

Newsletter – January 2022

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Optima Foundation - Poverty Relief

Web: www.optimafoundation.org

25 Years of Service (1996 -2021)



We are proud to celebrate our 25th anniversary, albeit on a smaller scale due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



(Garden Open Day - 18th Sept 2021 - for celebration and fundraising)

The two founder members, (late) Miss Valli Luschwitz and Dr Thomas Jayendran, came together with their dream to serve the underprivileged children around the world.

While Thomas was eager to jump in with the action, his mentor (and God Mother) Valli gave this foundation the shape and body.



(The three committee members during the 15th Anniversary - Valli, Thomas and Anita)

Valli was keen to create a foundation beyond national, social, ethnic or religious boundaries. It is to ensure that the needs of the children are taken care of as they will become the future guardians of the world.

Secondly, her insistence on allocating the total income receipts, that is, 100% of the income generated to the welfare of the children, is the base level of the foundation.

These two markers became the watchword for Optima Foundation during the past 25 years. Valli also brought together many similar-minded people to ensure that the expected outcomes are achieved within the limited resources.

After Valli passed on, Thomas took the role as the Managing Trustee of Optima Foundation to continue with the Mission.

Highlights of our achievements

1996 Food and personal care items sent to children's homes in Romania to support the sick and differently-abled children



1996 Food, paraffin heaters and walking aids sent to the displaced children following the civil war in Bosnia



1996 Collected and sent food and clothing to the 'war affected' children in the former Yugoslavia as part of the British Humanitarian Aid

1996 Sponsored a "Day out near the sea" for the children affected by the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station disaster in Chernihiv, Ukraine



2005 Tsunami Relief work in Sri Lanka following the Boxing Day Tsunami Disaster. Optima Foundation



provided essentials to the children and bought cooking utensils, sleeping mats, pillows, bed linen, etc., for the Homes. Optima Foundation was also able to repair toilets affected by the sea surge

2005 Volunteers provided counselling and support to the affected children in Sri Lanka

2005 Items purchased for children's homes: 1. a power generator for TS Kurukulam Boys Home; 2 a refrigerator for Sri Shanmuga Girls Home; 3. a gas cooker for Sivananda Thabovanam Children's Home

2006 The tsunami damaged play area was restored, and Optima Foundation commissioned a dairy cattle project at Swami Vipulananda Children Development Centre

2006 With financial help from International Children's Medical Aid, Optima Foundation purchased a 7-acre land to create an integrated Model Farm for Swami Vipulananda Children Development Centre

2006 Optima Foundation commissioned new water well and a water tank project at Yoga Swami Hindu Girls Home

2006 Items purchased for children's homes: Two power generators – one for Yoga Swami Hindu Girls Home and the other for Sakthi Illam for girls

2006 Collected and delivered Christmas presents to the children with long term illnesses at the Noble Hospital - Children's Ward – Isle of Man



2007 Building renovation at Swami Vipulananda Children Development Centre to rectify the tsunami damage

2008 A new water well, vegetable garden and a dairy cattle project for the boys at Hari Children's Home

2009 Built the first-floor dormitory for the boys at Hari Children's Home

2010 Bicycles were repaired and serviced for the boys at Hari Children's Home

2012 Raised £1,000 for “Little Haven Hospice” for the



terminally ill children in Essex (UK) by auctioning an Arsenal Football Club Tee Shirt, signed by the players

2012 Introduced the “sack garden project” to grow vegetables in various children’s homes

2012 Two volunteers (Ruth and Emma) spent a month at Yoga Swami Hindu Girls Home teaching the girls English and life skills

2013 New toilets and bathrooms were constructed on the first floor adjacent to the dormitory at Yoga Swami Hindu Girls Home

2014 Provided study tables and chairs for the girls at Yoga Swami Hindu Girls Home

2015 Rebuilt the fire-damaged dormitory at Yoga Swami Hindu Girls Home

2016 Bought a grass cutter for the dairy farm at Hari Children’s Home

2016 Bought beds for TS Kurukulam Boys Home

2017 Bought metal cupboards for TS Kurukulam Boys Home

2018 Bought metal cupboards for Yoga Swami Hindu Girls Home

2019 Renovated the kitchen at Hari Children’s Home

2020 Reconditioned the three-wheeler vehicle for Hari Children’s Home

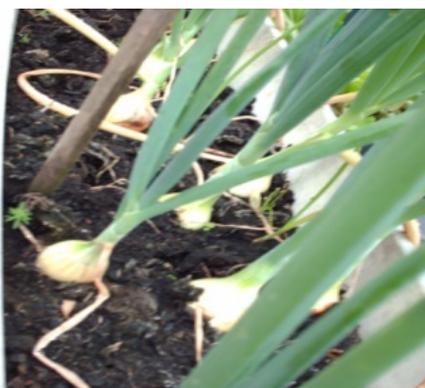
2021 Bought two laptops for online learning; one for Hari Children’s Home and the other for Yoga Swami Hindu Girls Home

Tom’s Garden Project (UK)



Since 2011, Tom has redesigned his garden as a testbed to show how fruits and vegetables can be grown in an

environmentally friendly manner within a limited space. In addition,



it is to encourage the young people to take up gardening as a worthwhile and economically viable hobby for mental and physical health.

Tom is also keen to pass his knowledge on preserving the garden produce.



During this COVID 19 lockdown, many appreciated this ‘knowledge share’.

Our volunteers and supporters

Without our volunteers and supporters, we couldn’t have achieved our outcomes. We are grateful to all our volunteers and supporters who have supported us during the last 25 years.



(Emma teaching English to the girls at Yoga Swami Hindu Girls Home)

Here we recognise the contribution made by Anita

Bhardwaj, Michael O’Hanlon, Emma Brown, Ruth Stainton, Peter and June Jackson, Tim and Joe Wright, Dr Roy Browne, Dr M Thavarajah, Liz Bloom, and Matthew Curtis in the UK. We are also thankful to Mr& Mrs T Visvakumar and Mr N Thivahara in Sri Lanka.



(Tim and (late) Joe Wright with the children at Sakthi Illam – Ratmalana)

We also recognise the tenacity of Tony Buddell and Bob Chase in driving the vehicles and delivering the items to the children in Eastern European countries.

We are thankful to many organisations such as International Children’s Medical Aid and Sulby Glen Hotel in Isle of Man supporting our projects.

Our Mission

Optima Foundation exists to provide underprivileged children with the necessary **support in their self-development** to become the guiding light for future generations.



Whilst alleviating the physical hunger among the underprivileged children, Optima Foundation shall actively pursue to support the children in knowledge creation, skills development and good citizenship.

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“All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them”
Walt Disney