



# HELPING VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN INDIA

Annual Report 2016 – 2017

# Purpose

**SLA's purpose is to help transform the lives of vulnerable children in India.**

We do this by partnering with and supporting grassroots Indian NGOs that care for and educate children. Our joint vision with our Indian partners is to reduce all forms of child poverty – physical, emotional, educational and economic – by providing each child with the care and security, encouragement, education and life skills that will empower them to develop their potential, self-esteem and aspirations. This will enable them to lead independent, fulfilling lives and to break cycles of poverty.

In 2016-17, SLA supported the Nazareth Education Society (NES) to manage the Light of Love Children's Home and School (LLCH) in the town of Tuni in Andhra Pradesh state. NES is an education-focused sister organisation of our original partner in this project, the Nazareth Association for Social Awareness (NASA).

In October 2016, as part of our strategy to reach out to more vulnerable children in India, SLA partnered with two Indian NGOs caring for and educating children in the state of Telangana: Rainbow Homes and VOICE 4 Girls. SLA will help fund projects undertaken by these new partners for a trial period of three years.



## Founder's Introduction

Dear SLA Supporters,

This has been another exciting year because, as many of you know, SLA has widened its support to two new projects providing care and education for vulnerable children (in these cases girls) enabling them to escape the poverty trap and exploitation. Having visited some of the shocking slums in Hyderabad this year, and having seen the horrendous conditions millions of Indian children endure, it is as clear to me as ever why SLA must continue to do what we do.

Our main challenge now at the Light of Love Children's Home and School, and the subject of ongoing negotiations, is the difficult crossroads we have come to since Dr. Premdas' death, with the changing local circumstances, the new management and the new government regulations in Andhra Pradesh. Change is inevitable and after 17 years of development perhaps it is indicative of LLCH's "coming of age" and their growing desire for independence.

I am constantly overwhelmed by the incredible courage and resilience of these children, with their enthusiasm and determination to grasp the opportunity of an education, and by the heart-warming coming together of the many SLA volunteers who work so hard for this

shared worthwhile cause. This was so heartily demonstrated during our 'Girls' Lives Matter Appeal' and as always at our exciting fireworks events, to mention but two examples! It is truly inspirational, especially when our one world is so torn by division and inequality, and for this I give each one of you my most sincere thanks.

Lastly, we reluctantly say goodbye to our much loved and highly esteemed Executive Director Colin McRae. Under his skilled management SLA has developed and grown into this amazingly happy, efficient and respected charity. We are deeply grateful for all that he has given in time, energy, skill, thoughtful consideration and passion to this very challenging and demanding work. We wish Colin and Sarah much joy in their new joint venture TrailblazersGo. Thank you dear Colin.

**Gillie Davidson MBE**



**"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."**  
(Nelson Mandela)



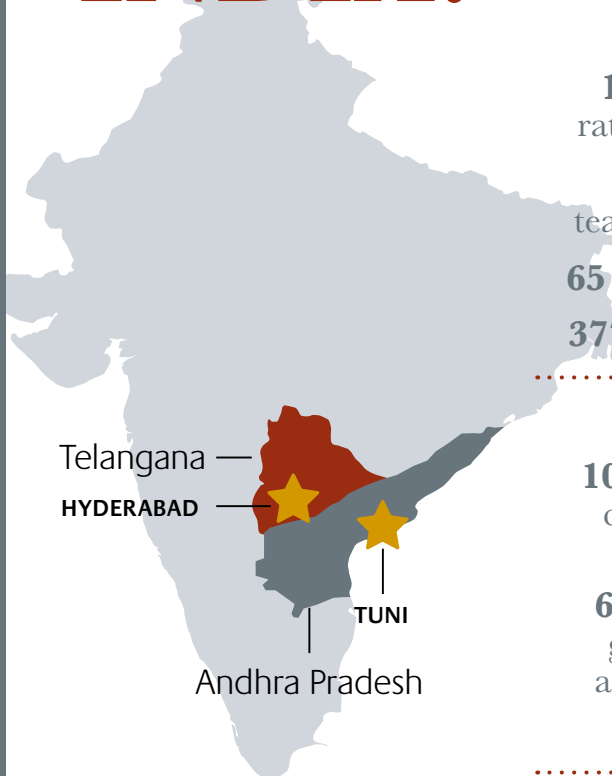
More than 1 in 5 Indians live below the national poverty line, which has severe repercussions for tens of millions of Indian children. The UN reports that of the world's children living in extreme poverty, nearly 1 in 3 lives in India.

This results in more than 60 million under-5s in India suffering from malnutrition, which stunts their physical and mental development. Poor Indian children live in areas without hygienic water and sewage systems, leaving them exposed to life-threatening diseases.

Children living in poverty miss out on education. Millions never go to school or drop out as they are forced into child labour, child marriage and early childbirth. In Telangana state where our partners work, more than 1 in 5 children drops out of primary school while nearly 2 in 5 drops out of secondary school. About half of Indian girls are married off before they reach the legal marriage age of 18 and India accounts for four fifths of the world's 103 million child marriages. These practices perpetuate child exploitation and illiteracy (about 45% of India's poor are illiterate), which reinforce generational cycles of poverty.

The World Bank says poverty persists in India because economic growth and poverty reduction measures have largely benefited people who were already better off, bypassing social groups like tribal people and women. Government initiatives are making progress addressing child poverty, but extreme poverty remains a huge problem and many children still need external help from SLA and our Indian partners.

