

**Secretary's Report
Kollegal Girls' Home presented at the
Annual General Meeting
on the 18th of July, 2015**

Since June 2014, we have 44 girls staying in the Kollegal Girls' Home.

Current Status: Girls reside in one of four dormitories, each of which is administered and cared for by a designated dormitory mother. We have four dormitory mothers:

Sujatha Michael caring for 12 girls,
Sumeetha M. caring for 12 girls,
Sumeetha R. caring for 10 girls and,
Roopa P. has 10 girls in her care.

Admissions:

Three new girls, Varsha (aged 12), Meghana (aged 6) and Sharmila (also aged 6) were admitted to the home after the careful scrutiny of their application and a visit by the superintendents, dormitory mother, and the Secretary. In late December, we admitted a Ramya (aged 6) as two of her siblings are already staying at the Home.

In October 2014, we needed to send J Grace (aged 8) home for a tonsillectomy surgery. She has since recovered but has not returned back from home.

Academics: The distribution of girls according to their classes in school is as follows:

| Class | I | II | III | IV | V | VI | VII | VIII | IX | X | XI | XII |
|----------|---|----|-----|----|---|----|-----|------|----|---|----|-----|
| Students | 4 | 7 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 1 |

We also have one girl in the 1st year of B.Com, Rebecca.

Six girls from the Home are pursuing higher education and are currently studying in:
Mysore: Shruthi, Nagarathna, and Reeta are in their 2nd year of college.
Bangalore: Shwetha, Akhila and Pavithra are in Bangalore, studying Nursing.

Staff: Current staff count stands at 7. Michael Devadason is Maintenance Supervisor, his wife Sujatha is the Senior Dorm Mother while Sumeetha R. and Sumeetha M. are the other Dorm Mothers. Latha is a Junior Dorm Mother who takes care of tuition and administers the menu. Roopa P. served as a Dorm Mother until the time of her resignation.

Kitchen: Puttamma and Laxmi continue to faithfully serve as our cooks

Resignations: Roopa P., who joined us on the 22nd of June, 2012 submitted her resignation letter on the 7th of January, 2015. Roopa had stated that she was called by the Lord to serve with Accept Ministries in Bangalore and wanted to be relieved on 31st of Jan 2015.

Volunteers: Two new volunteers Hanna and Mirjam joined us on the 13th of July 2014 after the departure of Judith and Leah. We thank the volunteers for their service.

We welcomed Ms. Gayl Spieringshoek from South Africa in February 2014. She has been assigned to care for a dorm and assist with the financial disbursement of petty cash.

In January 2015, Mr. Grady Thurman and Dr. (Mrs.) Chandan Thurman arrived from the United States to serve as Superintendents of the Home. We welcomed them and they settled in at the newly renovated Bungalow. They have been a real asset to our ministry in giving good leadership to our existing staff and have taken a keen interest in the girls with special learning needs.

Other Activities: On the 11th of July, 2014, the staff of the Home and the teachers of the Bird Memorial High School attended a day-long team building session at "Breakthrough" in Bangalore.

The KGH family made a trip to a resort in Talkad on the 22nd of October 2014 and enjoyed a day of swimming and outdoor activities.

Medical: In February 2015, Renuka was diagnosed as having contracted Tuberculosis Dr. (Mrs.) Chandan Thurman has been coordinating her treatment in consultation with the local hospital. She had to be briefly kept out of contact with the other girls while sputum tests and treatment was administered.

Dr. Sheshadry, a dentist from Bangalore conducted a dental camp for our staff and children on the 19th of October, 2014. The camp included small fillings, extractions and an overview of preventive dental hygiene. Treatments initiated at the camp were followed up with permanent fillings for several girls undertaken by the local dentist.

