



India

Vocational Training

Location

Dichpalli, India

Partner Church

Church of South India

The Situation

Victoria Hospital, now operated by the Church of South India, was established in Dichpalli in 1915. When it commenced it was one of the few pioneering hospitals in India to treat leprosy patients. Over the years leprosy patients have established villages around its perimeter as they were not able to return to their own homes. The age-old stigma associated with the disease made them unwelcome. Even today people living in these villages, although cured or never even having had the disease, are rejected by society. There is an extreme level of poverty and many depend on the support of charities to survive.

The Project

The project aims to alleviate the poverty of the children of these patients by providing them with vocational training. Children receive training in carpentry, brick making, masonry, tailoring, embroidery, electrical repair and plumbing.

Each course generally takes a year to complete with the first six months being made up of theory and the second six months giving students practical experience. After the training has been completed, the project ensures the students continue to meet regularly. As the students find work and begin earning money they are encouraged to open a savings account and start to save some of their income each month.

As part of Social Education activities, training in preparing nutritious food, poultry keeping, flower bed making, raising kitchen gardens, and healthy living have been provided.

Achievements

Since beginning in 2001 the project has trained 372 children and has given them the skills they need for the future. Children come from 10 different villages in the Dichpalli region. Over 90% of the trainees are now employed or self-employed.

The training courses have also been instrumental in changing many people's attitudes toward leprosy as well as the role of women in society. The project works to break down barriers of fear and hostility towards the children of leprosy patients, as other children join with them to undertake the courses.





The Future

In the near future the project will cover a further 14 villages to train another 480 children in need. Also in the future home appliance repair training will also be offered to future students.

Over the next year 45 students will receive computer training and 20 students will receive training in driving trades, along with many more in tailoring and electrics



Get Involved

We invite you to get involved with the project by supporting the work financially, praying for the success of the project and receiving regular updates.

Contact UnitingWorld

Address: PO Box A2266
Sydney South NSW 1235
Phone: +61 2 8267 4267
Web: www.unitingworld.org.au

Yes, I'd like to help provide disadvantaged youth in Dichpalli with the skills they need for the future.

I would like to make a one off gift of:

\$40 \$80 \$200 \$500 Other \$ _____

Donor ID (if existing) _____

Mr / Ms / Mrs / Miss / Dr / Rev (Please circle) _____

Name _____

Address _____

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Daytime Telephone () _____

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Should the funds raised exceed the amount required to meet the needs of the Dichpalli Vocational Training project UnitingWorld will use the excess funds to help people involved in

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