

Friends of the Poor in South India

(Registered Charity No.1126907)

Financial Statement Year Ended 30th September 2017

	2017	2016	
Income	£	£	Notes
Donations	93,217.71	24,720.68	1
 Expenditure			
Grants	89,237.92	32,843.78	2
Bank Charges	150.50	215.00	3
Other Expenses	119.48	-----	4
Total Expenditure	89,507.90	33,058.78	
 Surplus/(Shortfall)	3,709.81	(8,338.10)	
Add Surplus Brought Forward	1,715.66	10,053.76	
Surplus Carried Forward	5,425.47	1,715.66	

Notes to 30.9.2017 financial statement:

1. Donations were received from UK resident individuals, UK trusts and other UK groups.

The charity maintained four restricted funds:

SPRIT Fisheries Project (£1200.00 received)

RICH Tailoring Project (£1200.00 received)

RICH Plantation Fund (£68,828.00 received)

RICH Jeep Fund (£6,656.20 received)

£15,333.51 was received in unrestricted donations, of which £6,190.00 was by standing orders.

The total for donations includes £8702.05 received from HMRC as Gift Aid.

2. Grants were made as follows:

RICH Plantation Project: £66,942.96

SPRIT Fisheries Project: £1,200.00

RICH Tailoring Project: £1,200.00

RICH Jeep Fund: £7,503.96

Other SPRIT projects: £533.00

Other RICH projects: £11,858.00

3. The charity maintains a business account with the Co-operative Bank. Charges are incurred in connection with the transfer of funds to Indian NGOs.
4. Expenses incurred in connection with the distribution of the annual newsletter. The newsletter is printed by a City law firm at no charge to the charity.

To the Trustees, Friends of the Poor in South India

Financial Report for year ended 30.9.17

Attached are the financial statement and notes.

1. This year income was £93,217. This was by far the largest amount received by the charity in any year since its creation. Nearly £69,000 was raised from UK trusts and individuals to fund the purchase by RICH, our partner NGO in Tamil Nadu, of a coconut plantation. We also raised substantial donations to fund the purchase of a nearly new jeep by RICH and to support expanding micro-credit activities. We made grants totalling more than £89,000 to our partner charities in Tamil Nadu.
2. A substantial amount of our regular income comes in by way of individual standing orders (£6190 during this financial year). We also received £2,400 from a Church of England parish by standing order which was used to support a fisheries project run by our partner SPRIT and a tailoring training scheme run by our partner RICH.
3. It is clear that our regular standing order donors, church groups and some institutions continue to form the bulk of our income. We did not receive any legacy income during this financial year.
4. We have now been in operation since November 2008. During that time we have made grants to our partner NGOs in Tamil Nadu in excess of £220,000.
5. Our expenses during the year were minimal (less than £300) and were made up of bank charges incurred in connection with the transfer of funds to India and the postage costs of distributing the newsletter. Trustees do not charge any fees to the charity and trustees pay their own expenses incurred in attending meetings in the U.K. or visiting projects in Tamil Nadu.

Philip Brown

Treasurer

13th December 2017



**Chair's Annual Report
for the Year ending 30th September 2017
to the Friends of the Poor in South India
Annual General Meeting
held at Christ Church, Blackfriars Road, London.
Wednesday 13th December 2017**

This Report is to the ninth Annual General Meeting following upon our registration as a Charity by the Charity Commission for England and Wales. Our Trust Deed was signed and submitted on 17th November 2008 and a letter from the Charity Commission dated 25th November 2008 confirmed our registration as a charity in England and Wales as of that date. We have been assigned the Charity number 1126907. We are therefore duty bound to keep the Commissioners updated on any change to our details on the Central Register and to comply with all other requirements of Charity Law. Our Trustees are currently Christopher Brown, Andrew Davey, Christian Jervis Read, Simon Bell, Philip Brown, Andrew Crighton, Laurie Green and John Wilde.

