



# CARING FOR CHILDREN IN INDIA

**Annual Report 2014 – 2015**

# Purpose

SLA's purpose is to **transform the lives of destitute children**, enabling them to lead independent, poverty-free lives.

We feed, clothe, house, educate and provide medical care for children who are either orphans or whose relatives cannot support them. ☆

We do this by funding the Light of Love Home and School in the town of Tuni in the state of Andhra Pradesh in south east India. This is managed by our local NGO partner, the Nazareth Association for Social Awareness (NASA). It has been our privilege to join with NASA in developing its work with children. ☆



## Founder's Introduction

Thank you all for your loving concern and generous support for our work with destitute children in India.

The death of Dr. Christopher Premdas made 2015 a difficult year for our Indian partners and SLA. We all greatly miss his inspiration, his wise counsel, his loving heart and irrepressible laughter. SLA is working hard to support our partners at this time as they deal with their succession planning and the inevitable changes that are taking place in their organisation. However we are so pleased that despite the upheavals and sadness the children continue to be well cared for, loved and happy.

We look forward with excitement to the coming year. Firstly, establishing our Social Enterprise Project, the dairy farm, currently in the process of being implemented; and secondly, identifying a new project in India to support. Together these will enable us to help even more children in dire need, working with other grassroots organisations and putting to use our experience and knowledge gained since SLA's inception.

Our endeavour as we continue to grow is to maintain as personal and gentle a relationship with you all by keeping you well informed as to how your generous contributions are used for the care of the children.

Gillie Davidson MBE



## WHY INDIA?

Notwithstanding India's economic progress, millions of children live in abject poverty and are more likely to be malnourished than African children. Nearly 30% of Indian under-5s are underweight, compared to just 21% of African infants, reports UNICEF. In Andhra Pradesh state where we work, more than one in three children has stunted growth, and over half of adolescent girls are underweight.

Meanwhile, just 13% of the poorest children in Andhra Pradesh have access to sanitation, according to data from Oxford University. Malnourished children in unhealthy environments struggle to learn. In 2014, less than half of Grade 5 children in rural government schools in India could read Grade 2 texts, found Indian education NGO Pratham, which also reported that arithmetic skills had actually declined since 2009.



## ACHIEVEMENTS 2014-2015

**100%** graduation  
rate from high school

**65** new children  
taken in and immunised

**454** children cared for



TUNI



Andhra Pradesh

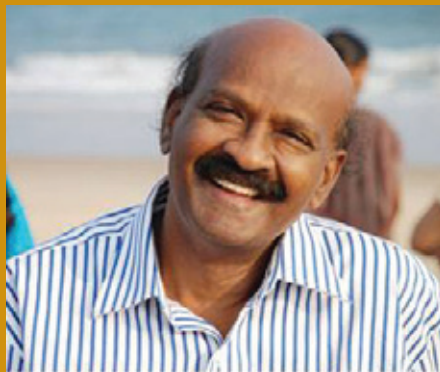
In the past year, Scottish Love in Action has continued to develop its support for destitute children in India. For the Tuni Home, SLA has provided funding to enable NASA to meet an agreed objective to feed, clothe, house, educate and provide medical care for approximately 500 children. In 2013-2014, this target was exceeded. In 2014-2015, numbers fell below the target of 500. It is too early to say whether this marks the start of a trend; extreme poverty remains a huge problem in India. While there are some contingent reasons for the drop of numbers this year, there is some evidence that national and state government measures to enrol more children in government children's homes and schools (and improve the quality of care and education provided) are impacting on NGO homes and schools locally. For instance, between 30 and 40 children from marginalised tribal areas left the Tuni Home because they are now required to remain in their home area in order to qualify for government support and earmarked places in further education and training.

**Nationally and locally the need for support from abroad still remains great, but it is gratifying to note that international pressure to meet the UN Millennium Development Goals, together with the work of NGOs like NASA, is at last having an impact on policies and producing support for those in extreme poverty.**

# In Memoriam

## Dr. Christopher Premdas

Our dear friend, guide and constant inspiration Dr. Christopher Premdas, founder of our Indian partner NASA and the Light of Love Children's Home and School, passed away in April 2015 after a long battle with illness. Although not unexpected, his death was a grievous blow to the Light of Love community and deeply saddening for the SLA team. He will be sorely missed.



