

Blossom Trust

Art, Culture and human development

Annual Report

2016

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2017





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Letter from the Director

Dear Reader,

We here at Blossom Trust are thrilled to bring you this year's annual report. We've made some major project developments in 2016-2017 and have continued to optimize our efforts to further support and benefit the most marginalized sections of our society. It is always a distinct pleasure to share with our supporting community our continued successes as well as our goals for the future.

Blossom Trust is committed to ensure good public health. Due to our continuous presence in the communities, we are always informed about issues affecting communities we operate in.

Blossom Trust continues to contribute positively in the society by designing and implementing cost effective sustainable solutions to solve societal challenges associated with HIV and TB. Our CEPT-II (Campaign for Education, Prevention and Treatment of TB) project is in its final phase and has been without a doubt extraordinarily successful. The CEPT-II project is a major breakthrough in bridging the information gap about TB and HIV. Since the launch of the project, more staff received training to expand their medical and monitoring system, in the objective to increase inter-staff communication.

To sustain the momentum, alongside the CEPT-II project, we improved the development of the Rainbow TB Forum. As a network of TB affected communities, it is the voice to the voiceless to strengthen our fight against TB.

The Survive sugar forum, designed to detect early diabetics and refer them to the public health services has been extended all over the year. We now aim to further our efforts on this project by dedicating more resources to it.

We continued to strengthen our ongoing children's projects at Dayspring Home & Organic Farm and Crèche daycare Centre. Children are our future, and this is one of Blossom's priorities to ensure that they grow up in the adequate environment.

Finally, Blossom Trust continued to do more to link HIV positive women as soon as they receive their HIV tests results through the Paneer Poo supportive network. This is how we ensure that every HIV positive woman can be empowered and supported.

I would also like to extend a warm and personal thank you to the members of our Board and to all our Partners for their contributions and assistance in moving our organization forward, along with our staff and volunteers whose dedication and skill we could simply not do without.

T. Mercy Annapoorani

Director



Vision, Mission, Values and Objectives

Vision

Reinforcing community development to blossom the power in every individual.

Mission

Facilitate a process where marginalized groups become self-sufficient in improving their health, environmental, economic and social needs.

Core value

Ensuring flexibility to evolve our programs to provide the greatest benefits possible to the marginalized populations within our community.

Objectives

- Developing adequate community frameworks to ensure women and children's issues are properly addressed.
- Ensuring communities have greater access and control to proper resources within their community.
- Facilitating a mutual exchange process using community knowledge and preserved resources.
- Giving a voice to the voiceless.