# WHY INDIA?



## PARTNER ACHIEVEMENTS 2016-2017

### Tuni

**100%** graduation rate from high school

English Medium teaching **for all ages**

**65** children vaccinated

**377** children cared for

### Hyderabad

**100+** destitute street children cared for and educated

**6,000+** adolescent girls in education and empowerment programmes

# SLA Strategy

In 2011, SLA identified **three key strategic objectives:**

- (1) **Continue supporting the Light of Love Children's Home and School**
- (2) **Help our Indian projects to become more financially self-sustaining**
- (3) **Expand our support to more vulnerable children in India through new projects.**

SLA has developed these inter-linked objectives in parallel, resulting in three outcomes in 2016-17:

The Light of Love Home and School in Tuni, Andhra Pradesh state, remains our primary project, attracting more than 70% of SLA funds. We are this project's core funder. ★

SLA is partnering with Indian NGOs to implement a Social Enterprise Project (SEP) in Andhra Pradesh state that will generate funds in India from a dairy farm to help SLA support the work of our Indian partners. ★

SLA has begun supporting and funding two new NGO partners, Rainbow Homes and VOICE 4 Girls, for a three-year trial period. Their projects are reaching more than 6,100 girls in Telangana state. ★

## Progress Report

In October 2016, we opened a new chapter in SLA's development via Strategic Objective 3, moving from supporting just one project to supporting multiple projects by partnering with Rainbow Homes and VOICE 4 Girls for a three-year trial period. We are delighted with the progress of both partnerships (see p.5-9) and the phenomenal response of SLA supporters (see p.4). Our goal is to act as a springboard for these projects, to enable them to attract additional support from local government and Indian society; this 'demonstration effect' is one of the most effective uses of international aid because it validates and champions local best practices.

At the end of the trial period, SLA will evaluate these partnerships and projects to decide the most effective ways to utilise donor funds and the anticipated funds from Strategic Objective 2, the Social Enterprise Project, which continues in development (see p.12).

Strategic Objective 1 is ongoing and, as indicated in last year's Annual Report, now requires fewer SLA funds due to positive developments – improved living conditions and greater government support in Andhra Pradesh for vulnerable children seeking shelter and schooling – which have resulted in fewer children being brought to join LLCH. These altered circumstances, alongside structural changes in the management of the Light of Love Home following the death of our original partner Dr. Christopher Premdas, have led our partners to seek greater autonomy and freedom, without

full consultation with SLA regarding how they interpret these new circumstance and regulatory changes. This has become a matter of great concern for SLA, because without a shared vision and effective partnership we cannot continue as before. We are therefore at a crossroads in our relationship and we are currently negotiating with our partners the best way forward whilst reflecting on the rapidly changing situation. As always, the children remain our priority.

## What SLA Needs

Every year, SLA must raise more than £500,000 to support our work in India. The cost fluctuates with prices of food, fuel, materials and wages in India, but the long-term trend is upward.

Costs are also impacted by exchange rates. We have hedged against currency risk by purchasing rupees in advance, but since the Brexit vote the pound has devalued against the rupee by more than 15%. This presents a substantial challenge.

About 70% of all SLA funds come from individual supporters like you. Please continue to walk with us on the next stage of our journey.





# GIRLS' LIVES MATTER APPEAL

Our new Indian partners urgently need funds for their work and so in February 2017 we launched the Girls' Lives Matter Appeal, which continues until February 2018, with an ambitious target of £100,000. The money raised will:

- Feed, clothe, house, care for and educate 100 girls rescued from the streets of Hyderabad and living in the ASRITHA Rainbow Home
- Empower 6,000 vulnerable adolescent girls to decide their own futures by providing VOICE 4 Girls educational camps

To support the Girls' Lives Matter Appeal we devised a new kind of sponsored challenge. Hoof it to Hyderabad asked people to do a sponsored walk, run or cycle for at least 10km anytime during June 2017. The goal was that collectively we would 'virtually' walk the 8,000km or 12,106,000 steps from Edinburgh to Hyderabad. Virgin Atlantic generously donated a prize of two return flights to India for one lucky 'Hooper'.

Our first Hooper was SLA ambassador Irvine Welsh, who walked the Royal Mile from Edinburgh Castle to Holyrood Palace with SLA supporters and members of the media. STV later interviewed SLA's Executive Director Colin McRae about the Appeal and the Challenge.

The response was incredible. We got 286 'Hoopers' – including 186 pupils from Tweedmouth Prior Park First School and South Morningside Primary School – to follow in the Trainspotting author's footsteps. One walked the Lairig Ghru, another cycled from Edinburgh to Newcastle, and many climbed mountains and walked glens. Not only did they hoof it the 8,000km to Hyderabad, they nearly made it all the way back again, covering 15,252km and raising £8,228!

Thanks to fantastic efforts like these and the generosity of SLA supporters, in 2016-17 we raised £51,215 for Girls' Lives Matter!



# VOICE 4 Girls Update

During our three-year partnership, VOICE 4 Girls will provide education camps for about 6,000 marginalised adolescent girls from 30 schools in 6 districts of Telangana state. VOICE has created a cyclical, peer-learning model in which older girls who have participated in the three VOICE camps – Parichay (Introduction), Disha (Direction) and Sakhi (Leadership) – then teach younger girls about VOICE themes through the Her VOICE Junior Programme to prepare them for the Parichay camp.



