



Reaching out to those in need

INSIDE The list of Trust-backed projects is growing. Director **Janice Lee** reports on schemes in Nepal, South Africa, Zambia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Namibia, Peru and Vietnam ►

From the Director

I am delighted to welcome readers to our latest newsletter and share some good news at a time of seemingly endless disasters around the world.

It has been a very exciting time for us, particularly with many projects coming to fruition, such as the coconut-oil mill in Sri Lanka, the numerous small businesses kick-started in Thailand and an imaginative micro-credit scheme in Nepal. These highlight the true effectiveness of the simplest of strategies – giving people the opportunity to earn their own living and support their families.

However, it is no exaggeration to say that without our valued chain of support, we would not be able to achieve as much as we have, especially in some of the most challenging environments. Through our local network of hoteliers, ground agents, field staff, project partners and champions, we are able to work very closely with communities, listen to their needs and monitor and account for expenditure.

I have had the privilege of visiting several projects this past year and have been reminded of the special relationship we have with them. Receiving a written report is one thing, but sitting with village elders and discussing the challenges they face is quite another. I really feel that we share communities' ups and downs, their tragedies and triumphs, and regular visits by Saga holidaymakers strengthen this bond even further.

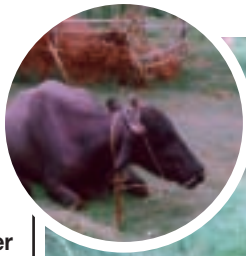
I would therefore like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who contribute to and play a part in supporting the work of the Trust and for helping us to make a very special difference.



Janice Lee
Director of the Saga Charitable Trust



Janice Lee with one of the children from the nursery at Lima



A tale of 10 buffalo and a community school...

The Himaljyoti School in Bhattidanda, Nepal, continues to flourish, but a key challenge has been to get the school firmly on the road to self-sufficiency, especially as many of the families cannot afford school fees.

However, thanks to the local women's agricultural co-operative, an interesting solution emerged. The idea was to buy buffalo for the poorest families, who would earn money from the sale of milk, manure and calves. From their earnings they would pay the school fees for one child and over a period of two years, repay the cost of the buffalo, thereby providing a revolving fund to help other families in the village. Thanks to our hotel partner and the local Rotary Club, this programme has now been set up and the first set of buffalo handed over to the villagers at a special ceremony.



THARU JOY

In the Chitwan jungle in Nepal, Aimee, the manager of the Tiger Mountain Tharu Lodge, spends much of her time supporting various community projects. Her dedication and enthusiasm have inspired many Saga guests to provide ongoing support there, even helping to fund the local clinic. We are very happy to be able to facilitate this support as well as provide additional funding.

SAGA CRUISES HELP SOUTH AFRICAN CRÈCHES

Thanks to Saga Shipping and funds raised on board *Saga Rose* and *Saga Ruby* World cruises, two crèches in South Africa have received much-needed support this year.

The Nokhanyo Educare Centre in the township of Khayelitsha, Cape Town, was first supported by Saga Shipping in 2003, when it funded a building to replace the shack where around 40 children were being cared for. This crèche has since been extended through a local mentorship programme funded by the Trust, and with additional funds a kitchen and boundary fence have been erected.

Over in KwaZulu-Natal the Word of Hope crèche has received a welcome contribution from *Saga Ruby*, whose crew visited it in February this year. It is now benefiting from new facilities, including a playground, as well as training for the staff and local community.



STAR IN PERU

Our support of the Hand in Hand Trust in Peru continues with the funding of the Las Magnolias nursery in Lima. This centre is now providing care and stimulation for up to 70 children in an economically poor area of the city. We are also thrilled that its founder, Josie Masters, pictured above, was named as Clarins Dynamisante woman of the year for 2007 – a well deserved accolade for this dynamic 73-year-old grandmother.



Help for Mukuni village

Following our previous support for Mukuni clinic, near Livingstone in Zambia, we were asked to help provide testing kits for malaria and syphilis through the "Butterfly Tree" charity. Both of these diseases can be treated if detected early enough and in the case of syphilis, the risk of stillborn babies can be significantly reduced. We are also pleased to be providing nine new water tanks to provide clean water, not only for the clinic, but for the whole population of around 8,000. The situation in Mukuni has been desperate – existing tanks had rusted and taps dried up. Villagers were reduced to collecting drips from the leaking tanks. We are very thankful that there will soon be access to water for all the people of Mukuni.

