



FREEDOM TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2017 - 2018



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Foundation for the Rehabilitation Education and Empowerment of the Disabled of Madras (Freedom Trust) was founded in the year 1997 to cater to the needs of the physically challenged in terms of their mobility and livelihood by Dr. Sunder, a rehabilitation professional.

The main objective of the trust is to provide mobility aids like wheel chairs, tricycles and orthoses to the rural physically challenged. Over the years the foundation has distributed mobility aids and appliance to about **20,000** physically challenged and has conducted **330** rural camps.

Under its talent promotion “Sishupunarjanmam” scheme over 40 exceptionally talented special children (visually impaired, hearing & speech impaired) have been given scholarships and training.

TRUSTEES PROFILE

DR SUNDER – FOUNDER & MANAGING TRUSTEE

Dr.Sunder holds an MD Degree in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation awarded by the Tamilnadu DR.MGR Medical University. He has been recognized with “**The Best Doctor in the Field of Social Service**” by both the **central and the state government** and also he was bestowed with two “**Life Time Achievement Awards**” by the **Government institute of Rehabilitation medicine** and the **Lions Host International in 2017** for his outstanding service to the differently abled community.



MR. HARIHARAN SANKARAN - TRUSTEE

Mr.Hariharan is an engineer with Post graduate degree in Computer Science and rose to become the **Head [Infrastructure] of I-flex solutions**. He has been instrumental in getting corporate sponsorships for Freedom Trust to Shishupunarjanmam project, and participates extensively in the disability camps organised by the trust. He is very empathetic about the cause of the trust and brings to the trust his vast experience in management and networking.



MR SANKARAN ANNASWAMY - TRUSTEE

Mr. Sankaran Annaswamy is currently working as **Senior Vice President in Standard Chartered GBS Pvt Ltd**. He is an alumnus of Alagappa University, Karaikudi with 26 years of IT industry experience, has played significant leadership roles in various organizations. Apart from his profession, he is very much concerned about the environmental issues and social divides. He uses the spare time to help under privileged society through actively working with NGOs. He is a fitness enthusiast and participates in a running group called ‘Dream Runners’.



OUR PROJECTS & PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR 2017 – 2018

GRAM VIKALANG PUNARJANMAM

Persons with locomotor handicap need mobility aids to mainstream themselves in society. Some need wheelchairs, others need calipers, and some need artificial limbs. Those in rural areas cannot afford to come to the city or towns where qualified rehabilitation teams are situated; they neglect their handicap and later develop deformities which are difficult to correct, except by surgical means.



Persons with profound spasticity causing deformities

Mobility is very important; to make a child go to school, to enable a student travel to college, and to make a worker go to office. Orthoses, or in layman's terms calipers are appliances given to paralyzed or weak limbs fit to the children on a custom made basis, enabling them to walk erect.

It is in this background, Freedom Trust has been relentlessly working for the cause of such physically challenged persons living in rural areas and has helped them with mobility aids.



Manoj with his new Caliper



Mobility Aids and Appliances lined up for Distribution in one of our camps in Chidambaram.

GRAM VIKALANG PUNARJANMAM ACTIVITY CHART [2017-18]

S NO	DATE OF DISTRIBUTION	PLACE OF DISTRIBUTION	BENEFICIARIES ASSESSED	MOBILITY AIDS DISTRIBUTED
1	7/07/2017	Puzhal	102	86
2	9/07/2017	Rayagiri	62	40
3	14/09/2017	Chennai Egmore	87	73
4	16/11/2017	Chidambaram	130	83
5	1/12/2017	Sringeri	25	20
6	3/12/2017	Coonor	30	19
7	3/12/2017	Coimbatore	135	95
8	4/12/2017	Trichy	95	80
9	11/02/2018	Eekadu	220	139
10	5/03/2018	Velachery	15	11
11	7/03/2018	Nadupalani	15	12
12	10/03/2018	Tirunelveli	59	37
13	11/03/2018	Tuticorin	95	89
14	13/03/2018	Sivagangai	100	72
15	31/03/2018	Puttur, Karnataka	57	34
Others			27	27
Total			1254	917

WALK INDIA

Physically handicapped persons form the lion's share of the nearly 10 per cent handicapped people throughout the world. A sizeable number of these are amputees. The numbers are variable, but there are statistics which estimate that 7 out of 1000 population are amputees and in addition, each year, an additional 25000 people lose their limbs in India due to diabetes, accidents and other hazards.

It is a 'dream come true' project of Freedom Trust; to fit amputees across rural India with good quality light weight prosthetic limbs through rural outreach and community based rehabilitation and enable them to walk independently. **Walk India** was launched in January 2017 with a target of distributing 500 artificial limbs, with the help of a mobile workshop [van] donated by the Rotary International through the Rotary club of Chennai Mambalam.