**This year, SLA's support has helped enable more than 6,000 marginalised adolescent girls to take part in VOICE camps and programmes.**

**In December 2016**, 626 girls aged 15-16 attended the Sakhi Peer Leadership Camp where they learned how to become peer leaders, educators and mentors.

**From January to March 2017**, 5,076 girls aged 11-12 took part in the Her VOICE Junior Programme taught by girls who participated in the Sakhi camp in December.

**In May 2017**, 969 girls (approx. 600-650 of whom participated in Her VOICE Junior) attended the Parichay camp, learning about puberty, menstruation, safety from violence and fundamental rights. They also learned how to challenge perceptions of beauty and strength in order to boost their self-esteem, and help them negotiate for their rights and resolve conflicts.



**“I really liked the topic of ending inequality because we see a lot of discrimination. After coming to Sakhi camp, I feel we Sakhis should work towards ending inequality.” (Keerthi)**

**“I have learned that we should stand up not only for myself but also for others. I have realised that united we stand and divided we fall. We should work as a team to achieve our goals.” (Jyothi)**

SLA's funding has also enabled VOICE to begin an in-depth evaluation of the progress made by a cohort of 3,000 girls as they progress from VOICE Junior to Sakhi Leadership. An independent Indian research firm has begun analyzing baseline data on the girls' knowledge, attitudes and behaviours collected during this year's camps and programmes.

This long-term study is intended to help VOICE 4 Girls to demonstrate to local, state and national governments and other potential supporters that they should invest in girl empowerment programmes. VOICE has found it difficult to fund such a study, and SLA is delighted to be facilitating this vital work.



## Shweta's Story

**Shweta is a 15-year-old student from Marikal, a small village about 150km from Hyderabad, who has attended Parichay and Disha Camps.**

Shweta's father is an alcoholic who would regularly beat up her mother. Shweta didn't know this was illegal before she entered the VOICE 4 Girls programme. After the camps, she spoke to her father about the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act and told him that it was a crime to beat his wife. She also taught her mother, aunts, and cousins about their rights and how to exercise them. She managed to persuade her father to gradually stop drinking, and he is no longer beating Shweta's mother. Today, her mother is proud of her daughter and says that she will let her study and help her reach her goals no matter what.



# Rainbow Homes Update

SLA is supporting the ASRITHA Rainbow Home in the Doodhbowli District of Hyderabad, which cares for more than 100 girls who were formerly living on the streets of Hyderabad. Nearly half of these girls had never enrolled in school, while the other half had dropped out of school.

This year, SLA's funding enabled the home to provide these girls with:

- comprehensive residential care and rehabilitation ☆
- intensive 'bridge courses' of enhanced nutrition, basic education and social skills ☆
- the opportunity to attend local government schools and reintegrate with their peers ☆
- education about their fundamental rights ☆

In June 2017, as part of SLA's annual review of the three-year partnership with Rainbow Homes, SLA founder and chair Gillie Davidson and SLA staff visited the home and one of the slums where these girls had previously lived (see photos). There was no proper housing, no running water, no sanitation and very few prospects for children.

We met relatives of some of the girls in the home, almost all subsisting as 'rag pickers', living off what they could salvage from rubbish dumps and the streets.



# £15

**MONTHLY COST TO  
PROVIDE FOOD FOR  
1 CHILD AT ASRITHA  
RAINBOW HOME**







These conditions emphasized the importance of Rainbow Homes' work getting these vulnerable girls off the streets and into safe residential care.

We saw how ASRITHA's social workers engage with these communities to identify destitute girls and then offer them the chance to join the ASRITHA Home.

The urban poverty line in India is 47 rupees (56p) per person per day. Families from areas ASRITHA works in make about 28 rupees (33p) a day.

The SLA team also spent time with the staff and girls at the ASRITHA Home, and visited the head office of Rainbow Homes. We were extremely impressed by the dedication of all the staff we met as well as their focus on child-centred methods in all their work.

We were also encouraged by the support of local stakeholders and education authorities; the ASRITHA Home is housed on the second and third floors of a government primary school building, enabling the girls to attend school with their peers.

This arrangement also benefits local children and their families. The school would be unsustainable (and closed down) without the additional students coming from the ASRITHA Home.



## Shona's Story

**We were taken by Arunmai from Rainbow Homes to visit one of the 190 official slum areas in Hyderabad.**

There were 400 families living there on land owned by the government. They have no running water and no electricity but cannot complain as they are not meant to be there. Their children cannot study after school because it is so dark. There are four communal taps from which they get water from the mains once every two days for an hour. There are four toilets which have no running water. People do menial jobs like rag picking and litter clearing (for about 40p an hour) and may only find work one or two days a week. Their homes are made from corrugated sheets, wicker, sticks, and plastic sheets. There are no windows and sometimes just a sheet for a door. We spoke to some of the elders who said some of the girls were being helped by Rainbow Homes and getting an education. Afterwards, we visited ASRITHA Rainbow Home. Everything is very basic but it is clear that this is a great improvement. There the girls have the chance through education to break the cycle of poverty.

# Tuni Home

SLA funding now feeds, clothes, houses, educates and provides medical care for more than 370 children at the Light of Love Home and School.