Dr. Premdas always said "it is better to light a candle than blame the darkness". And so while we mourn his passing, we also celebrate his extraordinary life, his quiet wisdom, his playful humour, his love of laughter and song. We also give thanks for his decision to entrust the children's care and education to his son Sony, to ensure his inspirational work with the children continues.

'Premdas' (as everyone knew him) began life as an outcast, born in 1950 to Untouchable (or Dalit) parents who, despite being teachers, often lived hand to mouth. The family suffered countless deprivations and humiliations because they were Dalits. By contrast, Premdas ended life as a highly influential figure courted by national politicians but most importantly a beacon of hope, a saviour even, to tens of thousands of poor people.

Many thronged the streets of Tuni to pay their last respects at his funeral. Such was the impact of his lifelong mission to tackle prejudice, poverty, oppression, corruption and violence with hope, faith, love, and above all action (he suggested the name Scottish Love in Action).

Dedicated study and his parents' sacrifices enabled Premdas to complete school and attend college (where he met his wife Jyothi), after which he started his life of service in the early 1980s as a community organiser to 150 fishing families. He went on to direct disaster relief efforts, help build over 12,000 homes for the poor, establish self-help groups serving over 120,000 people and tirelessly champion the rights of Dalits and other marginalised groups. Premdas and Jyothi brought communities from hopelessness towards dignity, self-respect and self-sufficiency. And of course he rescued many destitute children, giving them a home, a family and an education.





It is hard to convey the enormity of his extraordinary journey, so it is best expressed by Premdas himself, recalling the moment when the late Indian PM Rajiv Gandhi congratulated him on his disaster relief work. “He put his hands on my shoulders. That was an unforgettable moment for me because upper castes did not allow me to place a hand on them.”

It is particularly poignant that Premdas featured so prominently in our new short film **Lighting Candles in India** launched in February 2015. His wonderful legacy lives on through all the children at the Home. We hope all our supporters will help us spread the film and its message. Please do watch it on our website and share as widely as possible. It will be a fitting tribute to an exceptional life.



“It is better to light  
a candle than to blame  
the darkness”

# Tuni Home

SLA funding feeds, clothes, houses, educates and provides medical care for **over 450 children.**

Every year, SLA and our partner NASA undertake numerous capital and maintenance projects. These requirements have increased over time due to the number and age of the buildings, vehicles and other facilities and infrastructure. Projects generally focus on upgrading buildings, improving sanitation, water and power supplies, and provision of medical and food supplies for the children. The 2014-2015 year was the second of the current three-year development programme agreed between SLA and our partner NASA, which now features a dedicated Major Maintenance budget. ☆

An undoubted highlight of the year was the completion of the new accommodation block for 100 boys and revamped dining hall above, officially opened by the February 2015 Volunteer Group. This was the culmination of an 18-month journey which began in September 2013 when we launched our first ever dedicated fundraising appeal – ‘Raise the Roof’ – targeting £50,000 to buy the equivalent of 20,000 bricks. We hit our target in April 2014 following an incredible response from SLA supporters and work began immediately. Our Indian partners and the SLA team send heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to ensuring the safety of these young children who no longer walk along a busy road at night and are now closer to the medical clinic.

Other essential projects in 2014-2015 included installing 312 energy-efficient LED lights in the Home buildings and grounds, which will over five years reduce electricity costs by one quarter. Our partners also purchased two solar water heaters to provide hot washes, repaired and modified 40 wash rooms to address problems with stagnant water, reconstructed the generator room at the boys’ campus after Cyclone Hudhud, and made plasterwork repairs of cracks in the walls and ceilings of the original girls’ block (the oldest building on campus).



## £34

MONTHLY COST TO  
PROVIDE FOOD, HOUSING,  
CLOTHING, HEALTHCARE  
AND EDUCATION FOR  
ONE CHILD.

# Volunteer Expeditions

SLA and NASA have welcomed over 180 volunteers to India.

Since 2011, we have organised group expeditions to Tuni coupled with sightseeing excursions elsewhere in India.

These trips are focused on specific projects so that volunteers arrive with a common purpose and leave having helped develop the Home and School. Each expedition is unique and tailored to the group. It means so much to the children that people will travel so far to help them. It also reinforces the relationship between the children and staff in India and SLA in Scotland. The expeditions are also extremely effective ways to recruit ambassadors who support SLA's work on their return.

