



# FREEDOM TRUST

... adding life to years since 1997



FREEDOM TRUST

Journey 25



## ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

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## Message from the Founder Trustee

May 15, 2022

Last year, we completed a major milestone, that not many organizations have the fortune to achieve – our Silver jubilee. Twenty five years ago, when my uncle Mr.T.S.Subramaniam and I approached an auditor Mr.Balasubramaniam, to guide us to form a trust to provide services to persons with disability, little did we imagine that it would grow into an organization that provides mobility to thousands of persons in rural areas and continuing to do so. Mr.Subramaniam and Mr. Balasubramaniam agreed to be the founder trustees, and the trust was registered on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 1996. The rest, as they say is history.



In our journey over the last two and half decades, there have been many challenges, but a couple of things remained constant – our consistent growth, and the unstinted support from donors, many of whom came forward on their own and have held hands with us over the years. Our trustees Mr. Hariharan and Mr.Sankaran stand as strong pillars for the trust, and Mr. Ravi and Mrs. Usha continue to provide yeoman support. Our office has shifted into our registered address.

We celebrated our Silver Jubilee on December 12<sup>th</sup> 2021 at two venues, the Taj hotels and at the Youth hostel in Indira nagar where we distributed limbs to amputees. The functions were attended by our supporters and well-wishers over the years. Philanthropic groups like the Freemasons lodge, and Rotary clubs, good hearted individuals from corporates like Hyundai Transys Lear, Rane Group, Savex technologies, Hexaware technologies, and CavinKare, backed by their CSR funds, crowd funding platforms like Fueladream and Ketto and individuals who have dipped into their savings for a good cause, have been the reason why we have been able to sustain for so long. Two new companies have joined us in our journey- Hapag Lloyd and Thirumalai Chemicals.

Freedom trust restarted the outreach camps whenever there was a respite from the lockdowns and we are revitalized to do more in the future. Over the last year, we have been able to provide appliances to 1278 persons with disability in remote areas of India. Our team entered a new state of Orissa, and provided limbs to amputees in the capital city of Bhubaneswar. Our team braved the rains and distributed limbs in Ariyalur. In all, we did 81 camps, given the cap on the number of beneficiaries that could attend a single event, the difficulty in getting them to the venue, and general reluctance to venture out. Our field officer Rishi did an excellent job of conducting these camps with all social distancing, masking and hygienic measures in place.

**Dr. S. Sunder**

MD [Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation]

## Freedom Trust

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 renowned rehabilitation professional.

The main objective of the trust is to provide mobility aids like wheelchairs, tricycles, artificial limbs and orthoses to the rural physically challenged. Physically challenged persons form the lion's share of the nearly 10 per cent challenged people throughout the world. Over the years the foundation has distributed mobility aids and appliances to nearly **30,000** physically challenged and have conducted over **800** rural camps across India.

In the last two years we have marched across the country, providing artificial limbs and mobility aids to rural physically challenged, even in remote inaccessible areas in Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Uttarakhand, Bihar and Odisha.

### MILESTONE

Freedom Trust, grandly completed **25 years** of immaculate service for the cause of the physically challenged. Supporters of Freedom Trust came together to celebrate this great moment on the 12<sup>th</sup> of Dec 2021, which turned out to be a congregation of well-wishers, individual donors and patrons, corporate donors and partnering organizations who were associated with the activities of Freedom Trust. A video depicting the journey of Freedom Trust, a hand book on the journey, cultural programs by scholars of Sishupunarjanmam scheme, auction of paintings drawn by scholars were all part of the grand event. Every local partner was honoured for their valuable contributions and on the whole the event turned out to be memorable and stands etched in the minds of every SOFT (Supporters of Freedom Trust) member for ever and ever.







**Dr. Sunder and Mr. Hariharan giving speech**







**Dr. Sunder giving Mementos and Honouring the Guests**



**Pearls' performances and drawing by Scholars**

## Our Presence





## Condition of Patients in Rural areas

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 in rural areas have hardly any access to crutches, wheelchairs and tricycles which enable them to move from one place to another. 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.