SLA and our partners NES/NASA undertake capital and maintenance projects at the Tuni home. While capital project requirements have reduced in recent years thanks to the extensive infrastructure already onsite, maintenance requirements have increased due to the number and age of the buildings, vehicles and other facilities. Projects generally focus on upgrading the buildings, sanitation, water, power, medical and kitchen facilities. ☆

The number of children SLA supports has reduced, which reflects numerous factors, most importantly greater local government provision of accommodation and education subsidies for vulnerable children in Andhra Pradesh. With discussions ongoing regarding SLA's changing relationship with our partners, the changes in local living conditions and government policies, as well as the organisational changes regarding management of the Home, in 2016-17 SLA, NASA and NES implemented a one-year operating plan in advance of agreeing longer-term arrangements. ☆

In 2016-17, no major capital projects were necessary although several major maintenance works were undertaken including:

- A new septic tank replaced an old one at the main campus
- A new drainage system replaced a temporary one at the main campus
- Small cracks in the main girls' accommodation block were repaired
- The school block and the boys' accommodation block and dining hall building were painted for the first time in 5 years to protect them from the elements
- A new fence was installed around the top of the main campus wall to improve security
- A ramp was installed at the dining hall and trolleys purchased to enable kitchen staff to more easily transport food and large cooking pots.

# £34

**PAYS FOR FOOD,  
HOUSING, CLOTHING,  
HEALTHCARE AND  
EDUCATION FOR 1  
CHILD FOR  
1 MONTH**



# Tuni Health

## SLA funds comprehensive health care for the children in the Light of Love Home.

Dr. Sowmya, who this year passed exams necessary to become a consultant paediatrician, lives onsite and provides medical care in the medical centre recently constructed using SLA funds. She is assisted by one qualified nurse and one laboratory technician. She immunizes all new arrivals against diseases including measles, polio, hepatitis B, tetanus and rabies and tests them for HIV. She also immunizes infants against flu and de-worms them. A daily clinic is conducted, as are monthly checks of the children's health, diet and physical growth. The centre has emergency life-saving equipment like anti-venom, adrenaline, oxygen and a nebulizer.



The children's health continues to improve thanks to Dr. Sowmya's expert care and vigilance, the regular monitoring and preventative procedures she has put in place, and the fortified diet she has introduced. This year, Dr. Sowmya equipped the medical centre's laboratory so that she and her team can now analyse blood and urine samples onsite.

In October 2016, 65 new children were vaccinated against measles, polio, hepatitis B, tetanus and rabies. One new child was diagnosed as HIV+ and given antiretroviral (ART) drugs. The government normally provides free ART drugs, but for several months this year they did not and so Dr. Sowmya purchased them using the Home's budget.

In addition, all kindergarten children and other vulnerable children were vaccinated against flu. Thankfully, there were no cases of measles or chickenpox and no major medical incidents.

One of Dr. Sowmya's major concerns is that children who go to relatives during the summer holidays may return to the Home in poor health. However, the new medical centre facilities have enabled her to get children to bring their close relatives for a check-up, with positive impacts on the health of the whole family.



**PAYS FOR  
HEALTHCARE  
FOR 1 CHILD  
FOR 1 MONTH**



## Satya's Story

**Satya is seven years old and was born HIV positive. Her mother died giving birth to Satya's younger sister who now lives with Satya's grandmother.**

Satya's father was too ill to work and died from AIDS in 2015. Her grandmother works as a labourer in the fields (when she can get work) and cannot afford to look after two children. When Satya arrived at the Light of Love Children's Home, her white blood cell count was so low the medical staff did not think she would survive. But after being put on a special protein rich diet and given anti-retroviral medicines, she is much improved. Satya is settled now at the Home and is doing well in fourth class.



# Tuni Education

SLA's funding makes **education available to children** otherwise denied it due to poverty, disability or discrimination.

In 2016-17, SLA funded basic education for 310 children from Kindergarten through High School (age 15-16). The school teaches classes in both English and the local language Telegu. Two head teachers (one each for the English and Telegu streams) are supported by 26 teachers. ☆

SLA's objective is to enable as many young people as possible to gain academic, vocational and professional qualifications to help them transition into independent adulthood and break the cycle of poverty. This year, SLA funded or partially funded further education for 125 students attending Intermediate College, Polytechnic, University or other further education courses. ☆

In 2016-17, the school achieved its long-held ambition for students to sit their final school examinations (10th class) in English as well as Telegu. This is the culmination of our 10-year joint project to establish 'English medium' teaching throughout the school and we are delighted that the children will now be competing on a more level playing field with their wealthier peers.

The school maintained its excellent standards this year, with all 17 students in the English Medium stream, and all 21 students in the Telegu Medium stream, passing their 10th class exams. In India, passing 10th class is the gateway to further education, training and good jobs.

Younger students excelled too, with 86% of Telugu Medium students and 85% of English Medium students scoring over 70% in year-end exams. These results underline how the school is opening up opportunities for children previously denied education.

Six students completed further education courses in 2016-17. SLA's further education commitments have reduced thanks to an increase in government-provided free or subsidised further education for disadvantaged children. In addition, our partner's Saving Scheme for Further Education and new banking schemes are encouraging many relatives to save for the future education of children at the Light of Love Home.

At the end of the 2016-17 academic year, about 60% of the children's guardians were saving towards further education. If children have no known relatives, their further education is supported by SLA.



## Naomi's Story

**Our November 2016 Volunteer Expedition group arrived at the home in Tuni after a long train journey from Kolkata.**

We were given a very warm welcome with all the children at the Home coming out to meet us, giving us gifts of flower garlands and a big group of very talented children drummed us in!

