instilling confidence and a sense of purpose in these young minds. As we continue this journey of empowerment, we look forward to witnessing more success stories and contributing to a more educated and inclusive society.





EDUCATIONAL TOUR

On March 22, 2023, the head teacher of Nadupatti Government middle school organized an educational tour for Tribal students, sponsored by Goodwill TORP. The tour included visits to Trivandrum's Palace, beach, and Zoo, providing new and exciting experiences like seeing aeroplanes and helicopters. The students also went to Kanyakumari to witness the meeting point of the three seas. They expressed gratitude to Goodwill TORP for enabling this enriching tour.

During the fiscal year 2022-2023, GCHCS successfully garnered a total of INR 660,710 (Six lakh sixty thousand seven hundred and ten rupees). This impressive sum was achieved through a combination of contributions from online charitable foundations, as well as proceeds from the sale of recyclable materials.

FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES

Goodwill India is actively engaged in a concerted fundraising campaign that aims to secure financial support from a diverse range of contributors, including local landowners, school teachers, laborers, volunteers, and alumni.





CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the aspirations of GCHCS for the betterment of children and the community are flourishing, underscored by an unwavering dedication to fostering health, well-being, education, and safety for all members. As we stride into the future, our confidence in the collective resilience of our community remains resolute. We stand poised to surmount any obstacles that cross our path, propelling us to accelerate our efforts in realising our ambitions.

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