### *Children and adults affected with Cerebral Palsy & having Multiple Disabilities*



***Child with LowerLimb  
Amputation from  
Thiruvapur, Tamilnadu***



***Bilateral Lower Limb  
Amputee from Nashik,  
Maharashtra***



***Non healing ulcer***



***Symes Amputee from  
Thiruvapur, Tamilnadu***

### GRAM VIKALANG PUNARJANMAM (GVP)

Freedom Trust has been relentlessly working for the cause of such physically challenged persons and has helped them with mobility aids. **We thus give mobility which is a fundamental need.**

Patients with residual polio or cerebral palsy need orthoses, or calipers, which are custom made appliances given to paralyzed or weak limbs fit to the patients, enabling them to walk erect. An orthosis is a mechanical device fitted to the body to maintain it in an anatomical or functional position. Each mobility aid is custom made to the beneficiaries and the process ensures fitment.

### WALK INDIA

It is the long-term vision of the Trust to make people with lower limb amputation across India to get back on their feet with appropriate customized prostheses.

Among the various types of physical disabilities, people with lower limb amputation benefit the most when fitted with prosthesis [artificial limb]. An artificial limb is essential to make an amputee get back his life and to resume livelihood and work independently. A sizeable number of physically handicapped are amputees.

Freedom Trust conducts special camps for limb fitting at various towns and villages all over India and enable the amputees to walk with their newly fitted limbs.

### SISHUPUNARJANMAM

**Sishupunarjanmam** refers to giving a fresh lease of life to differently abled, exceptionally talented children in the fields of music and arts. Launched in 2003, the project has enabled chosen students to establish a career for themselves in their respective fields. The scheme of providing scholarships and training has been so successful that five differently abled scholars have bagged the Most Creative Individual Award in the field of arts from the President of India on World Disability Day, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Due to the current pandemic, special schools remained shut whole of the academic year 2021 - 22 and therefore the training process both in music and visual arts has been put on hold.

Despite the pandemic, our scholars have been taking part in on line competitions (drawing) and concerts in the case of music scholars. Akshaya has been performing vocal concerts as well as Violin accompaniments and is blossoming into a fine musician. Manoj is progressing well in his Phd work.

Our Music Forum activities has also been put on hold and should resume very soon once the pandemic is under control.



## Camp Process

**Field Visit** - Each project begins with field visits by our field coordinator. A local organizer in the village or town is identified, usually an NGO or a voluntary association working in the field of disability. The need from the local physically challenged community is identified through them and data of persons needing appliances is collected before conducting the camp. A venue for organizing the camp in the same village or town which will be easily accessible and has disabled friendly amenities is chosen.

**Assessment** - On the day of the camp, a team consisting of a physiatrist [doctor trained in physical medicine and rehabilitation], a physiotherapist, and prosthetic/orthotic engineers visit the venue where the disabled persons are assembled. Usually, the numbers of persons assessed ranges from 50 to 200 per day. The physiatrist assesses each beneficiary; and based on the physical condition, socio-economic background and condition of the existing appliances used by the beneficiary, a suitable mobility aid is prescribed.



*Dr. Sunder assessing children in an assessment camp*

**Measurement** - Following the prescription of the appliances by the doctor, the beneficiary is moved to the orthotist-prosthetist section in the camp venue where appropriate measurement for the orthosis is taken by professionals.



**Trial Camp** - A trial camp to check if the prosthesis fit the beneficiary properly is conducted on the day of the camp or a day before it. The prosthetic team trains the beneficiaries on how to wear the device and maintain it.

**Gait Training** - It is a training given to the users of artificial limbs to walk with their new limb. Such training is a vital factor in prosthesis fitment that will help the beneficiary use the appliance properly.

**Distribution** - Distribution of the appliances is done at a function in the town or village where the measurements were taken. The appliances are given away free of cost to the respective beneficiaries. The function usually involves the sponsor for the camp, the team from the trust, the local organizer and the beneficiaries of the camp.



*Artificial limbs Lined Up for Distribution at Bhavani*



**Follow Up** - Repair or service for the distributed items is provided free of cost to the beneficiaries at our workshop in Chennai.