Feeling overwhelmed by all the love and kindness so widely and evidently shared here, we rested for the rest of the day before being thrown into a busy schedule.

Between crafts, songs, dancing, games, serving food at dinner and four lots of English conversation classes (I'm pictured here with one group of students) we had little time to catch a breath!

All of us were completely exhausted but feel our time at the Home was a roaring success.

# Social Enterprise Project Update

In alignment with SLA's strategic objectives, SLA has been working with Indian NGOs in Andhra Pradesh state to fund a sustainability initiative. This will be a non-profit dairy farm of around 500 milking cows, generating surpluses to fund activities in alignment with SLA's core purpose – helping to provide care and education for vulnerable Indian children.

SLA is ready to provide a ring-fenced grant as soon as our NGO partners secure the necessary regulatory clearances in India.

This process has led to some delays, but it is essential that these regulatory requirements are met, and that there is a stable governance framework to help develop the project and ensure it provides a sustainable and significant source of local funding for NGOs doing vital work for Indian children.

This year, our Indian partners have been:

- Expanding their network of expert contacts to provide reliable information and advice regarding the viability and sustainability of the project, gaining confidence in its ability to deliver its objectives
- Attracting and developing the key skills required to make this project a success and ensure it is soundly governed
- Researching charitable activities the farm could potentially support

The next steps for SLA are:

- To provide the required grant to allow our Indian partners to implement the project and install the necessary infrastructure to commence dairy operations
- To work with our Indian partners to monitor the project through its infancy and provide any support to ensure its long-term success

Further information will be available as the project advances and our Indian partners move towards welcoming the first cows to the farm, and finalising the activities the surplus funds will support.

provide a sustainable and significant source of local funding



# Volunteer Expeditions Programme

SLA and our Indian partners welcome groups of volunteers to help directly with the work in India. More than 200 volunteers have visited India to assist our partners in the day-to-day running of their projects, to introduce the children to new knowledge, skills and activities, and to experience first-hand the benefits of the work done on SLA donors' behalf.

Volunteer expeditions are an essential part of our outreach and fundraising efforts. Volunteers arrive in India with a sense of common purpose and leave having helped develop our work and our relationships with partners and beneficiaries. Many have become long-term SLA supporters, fundraisers and ambassadors.

In November 2016, we relaunched our Volunteer Expeditions Programme after a period of restructuring both in Scotland and India. The November group of 8 volunteers visited the Light of Love Home in Tuni, contributing to English language conversation classes and conducting numerous arts and crafts workshops with the children, including very popular Christmas card making sessions.

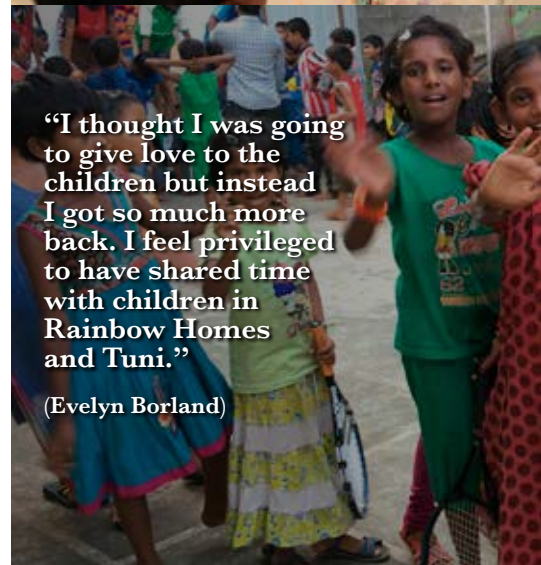
In July 2017, an expedition group of 11 volunteers spent two days with the children at the ASRITHA Rainbow Home, the first SLA volunteers to work with one of our new partners. This was a great success with volunteers taking part in craft making activities and English lessons, and holding a sports day with tennis and rugby lessons at a local sports ground. The volunteers also met many community leaders who visited the girls, and were impressed by their support for the work of the ASRITHA Rainbow Home. Both SLA and Rainbow Homes are looking forward to the Volunteer Expeditions next year. The group then went on to Tuni where they took part in English conversation classes, as well as giving tennis lessons, a first for the children at the Light of Love Home.

These two groups of volunteers made extraordinary fundraising efforts on their return from India, raising an astonishing £21,550 to support the work of SLA. That's enough to feed all of the girls at ASRITHA Rainbow Home for a year and have £3,000 left over!



**"I have gained and learnt much including what SLA as a charity is achieving and exactly how the money raised is being used to benefit others."**

(Fergus Cook)



**"I thought I was going to give love to the children but instead I got so much more back. I feel privileged to have shared time with children in Rainbow Homes and Tuni."**

(Evelyn Borland)



**£21,550**  
RAISED BY 2016-17  
VOLUNTEER  
EXPEDITIONS

# CYCLE INDIA FOR SLA

In January 2017, as part of the expansion and development of our Volunteer programmes, SLA welcomed Scott Preston onto the staff as Development Coordinator. Scott's duties also include working with our new partners and establishing new volunteer and fundraising opportunities. After studying international development and microfinance, Scott volunteered and worked in Africa and India on various development projects, and brings a wealth of experience to SLA.

