



FREEDOM TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024



Regd. Office: Flat # 9, Block D1, Anand Apartments, # 50, LB Road,
Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai 600 041, India

Phone: +91-44-2452 2414 | +91-93810 23173

www.freedomtrustchennai.org

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VISIONARY INSIGHTS FROM THE FOUNDER



Freedom trust continues to grow, year on year. Our regular donors have continued to support us and we have many new corporates like Sanmina, Vara LLP, Xylem and the Sanmar group.

Freedom trust has reached out to many of the 12 states where we have a presence and our flagship project WALK INDIA continues to provide artificial limbs to amputees all over India. Our field officers Rishi, Jagan and Abilash have done an excellent job of conducting these camps.

Our Core team of Mr. A. Sankaran, Usha Bharadwaj, and Sudharshan chart out the course of action, organize the camps and facilitate hundreds of people with disabilities with mobility aids and prostheses. Our SOFT members contribute their time and efforts to furthering our cause. Usha Bharadwaj, our core member continues her yeoman service to the cause of special talented children. Mr. Sankaran continues to bring out the newsletter titled STEPS AHEAD, which reaches our well-wishers every month. Mr. Sudharshan who has joined us recently has plunged into organizing camps successfully.

It is our dream to make every amputee in India walk, by providing free artificial limbs. We are looking forward to embracing new technology and enhance the productivity, reach and quality of the limbs, and partner with academic institutions for this purpose. Our long-standing dream of establishing an appliance bank is also in the pipeline.

Our trustees, Mr. Hariharan, and Sankaran are a bulwark of support to us, as always.

DR. S. SUNDER
Founder and Managing Trustee
Freedom Trust

A LOOK AT FREEDOM TRUST

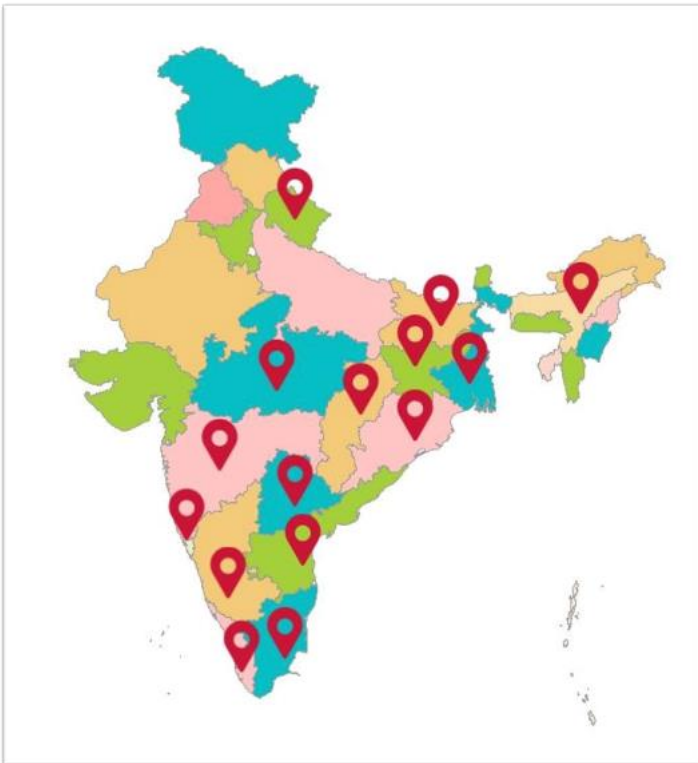
Freedom Trust (Foundation for the Rehabilitation Education and Empowerment of the Disabled of Madras), was established in 1997 by Dr. Sunder, a renowned rehabilitation specialist. The trust was founded with the aim of addressing the mobility needs of physically challenged individuals in rural areas.

The primary objective of Freedom Trust is to provide essential mobility aids such as wheelchairs, tricycles, artificial limbs, and orthoses to economically disadvantaged individuals with physical disabilities. Since its inception, the Trust has remained committed to enhancing the quality of life of the disabled community by facilitating their mobility and access to opportunities.

Over the past 27 years, Freedom Trust has made significant strides in fulfilling its mission. The trust has distributed mobility aids and appliances to approximately 37,000 physically challenged individuals across the country through over 1100 rural camps, reaching out to remote communities in various states including Assam, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Goa, Karnataka, and Kerala.

Through its dedicated efforts, Freedom Trust has become a beacon of hope for thousands of individuals with physical disabilities, empowering them with mobility.