## Trustees Profile

### **Dr. S. Sunder – Founder & Managing Trustee**

Dr. Sunder holds an MD Degree in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation that has been awarded by the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University. He has been recognized with “The Best Doctor in the Field of Social Service” by both the Central and State Governments. He has also been bestowed with “Lifetime Achievement Awards” by both 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 engineering 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 Sishupunarjanmam project and participates extensively in the disability camps organized 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 27 years of IT industry experience, has played significant leadership roles in various organizations. Apart from his profession, he is very much concerned about environmental issues and social divides. He uses his spare time to help the underprivileged in society through actively working with NGOs. He is a fitness enthusiast and participates in a running group called ‘Dream Runners’.





## Core Members

Mrs. Usha Bharadwaj - Director CSR & Administration

Mr. Ravi Ayyangar - Hon. Advisor

Mrs. Sumathi Iyer – Media & Communication

Mr. Rishi Kumar – Field Officer

Mr. Sundararajan – Accountant

Mr. Mohanraj – Admin



## Members Patrons and Donors

### • SOFT Members

Mr. Arun Jain - Patron  
Mr. E. N. Murthy IAS (Retd.)  
Mr. T. R. Venkataraman  
Dr. R. Sanjeevi  
Mr. Ganesh GSK  
Mr. Suresh  
Dr. Annamalai - Medical Advisor  
Mrs. Vidya  
Mrs. Aruna Ranganathan  
Ms. Saravanan  
Mr. Jayavelu Kaliyamurthy  
Mr. Ram Pappu  
Mrs. Jayalakshmi Sekhar  
Mr. Prasanna  
Mr. R. Ranjith  
Mr. N. L. Rajah - Legal Advisor  
Mr. Ram Pappu  
Mr. Suneel Ananthanarayanan - Auditor

### • Patrons and Individual Donors

Mr. SANJEEVI  
Mr. L GANESH  
Dr. Jaishankar  
Mr. J GAJENDIR  
Mr. Kumaran  
Shri PARTHASARATHY  
Mr. Srikanth  
Mr. Achyut Limaye  
Mr. GANESAN S G  
Mr. Kumaran Sugumaran  
Ms. JAYALAKSHMI SEKHAR  
Mr. N Ananthanarayan  
Ms. LALGUDI RAJALAKSHMI  
Ms. Lathamaheshwari  
Mr. Natarajan  
Mr. GABRIEL  
Ms. ARUNA PRABHA RAN  
Mr. N.Sundararajan  
Ms. MAYA HARIHARAN  
Mr. ABHISHEK HARIHARAN  
Mr. M HARIHARAN  
Mr. HARIHARAN SANKAR  
Mr. SANKARAN S V  
Mr. ANNASWAMY SANKAR  
Dr Sunder Subramaniam  
Mr. PRAVESH P  
Mr. SANJEEVI

**SOFT** is an acronym for “**Supporters Of Freedom Trust**”. Like minded friends who have been associated with Freedom Trust and lend a helping hand when and wherever possible are essentially SOFT members. SOFT members meet once every month to get themselves updated about the activities of the Trust and guide the way forward.



## Supportive Corporates & Organizations

CAVIN KARE PVT LTD  
INNER WHEEL CLUB OF MADRAS  
INNER WHEEL CLUB OF MADRAS COSMOS  
SRI GANAPATHI SACHIDANANDA TRUST  
P C PAI & CO  
ROTARY CLUB PUTTUR  
SAVEX TECHNOLOGIES (VKARE CHARITABLE TRUST)  
INNER WHEEL CLUB OF MADRAS MIDTOWN  
LENNOX INDIA TECH  
DREAM RUNNERS HALF MARATHON  
HEXAWARE TECHNOLOGIES PVT.LTD  
THIRUMALAI CHEMICALS  
DOLDA PARTHASARATHY REDDY AND LALITHAMMA TRUST  
REGINAL GRAND LODGE OF SOUTHERN INDIA CHARITABLE TRUST  
MADRAS SPICE ROUND TABLE  
CHILD EDUCATION  
ROUND TABLE 95 TRUST  
CTS  
BKR TRUST  
MADRAS COASTAL ROUND TABLE  
CHENNAI WEST ROUND TABLE  
MADRAS STERLING  
SHRIRAM CAPITAL  
DODLA PARTHASARATHY  
GRASS ROOTS  
HAPAG- LLOYD GLOBAL SERVICES PVT.LTD  
SHRIRAM INVESTMENTS  
HYUNDAI TRANSYS LEAR  
HAPAG LLYOD  
RANE FOUNDATION  
JAI SANKARA SCHOOL TIRUNELVELI