A mega distribution camp we had in Chittoor [A.P] in 2018 – 143 Prostheses distributed

The project has been tremendously recognized and widely attracted the support of corporates and socially responsible groups in the year 2017 – 18, and ventured into Andhra Pradesh and Telengana for the first time in the history of Freedom Trust.



“Kumaresan lost his both legs in a road accident when he was travelling along with his friends. He is using his second limb and when contacted him for response, he said “he is happy that his new limb is very light and helps him climb stairs easily when he is in the shop”. He suggested us to have frequent service camps because the belt and the foot component of the limb would wore out often and he travels to Coimbatore to get it fixed because of lack in resources at his locality. He is now working as a sales rep in a textile shop at Erode.”



“Srikanth was 4 years old when he lost his leg when a truck rammed over his leg while playing in the street. His father passed away in an accident and her mother left him in the care of his paternal grandparents. He was fitted with a new prosthesis on 6th January 2017 at Cavinkare’s Mylambadi facility. When called his grandparents for feedback, they said “he is happy to wear his new prosthesis and goes to school wearing it” also they requested to continuously provide him with new artificial limbs, as he would outgrow it in due course of time.”

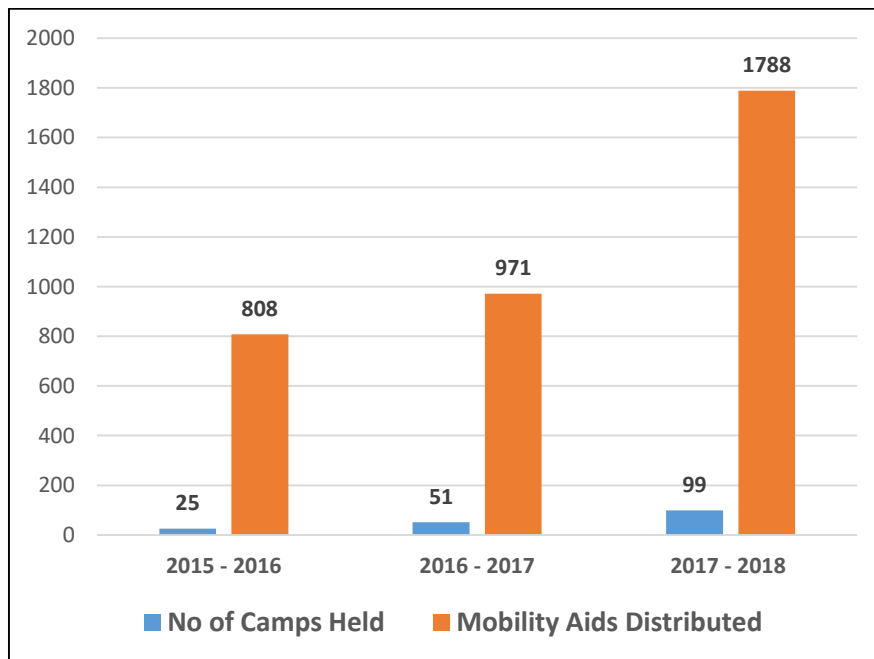
WALK INDIA DISTRIBUTION CAMPS

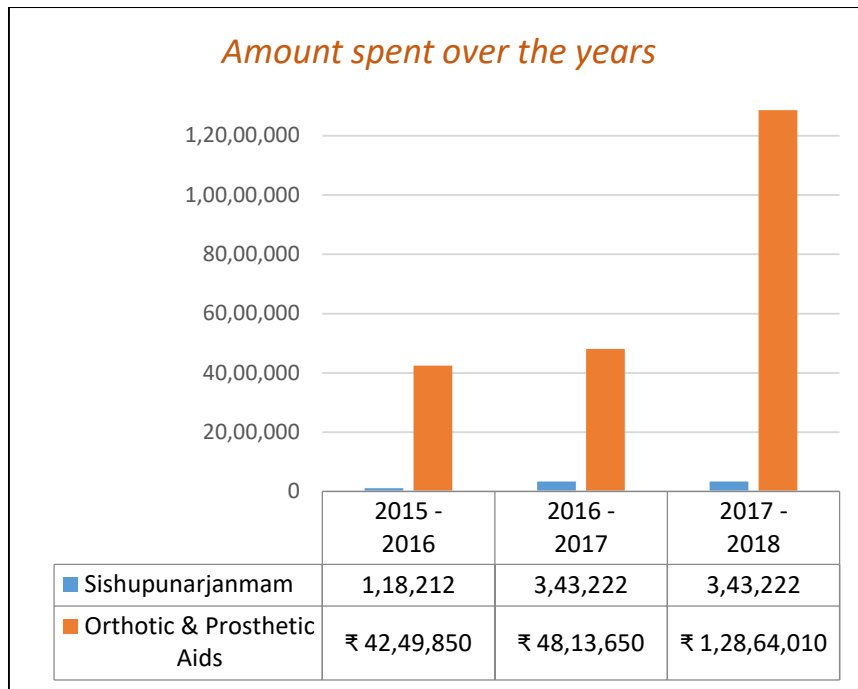
S NO	DATE OF DISTRIBUTION	PLACE OF DISTRIBUTION	TOTAL NUMBER OF LIMBS	TOWNS OR VILLAGES COVERED
1	09/07/2017	Rayagiri	11	3
2	15/07/2017	Chennai	29	4
3	22/07/2017	Chennai	30	4
4	05/08/2017	Chidambaram	30	6
5	13/11/2017	Chennai Egmore	20	2
6	3/12/2017	Coonoor	5	2
7	4/12/2017	Trichy	11	4
8	8/12/2017	Kanchipuram	100	11
9	15/12/2017	Chittoor	143	15
10	14/02/2018	BVM, Chennai	17	3
11	23/02/2018	Krishnagiri	100	18
12	10/03/2018	Tirunelveli	7	3
13	11/03/2018	Tuticorin	9	4
14	16/03/2018	Chittoor	100	17
15	21/03/2018	Varadaiahpalem	15	6
16	22/03/2018	Kuppam	28	11
17	24/03/2018	Chennai	2	1
18	26/03/2018	Kurnool	50	15
19	27/03/2018	Anantapur	46	12
20	28/03/2018	Kaikaluru	50	16
21	20/04/2018	Khammam(to be distributed)	68	20
Total			871	177

OTHER ACTIVITIES

S NO	DATE OF ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY TYPE	DETAILS
1	10/06/2017	FUND RAISER	Mr.Shivasubramaniam, a well-wisher for the trust organized a musical evening in Citi Centre Plaza, Chennai and along with his troop of music loving friends raised ₹25,000/-