Six of our home children were identified as needing special attention with their studies, they are : Soundarya (11, Class IV), Meghana B (13, Class VIII), Renuka (14, Class IX), Swathi N (13, Class VIII), Pinku D (14, Class IX), and Chaitra (14, Class IX). We contacted Christine Morris, and she is willing to evaluate these children if we take them to her in Ooty. It was also recommended that the children be taken to Mysore where their learning disabilities can be evaluated and certified. Meghana, Soundarya, Pinku, Renuka, Swathi and Chaitra were taken to the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing in Mysore for assessment and consultation on 23rd January, 2015 to help them with their schooling. Reports received from Dr. S Venkatesan listed entitlements for consideration in their academics

Christmas: On the 21st of December 2014, the KGH children presented a beautiful Christmas program for their parents and guests. John Prakash Kumar was our speaker and gave a clear gospel message to the audience. The program was followed by dinner. The children received new clothes as gifts. Each of our staff received a special gift of Rs.1000 while our college-going girls each received Rs. 500.

Agriculture: Shivanna, Mahadeva, and Raju work as our Agriculture Supervisor, Dairy Farm Worker, and General Field Worker, respectively.

We produced 62 bags of corn at 3,658 kg or 36.58 quintals which brought in an income of Rs. 39,500 and Rs. 360 for the cobs, a total of Rs. 39,860.

Paddy grown at Hondarbalu was 77 quintals. Agricultural expenses for the paddy stood at Rs. 45,000. The rice produced is used entirely for the Home.

Medical - Agriculture Staff: Shivanna joined KGH many years ago as a maintenance worker during the tenure of Ms. Pat McClelland and Ms. Anne Vanderlaan. He has been seeing to the development of our agricultural lands over the last few years. He was diagnosed with a growth in his bladder that was surgically removed in Mysore on the 11th of December, 201. A biopsy revealed a malignancy that was a stage II cancer and will require chemotherapy. He has spent Rs. 10,000 on investigations, Rs. 25,000 on surgery and has indicated that the chemotherapy and radiation treatment may cost him Rs. 90,000. In September of 2009, he took out a loan of Rs. 1.5 lakh from KGH has been paying back from his salary. He still owes Rs. 30,400 to date. His current monthly salary is Rs.4,950.

Renovations: A section of the Bungalow was renovated by Mr. Paul Dodds and sponsored by our superintendents, the Thurmans. The roof was re-done with new steel pipes and double tiling. The bathrooms were renovated with tile flooring and new fixtures. Termite-eaten wood supports and structures were replaced and new windows, doors, and mesh screening were installed. In addition to the structural changes, electrical rewiring and plumbing were completed. The work was completed with the re-plastering of the walls up to half their height and the painting of the whole bungalow. The total cost of the renovations stood at Rs.7.03 lakh.

Other Matters

Encroachment by the Forest Department

While Michael was on vacation between the 15th through the 17th of September; some people with a JCB came in through the school gate and broke the fence of the school border. The JCB was used to commence work on a

pathway on the portion of the Hill (Survey 700 A/B) that belongs to KGH. On his return Michael reported this to me and we went around checking and found out they were planning to put up a fence.

On the 23rd of September I wrote my first complaint letter to the Forest Department and handed over the letter personally. On the 26th of September, I inspected the land and talked to Sam Devakumar, a fellow Trustee who is familiar with our lands about this. On the 27th of September, 2014 we received a reply from Forest Department stating their intent to construct a Tree Park under the direction of Deputy Collector, claiming no incursion onto KGH property and asking us to submit proof of ownership of the land.

On the 7th of October, while Sam was in Kollegal, we ascertained our boundaries by identifying the stone survey markers. On the 10th of October 2014, I wrote a second letter attaching documents of proof of ownership and personally delivered it to both offices.

Following these letters, on the 7th of January 2015, a letter was sent by registered post with acknowledgement to the Sub-Inspector of Police, Deputy Superintendent of Police, the Circle Inspector, and the Superintendent of Police. However, meeting many of the police officers proved impossible as they were on duty at a fair at the time. The Sub-Inspector stated his inability to take our complaint since it was out of his scope of responsibility but advised that we should go and discuss the matter with officials from the Forest Department and seek legal recourse in the event of non-cooperation.

With all respect I present this report.

Francis Curnow
[Hon. Secretary – Kollegal Girls' Home]