The Charity Report for the Friends of the Poor in South India states that the objects of our Charity are “1. the relief of financial hardship, either generally or individually, of neglected poor people living, in particular but not exclusively, in the State of Tamil Nadu, South India, and in such other parts of the world as the trustees may decide, primarily by providing or paying for items, services or facilities and by aiding small businesses and other activities to create sustainable incomes.2. The advancement of the education of the public, in particular persons living in the State of Tamil Nadu South India and in such other parts of the world as the trustees may decide. 3. The relief of sickness, the protection and preservation of health, in particular but not exclusively of persons living in the Sate of Tamil Nadu, South India, and in such other parts of the world as the trustees may decide.”

All expenditure from our accounts has been in accordance with the aims of our Charity. All meetings have been carried out in accordance with the regulations and procedures agreed in our Trust Deed, as above.

Activities during the year ended 30th September 2017 have included the following. The Trustees have met on four occasions through the last twelve months with minutes of the proceedings being kept in the minute book. Once again we are grateful to the people of the parish of Christchurch Blackfriars for the free use of their premises for all our meetings. We are grateful to all our officers for their care and hard work. This year, the Revd Christopher Brown was re-elected Secretary and Bishop Laurie Green re-elected as Chair. Mr Philip Brown was re-elected Treasurer. The Trustees have received regular and full reports of our financial situation and transactions. We have applied for and received Gift Aid tax rebates where applicable.

We seek to keep all our donors fully informed of our activities by means of our website at www.fpsi.org.uk which is overseen by Andrew Crighton, and by continuing email and postal communication, including our occasional Newsletter, the Friends' News.

Our trustee, Andrew Davey, spent considerable time in India this year, reporting back on our sponsored project partners. Also, trustees Chris & Philip Brown and John Wilde visited and returned with in-depth reports on all the work we support. No financial claims (expenses etc.) are made upon the charity for these visits.

As reported last year, it became clear that in addition to the SALT projects, all the projects operated by RIDO in India could helpfully be undertaken now by RICH thus saving considerable expenditure. This rationalisation allows us to sponsor the same project work but now through the one NGO. Our support for the good work of SPRIT also continues. We expect strict ethical standards to be always maintained and therefore receive continuing reports from all our funded projects in India and are pleased to see that our donations issue in the transformation of many poor rural villages and groups.

This year has seen our sponsorship of our biggest project to date, namely the purchase of a Coconut Plantation near Dindigul. The Darrell Allatt Foundation, Mr & Mrs Fox, Mr & Mrs Marks, and others offered very substantial donations, and many Churches and other individuals resulted in the purchase of the land in June 2017, the refurbishment of the infrastructure and the planting of hundreds of fruiting trees. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by all parties guaranteeing the charitable use of the land by our partner NGO, RICH. We have been badly hit by the devaluing of sterling against the Indian Rupee, but gratefully report the completion of the project. The Plantation will create ongoing income, training and employment into the future.

Fundraising activities for this project included an open day at Marchants Hardy Plants, through the kind generosity of Graham & Lucy Gough. Including subsequent donations promised on the day £4,662.95 was raised (plus approximately £800 Gift Aid). When added to our major fundraising, in all some £72,000 was raised (incl. Gift Aid) Already we have now begun in earnest to raise the cost of a replacement vehicle to service this and our other sponsored projects.

Our work continues to expand with emphasis on micro credit projects and such educational and building projects which underpin this employment-creating process. For our ongoing work we rely increasingly on the regularity of generous donations often made by Standing Order.

We continue to remain true to the distinctiveness of the work of our charity as follows:

- We have good local access and knowledge of all the projects we fund
- We support scrutinized micro-credit schemes.
- We personally visit and monitor the projects, ensuring transparency
- Trustees claim no expenses and no one is employed in the UK by our charity.
- We encourage self-help, by funding co-operative groups to build better futures - and all this in the poorest parts of our world

In this ninth year of our existence as a charity our total giving to date has surpassed £220,000. We therefore look forward to the year 2017-18 greatly encouraged and with much gratitude to all our donors.

Additional to this Report is the Treasurer's Financial Statement for the year ended 30th September 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurie Green". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'L'.

Laurie Green ~ Chair. 30th November 2017