OUR PRESENCE



- Tamil Nadu
- Kerala
- Karnataka
- Andhra Pradesh
- Telangana
- Goa
- Maharashtra
- Madhya Pradesh
- Odisha
- Bihar
- Assam
- Uttarakhand

OUR TRUSTEES AND CORE MEMBERS



Dr. S. Sunder – Founder & Managing Trustee

Dr. Sunder is a distinguished figure in the field of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, holding an MD Degree in the same discipline. With a lifelong dedication to serving the needs of the differently abled community, Dr. Sunder's tireless efforts have been acknowledged by both the Central and State Governments, who have honoured him with the prestigious title of "The Best Doctor in the Field of Social Service."



Mr. Hariharan Sankaran - Trustee

Mr. Hariharan has held the position of Head of Infrastructure at i-flex Solutions. Beyond his corporate role, Mr. Hariharan actively supports the Freedom Trust, playing a pivotal role in sponsoring and organizing disability camps.

His strategic thinking, compassion, and dedication to social impact, contributes greatly to the mission of Freedom Trust.



Mr. Sankaran Annaswamy – Trustee

Mr. Sankaran Annaswamy, a seasoned corporate leader serves as a Trustee with a profound dedication to social and environmental causes. He has had a distinguished tenure as Senior VP at Standard Chartered GBS Pvt Ltd.

In his role as Trustee, Mr. Annaswamy's multifaceted expertise helps to steer the Trust towards transparency, compliance, and efficient utilization of Trust funds.



Usha Bharadwaj



Ravi Ayyangar



Sudharshan Reddy

OUR STAFF



Rishi Kumar



Abilash. M



Nagarajan V



T. Dhanasekaran

Disabled Individuals in Rural Areas

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. A person who is handicapped, either due to loss of a limb, or due to paralysis would be unable to discharge his daily duties, let alone go to his or her place of work. **Any form of mobility, be it fitting of a caliper, or an artificial limb or usage of a tricycle or wheel chair could make a major change in the lives of these locomotor [physically] handicapped persons.**

Many of these persons with disability are employable, and very often it is the economic insufficiency or inaccessibility to mobility aids that makes them confined to home. In order for them to lead a life with dignity and avoid their dependence on their care givers, they need to be fit with orthoses [calipers and splints] or prostheses [artificial limbs]. A handicapped person means a handicapped family because a healthy able-bodied person has to be with him or her to attend to the daily needs. A handicapped family means a handicapped society. **Making a handicapped person mobile contributes immensely to the upliftment of society.**

Application of the principles of orthotic and prosthetic fitting **is a very scientific process and involves the assessment by a rehabilitation specialist, measurement and fitment by an orthotist-prosthetic engineer.** Sometimes a person who has been using an artificial limb becomes handicapped when his prosthesis wears out and becomes irreparable. So too, with calipers. A child with cerebral palsy fit with a splint to prevent or correct its deformities soon outgrows the appliance and starts developing contractures.

Handicapped persons in rural areas cannot afford to come to the city or towns where qualified rehabilitation teams are placed; they neglect their handicap and later develop deformities which are difficult to correct, except by surgical means.

The photographs below portray the diverse spectrum of disabilities prevalent in our society, captured during various camps. From children and adults adapting to amputation to those affected by polio, muscular dystrophy, locomotor disability, and burn injuries, each image showcases the resilience and fortitude exhibited by individuals confronting physical challenges. These individuals epitomize remarkable courage and determination as they navigate their daily lives, surmounting obstacles with unwavering perseverance. Through these compelling visuals, we are prompted to cultivate empathy and extend support to those living with disabilities, as they endeavour to lead fulfilling lives and contribute meaningfully to their communities.



The Deplorable State of Limbs used by Rural Amputees



Transformation



Our Projects – Rural Camps

“GRAM VIKALANG PUNARJANMAM”



Our project, Gram Vikalang Punarjanmam, is dedicated to supporting individuals affected by a range of physical challenges, including Polio, Muscular Dystrophy, Locomotor disability, and spinal cord injury.



Through this initiative, we aim to provide customized appliances such as callipers, special furniture, surgical boots, and various other aids, like wheelchairs, crutches, and walkers. We strive to empower individuals to regain independence and lead a life with dignity.

Gram Vikalang Punarjanmam embodies our commitment to inclusivity and ensuring that all members of society, regardless of their physical abilities, have access to mobility.