This year's expeditions in July 2014, November 2014 and February 2015 were enormously successful, contributing £21,860 to SLA through group members' fundraising efforts. The July group had great fun implementing a Commonwealth-themed project which culminated in running their very own Commonwealth Games with the children at the Home.

Highlights for the November group (which included several nurses) were helping our partner with its monthly free medical camp for poor villagers unable to access treatment or buy medicines, conducting English conversation classes with the children, and a day of craft making.

The February group had an equally rewarding trip, continuing with the English conversation classes, opening the new boys' accommodation block and dining hall, and celebrating the event with a special Chinese New Year carnival featuring lanterns, 500 pairs of chopsticks and a marvellous Chinese dragon, all made by the children.

The Volunteer Programme had to be temporarily suspended in 2015 due to restructuring after the death of Dr. Premdas but we hope to reinstate the Programme in 2016. If you are interested in taking part in an unforgettable experience please check the SLA website.



.....  
**“I strongly believe that all of us have walked away stronger, more compassionate people thanks to our time spent with these children.”**

**Olivia Frank**  
.....

# Basic Education

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

In 2014-15, SLA continued to fund basic education for over 350 children from Kindergarten through to High School graduation after Class 10. The school is recognised by the Andhra Pradesh government and follows the state curriculum, overseen by the Principal, 26 teachers and 8 tutors. About half the children are taught in the native language Telugu and half in English with comprehensive 'English Medium' education the long-term goal.

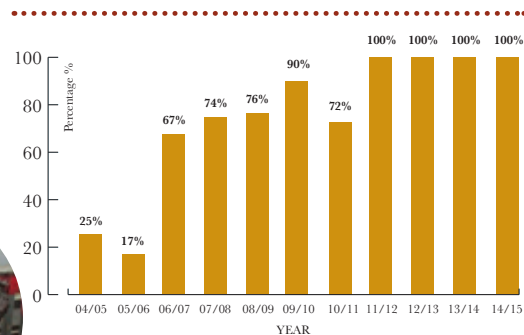


For the fourth year in succession **100% of students graduated from High School**. All 56 children passed their Class 10 exams, with 15 of them gaining A grades. This is especially impressive considering the children and teaching staff had to deal with a 2-month delay receiving text books after changes to the Class 10 syllabus. In India, Class 10 examinations are the critical tests of a child's schooling: Pass these exams and you can enter 'intermediate college' for two years, the gateway to further education or a good job. Class 10 results are the generally accepted measure of school quality. Younger students also performed very well, with 73% of the Telugu Medium students and 67% of the English Medium students scoring over 70% in end-of-year exams.

Key developments this year were new report cards for each child showing their progress, the extension of English Medium to Class 8 and the recruitment of a female PE teacher.



Our dedicated **English Language Programme** using phonics completed its third year, with children in Kindergarten and Classes 1-3 learning English every day. It is now firmly established in the school timetable with strong support from the Principal. When evaluating the project outcomes, we found that the children had greatly improved their reading skills and are more enthusiastic learners while teachers are replacing rote learning with interactive methods. One key reason for the programme is that children with good English stay in education longer and achieve better college results. We are delighted to be systematically offering more children this opportunity.



**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION  
(10TH CLASS) PASS RATES 2005-2015**



# Further Education

SLA's aim is to enable as many young people as possible to gain academic, vocational and professional qualifications.

In the 2014-15 academic year SLA funded 88 further education students. They study subjects ranging from pure science to engineering, nursing and video editing. Thirty-five of the 50 students who graduated from High School in 2014 continued their education in Intermediate College or polytechnic. Meanwhile, we are delighted that 19 of 20 Year 1 Intermediate College students progressed to Year 2 and 6 students completed their degrees. In 2015-16, SLA has agreed to fund 99 students.

SLA partially supported (e.g. with stationery costs) a further 26 students whose education is now funded by relatives or new government grants and who have subsequently left the Home.

Our Indian partner's **Saving Scheme for Further Education** initiative encourages relatives of the children, if they have any, to save for further education and assists them to access government funds. This year 10 single mothers have set up a savings scheme for this purpose. All children starting Intermediate College or degrees are now assessed to determine whether they require full funding (and housing). Our partner reports many relatives are willing to support the children having witnessed the benefits of further education, and so this is a significant new development that could considerably reduce further education costs.