## Activities Overview

Camps at a glance	
Total No of Limbs distributed	783
Total No of Walk India Camps	47
Total No of Gram Vikalang Punarjanmam beneficiaries	495
Total No of GVP camps	34
Total No of Limbs distributed in Walk India since 2017	4933

## Gram Vikalang Punarjanmam

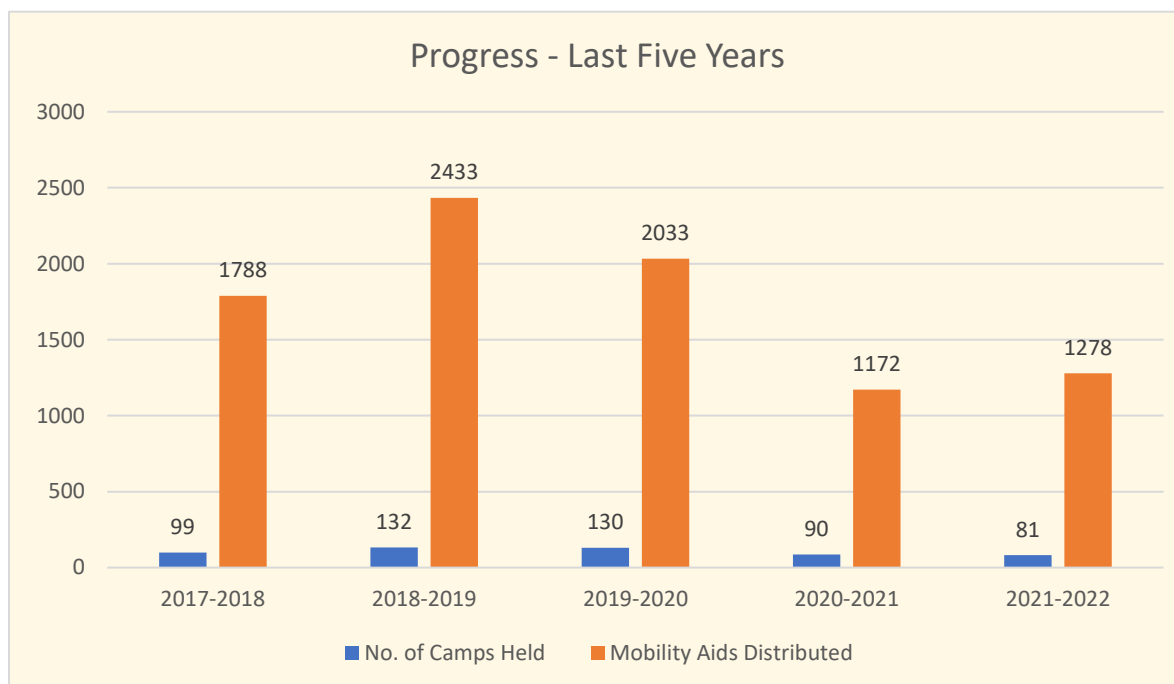
PROJECT GRAM VIKALANG PUNARJANMAM - CAMP DETAILS - 2021 – 2022					
No.	Assessment Date	Distribution Date	Venue	Sponsor	Number of beneficiaries
1	27-01-2021	12-04-2021	Vellore	TN Governor's Household Office	67
2	January	18.02.2021	Chennai	Inner Wheel Club of Madras Midtown	05
3	25-03-2021	02-07-2021	MNC, Chennai	TN Governor's Household Office	30
4	12-03-2021	13-07-2021	Spastan, Chennai	Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited	52
5	23-03-2021	20.07.2021	Padhiyanallur	TN Governor's Household Office	53
6	01-07-2021	14-07-2021	Chennai	Inner Wheel Club of Madras Midtown	01
7	12-07-2021	16-07-2021	Chennai	Inner Wheel Club of Madras Cosmos	01
8	18-07-2021	27-07-2021	Chennai	Inner Wheel Club of Madras Midtown	01
9	29-01-2021	28-07-2021	Kanchipuram	TN Governor's Household Office	40
10	14-09-2021	16-09-2021	Chennai	ArunaRanganathan	01
11	30-07-2021	17-09-2021	Poonamallee	TN Governor's Household Office	87
12	19-09-2021	10-10-2021	Kancheepuram	Lodge Ramaprasad no. 228	59
13	28-09-2021	10-12-2021	Dindigul	Hyundai Transys Lear Automotive India Pvt. Ltd	40
14	01-12-2021	11-02-2022	Ariyalur	RANE	53
15	1 <sup>st</sup> Dec to 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec, 2021	20-12-2021 & 31-12-2021	Chennai	Vijay Gopal Reddy	05
				Total	495