WALK INDIA

...making rural amputees walk

A sizeable number of physically handicapped are amputees, who have lost their lower limbs due to accidents or diseases such as diabetes. Among the various types of physical disabilities, people with lower limb amputation benefit the most when fitted with a prosthesis [artificial limb]. An artificial limb is essential to make an amputee get back his life and to resume livelihood. It is our long-term vision to make people with lower limb amputation across India to get back on their feet with appropriate customized prostheses.

Freedom Trust's visionary project, "Walk India," is a "dream come true" project, conceptualized by Dr. Sunder, our founder, which aims to ensure that lower limb amputees across India receive appropriate prostheses, enabling them to walk again. Through specialized camps held in towns and villages nationwide, Freedom Trust facilitates limb fitting, empowering amputees to walk with newly fitted prostheses.

"Walk India" represents our commitment to rehabilitation and empowerment, ensuring that rural amputees have the opportunity to reclaim their lives with confidence and dignity.



“SISHU PUNARJANMAM”

"Shishu Punarjanmam," a project aimed at nurturing and empowering differently abled and exceptionally talented children in the realms of music and fine arts.

Launched in 2003, this initiative has facilitated numerous students in establishing successful careers in their respective fields. Through "Shishu Punarjanmam," selected students receive scholarships and specialized training tailored to their interests and abilities.

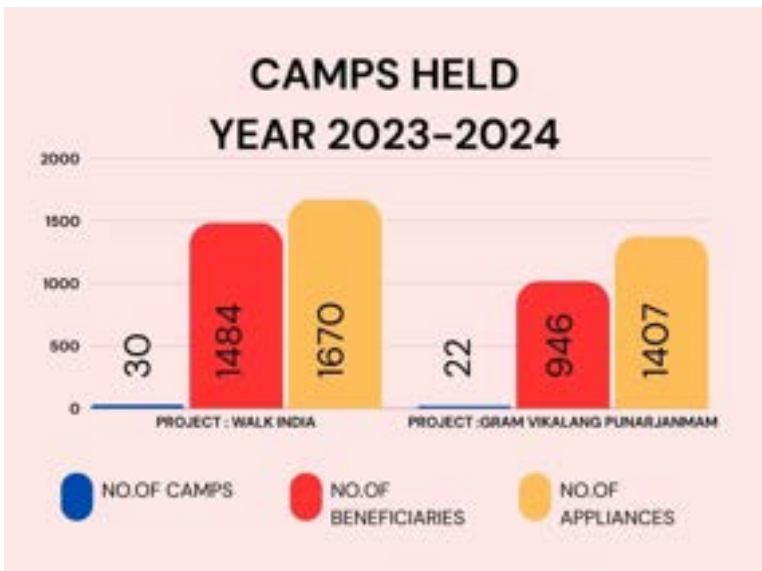
Our Sishupunarjanmam scholars Akshaya & Manoj have done exceedingly well. While Manoj is defending his Phd thesis this year for his Doctorate Degree in Music, Akshaya has blossomed into a fine young musician both as a Vocalist and Violinist. Lokesh, Indrakumar & Suvedha have become trainers in the field of arts, while Hidayathulla, works as a keyboard trainer in a school. Our music scholars were invited to perform during the famous Margazhi Music Festival in Chennai by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan & Bharat Kalachar. Samaya Aishwarya, is pursuing higher studies in music. We plan to recruit fresh scholars after a talent hunt during the current financial year 2024 – 25.

The project's success is evident in the achievements of five differently abled scholars, who have been honoured with the prestigious Most Creative Individual Award in the field of arts by the President of India on five successive years.

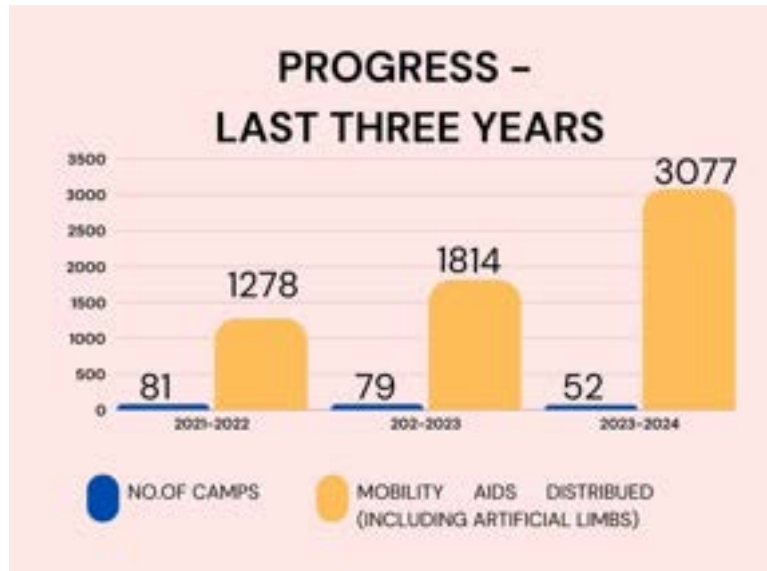
“MUSIC FORUM”