Who we are

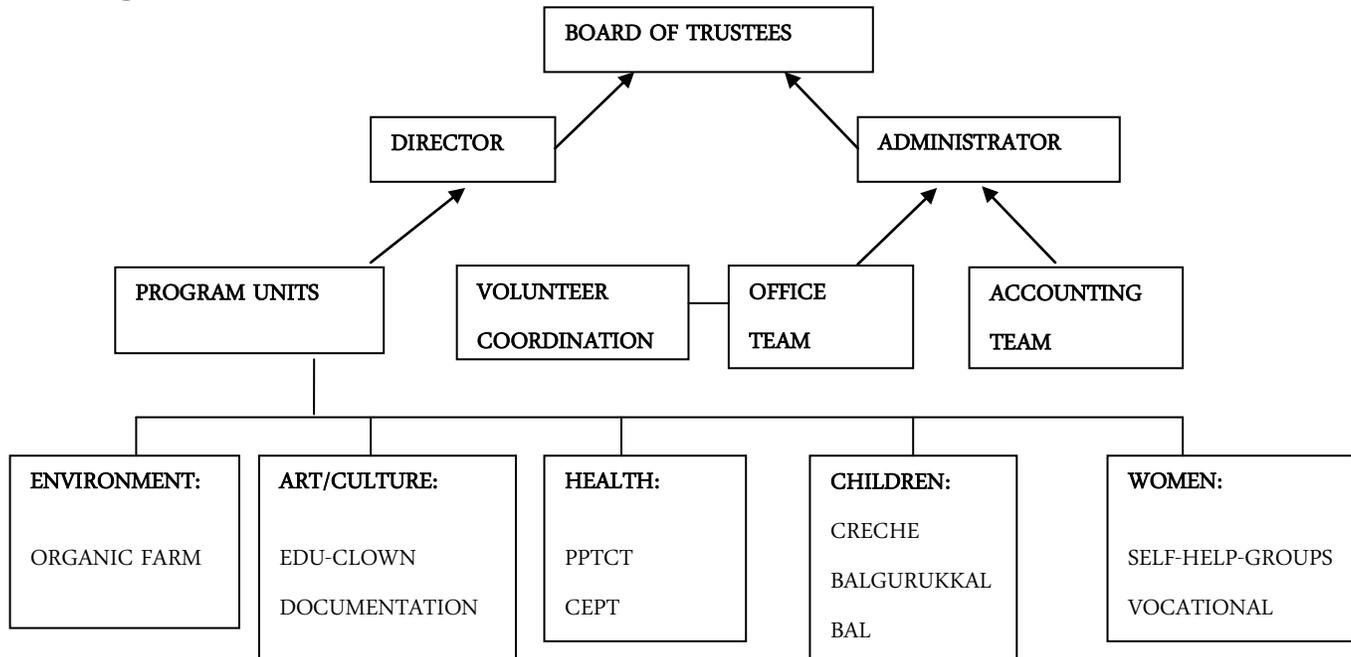
About us

Since 1993, Blossom Trust has focused on the social, economic and cultural empowerment of underprivileged women and children.

Over time, this vision has become focused on providing treatment and support for those living with HIV/AIDS and TB, and building capacity building programmes and advocacy networks for the most disadvantaged members of our community.

We operate in all 11 blocks of Virudhunagar District, three blocks of Kanchipuram District and one block in Madurai District.

Organizational structure



Board members

Name	Designation	Position	Background
Mrs. T. Mercy Annapoorni	M. com, M.A., M.W.S.	Managing Trustee	Social Worker
Mrs. G. Vatsala	Diploma in CDDM	Treasurer	Self Employed
Mr. C. John Jasper	B.E., M.B.A.	Trustee	Engineer
Dr. M. J. I. Raj	M.S.W., M.A. (psychology), M.Ed., M. Phil., Ph.D.	Trustee	Principal
Mr. T. Ajee Evans	M. Com., M.Ed.	Trustee	Teacher

Projects

Dayspring Home

Located in the rural village of Chittoor, Dayspring houses 31 children who've been affected by HIV/AIDS or TB, as well as our three full time staff members and any volunteers who come to support the program. We are very happy to announce that this year the home was officially registered with the Indian Government as an



Orphanage. The annual cost of running Dayspring Home is approximately \$ 18,000. This includes food, medical expenses, school costs, utility bills, etc. This year we've celebrated Pongal and Christmas together with the children, staff of Blossom, volunteers and interns.

Dayspring Farm

Dayspring Farm is a 6 acre of land adjacent to the Dayspring Home dedicated to animal husbandry and vegetable production. The Goats for Gains initiative is based here and the children from Dayspring Home get hands on experience learning about natural systems from the farm manager.

In regard to food, the farm aims to produce adequate vegetables, fruit, milk and eggs for the children in order for the home to be as self-sufficient as possible. We sell the excess production for revenue to support Dayspring Home.

Crops grown this year included brinjal (aubergine), drumstick, beans, spinach, lady's finger (okra), chili pepper, tomato, mango, coconut, palm fruit, guava and chiku, and livestock reared included goats, cows, chickens, ducks and guinea fowl.



Crèche



Our Crèche Centre is a childcare centre, created for working women to look after their children during the day. In this way the crèche aims to empower women and their families. Currently

our childcare centre cares for 25 to 30 children on a regular basis by a trained teacher. During lunchtime a cook is on-hand to ensure the children are fed a healthy lunch. Learning and healthcare updates are given to parents on a regular basis. This year the kids of Crèche joined Indian's government Swachh Bharat and cleaned the street of Virudhunagar

EduClowns

EduClowns is a community group that helps advocate for TB awareness alongside CEPT. Currently EduClowns is comprised of seven members. This year we held four performances and handed out over 3,000 pamphlets in streets and train stations during World TB day. In this way we tried to not only address the stigma associated with TB but also to encourage the audience to get tested for TB screening camps. Due to our work this year we reached an estimated 10,000 people throughout the Virudhunagar district.



Buds network

Buds network aims to empower underprivileged children through educational support. Currently Blossom is running 2 Buds network centers, regularly visited by 20-30 children, most of them directly or indirectly affected by HIV or TB. The centers offer after school education and are located in the Kanchipuram and Virudhunagar District. This year 2 staff members ran the program. The implementation of Buds networks has improved children's motivation to attend school by providing extra educational assistance and counseling to parents and teachers.

Campaign for Education, Prevention and Treatment of TB – CEPT II

Campaign for Education, Prevention and Treatment of TB has been a successful program in creating awareness about TB, developing community support and identifying and curing TB. Currently the program is nearing the end of our second and last phase. This year marked the first full year partnership with TB alert UK who funds the project. The CEPT-II team is found in both the Virudhunagar and Kanchipuram District where we execute the project. This year 192 RTBA meetings were held in which 2880 people were trained. The staff members compile trainings and work to meet the numbers that TB Alert has set out for us.