## Apurna's Story

**Both Apurna's parents died in work-related accidents. She had two older sisters who looked after her but one died from snakebite and the other through food poisoning. Apurna became very distressed and her grandmother was unable to look after her.**

When she came to the Home seven years ago she was a very angry, confused girl. Initially she lost her temper easily and had no friends. Apurna pushed everyone away because she trusted no one.

However, with love and kindness from the teachers Apurna has really settled down. She is focusing on her studies and the girls in her class have accepted her and like her. She still needs special attention but is a warm affectionate girl who loves the Home.

# Health

## SLA funds **complete healthcare** for the children in the Light of Love Home.

A qualified doctor, Dr. Sowmya, lives onsite and provides medical care with the help of a resident nurse and a resident health assistant. 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. She conducts a daily clinic, monthly checks and closely monitors the children's diet and physical growth. She also has emergency life-saving equipment like anti-venom, adrenaline, oxygen and a nebulizer. Under her expert care the children's health has steadily improved.

A long-held dream of Dr. Premdas was to build a medical centre for the children and the poor in surrounding communities. SLA has funded Phase 1 of this project – the Children's Unit – thanks to a legacy bequeathed by our late patron Tom Fleming. And so on September 27, 2014 the extremely impressive centre opened on what would have been Dr. Premdas' 65th birthday, transforming the Home's medical facilities. Having previously practised in one small room, Dr. Sowmya now oversees two 5-bed wards, a treatment room, a consulting room, an isolation unit, a pharmacy, bathrooms and a waiting room.



The most common children's conditions Dr. Sowmya treats include malaria, typhoid, scabies, gastroenteritis and broken bones. But this year, in the wake of Cyclone Hudhud, she also had to respond to an outbreak of Swine Flu in Andhra Pradesh that killed many people. She quickly took preventive action by securing and administering the Swine Flu vaccination to all 454 children and some 80 staff and so there were no infections in the Home.

There are now 6 HIV positive children in the Home and all are healthy, having responded well to their special protein-rich diets and anti-retroviral drugs. One new child, Ramu, whose CD4 cell count was a perilously low 154 when he came to the Home was most recently measured as having a CD4 count of over 850, an excellent recovery which has delighted us all.





**MONTHLY COST TO  
PROVIDE HEALTHCARE  
FOR ONE CHILD**



## **Jadageswari's Story**

**Jadageswari was born in 2004. Her start in life was horrific. Shortly after she was born, her father killed her mother by pouring kerosene over both her and Jadageswari and then setting their hut on fire.**

Her mother died, but villagers dragged the baby out. Her arm still has visible burn scars. Jadageswari's father went to prison where he committed suicide. When she was three, villagers brought her to the Home. At first she was angry and confused but slowly she has become much more settled. She still does not like to be touched but even this is improving and recently she has come to volunteers to play! She is extremely bright and the teachers are delighted with her progress. She is now opening up more in class and showing what she is capable of.

# What SLA Needs

Every year, SLA needs to raise over £400,000 to support the work we do in India.

That cost fluctuates with currency values and local prices of food, fuel, materials and wages, but the long-term trend is upward as more children move into fee-paying further education. ☆

About 70% of all SLA funds come from individual supporters. We are aware, however, that we must reach out to new potential donors. This year for instance we were delighted to welcome Spice Pots and Meadowlark Yoga as new business supporters. You can help by recommending SLA to friends, family and colleagues, spreading the word via social media and by hosting fundraisers. ☆

**Scottish Love in Action is poised to enter its next exciting phase of development. We are looking for individuals and businesses to partner us in our plan to help even more destitute children in India.**



**ANNUAL  
FUNDRAISING  
NEEDS**  
**£400,000+**

## SLA FUTURE GOALS

☆ **CONTINUE TO CARE FOR AND EDUCATE CHILDREN IN THE TUNI HOME AND SCHOOL**  
.....

☆ **ESTABLISH SOCIAL ENTERPRISE**

This year the business plan for a dairy enterprise was finalised and signed off by the SLA Board and implementation procedures initiated in August 2015. This will be a free standing project funded through SLA by specific restricted donations and with the flexibility to use the income generated to support the Light of Love Home and other SLA projects in India.  
.....