## Cycle India for SLA

This year, SLA has developed the Cycle India for SLA fundraising challenge, which combines a spectacular 400km route from Mysore to Mangalore – taking in plantations, hill stations and UNESCO world heritage sites – with visits to SLA's partner projects in Hyderabad. The first Cycle India for SLA will take place in November 2018 and is already accepting riders looking for a unique adventure on two wheels!



To find out more about Volunteer Expeditions or Cycle India for SLA visit our website and, if you want to take part, contact Scott Preston at [spreston@sla-india.org](mailto:spreston@sla-india.org)

# SLA Fundraising Event News

Every year the SLA community organizes countless fundraising events which inspire more people to raise money for the children we support. The ideal event becomes a fixture on the calendar, contributing regular funds that enable forward planning.

It could be as simple as a coffee morning with friends or a quiz night, selling home-made foods or organizing a golf day. You can make a huge difference! Please contact us with your ideas. Sadly we cannot mention everybody in this report but thank you to all who have been so creative and dedicated this year. ☆

## Lightastic Fireworks Extravaganzas

This year we responded to demand for a Fireworks Extravaganza on the north side of Edinburgh with our first event at George Heriot's Playing Fields. We were delighted with the response! Together with our two shows at George Watson's Rugby Grounds, we raised more than £33,500 from three sellout shows that welcomed 7,500 guests. Many thanks to all who volunteered their time and effort, particularly Heriot's, Watson's and Morningside Youth pipe bands, Bollywood dancers from the Edinburgh Mela and students from the Edinburgh College of Art who put on a spectacular costume parade.



OUR THREE  
SHOWS RAISED  
MORE THAN  
£33,500



# £8,228

## Hoof it to Hyderabad Challenge



## Ae Fond Kiss Concert

# £1,315

Scottish songs and classic show tunes in North Berwick bade a fond farewell to SLA stalwart Barbara Brown.

## Bridge and Afternoon Tea

### RAISED £1,500

Another sold out event welcomed more than 100 players to Mortonhall Golf Club. Many thanks to Keith Clark and his team.

## Art Sale

### RAISED £670

Stalwart SLA supporter Wallace Fyffe did it again at his one-man art sale. Wallace has raised more than £5,300 for SLA since 2011!

## Book Café

### RAISED £2,314

Many thanks to all SLA volunteers and hosts George Watson's College.

## Bridge Masterclass

# £4,100

A sellout event with Bridge expert Andrew Dobson organized by SLA Trustee Susan Dick.

## Ladies' Cinema Night

### RAISED £3,154

Another fun-filled full house in March with our generous hosts The Dominion Cinema.

## Rice Relay Challenge

### RAISED £1,519

Well done and many thanks to Kingsmeadow Primary School, Greenbank PreSchool and Priestfield Church Beavers.



# £332

## Cubs Christmas Shop

Thanks to the 103rd Braid Cub group for the proceeds from their pop-up Christmas shop.



# How SLA Works

The SLA Board of Trustees directs strategy and ensures good governance and financial management in accordance with charity law. SLA staff members implement the strategy and manage day-to-day operations in consultation with the Board. Board members and SLA staff contribute to various SLA sub-committees with specific responsibilities.

To achieve our annual income target of more than £500,000, SLA staff members devise a fundraising strategy for income streams from Regular Giving, Annual Events, Appeals, Volunteer Expeditions, Trusts and other Organisations.

The Board considers this strategy which is then implemented by the staff and an extensive network of volunteers, many of whom have lent their support and guidance since SLA's birth in 2000. We salute their tremendous efforts.

With great sadness we must say "goodbye" to our Executive Director **Colin McRae**. Since 2006, Colin has developed SLA into an expanding charity close to many hearts. They, and we, will miss him enormously.

The Trustees and our Indian partners, encouraged by Colin's enthusiasm, patience and good humour, have benefited enormously from his wisdom and guidance. The respect and admiration his colleagues and volunteers have for him is obvious, as is the extraordinary relationship he has with the children in India.

After nine years of tireless, invaluable service as SLA's superlative volunteer administrator, **Barbara Brown** moved to Yorkshire with her husband. We will miss her professionally and personally, and wish 'BB' a fond farewell.

We are delighted to welcome **Elspeth Fairgrieve** as her successor.

We also bade farewell to **Susan Inch** in her capacity as a SLA Trustee. Susan has been with us since the beginning and has been a passionate, tireless member of the SLA Board, in particular masterminding many elements of our annual fireworks events. She continues to support SLA with sparkling enthusiasm. Thank you dear Susan!

## 2016-17

### Board of Trustees

Gillie Davidson (Founder & Chair), Chris Horne (Convenor), Jim Young, Jim Inch, Alison Erlanger, Susan Dick, Clare Jack, James Tulloch, Sheila Cannell, Lesley Murphy, Richard Dunbar, Susan Inch

### Staff

Colin McRae – Executive Director

Vicki Watson – Fundraising and Communications Manager

Scott Preston - Development Coordinator

Elspeth Fairgrieve - Administrator

### ASLA

Created to mobilize and support our growing army of dedicated volunteers, the ASLA team identifies and harnesses volunteers' diverse skills to assist SLA staff and trustees with administration, event management and delivery and countless other tasks. ASLA members are also SLA ambassadors and fundraisers in their own right, independently organising numerous events. We are fortunate to have the support of such proactive, motivated and creative people.

