

Together we build a brighter future

INSIDE Projects
backed by the
Trust are thriving

Director **Janice Lee**
reports on schemes
in the Caribbean,
Nepal, Zambia, Peru,
South Africa, Kenya,
Thailand and India



From the Director

It is with enormous pride that I welcome readers to our latest newsletter, in what has been another year of growth for the Trust.

Despite economic turmoil and uncertainty, we have been very heartened by the fact that the Trust continues to grow and that people continue to give. And we have much to celebrate. The opening of a new crèche for more than 150 children in South Africa, the introduction of a dynamic programme to unlock the isolation of elderly deaf people in Nepal, and the provision of that most basic of needs – clean water, for a village in Zambia.

These are just some of the transformational projects funded in 2008, and a reminder of how, by working together with local communities and partners, we really are able to make a difference where it counts – and sometimes, very quickly too! It was less than a year ago that I met the Inkosi (traditional Zulu leader) of the Khula community in South Africa to discuss the plans for a new crèche – and now the building is completed and filled with eager youngsters. Seeing this dream become reality is success indeed.

Our “walk a mile to raise a smile” event was another landmark, with Saga staff and holidaymakers around the world, putting on their walking shoes and rising to the challenge for the Saga Charitable Trust. We received an amazing array of pictures and anecdotes, as well as donations, from locations near and far, and our thanks go to everyone who made this event such a great success – we will certainly be walking again in 2009.

Yes, we do indeed have much to celebrate and this was highlighted on a recent visit to Nepal. Everywhere I went, I was greeted with an abundance of smiles, garlands and thank-you speeches. I felt quite unworthy of such adulation but realised, of course, that it is not me they are thanking, but you. So I would like to extend this feeling of genuine warmth, gratitude and joy and place an imaginary garland around the neck of every one of our supporters.

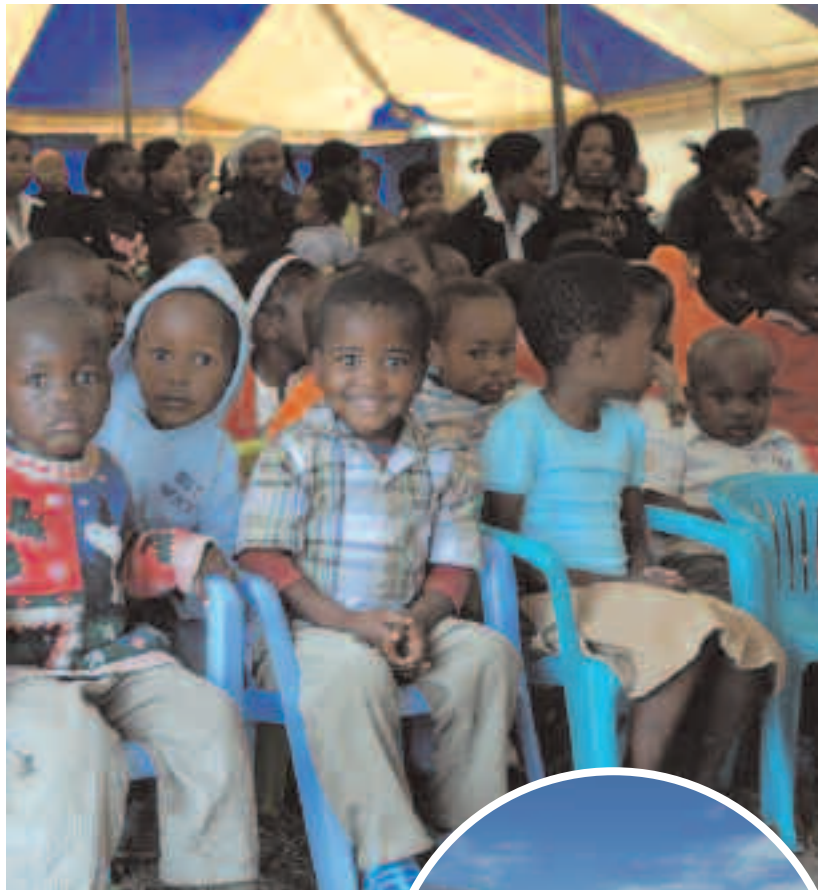
On behalf of all the communities supported by the Trust around the world, a very sincere and heartfelt thank you to everyone. Your help does make a very special difference.



