

The Neem Tree Trust is a UK registered charity which was founded in 2003 to help relieve poverty amongst children and young people in Tamil Nadu, South India.

The Trust principally helps to support children, at two centres in the state of Tamil Nadu, not far from the southernmost tip of India, with both money and friendship.

The first is a boys' home 15 kms from the town of Tirunelveli which cares for around 80 disabled boys from the poorer sections of the rural neighbourhood. It



is set in 20 acres of land in the village of Anavarathanallur. Beautiful Neem trees and shrubs surround the campus which, together with the well maintained buildings, give it an air of peace and tranquillity.

It is the aim of the home to provide the boys with a safe, caring environment in which they will learn to become independent and self-sufficient and to acquire skills that will enable them to earn a living once they leave to return to their villages.

The boys need assistance with their vocational training and the money which The Neem Tree Trust raises in the UK each year helps to provide the necessary tools and equipment when they leave the home and strive to earn a living, often under difficult circumstances.

Since its foundation the Trust has also provided funds to pay for educational trips for the children, new vehicles, a generator to help cope with the frequent power cuts which occur in the area, and a security wall which now surrounds the campus.

The second centre is St Luke's Leprosy Hospital, which is situated at Peikulam, in the Thoothukudi District of Tamil Nadu. St Luke's is a referral centre for leprosy patients suffering from complications, which cannot be managed by general practitioners, private clinics and Government hospitals.



Leprosy is still shrouded in mystery and superstition, with many people not realising that leprosy can be cured. By visiting villages and schools with films and audio-visual aids, the St Luke's Health Education Team is able to spread the good news that leprosy is curable and that help can be given to those in need.



The Neem Tree Trust helps support the 250 healthy children of leprosy patients at St Luke's as well as sponsoring a bed in the women's ward at the hospital. Through the Trust, a number of supporters of St Luke's also sponsor the feeding programme set up at the hospital for the benefit of the in-patients and children.

Kathy Miller, the charity's founder, visits the children every year and takes with her the money raised since her last visit. The costs of running the charity are minimal as the four Neem Tree Trustees are volunteers.

To raise funds and increase awareness of the work of the charity we:

- give talks to local groups
  - visit schools to encourage cultural diversity
  - run a Neem Tree Trust stall at various local community events
  - send out an annual newsletter to supporters
  - sell cards and wrapping paper designed by the children, as well as fabric items made by some of the boys who are training to become tailors
  - sell Fair Trade and ethically produced goods
  - sell high quality Neem products supplied by Sidney and Marjorie Vincent of Perpetua Herbals in Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire
- Tel: 01437 764415 [www.theneempeople.com](http://www.theneempeople.com)





## WHAT IS THE NEEM TREE?

The Neem Tree is known in India as the "Tree of Life" and has long been revered for its many healing properties.

The earliest Sanskrit medical writings refer to the benefits of Neem fruit, Neem seeds, Neem oil, Neem root and Neem bark, hence its extensive use in traditional medicine. Neem is strongly antiseptic, anti-fungal and anti-bacterial. This is why it is used in the manufacture of Neem tea and Neem skin cream, and other preparations for the relief of skin problems.

Beautiful Neem trees with clusters of honey-scented white flowers grow around the campus of the boys' home in Anavarathanallur as well as at St Luke's in Peikulam, giving much needed shade from the intense sun. In fact its shade is said not only to cool but also to prevent the occurrence of many diseases. The children regularly clean their teeth with Neem twigs to help prevent gum disease and to protect their mouths from infection. We think it is appropriate therefore that our charity, which supports disadvantaged children in India, should be named after the beautiful Indian tree which has such an impact on their daily lives.



You can really help to make a difference to these children's lives. Donations from our supporters, however small, go directly to either the boys' home or the leprosy hospital. Because we work from home and do not take a salary, the costs associated with our charity are minimal with modest overheads, such as the occasional purchase of small pieces of office equipment and the expense of running our little white charity van.

If you are a taxpayer the charity can claim Gift Aid from the Inland Revenue, thereby increasing the amount of money we are able to send to support the children by more than a quarter.

Many of our supporters have raised funds for us by organising a variety of different events such as coffee mornings, curry evenings, quizzes and some have run half marathons and even marathons in aid of the children! We are always happy to help if you have any good ideas and to give your event the publicity and the support it deserves.

Do you belong to a group whose members would like to hear about The Neem Tree Trust and the children we support?

Do you know of a school which would be interested in learning about the children's lives in South India?

Do you know of any companies and businesses that would be interested in becoming involved and making a donation to help us with the work we do?

For more information on the charity and how you can help please contact:

Kathy Miller  
The Neem Tree Trust  
The Old Stables  
Avoncliff  
Bradford on Avon  
Wiltshire BA15 2HA  
Tel: 01225 865789

E-mail: [kathymiller@neemtreetrust.org.uk](mailto:kathymiller@neemtreetrust.org.uk)

Registered Charity 1099077  
[www.neemtreetrust.org.uk](http://www.neemtreetrust.org.uk)



The Old Stables  
Avoncliff  
Bradford on Avon  
Wiltshire BA15 2HA  
Telephone: 01225 865789  
Email: [kathymiller@neemtreetrust.org.uk](mailto:kathymiller@neemtreetrust.org.uk)

## THE TREE OF LIFE

## ENRICHING YOUNG LIVES IN INDIA



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