

LITTLE FLOWER ACTIVITIES

'THE LITTLE FLOWER PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST' IN INDIA (THE TRUST)

- The Bodhi Sangha 'Little Flower' Organisation
- Founded by Father AMA Samy SJ in 2001 and registered in India in 2011
- The Governing Board of the TRUST consists of:
- Chairman of the Board – Father AMA Samy SJ
- Managing Trustee and Board Member – Naga Chitra Kala
- Board Members (all Sangha members) are: Father Cyril SJ, James, Dr Rao, Prabha, Alosanai, Ganesh, Arokiam (Perumalmalai village representative).

The Board meets six-monthly at which time the Half- Yearly financial statements are reviewed, along with the operational performance, staffing and human resource matters, policies and procedures and any decisions that need to be made are discussed and determined.

Financially, 85% of all donated funds must be expended in each financial year (Apr – Mar) with 15% allowable for saving for future project operations. This must then be shown in the forthcoming budget estimates and must also be explained to the Central Government via the Auditors each financial year.

The Operating Budgets do not include provision for any major building projects or capital works of any kind and are solely for the operating of the projects on a day to day basis. The Operating budgets include provision for wages and salaries, food, gardening, general maintenance and miscellaneous general running costs.

The annual operating budget for all LF projects is approximately 50 Laks.

THE TRUST COMPRISES SEVERAL CHARITABLE STREAMS as follows:

1. MONTESSORI SCHOOL

The Montessori School in Perumalmalai (Kodaikanal District, Tamil Nadu) has close to 100 students from the poorest of the poor villages surrounding Perumalmalai. The School Manager -James and Chitra the administrator who is supported by a team of teachers and support staff in the day to day running of the school. THE TRUST'S Managing Trustee, Naga Chitra Kala, lives on the school premises.

Annual operating funds required = 25 Lak (2,500,000R)

2. VILLAGE PROJECTS

Evening Tuition Programme (6 – 14 years of age - grades 1 – 9 through to college support)

Alosani, James is the Supervisor with eight (8) teachers supporting.

1. Uppuparai - 45 students attend
2. Kampanatarajapuram – 25 students attend
3. Perumalmalai - 180 students attend

Education and Medical Assistance

234 students supported through this programme in 2017. There were 40-50 minor injuries/medicine requirements.

Annual operating funds required = 12 – 15 Lak (1,200,000R – 1,500,000R)

3 INDIVIDUAL HELP

This programme supports old age people (approximately 40 people in 2017) who have been abandoned by their families but still live in-house. The recipients of this individual help come from many areas including Madurai, Dindigul, Kodaikanal, Perumalmalai and other villages. These people are destitute, have no pension, no support, are often very sick and live off beggings.

Alosonai is the Supervisor.

Annual operating funds required = 1.5 – 2 Lak (150,000R – 200,000R)

Arockia Hospital

Operated by nuns who treat and care for old age people with psychological, drug and/or alcohol related needs (men and women). There are approximately 96 men and women being treated in 2017. These people have been totally abandoned by family and will now be cared for by the nuns till the end of life.

Annual operating funds required = 1.5 – 2 Lak (1,500,000R – 2,000,000R)

4 ST CHARLES CONVENT (near Madurai at Vilathikulam)

This establishment helps educate, house and nourish children who work in the match stick factories nearby and have no source of refuge (accommodation, meals and education) besides what is offered by the helpers and staff at St Charles Convent. There are about 60 children currently being supported. The Sisters collect the children each day from the factory and take them to the Convent for their meals, education and a place to sleep.

Annual operating funds required = 1 Lak (100,000R)

5 MARIA ANTONIA HOME (Dindigul)

This home supports the aged people who have been abandoned by their families and who are destitute. They are then cared for until the end of their lives. There are about 60 men and women cared for by the home.

This is near where AMA Samy had his hermitage and celebrated mass at the St. Antony Church Nearby many years ago. He begged in those days as a sanyasi and lived as an ascetic.

Annual operating funds required = 1 Lak (100,000R)

6 PEARL TRUST (Paramakudi)

Pearl Trust was Father AMA Samy's first charitable trust established in 1990. Although Pearl Trust comes under the Little Flower umbrella, it does operate under its own Charitable Trust.

It's Manager and Director and prime source of dedication and energy is Amala. Other significant contributors to the PEARL TRUST projects are HEMMA who lives in Kodaikanal and Heidi Marie from Germany amongst many others.

Birdcatchers Project

The Birdcatchers Project, which is a couple of kilometers from the Pearl Trust site in Paramakudi is the latest and most pressing project. Some 60-70 young children are provided education and essentials such as a uniform and materials for school as well as a hot meal at lunch time each day. Presently they are in the open air with no shelter or cover when the rains or other weather elements interfere with their classes. Pearl Trust has purchased some land to the purpose of a school building however require some Euro 20,000 to achieve this objective.

Chitra states that the major donations gathered in Europe are to be sent to Pearl Trust and the remaining donations forwarded to THE LF TRUST. These instructions have been communicated with Europe's Fundraising Coordinator, Christian Herde. When money is given at Bodhi Zendo specifically for Pearl, then it is sent to Pearl Trust, or if it is given for other LF projects then it will be accounted under LF Trust.

Annual operating funds required = 40-50 Lakh