Janice Lee
Director of the Saga Charitable Trust



Janice Lee with children from the Himaljyoti Community School



Cause for celebration

In July, the new Simunye Crèche building was officially opened, amid much celebration by children, parents and community representatives. The Trust funded the purpose-built nursery, near St Lucia, South Africa, in response to a request by the local tribal leader, concerned that so many children, particularly orphans, did not have access to proper childcare. The new nursery is already caring for 155 children and has really made a significant difference to the Khula community.



SPECIAL DELIVERY

The Meisori School in Northern Kenya had an exciting delivery from the Trust – sports kit and equipment for their football and netball teams. In this remote and largely barren area, children walk up to six miles a day to attend the basic school, bringing firewood with them to cook their lunch. The Trust is now looking to provide a dining area and help set up a library.

SOUTH AFRICAN CRECHES

The Word of Hope crèche, near Durban, is reaping the benefits of food tunnels, funded by the Trust to help provide nutrition in an area of high unemployment and HIV/Aids. The Trust has also funded training, toilets, a playground and educational materials here, all with funds raised on the Saga Rose World Cruise in 2007.

And at the Jabula crèche, near Pennington in Natal, Rejoice and her team continue to provide good-quality childcare for underprivileged children. The crèche has faced many challenges this year, but is now well on the way to becoming eligible for government subsidies. This is our goal for all crèches we support in South Africa, as in this way, they will become self-sufficient and independent in the long-term.



Railway children on track

The Trust has been providing support for so-called "railway children" in Delhi since 2004, with the establishment of a drop-in shelter in association with the Indian charity Prayas, which rehabilitates runaway or abandoned children who end up in the capital's railway station in New Delhi. This project has been so successful that an additional shelter has been set up and the programme is being extended to include Old Delhi and Nizamuddin railway stations, as well as support services in Bihar, where many of the children originate. Research has shown that early intervention really can mean the difference between a lifetime on the streets (or tracks) for these children – or the chance of a brighter future. We are very proud to be funding this extremely worthy and effective initiative.



BOOST FOR HIV/AIDS PROJECT

The Umdoni and Vulamehlo HIV/Aids Association (affectionately known as UVHAA), which supports rural communities in the KwaZulu-Natal region of South Africa, has received much-needed support from the Trust. In addition to a vehicle, to support their home-based care team in rural areas near Durban, the Trust is funding a programme to help communities develop healthy organic gardens as a crucial source of nutrition.

SHORTS

WALK A MILE IS RUNAWAY SUCCESS!

In May, the Trust held its first fundraising week with a host of crazy activities going on. The highlight of this was the "walk a mile to raise a smile" event. Saga staff and holidaymakers on 104 holidays and two cruise ships, as well as at our UK offices, walked a mile with smiles to help raise funds for our projects overseas. The week raised a staggering £18,391, which Saga Group agreed to match, making a very grand total of £36,782. Thank you to all those who so generously participated.

ANOTHER STOREY...

The Trust has helped to complete and furnish an additional storey to the Amarjyoti School, near Tiger Mountain Lodge in Pokhara, Nepal. This will be of huge benefit to the community, enabling children to complete secondary-level education.

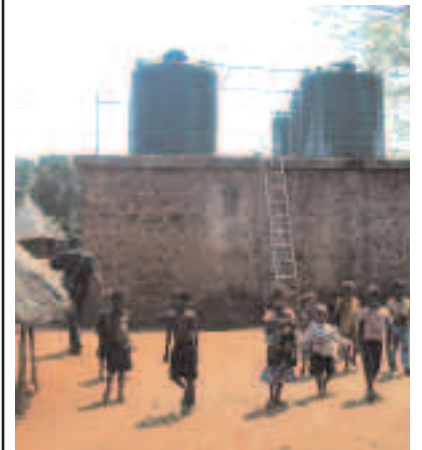
SCT WEBSITE



For further information and news, visit us at www.saga-charitabletrust.org.

