

The District Grand Charity, The District Grand Lodge of Madras

Brethren

Following heavy rains, the City of Chennai experienced its worst natural calamity in over a century, in the first week of December 2015. There was continuous rain for several days which caused extensive flooding in many parts of the City. While the State made considerable efforts to relieve those affected by floods there were also thousands of volunteers who stepped up to help those in need by providing food, water, medical help and by relocating the stranded.

The District Grand Charity Fund Trust of the District Grand Lodge of Madras, under its President, W.Bro. Sukesh Menon, stepped forward to help the people of the City. In the midst of so much help being extended by the State and the public, it came to light one area which was largely neglected was those charitable institutions which provided residential care for the elderly, the destitute, the homeless, the mentally and physically challenged and the orphans, who had lost some of their equipment or infrastructure to the flood and did not have the capital to replace what was lost and still continue to provide their charitable service. It was in this neglected area we decided to work.

A circular was sent to all Lodges in the District and the District Grand Master addressed a communication to the United Grand Lodge of England. The Brethren of our District, as usual, contributed immediately with great generosity. An unsolicited and generous donation was promptly made by the District Grand Lodge of the Eastern Archipelago. What follows is the breakup of funds received:

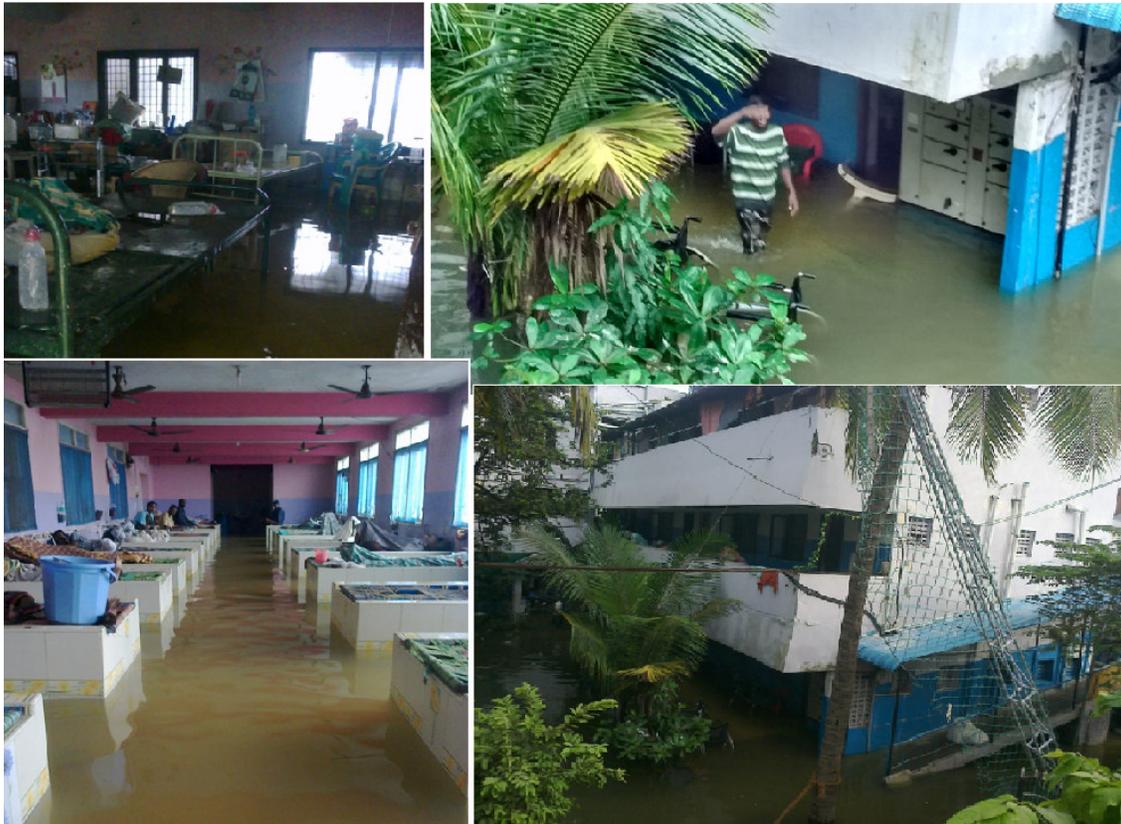
Dist Grand Lodge of Eastern Archipelago	- Rs. 999,750/-
United Grand Lodge of England	- Rs. 976,000/-
Lodges / Chapters of the District	- Rs. 700,000/-
Brethren of the District	- Rs. 1,333,000/-
Bar Dive (Part of DGL of Madras)	- Rs. 300,000/-
Other contribution from DGL	- Rs. 475,601/-
Total Contributions	- Rs. 4,784,351/-

The President of the District Grand Charity Fund Trust assisted by the members of its Executive Council and several Brethren who volunteered assistance, devoted a great amount of their time, money and effort in travelling the length and breadth of the City to visit the charitable institutions which needed relief, to assess the damage and report back. The Executive Council of the Charity was extremely active and met every few days to monitor the progress and ensure that relief was promptly provided.

What follows is a brief of the various institutions that we were able to assist in our efforts:

Little Drops

An extremely well run institution started and well managed by an individual, which takes care of the elderly, the homeless, the mentally challenged and the physically challenged. Their residents are of all ages and number more than 600 at any given time.



