

Tamwed

Annual Report 2008/09



Registered Charity No: 1113533 c/o Gellings Park West, Harewood Rd, Calstock, Cornwall PL18 9QN info@tamwed.org www.tamwed.org

Tamwed works with NGO partners in South India to improve the quality of life of poor and marginalised communities. This is done through support and funding for projects that are developed in response to need covering such issues as health, education and agriculture.

Message Tamwed's Chair, Gill Gorbutt: "We decided that, this year, we should spend time building on the work that we have initiated with our partners and lay the foundations for new projects. The needs survey completed in 2008 highlighted the relationship between poverty, poor sanitation and ill health and this we felt we ought to tackle. As we report later, the lives of some of those existing on the margins of society can be improved through the type of simple and cost-effective measures that we are able to support. I thank our Coordinator in India, Jothi Ramalingam, for the extremely efficient way in which he oversees our projects and helps to prepare new programmes. I would like to say a special thank you to Oz our Secretary who gives tireless commitment to Tamwed and has a great deal of experience and expertise in the field of sustainability and international interaction and motivation. I also thank our committee members, supporters and funders whose contributions make our projects possible. Tamwed has very few overheads - nearly all funds raised go towards practical projects which are carefully monitored. Our partners, CRUSADE and Manushi, continue to deliver vital support to their communities and Tamwed is pleased to offer support for their work. As climate change begins to have more impact on the lives of some of the most vulnerable people around the world, Tamwed is looking at ways of helping communities to prepare for its effect and play a part in plans and policies that are being made at national and international levels".

Health Worker Support

During 2008, we supported the training of 20 Women Community Health Workers. We are now funding their ongoing support, resources and further training. Women deliver programmes in their villages (right) covering basic health, hygiene and other issues as well as training other women to become Health Workers themselves. Patients with more serious problems are referred for specialist help. A health manual was produced as a reference for training.



Dr Hari Priar (left, in her new clinic) is the homeopathic doctor and trainer who supports community health workers. Her clinic and medicine is accessible and cheap for families that might otherwise have to travel miles for basic health care. Among the more major health problems are TB, AIDS and diabetes.

We have also funded solar energy equipment at CRUSADE's Technology Centre and equipment for both partner NGOs which receive an additional fee for managing Tamwed's projects.

Sanitation

After a trial of different types of toilet a programme was set up to provide 100 units in some of the poorest villages. Tamwed contributes a third of the cost of £100 per unit, the rest coming from Government grants and from the families themselves who often build wash rooms alongside. This is the first time that many people have been able to use such facilities but Health Workers must first convince villagers of the need.



Kalamkari, Embroidery and Tailoring



49 women have been trained in embroidery and tailoring and are now able to produce goods while working from home. Greetings cards with kalamkari designs are popular in the UK - the CRUSADE production unit supplies Tamwed and now other organisations with high quality cards that are sold at events to raise funds for projects. These can now be ordered through the Tamwed website.

Events, Workshops and Presentations

Our second Garden Party, courtesy of Jane and Ian, was subject to some dreadful weather. Many supporters braved the rain and we thank them and others who raise funds for our projects. This year we are organising a dance - inside! We attend village fairs and other events as well as delivering presentations and workshops for schools, universities and community groups. We took part in Fairtrade Week in Tavistock and Callington where we met a mango farmer from Burkina Faso (right - at our stall).



We organised a week-long programme of workshops and discussions in Chennai to promote community business as way of helping financial security and independence. We also discussed and planned for the increasing impact of climate change.

Visits

Our project co-ordinator, Jothi Ramalingam, visited in October and met committee members to discuss projects and joined supporters for a meal with the Evans family. Ella Evans spent several weeks in India working with a theatre group and even taking roles in Bollywood films! Anthropology graduate Lucy Jonas visited villages in both project areas to undertake a study to inform our proposed projects.





Jothi with some of the CRUSADE Women's Self Help Groups who operate savings schemes and set up projects in their villages. These groups form the basis of much of the work of NGOs such as CRUSADE and Manushi giving women status in their communities and the means to contribute financially to the family income

Future Projects

The Two Villages Project will focus on two rural communities to find out how they could become self-sustainable units. Research and needs analysis has taken place and we hope to trial agricultural, alternative energy and other techniques which will help to demonstrate their value to other villagers. People from villages such as New Erumaivetty Palayam (right) are being consulted about this project. We are also planning to draw attention to the plight of some of the people who are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. A further project will encourage families to use traditional techniques to develop small plots to grow herbs for medicine and food.



Summary Account

Income: £12,477. Expenditure: £15,469. Funds are raised through donations, standing orders, sales, membership and grants, some of which is subject to tax relief. Our accounts are independently examined. Tamwed spends nearly all funds on projects in India which are carefully negotiated with our partners

Trustees and Committee Members 2008/2009

Chair: Gill Gorbutt, Secretary: Oz Osborne, Treasurer: Jo Pridham, Vice Chair: Jane Murray/Weatherby, Members Secretary: Ian Richards. Committee: Geri Laithwaite, Leon Aarons, Gill Aarons, Diana Lee, Andrew Dawson, Sonia Chapple, Jacky Brennan, John Evans, Angela Evans. Our committee is elected during the Annual Meeting or appointed according to Tamwed's constitution.

Thanks

We thank the management and staff of our extremely able NGO partners, CRUSADE (Secretary - Jothi Ramalingam) and Manushi (Secretary - Rita Raj). We thank Jothi, who is also our Project Coordinator and Monitor and who continues to ensure high standards of project delivery and accountancy. We receive very welcome financial support from the RH Southern Trust which has a special interest in the communities we work with. We are grateful to Osborne Samuel (www.osbornesamuel.com) for their financial support and to Roger Croxson of the One Image (www.theoneimage.co.uk) who has revamped and updated our website. We thank Nick Biggs, the Independent Examiner of our accounts which have been efficiently maintained by Jo Pridham who is standing down this year and passing the books over to our new Treasurer, Nigel Beere.

We are also indebted to our committee members and supporters who raise valuable funds as well as spreading the word about our work and our beneficiaries.

PHOTO PAGE



Jane and Ian at the Tamwed barbecue after their wedding. Guests were encouraged to donate to Tamwed in lieu of wedding gifts. Charities like Tamwed are suffering from reduced income due to the credit crunch and income from this type of event is welcome. It is also a good way of informing new people about our projects and the communities that we work with.

Some of the many kalamkari designs on fabric that are sold in the UK as greetings cards or as pictures. Women are paid a fair wage to produce the cards and profits are invested in projects.



Members of a tailoring class. Women can work singly or in groups to produce clothes or to embroider saris to sell locally. This income is important to families who live below the international poverty line of 2 dollars a day.

Children outside the family home. Many villagers rely on income from part time, seasonal farm labour. Due to changing weather patterns, more children will be taken out of school to travel with their families in search of construction and other poorly-paid work in cities.