☆ **SUPPORT NEW EDUCATION PROJECT**

We made substantial progress towards this goal, identifying key project criteria (e.g. 50% of project beneficiaries should be girls), reaching out to key organisations in India and the UK for guidance and identifying Telengana state as the primary location on which to focus. We formed a sub-committee of Trustees and volunteers and agreed an action plan to take this initiative forward. The process of identifying suitable projects and NGO partners began in August 2015.



# Corporate Engagement

Raising awareness of SLA's work within the business community was a new strategic priority for SLA this year.

The completion of our 'Lighting Candles in India' film presented the ideal opportunity to host our first ever corporate engagement event, **'Unlocking Potential'**. Held at the Royal Society of Edinburgh in December 2014 for 100 select invitees, the centrepiece of the evening was a preview screening of the film, followed by our founder Gillie Davidson expanding on SLA's work.

A sprinkling of celebrity stardust was provided by Irvine Welsh, a longstanding SLA supporter, who discussed his writings championing the underdog, and Professor Sugata Mitra, TED prize winner and 'School in the Cloud' pioneer, who amazed the audience with his research showing Indian slum children teaching themselves using the internet.

Unlocking Potential broke new ground for SLA in the corporate sector and we are delighted that it was extremely well attended and warmly received. Although not a fundraising event, we invited guests to consider ways in which they might engage with SLA.

**The full impact will be felt over the coming years as we build meaningful relationships with this new group of potential SLA supporters.**



**“A great new short film from SLA. Please watch, share and donate anything you can.”**

**Irvine Welsh**



# Film Premiere

Our key awareness-raising strategy this year was promoting the 'Lighting Candles in India' film to celebrate SLA's work.

One vital communications channel was of course our wonderful community of SLA supporters. We therefore hosted a premiere of the film in the Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh in February 2015 before releasing the film online.

The key purpose of the event was to get supporters to watch the film and embrace our social media campaign **#beacandleforSLA** whereby people donated £3 to SLA by texting CANDLE to 70300. On the night, supporters posed for video and photos of themselves holding a burning candle, echoing Premdas' words "better to light a candle than blame the darkness". The evening went exceptionally well with extremely positive feedback about the film from the 180 guests.

Aside from donations on the night, within two weeks of the Premiere two individuals made extraordinarily generous gifts.

## #beacandleforSLA

**Text CANDLE to 70300  
to donate £3 to SLA**



# Marketing Strategy

This was a pivotal year for SLA marketing and communications, with 3 key developments driving our efforts to raise SLA's profile.

## LIGHTING CANDLES IN INDIA

We launched our powerful, uplifting and high-quality film about SLA's work, produced by professional documentary makers, on the SLA website in February 2015. We now use it as the key marketing tool for expanding awareness about our work. Revolving around the stories of 2 children from the Home, the film is emotionally compelling, beautifully shot and since launch has been viewed over 7,000 times via the SLA website and Facebook. When shown at the Ladies Cinema Night, two thirds of guests responded to its call to donate £3 to SLA by texting CANDLE to 70300.

## SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGY

A new social media strategy focused on building our Facebook and Twitter audience in preparation for the launch of 'Lighting Candles in India' on our website in February 2015 and the #beacandleforSLA campaign. Through regular postings and campaigning we exceeded our targets, gaining nearly 900 new Facebook friends and 2,400 new Twitter followers. The point of growing our social media audience was to drive traffic from Facebook and Twitter to the SLA website and this has been successful with more than twice as many visitors to the SLA website from February to June 2015 than in the same period in 2014.

## NEW SLA WEBSITE

The new SLA website, launched in January 2015, is now fully compatible with tablets and mobile phones so that it displays well on all devices. The new website functionality also enables supporters to buy event tickets and other items via the website. We are very pleased with the new site and are delighted that traffic has increased significantly since its launch.

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



7,000+  
Views of SLA film

2,400  
New Twitter followers

100%  
Increase in website visitors

# How SLA Works



To achieve our £400,000 annual income target, the SLA Staff draw up an annual Fundraising Strategy Plan which includes potential funding income streams from Regular Giving, Annual Events, Volunteer Expeditions, Trusts, Organisations and Appeals.

This plan is then approved by the Trustees and implemented by the Staff with the help of Volunteers.

