

# Annual Report

**FY 2016**

## **BRIDGE OF LOVE TRUST**

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**Registered UK Charity**

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**Soup, Soap & Salvation**

*Reaching out to the oppressed in their struggles with our King's love and building a BRDIGE to the afflicted from the Church is our ultimate goal.*

**We reach out to ...**

*Widows & Orphans*

*Poor, Sick & Needy*

*Child labour victims*

*War/ Tsunami Victims*

*Persecuted*

*Christians*

*Slum-dwellers /*

*Children of prostitutes*

*Dalits/Outcaste/*

*Untouchable*

**AIM & PURPOSE**

Bridge of Love Trust (BOL) is a non-profit organisation and a registered UK Charity (Charity No: 1096302). Rev G I Ebenezer is the chairman of BOL.

The Trust was started for the purpose of protecting and supporting the oppressed in society, especially widows and orphans. The trustees are involved in disparate welfare initiatives to safeguard the interests of poor people who are often the victims of civil war and other issues that impact humanity.

**Activities**

Bridge of Love confines itself to community development in the Northern and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka and the tribal areas in Tamil Nadu, South India. Over the past fourteen and a half years we have been financially supporting registered local organisations and Churches who work among the oppressed, vulnerable & abandoned, poor & needy, widows, orphans/ semi orphans, child labour victims, the underprivileged, young offenders, the persecuted and war victims in Sri Lanka and India.

We provide regular monthly financial support to the vast majority of our projects. In addition to our regular financial support, we identify and assess where there is a specific need, and approach individuals & organisations for aid and financial help. We then channel these funds to different trustworthy organisations to meet their needs. We try our best to ensure that the organisations we support are genuine.

We help people regardless of race or religion.

## Charity Framework

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**Charity name:** Bridge of Love Trust

**Other names:** BRIDGE OF LOVE (Working Name)

**Address:** 735 Cranbrook Road, Ilford, Essex IG2 6RJ

**Governing document:** DECLARATION OF TRUST DATED 02/02/03

**Date of registration:** 03 Mar 2003

**Organisation type:** STANDARD REGISTRATION

**Charitable Objects:** THE TRUSTEES SHALL HOLD THE TRUST FUND AND ITS INCOME UPON TRUST TO APPLY THEM FOR THE FOLLOWING OBJECTS ("THE OBJECTS") IN INDIA, SRI-LANKA, AFRICA, UK. ("THE AREA OF BENEFIT") TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN PARTICULAR THROUGH PROVIDING OR ASSISTING WITH THE PROVISION OF BOOKS, EQUIPMENT AND GRANTS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES. TO RELIEVE POVERTY, SICKNESS AND DISTRESS IN PARTICULAR AMONGST CHILDREN, WIDOWS AND PERSONS BEING PERSECUTED AS A RESULT OF THEIR CHRISTIAN BELIEFS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES.

## Charity Classification

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### What

- GENERAL CHARITABLE PURPOSES
- EDUCATION/TRAINING
- THE ADVANCEMENT OF HEALTH OR SAVING OF LIVES
- DISABILITY
- THE PREVENTION OR RELIEF OF POVERTY
- OVERSEAS AID/FAMINE RELIEF
- ACCOMMODATION/HOUSING
- RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES
- ARTS/CULTURE/HERITAGE/SCIENCE
- AMATEUR SPORT
- ECONOMIC/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/EMPLOYMENT
- OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES

### Who

- CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE
- ELDERLY/OLD PEOPLE
- PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
- PEOPLE OF A PARTICULAR ETHNIC OR RACIAL ORIGIN
- OTHER CHARITIES OR VOLUNTARY BODIES

### How

- MAKES GRANTS TO INDIVIDUALS
- MAKES GRANTS TO ORGANISATIONS
- PROVIDES SERVICES
- PROVIDES ADVOCACY/ADVICE/INFORMATION
- OTHER CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

## Financial Summary

Over the past fourteen years we sent more than £525,000 for our projects. In 2016, we received more than £34,750 and sent over £35,000 for our projects.

<b>RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2016</b>		
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>		
Donations received from organisations and individuals <i>(including Standing Orders/ Other Gift Aids)</i>	£31,313.93	
HMRC CHARITIES Tax repayment	£3,648.92	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>£34,963</b>
<b>PAYMENTS:</b>		
Christmas presents		£3,615.21
Educational / Extracurricular		£2,647.66
Housing		£355.85
Income Generating		£950.87
Orphanage / Residential School		£6,851.69
Persecuted		£1,000.00
Poor & Needy		£5,571.62
Relief		£3,238.75
Sick & Needy		£780.84
Water Supply		£1,045.66
Widows and Children		£9,089.05
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>£35,147</b>
<b>EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>		<b>(£184)</b>

## Summary of Achievements

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### Orphans

In 2016, we sent more than £6,850 for the following orphanages.