SHORTS

VOLUNTEERS KEEP ON HELPING

We continue to be overwhelmed by the energy and zeal of returning Saga Travel volunteers following the introduction of this programme last year. Instead of putting their feet up when they arrive home, many engage in serious fund-raising for their projects, channelling the proceeds through the Trust.

PENNINGTON ON THE MOVE

We are thrilled to report that the Peoples Community Centre is now on its new site funded by the Trust in Pennington, near Scottburgh, Natal.

The women's sewing co-operative, men's training centre and various classes are now together as a one-stop shop for skills training, as well as a venue for selling products, and a meeting place for pensioners. A thanksgiving service led by Brian Hopf was held in July to celebrate. All visitors to South Africa are welcome to visit the centre.

NEW WEBSITE



We now have a fantastic revamped website – visit us at www.saga-charitabletrust.org.

SAGA RUBY IN KENYA

The Tumaini Children's home in Mombasa is running well and now caring for 21 children infected with or affected by HIV Aids. Children enjoyed a visit by passengers and crew earlier this year on the *Saga Ruby* 2007 world cruise, which also raised more funds on board for the home.



CHOIR CD SUCCESS

A big thank you to those who bought the Isaac Booi school choir CD, which generated an amazing total of £1,319.34 for this South African township school. The CD was instigated by Saga volunteer Sue Hamer, whose placement and continuing support of the school has had a huge impact. As well as winning the national choir championships, members are also very proud that their music is now being heard all over the UK!



TSUNAMI UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that the Wellamadda Coconut Oil Extraction Mill, near Galle in Sri Lanka, was officially opened on June 1. It has been a long haul to get this mill working after it was swept away in the tsunami. It is now providing direct and indirect employment for local people, with 30% of profits going to a community development fund.

Our tsunami work continues in Sri Lanka, with sewing centres providing a good income for women and the recent delivery of an artificial limb facility to help those disabled in the disaster. In Thailand, we have teamed up with two charities set up in memory of lost loved ones – the Sam and Ruby Charity and 4kali. Through these we have funded further livelihood projects, facilities for schools and home improvements. We are also supporting a programme called the “forgotten elders”, helping grandparents who are raising tsunami orphans.



COVER STORY



TOP TEACHER FOR TOP KIDS

The Trust is privileged to work with many inspiring people, among them Margreth, who runs the Top Kids kindergarten near Swakopmund, Namibia. As well as caring for her own family, she has created a happy and stimulating environment for around 30 children in a very deprived area. We hope that Margreth will soon be able to move to a location with access to water and electricity.

CELEBRATE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Saga Charitable Trust receives many donations in lieu of birthday and anniversary presents and we are very pleased to announce the introduction of individual gift cards. If you would like to mark a special occasion by making a donation to support the work of the Trust, we can send a card for you to complete for the recipient. Saga Group covers all the UK overheads, so your donation really will make a difference to underprivileged communities.



A HELPING HAND FOR STREET CHILDREN IN VIETNAM

It is a sad fact that there are an increasing number of street children in Vietnam, but for many there is help, thanks to dedicated organisations like the 15 May School in Ho Chi Minh City, which the Trust has been supporting for several years. It has a well-deserved reputation for providing a better future for street children and those from poor families. Now, the challenge is to help youngsters once they leave school. We are supporting a “transition to adulthood” programme to help former pupils, who for a period of a year will receive help with accommodation and other practical support, like budgeting and finding work.

In the resort of Hoi An, Saga holidaymakers have been visiting a home for street children set up by an elderly local woman. The Trust is helping her to support these children by providing school uniforms and healthcare. ■

Donation form

I enclose a cheque donation made payable to the Saga Charitable Trust for £

If your donation is in lieu of a gift and you would like to receive a card, please tick here

Thank you for your kind donation, which will support the work of the Saga Charitable Trust overseas.

Title Initial Surname

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Saga Charitable Trust would like to send you updates about our work. If you prefer not to receive any communication, please tick this box

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