SLA is extremely lucky to have a tight-knit core of long-serving Trustees, Staff and Volunteers, many of whom have been lending their support and guidance since our beginnings in 2000.

**We salute their tremendous efforts for the children.**

## 2014-15

### Board of Trustees

Gillie Davidson (Founder & Chair), Chris Horne (Convenor), Brian Barron, Jim Young, Jim Inch, Robin Fallas, Susan Inch, Alison Erlanger, Susan Dick, Clare Jack.

### Staff

Colin McRae – Executive Director

Vicki Watson – Fundraising and Communications Manager

Iain Wood – Social Enterprise Project Manager

### ASLA

ASLA (Active for SLA) is an integral part of SLA and was created to recognise, organise and support the growing number of dedicated volunteers. Managed by Colin McRae and Volunteer ASLA Administrator Mabel Mowatt, it harnesses the diverse skills of volunteers who assist SLA in so many ways. These include administration work in the SLA office, assisting staff to deliver large fundraising events and acting as Fundraising Ambassadors independently organising numerous events in aid of SLA. We are fortunate to have such proactive, motivated and creative people, constantly searching for new ways to support the charity.

### SLA Office Volunteers

Barbara Brown is our dedicated administrator who has been with SLA for over seven years. We also have a team of volunteers who regularly devote their time and considerable energies to numerous essential tasks while many other volunteers contribute on a more ad hoc basis. Everyone's contribution is invaluable for our work and we are always delighted to welcome new volunteers.



# How SLA Works with NASA

The origins of SLA's work caring for children in India lie in our partnership with the local NGO Nazareth Association for Social Awareness (NASA).

NASA is a registered not-for-profit organisation based in Tuni with a General Body overseeing an Executive Board. Dr. Premdas was NASA's Chief Functionary, responsible for project operations and reporting to the Executive Board. Following his death, his wife Jyothi has taken on this role while NASA reviews its leadership structure and activities.

NASA operates the Light of Love Home and School. Sony Wood is the Director of the Home and School, responsible for all operations. He reports to the NASA Chief Functionary. He oversees teams that manage specific operations such as the School or the Medical Clinic.

We nurture our working relationship with NASA by regularly monitoring, evaluating and refining our joint objectives via key structures and processes.

## **Operating Agreement (currently 2013-2016)**

This details the Operating Budget for 3 years, objectives for specific areas (e.g. Basic Education, Health) and the procedures NASA and SLA will follow to plan, budget and communicate.

## **Capital Budget**

This details the approval procedures between NASA and SLA for all capital projects.

## **Communication Plan**

NASA provides SLA with a 6-month progress report on the objectives in the

Operating Agreement. NASA officers and the SLA Executive Director regularly update each other on progress towards agreed objectives.

## **Audited Accounts**

NASA provides SLA with annual audited accounts for the Home and School. SLA Executive Director and the Home and School Director review the accounts during SLA's annual visit to Tuni.

## **Annual Visits to Tuni**

The SLA Executive Director and at least one SLA Trustee review the year's operations, expenditures, progress towards objectives with the Director of the Home and School and his staff. In addition, the SLA Executive Director and/or Trustees visit Tuni annually to discuss plans.

NASA is now dealing with succession planning and the inevitable changes taking place in the organisation since the death of Dr. Premdas. SLA is working hard to support our partner at this time. Despite the upheavals and sadness, Sony and Sowmya continue, through their dedicated work, to ensure that the children remain well cared for and happy.

# SLA Fundraising Event News

Another spectacular Fireworks Extravaganza with over 4,000 paying guests, and another sold out Ladies Cinema Night at the Dominion Cinema were again highlights of this year's SLA fundraising efforts.

Meanwhile, our army of committed ASLA volunteers organised numerous events which we hope will inspire more people to fundraise for the children in India. Sadly we cannot mention everybody in this report but thank you to all who have been so creative and dedicated in their fundraising.

The ideal event is one that becomes a fixture on the calendar, contributing regular funds to SLA that enable forward planning. It could be as simple as a coffee morning with friends or a quiz night, selling home-made foods or organising a golf day. Please get in touch with your ideas. You can make a huge difference!