### SLA Office Volunteers

A team of volunteers regularly devote their time to numerous essential office tasks. Everyone's contribution is invaluable and we are always delighted to welcome new volunteers.

# How SLA Works with Partners

SLA supports and partners with Indian NGOs that care for and educate vulnerable children. SLA's origins lie in our partnership with the Nazareth Association for Social Awareness (NASA).

NASA's sister NGO, the Nazareth Education Society (NES), operates the Light of Love Home and School in partnership with NASA. In 2016, to fulfil our strategic objective of supporting more vulnerable children in India, SLA made new partnerships – for a 3-year trial period – with Rainbow Homes and VOICE 4 Girls.

We aim to help them demonstrate their work's positive impacts to attract further government support and new donors.

We nurture our relationships with partners by regularly monitoring, evaluating and refining our agreed strategy and objectives via the following key structures and processes:

## Governance Arrangements

Our partners are all registered not for profit organisations with a General Body overseeing an Executive Board in accordance with Indian law and regulations.

## Project Agreements

We have 3-year Operating Agreements with all our partners, which detail key agreed objectives and procedures for planning, budgeting and communications.

## Communication Plans

Each partner provides detailed written reports on implementation of the Operating Agreement several times a year. NASA and NES officers regularly update the SLA Executive Director by phone and email, while Rainbow Homes and VOICE 4 Girls update the SLA Development Coordinator.

## Audited Accounts

Our partners all provide SLA with annual audited accounts, which the SLA team reviews with our partners during annual visits.

## Annual Visits

SLA's Executive Director and at least one Trustee reviews the Operating Agreement objectives and expenditure with the NES Director and his staff at the Light of Love Home and School. In addition, the SLA Executive Director and/or Trustees visit NES annually.

For Rainbow Homes and VOICE 4 Girls, the Development Coordinator and at least one Trustee implement the same review process.

SLA's Executive Director regularly contacts our partners.

# Financial Review

Summary from SLA’s financial statements for the year 2016-2017.

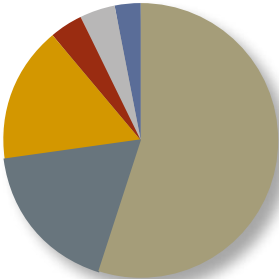


## SLA Income 2016-2017

Income for the year rose to £489,097 (2016 - £391,669). The ongoing generous support from our supporters was boosted by a successful fundraising campaign to help the Girls’ Lives Matter projects, a record result from the expanded fireworks events, the resumption of the Indian volunteer trips and two extremely generous legacies.

■ Individuals	55%
■ Legacies	18%
■ Fundraising	16%
■ Trusts	4%
■ Volunteer Expeditions to India	4%
■ Businesses, Schools & Other Organisations	3%

The importance of individual donations is illustrated in the chart below. We thank each and every one of these donors. We equally appreciate and depend on the huge efforts of SLA staff and volunteers to generate our other sources of income.



SLA Income 2016-2017

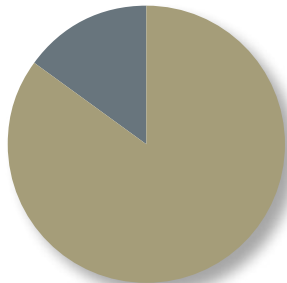


## SLA Expenditure 2016-2017

Our expenditure for the year also increased to £598,703 (2016 - £441,365). Expenditure in India increased substantially mainly due to £107,723 being spent on the two new projects, and the slight increase of £7,497 in the amount spent in Tuni. The costs of fundraising rose in the year by £22,171 due in the main to the expansion of the fireworks events from two shows to three and the employment of an additional member of staff.

85p of every £1 spent this year was on charitable activities. Our aim of keeping the costs of raising funds to a minimum is helped enormously by our committed and energetic volunteers.

Charitable Activities	85%
Raising Funds	15%

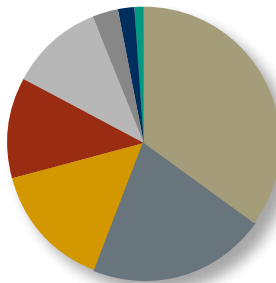


Total Expenditure 2016-2017

## SLA Overall Position

2017 saw expenditure exceed income by £109,606 (2016 - deficit £49,696) and resulted in a net funds position at 30 June 2017 of £440,762 (2016 - £550,368). The deficit was in line with the Trustees' Budget and resulted from the expansion of the charity's activities in India to support two additional projects while maintaining its support to the Light of Love Children's Home and School.

As the majority of our expenditure is incurred in India, the Trustees remain concerned about the potential impact of currency fluctuations. The Trustees continued their practice of holding rupees to meet known future expenditure. During the year, their policy was refined to hold six months projected Indian expenditure through a rolling three month buying process.



Charitable Activities Expenditure

As at 30 June 2017, the rupee exchange rate to the pound was 83.94 and at that date SLA held 19,468,187 rupees which translated into £231,891.

We still believe that it is essential to provide security for the children in the Tuni Home. To this end the Trustees have resolved to hold a reserve of 12 months' Indian operating costs to provide security to the children in the Tuni Home. They have also resolved to hold a reserve of 3 months operating costs in Scotland.

The Reserves held at 30 June 2017 amounted to £440,762 (2016 - £550,368).

The financial information set out has been extracted for the year ending 30 June 2017. A copy of the full set of audited accounts, including the report of the auditors, French Duncan LLP, which is unqualified, can be obtained from the trustees at The Charteris Centre, 140 The Pleasance, Edinburgh EH8 9RR.