This year we have focused on the expected outcome number 3: *Improved capacity of TB associations contributes to greater and more sustainable community participation in TB management in Virudhunagar and Kanchipuram districts.*

We have a variety of programs linked with CEPT, which include EduClowns, Goats for Gain, Screening Camps, RTBA meetings and Trainings that encompass a wide variety of TB awareness techniques.

Tuberculosis

Screening Camps

This year the amount of people reached through TB screening camps has increased compared to last year. Thanks to five screening camps in total 776 people have been tested on tuberculosis. 160 sputum samples were collected and fifteen tested positive. The TB positive patients are put in touch with a community organizer who ensures treatments are followed. The patient will be tested again once treatment is completed.

	2015-2016	2016-2017
No screening camps	4	5
No people attending	420	776
Collected sputum	63	160
TB persons identified	4	15

Trainings

In order to create awareness about TB, CEPT II staff has trained new RTBF leaders. The trainings encompass a variety of topics: determine the symptoms of TB and how to refer individuals who displays symptoms, support individuals who test positive, tackling stigmatization of the disease. Trainings focus on people living with TB, community volunteers, AWW/VHN and self-help groups.

Goats for Gains

This year 112 goats were distributed to 57 people affected by TB. In order to make the project sustainable the recipients were asked to mate the goats in order to return kids to the program. In that way the project can extend without spending further funds than those available. Our Blossom Staff has done monthly follow-ups to ensure the wellbeing of the goats and to monitor the effect of projects. This year out of 142 new goats born, 32 of them were returned to the farm. This project has made remarkable impact in improving the livelihoods of vulnerable people by generating income. The Goats for Gains project is a sustainable capacity building mechanism designed to break the chain of poverty in the most vulnerable parts of the society.

	Number
Goats given	112
Total amount of kids	142
Goats returned	32

Events

World AIDS Day

Introduction:

All RTBA members came to the railway station and the RTBA coordinator explained the program concept and about HIV and TB related issues

Awareness Chanting:

The all RTBA members stating the awareness chanting and showing the HIV awareness banner around railway station with DD Health director, Blossom Director, Railway health supervisor, District Project manager and Railway staff.

Outcomes:

- The RTBA member know more about HIV prevention
- They know about how relate between to TB and HIV
- They increase TB and HIV awareness to the public





World TB Day 2017 – Rainbow TB Forum & Blossom Trust Awareness Campaign (Supported by TB ALERT INDIA)

The awareness Campaign for World TB Day 2017 started in Virudhunagar Railway Station. Banners were displayed in front of the station. A group of 6 clowns handed out fliers in front of the station as well as on the platforms and trains. Fliers were distributed both to passengers alighting at this station and to passengers on trains stopping at the station. Next, the exhibition was moved to Virudhunagar city center. Banners had been fixed on Blossom's car, so that while travelling between the railway station and the town center, they were visible to passers-by. The car also traveled slowly and stopped frequently so that the clowns were able to distribute fliers to passers-by and discuss with them. In the city center, the clowns distributed fliers both to people shopping and to people working in the surrounding shops. Finally, the campaign ended in Virudhunagar's bus stand, where the clowns distributed fliers to passengers waiting for their buses.

The fliers and the banners were designed to give key information about TB which people could easily remember. This information answered question such as: what are the symptoms of TB, how to get diagnosed and treated, and how Rainbow TB Forum can help patients cope with TB.

Overall, people responded very well to the campaign. People were keen to take away fliers, and the banners attracted people to come and enquire about our campaign. We were able to get referrals from this campaign. This campaign was a success and we would like to thank TB Alert India for sponsoring it.



External Support

Volunteers and interns

This year we hosted volunteers from all around the world to help out at our Office, Dayspring Home and Farm. Using HelpX and Workaway we look for innovative self-starters who want to assist in the office, help at the farm and/or involve the kids in fun activities and lesson plans. Their contributions have been extremely beneficial.



This year we also started a new intern program where young, international professionals and students came to work at Blossom Trust. In total we hosted four interns with a wide range of educational and professional backgrounds such as Report and project writing, Project planning and implementation,). The duration of their internship ranged from three to six months, and they've helped Blossom with general administrative tasks, social media and grant writing.

“My experience at Dayspring Home has been nothing but truly amazing! From day one I've been treated like family by both the children and the staff, which is probably one of the reasons I keep coming back (three times to be precise, 2015, 2016 and 2017). Dayspring Home provides the children with both support and security and to see these children growing up to becoming such wonderful individuals is a unique experience to me!” – Julia, 23 years old

Donors

Our major donors/supporters are:

- Partnership for TB Care and Control (PTCC)
- Tamil Nadu Volunteer Health Association
- TB Alert UK/TB Alert India
- Tamil Nadu Social Welfare Board
- Global Giving UK
- One, Holland

A big thank you goes also out to our individual donors. We really wouldn't be able to make it without you and we are so extremely grateful!

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