## Rice Relay Challenge

We were particularly delighted and grateful to see so many schools participating in sponsored Rice Relay challenges, the key priority for our efforts raising awareness in schools. This year George Watson's College Junior School and Nursery raised over £11,800 in May 2015. A month later, Cambusbarron Primary and Nursery school raised £405.50.

Focused on the 'global citizenship' element of the Curriculum for Excellence, the Rice Relay Challenge raises children's awareness of the plight of poor children elsewhere. Teams of children run relays carrying beaker scoops full of (polystyrene) rice and fill a large container to see how many Indian children they could feed within an allotted time.



Because entire schools (not just individual classes) are now requesting to take part we have had to create 200% more Rice Relay resources and are now encouraging more schools to take part. It doesn't take a lot of effort, and we provide all the equipment and full instructions - do a little and change a lot! Please get in touch if you are interested.

**£11,800+**  
**Raised by George Watson's  
Junior School & Nursery**





## Love Music Community Choir RAISED £1,432

A fantastic effort by the UK's biggest community choir, who sang folk tunes, love songs and classical favourites at the Usher Hall in aid of SLA.

## Merchiston Castle Sponsored Walk RAISED £4,334

This is the third time the Junior school has walked for SLA since 2010 and in total they have raised over £20,000 for us. Thanks to all who made such a great effort.

## Bridge and Afternoon Tea RAISED £1,380

Sold out for the second year running! Brilliant work from Keith Clark and the organising team and special thanks to Mortonhall Golf Club for hosting.



**£4,000+**  
Ladies Cinema Night

# Financial Review

Summary from SLA’s financial statements for the year 2014-2015.



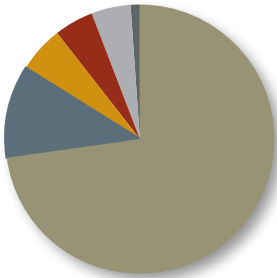
## SLA Income 2014-2015

This was a successful year of fundraising. Although the accounts show that Income for the year fell by £43,820 to £487,926, this had been anticipated and followed completion of the very successful “Raise the Roof” fundraising appeal and receipt of very generous legacies in 2014. The increased generosity of our supporters assisted by the launch of the SLA marketing film contributed to the drop in income being considerably less than had been anticipated. The importance of individual donations is illustrated in the chart below.

Individuals	71%
Fundraising	12%
Trusts	6%
Businesses, Schools & Other Organisations	5%
Volunteer Expeditions to India	5%
Others	1%

The current three- year fundraising strategy 2012-2015 ends this year. It has focused on donor development by attracting new supporters and growing the relationship between SLA and our existing donors, and has been very successful, ensuring that SLA has received a total income of £1,470,991 over the last three years. This strategy has also seen individual donations grow to be 71% of our total income over the last 3 years.

We would like once again to offer our sincere thanks to each and every one of these donors. We would also like to record our appreciation and thanks to all those supporters on whom we depend to generate our other sources of income.



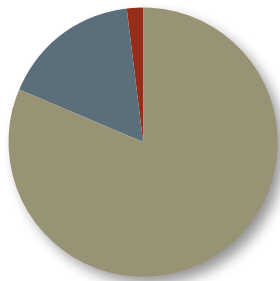
SLA Income 2012-2015



## SLA Expenditure 2014-2015

Our aim of keeping the costs of generating funds and governance to a minimum is helped enormously by our energetic volunteers. This year, 80p of every £1 spent was attributable to charitable activities, compared with a historic level of 87p in 2014. The reduced rate was mainly due to a fall in capital expenditure in India from £102,628 in 2014 to £21,780 in 2015. While 2014 saw the construction costs relating to the new Medical Centre and Boys' Block as well as the purchase of a new School bus, 2015 capital expenditure was limited to the final payment on the new Boys' Block and the LED project.

Charitable Activities	80%
Cost of Generating Funds	18%
Governance Costs	2%

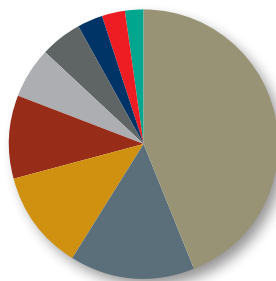


Total Expenditure 2014-2015

## SLA Overall Position

2015 saw an improvement in our finances which show an overall surplus for the year of £32,189 (compared to a deficit of £2,566 in 2013-2014). This resulted in total funds held at 30 June 2015 amounting to £600,064 compared to £567,875 in June 2014.