2	23/07/2017	FUND RAISER	Dream Runners a group of runners organized a run where 4500 marathoners participated for a cause. The group also spearheaded a crowd funding campaign and raised money for 100 limbs that were distributed in Chennai, Chidambaram and Rayagiri.
3	16/10/2017	DONATION OF SUV	Chennai Willingdon Corporate Foundation donated a Mahindra Bolero to Freedom Trust for the trust's rural outreach activities.
4	18/11/2017	FUND RAISER	Freedom Trust partnering with FMLR, a group of music loving Rotarians organized a music show in aid of the trust's Walk India project at Russian Cultural Centre. Rotarians, friends and well-wishers for the trust came forward actively to donate for the cause. ₹50,000/- was raised from the event and the proceeds were used for providing prosthetic limbs in Chennai.

STATISTICS





SISHUPUNARJANMAM



Freedom trust identifies exceptionally talented special children and nurtures them with training and scholarships and enables them to embark on a career to support themselves through a talent that they are naturally endowed with. These special children are called PEARLS. This project has been implemented in 2004 through a scheme from i-flex solutions, and has yielded spectacular results. The project involves transportation, the scholarships paid for their training and the honorarium to their trainers, rehabilitation assistance including musical instruments or painting materials.

PROJECT MILESTONES - SISHUPUNARJANMAM

- Mr & Mrs Jawahar and Mrs. Anuradha Sriram contributed Rupees **ten lakhs** and **two lakhs** respectively specifically for a corpus towards this project.
- 5 of our scholars - Vidharte, Mehtab Allam, Suvedha, Lokesh & Aiswarya bagged National Awards for their exceptional talents in drawing over the years.
- Sreelekha & Akshaya, visually impaired students who are being trained in music won State honors for their talent in music and academics.
- Vidarte one of our first batch of scholars bagged the prestigious Vijay TV Award and Commonwealth award for her outstanding talent in the field of art. On the 8th of March 2016, Suvedha, Akshaya & Sreelekha were recognised for their exceptional performance in their chosen field of art on Women's day.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES 2017 – 2018

- Mr. Manoj, our visually impaired scholar is now currently pursuing his PHD in the field of music as junior research fellow was granted a stipend of ₹30,000/- month from the central government. He competed in the open category.