An extended wing of Freedom Trust (**supported by Shriram Group**), Music Forum had an eventful and vibrant year. While its regular programs along the Music Academy (Mega workshop for students) and Lec Dem Mela with Sruti Magazine was a big hit, Music Forum marked its presence in New Delhi by doing a workshop under the auspices of India International Center. Yet another workshop in Secunderabad under the auspices of Kala Sagaram was very well received and will be continued to be done as an annual feature. We also did a 10-day Margazhi Maha Utsavam, in association with Kauvery Hospitals, Chennai, during the December Music Festival. Music Forum is all set to continue to work for the cause of preserving, propagating, and archiving our great musical tradition in the years to come.

Activity Summary



Progress Chart



Project: Gram Vikalang Punarjanmam

S.no	Assessment Date	Distribution Date	Place	Sponsor	No. of beneficiaries	No. of appliances	No. of limbs
1	15.04.2023	21.05.2023	Nadu Palani	Individual	46	49	3
2		12.05.2023	Chennai	Individual	4	4	
3		06.06.2023	Chennai	Individual	1	1	
4		25.06.2023	Chennai	Individual	2	2	
5	18.06.2023	29.07.2023	Tirunelveli	Mr. Hariharan and Family	63	96	
6	30.07.2023	20.08.2023	Sivakasi	Lodge Ramaprasad No. 228	80	94	
7		24.08.2023	Chennai	Individual	1	1	
8		24.08.2023	Chennai	Individual	1	1	
9	26.08.2023	16.09.2023	Tiruvallur	Dr. Sanjeevi and Dr. Rangan	41	47	3
1	09.10.2023	24.11.2023	Tiruchirappalli	Rane	64	65	12
11		12.10.2023	Kannathur	Individual	29	29	
12	21.10.2023	04.02.2024	Tiruvallur	Sanmina - Sci India Pvt. Ltd	127	162	10
13	21.10.2023	04.02.2024	Ponneri	Sanmina - Sci India Pvt.Ltd	81	107	12
14	05.11.2023	10.12.2023	Vadapalani	Kauvery Hospital	80	139	
15	05.11.2023	16.12.2023	Chennai	L & T	59	80	10
16	05.11.2023	13.11.2023	Chennai	Inner Wheel Cub	18	19	1
17		30.11.2023	Chennai	Individual	2	2	
18		30.11.2023	Chennai	Individual	1	1	
19	25.11.2023	19.01.2024	Nagercoil	Hyundai Transys Lear Automotive Pvt. Ltd	178	159	64
20	26.11.2023	20.01.2024	Kallidaikurchi	Mr. Hariharan and Family	66	52	33
21		23.02.2024	Chennai	Individual	1	1	
22		19.03.2024	Chennai	Individual	1	1	
				Total	946	1112	148