Food, Clothing & Accommodation - Tuni	35%
Girls' Lives Matter Projects	21%
Social Enterprise Project - India	15%
Development, Monitoring & Evaluation	12%
School Education - Tuni	11%
Medical Care - Tuni	3%
Further Education -Tuni	2%
Others	1%

# GIRLS' LIVES MATTER



educate and empower

help us to rescue,  
care for, educate &  
empower the girls

In Hyderabad, India, where there are 28,000 children on the streets, our new Indian partners urgently need funds to rescue, care for, educate and empower girls so they can decide their own futures. Educated girls make better life choices, earn higher incomes, and better support their future children's health and education. Support a girl and everybody wins.

It costs SLA just 50p a day to provide three meals for one of the girls at the Rainbow Home, £15 per month.

It costs just £18 to enable one girl to attend a 10-day VOICE 4 Girls education and empowerment camp.

**PLEASE HELP US TO SUPPORT THESE VULNERABLE GIRLS BY COMPLETING THE FORM OPPOSITE.**



**Nearly half of Indian girls** are married before they reach the legal marriage age of 18  
(United Nations)

Every year of secondary education increases a girl's earning power by **18%!**  
(World Bank)

**Just 1 in 3** Indian girls graduates from high school  
(VOICE 4 Girls)



## Leaving a Legacy

Legacies have helped SLA make fundamental improvements to the lives of Indian children. A legacy funded our child immunization programme which has virtually eradicated some diseases from the Light of Love Children's Home and School. Another legacy funded additional classrooms, and another funded Phase 1 of the medical centre which provides medical facilities and care for all the children.

After you have made provision for your loved ones, please consider leaving a gift to SLA in your will. It would enable us to continue giving life-changing support to vulnerable children for years to come and ensure that each child receives the education and life skills needed to develop their unique potential, escape the poverty trap and lead productive, independent lives.

**Donations of any size are welcome. Any amount will go a surprisingly long way to making a difference for these children.**

# I wish to help the GIRLS' LIVES MATTER Appeal

Please tick the stars below as appropriate.

☆ I wish to donate to the GIRLS' LIVES MATTER Appeal and make a donation of

- Cheques can be made payable to 'SLA'.
- To donate using online banking our details are:  
**Account number: 00164481 Sort Code 80-02-77.**  
Please ensure you state your Reference as: **GLM (your full name)**
- To donate by phone please call the SLA Office on **0131 629 9112**  
or donate online at **www.sla-india.org**

☆ I wish to make a monthly donation to the GIRLS' LIVES MATTER Appeal:  
£5  £10  £20  £30  Other   
Starting on 1st  15th  25th  of month/year

For all monthly donations please complete the Direct Debit form overleaf.

For all single and monthly donations please complete your details below:

Title & Name   
Address   
  
Telephone  Email

## Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate.

☆ I would like to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future to SLA. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all of my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

*giftaid it*

Signature  Date

SLA would like to send you further information about our activities.

I would like to receive this ☆ By email By post ☆

SLA will not pass your details on to any 3rd parties.

Please return this form with your donation to:

**Scottish Love in Action, Greyfriars Charteris Centre,  
140 The Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9RR.**



Originator's Identification Number

3 8 8 5 4 4



## Instructions to your Bank or Building Society to pay Direct Debit

Scottish Love in Action, Greyfriars Charteris Centre, 140 The Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9RR

**DO NOT RETURN TO YOUR BANK**

Name and full postal address of your Bank/Building Society

To The Manager	Bank/Building Society
Address	
<input type="text"/>	
Postcode	
<input type="text"/>	

Name(s) of Account holder(s)

<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>

Bank/Building Society Account Number

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Branch Sort Code

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Reference No (For Scottish Love in Action use only)

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Bank and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instruction for some types of account. We will send you a copy of the Direct Debit Guarantee for your reference and confirm details as soon as we receive your complete Direct Debit Form.

## Instructions to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay Scottish Love in Action of the United Kingdom Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Scottish Love in Action and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society

Signature	X
	X
Date	<input type="text"/>

SCOTTISH LOVE IN ACTION ☆ HELPING VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN INDIA

SLA, Greyfriars Charteris Centre, 140 The Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9RR

0131 629 9112 : enquiries@sla-india.org : **www.sla-india.org**

A registered Scottish Charity. Charity Number SC030516. Company Number SC280397





## HELPING VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN INDIA

SLA partners with and supports grassroots Indian organisations that care for and educate vulnerable children. Our joint vision with our Indian partners is to help transform lives by reducing child poverty in all its forms – physical, emotional, educational and economic. Together we provide each child with the care and security, encouragement, education and life skills that will empower them to develop their potential, self-esteem and aspirations so that they can lead independent, fulfilling lives and break cycles of poverty.

[www.sla-india.org](http://www.sla-india.org)

### CONTACT DETAILS

#### BY E-MAIL

[enquiries@sla-india.org](mailto:enquiries@sla-india.org)

#### BY TELEPHONE

0131 629 9112

#### BY POST

Scottish Love in Action, 2nd Floor, Charteris Centre,  
140 The Plesance, Edinburgh EH8 9RR

A registered Scottish Charity: Charity Number SC030516 Company Number SC280397

Written and edited by the SLA Team. Designed by MS\_Creative Design Ltd.