PENNINGTON NEWS

The People's Community Centre, near Pennington in Natal, has developed in leaps and bounds this year, with the new Training Centre now almost complete. This will make space available for the cookery school, funded by the Trust, and will allow the number of computer students to be trebled – there is already a long waiting list. The centre already provides sewing, literacy, block-making and other vocational classes and has achieved its objective of providing local unemployed people with a means of supporting themselves. Our congratulations to the founders, Lillian and Brian Hopf, and their team of supporters.



WATER FLOWS IN MUKUNI

In Mukuni village, near Livingstone, Zambia, new water tanks are now providing a welcome flow of clean water to the community. This was part of our response to the plight of villagers who had been reduced to collecting water in drips from old, leaking tanks. The Trust is also helping to equip the Maternity Clinic recently completed by the Butterfly Tree Charity. As well as providing tiles, bedding and specialised machines, the Trust is continuing to fund syphilis-testing kits. If the disease is detected in the earlier stages of pregnancy, the risk of stillborn babies is greatly reduced.

DUNNOTTAR SCHOOL

On the Caribbean island of St Lucia, the Trust is pleased to be helping the Dunnottar School for children and young adults with developmental disabilities. Aply run for more than 30 years by the dynamic Carolyn Archibald, the school provides education and training for around 60 children, with creative and performing arts and sporting activities as an integral part of its curriculum. The school band plays regularly at the nearby Bel Jou Hotel, where the school has been overwhelmed by the generosity of Saga guests and staff.

PERU UPDATE

In Lima, the Trust continues to fund Las Magnolias nursery, operated by the Hand in Hand Trust, which cares for more than 70 children in an area of real economic hardship. There was much excitement there in January, when crew and passengers from *Saga Rose* dropped in for a very welcome visit. The Hand in Hand Trust, which has other nurseries in Lima, Arequipa and the Amazon, was a recipient of fundraising on the ship's Round the World Cruise.

In Arequipa, Peru's second largest city, we were told of the desperate conditions endured by families who are attracted to the city from the mountains in search of a better life and end up living in flimsy shelters. The Trust is now funding 20 small houses – which will be built by the families themselves – to provide much-needed homes.



COVER STORY



BHATTIDANDA BUFFALO

The innovative buffalo micro-credit scheme in Nepal, overseen by the Thamel Rotary Club, has helped to raise the economic status of the villagers and at the same time support the Himaljyoti Community School. The school now has 204 students, who are receiving quality education and gaining in confidence and stature, giving them a brilliant start in life.

YAOWAWIT SCHOOL

This welfare boarding school near Khao Lak in South Thailand looks after children from poor and challenging backgrounds as well as those orphaned by the tsunami. The school is entirely funded by donations but the aim is for it to eventually become self-sufficient. To help this process, the Trust has funded materials to set up agricultural projects, which will include a catfish farm, mushroom farm and vegetable greenhouse. Children will be taught to grow organic vegetables, not only to provide for the school, but also to generate an income.

CHEERS FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Saga volunteers continue to be dynamic fundraisers and ambassadors for the projects where they have generously shared their time and skills – so much so, that the number of donations we receive for Port Elizabeth, in the Eastern Cape of South Africa, has more than trebled in the last year. The SCT is not only able to maximise these donations for returning volunteers, but also ensure they are properly implemented, thanks to the support of the Calabash Trust. The impact volunteers have made is quite astounding, and their support is now extending to Nepal.



A WHOLE NEW WORLD

In Kathmandu, the Trust is funding a special project to support elderly deaf people through Deafway UK, a charity that works for equality of access and opportunity. Many older deaf people in Nepal are locked in isolation, having hidden themselves away for most of their lives with no means of communication.

With help from the Trust, a centre managed by the Kathmandu Association for the Deaf has set up a programme to teach deaf people sign language, help with registration (some are not even registered as citizens and cannot access available grants) and an opportunity to socialise and have fun with other deaf people. This work is opening up a whole new world for deaf people in Nepal and is a very worthwhile project. ■

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.

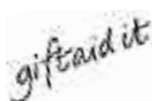
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Saga Charitable Trust would like to send you updates about our work. If you prefer not to receive any communication, please tick this box



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