Project: Walk India

S.no	Assessment Date	Distribution Date	Place	Sponsor	No. of beneficiaries	No. of limbs	No. of appliances
1		11.04.2023	Chennai	Inner Wheel Club	5	5	
2		21.04.2023	Chennai	Individual	1	1	
3		05.05.2023	Chennai	Individual	1	1	
4	22.04.2023	23.05.2023	Kanchipuram	Iljin Pvt. Ltd	118	105	49
5	06.05.2023	15.06.2023	Korattur	Rotary Club of Canada	72	76	11
6	25.05.2023						
7	02.06.2023	06.07.2023	Raya Choti	Kaleesuwari Foundation	144	150	47
8	31.05.2023	15.07.2023	Chennai	Hexaware Technologies & Dream Runner Half Marathon	28	29	3
9	24.06.2023						
10	09.06.2023	27.07.2023	Mysuru, Karnataka	Kaleesuwari Foundation	148	148	3
11	18.06.2023	29.07.2023	Tirunelveli	Hexaware Technologies & Dream Runner Half Marathon	72	76	24
12	06.06.2023	02.08.2023	Vellore	Thirumalai Chemical Limited	59	62	20
13	24.06.2023	07.08.2023	Chennai	DHL	30	32	3
14		04.09.2023	Chennai	Individual	2	2	1
15	11.07.2023	02.09.2023	Dharmapuri	Hapag-Lloyd Global Capability Centre	93	94	19
16	17.08.2023	23.09.2023	Thanjavur	Hexaware Technologies & Dream Runner Half Marathon	108	111	13
17	24.08.2023	07.10.2023	Jaysingpur	Hapag-Lloyd Global Capability Centre	60	64	14
18		31.10.2023	Chennai	Individual	1	1	1
19	29.10.2023	24.11.2023	Villupuram	Lennox International	55	55	7
20		06.12.2023	Chennai	Inner Wheel Club Madras	3	3	
21		11.12.2023	Chennai	Inner Wheel Club Madras Midtown	2	2	
22		13.12.2023	Chennai	Individual	1	1	
23		26.12.2023	Chennai	Individual	3	3	
24		25.01.2024	Chennai	Individual	7	7	1
25	03.01.2024	30.01.2024	Puttur, Karnataka	Rotary Club of Canada & Rotary Club of Puttur	30	28	5
26	13.01.2024	18.02.2024	Kadapa, Karnataka	Savex Technologies Pvt. Ltd	151	160	40
27	03.02.2024	02.03.2024	Madurai	Hapag-Lloyd Global Capability Centre	147	155	9
28	13.02.2024	09.03.2024	Wardha, Maharashtra	Hapag-Lloyd Global Capability Centre	50	51	12
29	10.02.2024	26.04.2024	Haridwar, Uttarakhand	Cavin Kare Pvt. Ltd	93	100	13
30	06.03.2024						
				Total	1484	1522	295

OUR CORPORATE AND INSTITUTIONAL DONORS



INNER WHEEL CLUB OF MADRAS



ROUND TABLE INDIA AREA 2



LODGE RAMAPRASAD NO.228



INNER WHEEL CLUB OF MADRAS COSMOS



Rotary Club of Chennai Mambalam, District:3232, Zone 5



Sri Jayendra Golden Jubilee School



INNER WHEEL CLUB OF MADRAS MIDTOWN



Rotary Club Puttur

OUR PATRONS AND INDIVIDUAL DONORS

- * Mr. S.Hariharan & Family
- *Mrs. Swarnalatha Jothi Kumar
- *Mr. R.Ram
- *Mr. Aariya Babu & Mrs. Revathy Babu
- *Mr.N. Viswanath (RMKV Venkatesh)
- *Mrs. Kala Raghu
- *Mr. N.L. Rajah
- *Mrs.Kalpana Palaniapan
- *Mr. Vinod Kumar Saraogi
- *Mr. Hari Sankaran
- *Mr.Ramanuj Satagopan
- *Mr. Sadagopan
- *Mrs. Kalpana Sivakumar
- *Mrs. Jayalakshmi Sekhar
- *Mr. Gabriel Noronha
- *Mr.Arun Jain (Polaris Banyan Holdings Pvt.Ltd)
- *Dr.Aruna- Stanley Medical College Alumni Association
- *Dr. Vijay (Madhavi Amma Charitable Trust)
- *Dr. Sanjeevi
- *Mr.R.Ramesh Kumar
- *Mr.Kumara
- *Mr.S.V. Sankaran
- *Mr.Gopal Nandlal Wadhvani
- *Rtn. Parthasarathy
- *Mr.A. P. Kanna (RC Club of K K Nagar)
- *Mr. M.Narayan
- *Mr.Saurav Khanna
- *Mr.S. Ganesh
- *Mr.P.Vaman Pai
- *Mr.Ramachandran Kannan
- *Mr.Shyam Sridhar
- *Mr.R .Chandrasekaran

Partnering NGOs

- * Pushpagiri Medical College Hospital, Kerala
- * Asha Foundation India (AFI Trust), Kerala
- * The Spastic Society of Tamilnadu CBR Centre, Redhills
- * The Spastic Society of Tiruchirapalli
- * Saksham Foundation, Srirampur- Maharashtra
- * Sri Jayendra Golden Jubilee School, Tirunelveli
- * Vasantham Trust, Thiruvallur
- * Malar Trust, Mamallapuram
- * Caritas India – Goa
- * Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement, Sargur- Karnataka
- * District Differently Abled Welfare Office- Dindigul
- * Guru Vidhyashram, Keelkatali- Chennai
- * C.S.I Rehabilitation Centre, Kodaikanal
- * District Differently Abled Welfare Office- Nagapattinam
- * Sristi Foundation, Villupuram
- * Taradac, Kanchipuram,
- * District Differently Abled Welfare Office- Theni