## Project Walk India - Camp Details

PROJECT WALK INDIA - CAMP DETAILS - 2021 – 2022					
S. No	Assessment Date	Distribution Date	Venue	Sponsor	Number of limbs
1	March	10-04-2021	Chennai	Rotary Clubs of Canada	31
2	27-01-2021	12-04-2021	Vellore	Dream Runners	33
3	04-08-2021	13-08-2021	Chennai	Rotary Clubs of Canada	09
4	12-08-2021	03-09-2021	Puttur	Thirumalai Chemicals Ltd	30
5	13-08-2021	04-09-2021	Bangalore	Chrysalis	10
6	14-08-2021	28-09-2021	Dindigul	Agent of Change	16
7	15-08-2021				
8	19-09-2021	10-10-2021	Kancheepuram	Thirumalai Chemicals Ltd	10
9	06-10-2021	19-11-2021	Ariyalur	DRHM & Hexaware	44
10	06-10-2021	19-11-2021	Ariyalur	Lennox	28
11	21-10-2021	08-12-2021	Katpadi	DRHM & Hexaware	20
12	21-10-2021	08-12-2021	Katpadi	Thirumalai Chemicals Ltd	40
13	28 <sup>th</sup> Oct to 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov, 2021	28-11-2021	Bhubaneswar	Savex Technologies	107
14	1 <sup>st</sup> Nov to 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov, 2021	24-11-2021	Chennai	Round Table	10
15	Nov	31-12-2021	Chennai	Dr. Rajan	5
16	25-11-2022	12-12-2021	Chennai	DRHM & Hexaware	25
17	28-12-2021	04-03-2022	Dharmapuri	DRHM & Hexaware	70
18	30-12-2021	12-02-2022	Tirunelveli	Mr. Hariharan and Family	37
19	05-01-2022	03-03-2022	Erode	Cavinkare	52
20	19-02-2022	11-03-2022	Thiruvarur	Hapag-Lloyd	106
21	17-02-2022	26-03-2022	Nashik	Hapag-Lloyd	100
<b>Total Beneficiaries</b>					<b>783</b>

## Progress Chart





## Partnering NGOs

We would like to place in record our sincere thanks and appreciation to the partnering NGOs who have helped us immensely in gathering the beneficiaries, in organizing the camps and take care of the local hospitality. It would have been impossible to run the camps but for the dedicated help from these organizations. **A BIG THANK YOU.**

- Arvi Trust – Dindigul
- Annai Charitable Trust - Aranthangi
- Bala Vidya Mandir School
- December 3<sup>rd</sup> movement (Perumbakkam chapter)
- District Welfare Office – Ariyalur
- District Welfare Office – Dharmapuri
- District Welfare Office- Thiruvarur
- District Welfare Office – Erode
- Don Guanella Special School- Poonamallee, Chennai
- Madhuram Narayan Center for Exceptional Children, Chennai
- Makkal Pathai
- Mission Institute for Training Research and Action (MITRA), Nagpur
- Ramakrishna Mission Sevashram, Haridwar, Uttarakhand
- Ramakrishna Mission Sevashram, Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- Rotary Club Sobha Nagasandra, Bangalore
- Rotary Club of Puttur
- St. Antony's Church, Thamaraipadi
- Schiffelin Institute of Health – Research and Leprosy Center, Karigiri
- Spastic Society of Tamilnadu
- Spastic Society of Tiruchirapalli
- Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Golden Jubilee Matriculation School, Tirunelveli
- Swabhimana Trust Bangalore
- Thee Trust, Pipili – Bhubaneswar
- TAMBRAS
- TN Udavikkaram Association for the Welfare of Differently Abled
- Vanavil Association for the differently abled - Kannagi Nagar
- VISWAS Dnyan Prabodhini & Research Institute, Nashik
- Worth Trust – Vellore