- Ms. Akshaya who is now pursuing her Masters course in Music and Ms. Sreelekha were invited by **Nippon TV**, a **Japanese** TV Company to perform in their music show titled '**Nodojiman the World**' at Tokyo. Our Scholars competed with other singers around the world and creditable performed Japanese songs in the show. Out of the 15 shortlisted, our pearls landed the **4th Position**.

Current list of pearls for the year 2017-2018

S NO	NAME OF THE PEARLS	COURSE
1.	Manoj – Visually Challenged	Music
2.	Nagaraj – Visually Challenged	Music
3.	Akshaya – Visually Challenged	Music
4.	Srileka – Visually Challenged	Music
5.	Samaya – Visually Challenged	Music
6.	Parameswari – Visually Challenged	Music
7.	Durga – Visually Challenged	Music
8.	DivyaSree – Visually Challenged	Music
9.	Lakshmi Priya – Visually Challenged	Music
10.	Indirakumar – Hearing & speech impaired	Drawing
11.	Ranjith – Hearing & speech impaired	Drawing
12.	Seemarani – Hearing & speech impaired	Drawing
13.	Divya – Hearing & speech impaired	Dance
14.	Madhev Raj – Hearing & speech impaired	Keyboard
15.	Raja – Hearing & speech impaired	Tabla
16.	Balaji – Hearing & speech impaired	Mridangam
17.	Jayakanth – Hearing & speech impaired	Drums
18.	Robindass – Hearing & speech impaired	Guitar

OUR PLANS FOR 2018 - 2019

- **Sishupunarjanmam** – All the pearls will be subject to periodic reviews and based on their performances the scholarship and training will be continued. A few more fresh scholars may be inducted after a talent hunt.
- **Gram VikalangPunarjanmam** – To extend the rural outreach program in towns and vilages of Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh apart from Tamilnadu and to distribute 1500 orthoses and mobility aids to the rural physically challenged.

- **Walk India** – To distribute 2000 prosthetic limbs in different venues of Tamilnadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Telangana. To build an integrated workshop and a research centre for product development of prostheses and orthoses at affordable prices.
- **Monthly camps at our office:** There will be an assessment camp at 3 pm on the fourth Saturday of every month. Every person who needs an appliance who has been assessed will get the appliance on the next month on the fourth Saturday.
- **Research and development of a new limb:** Freedom trust is in the process of developing a new prototype of limb which is cost effective and durable, and also userfriendly.
- **Appliance bank** - Several people suffer from temporary handicap and have used an appliance like a crutch during their rehabilitation, for temporary use. Freedom trust plans to set up a 'first of its kind' appliance bank, to tap unused appliances from the public and given to those who need them. This is very similar in concept to the Book Bank or Drug Bank.

OUR PATRONS AND SOFT MEMBERS

CORE MEMBERS	PATRONS	
Mrs. Usha Bharadwaj	Mr. Arun Jain	Mr. Shashidhar
Mr. T R Venkatraman	Mr. Hariharan	Dr Jaishankar
Mr. N L Rajah	Mr. Lakshmi Narayanan	M V Suresh Reddy
Mr. Suneel Ananthanarayanan	Mr. K Shankar	Mr. Muralidharan M K
Mrs. Usha Rengarajan	Mr & Mrs Jawahar	CORPORATE DONORS
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Mr. Prasanna	Mr. Ravi Ramaiah	Cavinkare P.Ltd
Mrs. Jayalakshmi Sekhar	Mr. Arun Kumaraswamy	United India Insurance Company Ltd
Mrs. Aruna Ranganathan	Mrs. Anuradha Sriram	Dream Runners Foundation
Dr Annamalai	Mr. Ram	Dymos Lear Automotive India P.Ltd
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Mr. E N Moorthy, IAS	Mr & Mrs V L Kumar	Lodge Ramaprasad
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Mr. K Jayavelu	Mr. S P Raghunathan	India Cements
Mr. Shyam Sunder	Dr Varalakshmi Elango	Karunya Trust
Mrs. J B Keerthana Sriram	Mrs. Kala Reddy	Rotary Club Coimbatore Zenith
Mr. Ranjith	Mr. R Chandrasekar	Miras Parthasarathy Trust
Mr. T V Krishnamurthy	Mr. Shanmugam	Sri Ganapathi Sachchidananda Trust
Mrs. Vidya – FMLR	Dr K Sriram	Chennai Willingdon Corporate Foundation
Mr. Raghu Rajagopal	Mr. Raj Shekar Krishnan	Ramco Cements
Mr. Suresh	Mrs. Bhooma Parthasarathy	Consulate General of Japan
Mr. Sridhar	Mrs. Gomathy Viswanathan	Japan – Chennai Chorus Club
Dr Sanjeevi	Mr. Parthasarathy	