We continue to believe it is essential to provide financial security for the children in the Home, particularly whilst difficult and uncertain economic conditions persist in the UK, and expectations are that inflation will remain high in India. To this end, our largest single fund continues to provide cover for a minimum of 12 months operating costs. The Trustees also feel it is appropriate to designate funds to cover both possible structural repairs to the campus buildings in Tuni as well as offsetting unfavourable fluctuations in the exchange rate with India.



Charitable Activities Expenditure

Thanks to the success of the Fundraising strategy and our improved financial position, we have been able to allocate the funds to support a new project in India for 3 years. In line with SLA New Project criteria, it is hoped to deliver a project which will support destitute, vulnerable or street children into education. Work started in August 2015 to identify suitable projects and a new NGO partner.

The financial information set out has been extracted for the year ending 30 June 2015. 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 St Ninians Centre, 140 The Pleasance, Edinburgh EH8 9RR.

Food, Clothing & Accommodation	44%
Development, Monitoring & Evaluation	15%
Social Enterprise Project - India	12%
School Education	10%
Capital Projects	6%
Medical Care	5%
Further Education	3%
Others	3%
English Teaching Programme	2%

# Leaving a Legacy

Legacies have helped SLA make fundamental improvements to the lives of the children. A legacy funded our comprehensive child immunisation programme which has virtually eradicated some diseases from the Home. Another legacy funded four much-needed additional classrooms.

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 destitute 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.**



## Sita's Story

Sita was born in December 2000.

Both her parents died from AIDS when she was just four years old. Her grandmother brought her to the Home, as there was no one else to provide for her. Sita is a lovely, gentle girl but very shy.

She is capable and hardworking but needs a lot of encouragement and support to express herself. She has a small group of friends with whom she likes to sing and dance. She is excellent at art. One day she hopes to be a nurse in the nearby city of Visakhapatnam.

# I wish to help the work of SLA

Please tick the stars below as appropriate.



★ I enclose a donation of £  towards the work of SLA helping to care for children in India.

★ I wish to make a regular donation to SLA:

£3 ☐ £7 ☐ £12 ☐ £34 ☐ £  Other

Monthly or Annually

Starting on 1st ☐ 15th ☐ 25th ☐ of (month)  20  (please tick as appropriate)

\*Please complete the direct debit bank form overleaf as well as your details below.

★ I would like to Gift Aid my donation

★ If you would like your gift to maintain its value in the future, please tick this box and we will increase your direct debit automatically by 5% each year (for example, 50p on a direct debit of £10)

*giftaid it*

Signature

Date

Mr/Miss/Mrs/Dr/ (other)

Address

Telephone

Email

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

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

If you DO NOT wish to receive this, please tick this star. ★

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

If you are contemplating giving through a legacy, please consider SLA.

## \*Gift Aid Explained

If you are a UK Taxpayer and donate money to a registered charity, you have the option of giving by Gift Aid.

Choosing to give in this way enables SLA to increase the value of your gift by 25p in the pound at no extra cost to you. In turn this will allow SLA to continue its development and assist with core costs within the UK.

You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donation in the appropriate tax year.

Please return this form with your donation to:

Scottish Love in Action St Ninian's 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, St Ninian's 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	
Postcode	

Name(s) of Account holder(s)


Bank/Building Society Account Number

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Branch Sort Code

--	--	--	--	--	--

Reference No (For Scottish Love in Action use only)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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

## SCOTTISH LOVE IN ACTION ☆ CARING FOR CHILDREN IN INDIA

SLA, St Ninian's Centre, 140 The Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9RR

0131 629 9112 : enquiries@sla-india.org : [www.sla-india.org](http://www.sla-india.org)

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







## CARING FOR CHILDREN IN INDIA

SLA cares for and supports destitute children in India. We provide funding to our local partner, a grassroots NGO called NASA which runs the projects in India. SLA's joint vision with our partner is to provide each child with the life skills and education necessary to develop their potential, to lead independent lives and to escape the poverty trap.

[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, St Ninian's Centre  
140 The Pleasance, Edinburgh EH8 9RR

A registered Scottish Charity: Charity Number SC030516 Company Number SC280397

Written and edited by the SLA Team and James Tulloch Designed by MS Creative Design Ltd