Equipment supplied were 1 washing machine, 1 power generator (5KV), closed circuit cameras, electrical fittings, surgical items and a Freezer box for the bodies of those residents who died. Total cost: Rs 708,298/-

Share and Care

This is situated about 100 KM from Chennai who take care of the Orphans, run a school for the poor and a Day-care for the elderly. We arrested the seepage of the water into the main school building, reconstructed the roof of the day care centre which had collapsed, replaced a fridge which they used for storing medicines and provided them with sufficient provisions for a month.

Cost: Rs 189,550/-



Bala Mandir

An orphanage and school. They had lost a lot of the equipment that they had and we were able to replace the following:

4 Refrigerators, 3 Washing Machines, 4 Inverters, 3 Kitchen grinders, 4 Kitchen Mixers and 20 Emergency lights. Cost: Rs 278,500/-

Besides, the brethren of John Miller Lodge No 1906 entertained the children one afternoon.



Little Flower

A School and Home, run by nuns, for the blind. We were able to replace 4 washing machines, one industrial washing machine, 5 refrigerators, 6 kitchen grinders, 8 emergency lights. Cost: Rs. 349,300/-

Shree Sharadha Sakthi Peetam:

The school run by them had water stagnation of 10 feet. Many poor children who are students here lost their books. As required by the school Text books were replaced by us. Cost: Rs. 116,350/-

Vallal Sabapathy School

This is a school for the economically weaker section. Many students lost their books and belongings. We provided them with books and uniforms.

Cost: Rs. 44,000/-



Mercy Home

This is a home for the elderly. Their urgent requirement of a Solar Water Heater was fulfilled. Cost: Rs. 65,000/-

Vishranti Charitable Trust

This is an old age home. Among the many requirements we took care of the replacement of Solar Water heater. We also provided with Bed Sheets.

Cost: Rs. 210,000/-

Vuyoroli Welfare Society

A home for the destitute. We provided with provisions for a short term and also supplied 1 TV, 1 Washing Machine and 1 Fridge. Cost: Rs 85,395/-

Thakkar Bapa Vidhyalaya

A vocational training centre for the economically weaker students. They were in need of good drinking water and we provided a RO water purifier. Also machinery and tools for their training, damaged storage facilities were replaced. Cost: Rs 267,165/-

Rehoboth

This again is far from Chennai who provide shelter and care for the mentally challenged women and children. Since they required transport facility we provided them with a Three-wheeled Auto and we provided a RO water purifier. Cost: Rs 329,420/-

Jeevodaya Hospice for Cancer patients

We provided them with 2 Refrigerators and a Generator besides bed-sheets and other items. Cost: Rs 413,601/-

Mellow Circle Prathyasha Trust

This is a home and school for children affected by HIV. We provided with 4 Computers. Cost: Rs. 109,800/-

Iniya Udaiyam

Centre for nutrition and computer education for the disadvantaged. Construction of damaged property, supply of computers and provisions were our help to them. Cost: Rs 201,300/-

Paadhai

Orphanage for girl children. We provided them with provisions, 1 Fridge and 1 Television. Cost: Rs 112,250/-

Health First India

Home for the leprosy affected. We donated Rs 50,000/-

Partahsarathy Memorial Trust

Home for the mentally challenged which received from us are Repairs, new cupboards and 1 fridge. Cost Rs 155,040/-

Goodlife Centre

Home for orphans. We provided 1 Fridge, 1 Television, 1 Washing Machine and 1 RO unit. Total cost: Rs 142,000/-

Guardian School

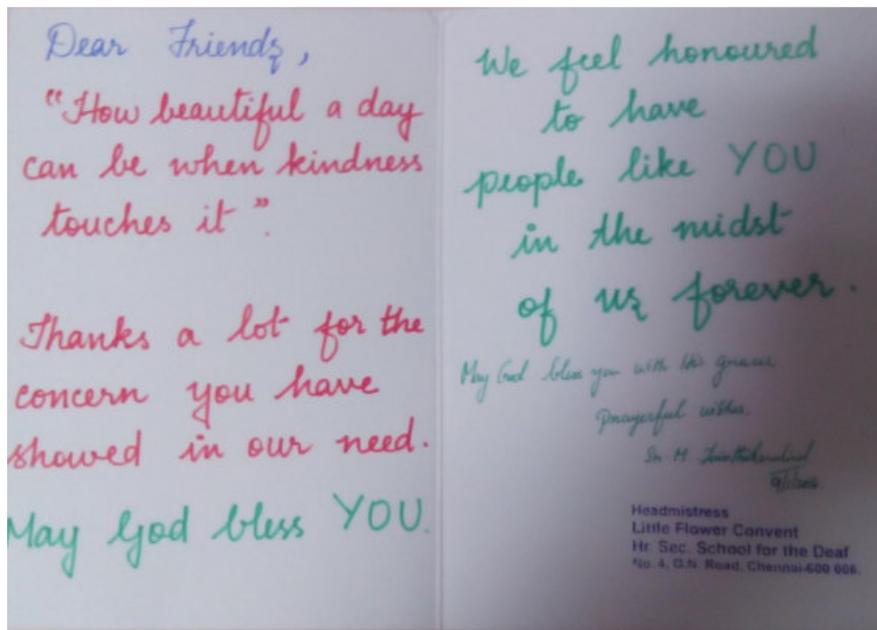
School for rural children. We donated a laser projector. Cost: Rs 50,000/-

A collage of few of our contribution:



The District Grand Master placed on record his appreciation of the generosity of the donors and of the efforts taken by the team.

We received letters and messages of appreciation from many!



W Bro Sukesh Menon
President, Dist Grand Charity

W Bro Ilango Raphael
Secretary, Charity council