- Canaan Children's Home, Badulla, Sri Lanka
- Canaan Children's Home, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka
- Canaan Children's Home, Irupalai, Jaffna, Sri Lanka
- Happy Home, Kotagala, Sri Lanka
- Anpusahotharar Illam, Mannar, Sri Lanka (ASI)

Mr Luke Mahendra, Treasurer of Bridge of Love (BOL), is the coordinator and main sponsor of the Canaan children's homes (listed above). Mr Veeman Masillamany is the BOL coordinator of ASI and Mrs Jeeva Algendran is the BOL coordinator of Happy Home in Katagala.

### Windows & children

In 2016, we sent more than £9,000 for the following projects.

- Widows and Children, Dehiwela, Sri Lanka
- Widows and Children, Pitakotte, Sri Lanka
- Widows and Children, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka
- Widows and Children, Devipuram, Puthukudiyirruppu, Sri Lanka
- Widows and Children, Mannar, Sri Lanka
- Widows and Children, Mullaitheevu, Sri Lanka

Rev Vasanthan Stephen is the BOL local coordinator and Mr Luke Mahendra, Treasurer of Bridge of Love (BOL), is the main sponsor of the following projects.

- Widows and Children, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka
- Widows and Children, Devipuram, Puthukudiyirruppu, Sri Lanka
- Widows and Children, Mannar, Sri Lanka

Rev Kathireson is the BOL local coordinator of the following project.

- Widows and Children, Dehiwela, Sri Lanka
- Widows and Children, Pitakotte, Sri Lanka

Rev Suresh Paul is the BOL local coordinator of the following project.

- Widows and Children, Mullaitheevu, Sri Lanka

### **Educational Projects**

- We run an Evening Study programme for the Slum children in Pittakodde, Colombo. We are renting a hall to conduct educational and religious activities for these people who live in a slum area. We donated more than £1,250 for this project in 2016.
- Tuition for Untouchables: Dalit, also called Outcasts, is a self-designation for a group of people traditionally regarded as Untouchables. While the discrimination based on caste system (not the caste system itself) has been abolished under the Indian constitution, there is still discrimination and prejudice against Dalits. Jayakumar, a social worker, and his wife have been providing free evening tuition for the poor outcaste children in Trichy, South India for more than seven years. We contributed more than £1,200 financial assistance towards the running of this excellent community service.
- Due to the closest local government school being situated 4 Km away, most kids in two remote villages in Puthukkuthiyirrupu had to walk to school and they only go to school 2 or 3 days a week. Some didn't go to school at all due to lack of transport. Transportation using a three wheeler (3 to 4 trips in the morning and afternoon - each trip can take 8 to 10 kids) was initiated and organised by the Centre of Hope and Bridge of Love to financially support this worthwhile project. Bridge of Love had given an advance of £1000 in 2015 for the 2016 project.
- We sent around £185 for semi orphans in Mulaitheevu in October 2016. Rev Suresh Paul is our local coordinator for this project.



In total, we sent more than £2,600 in 2016 for educational projects.

### **Income generating Projects**

Miss Shanti Ponnu coordinated £950 worth income generating projects in Vanni for Bridge of Love in 2016.

### **Relief Projects**

- Miss Shanti Ponnu coordinated £1500 worth of poverty relief projects in Jaffna and Vanni for Bridge of Love in 2016.
- On 26 Jul 2015, slum dwellers (22 Tamil Christian families / persecuted Christians - living in 17 huts) living in Beddagana were evicted from the place where they've been staying for over 30 years.

These people were living in dreadful conditions in this slum, where there was no electricity or proper sanitation facilities. In addition, they received continuous eviction threats from the extremists/ Land owners. Bridge of Love UK Charity was able to rent a hall in 2009, and these slum dwellers were able to continue their educational and religious activities with freedom in a far better environment. By the grace of God, Bridge of Love has been able to continue this support since 2010. In addition, we have been providing monthly financial support for the poor widows and their children who are among the affected for more than seven years.

Rev Kathireson organised and coordinated more than £600 worth relief projects for these victims in 2015. In August 2016, on their visit to Sri Lanka, Bridge of Love donor Br Chenthuran and his wife met with these victims. Rev Kathireson organised and coordinated more than £500 worth relief projects for these victims in 2016.

- In August 2016, on their visit to Sri Lanka, Bridge of Love donor Br Chenthuran and his wife met with war victims in Kilinochichi and Puthukudiyirrupu. Rev

Kathireson organised and coordinated more than £900 worth of relief projects for the victims of war in 2016.

- In December 2016, on his visit to India, Br Enoch George coordinated and carried out more than £250 worth of relief work for the poor & needy in Dharmapuri district in South India.

In total, we sent more than £3,200 in 2016 for relief projects.

### **Poor, Sick & Needy and Other**

- In 2016, Bridge of Love donated more than £1,150 for the poor & needy / war victims in Batticaloa. Rev Karunathi is the BOL local coordinator of this project.
- Bridge of Love has been providing a small monthly financial support to 10 underprivileged pastors in Batticaloa for more than eleven years. Mr & Mrs Watherstone of Transform Newham are the main sponsors of this project. Rev Karunanithi is our local project coordinator. We donated more than £1,300 for this project. Mr Luke Mahendra, Treasurer of Bridge of Love (BOL), is the coordinator and the sponsor of Cannan poor pastors. In 2016, Luke donated more than £3,000 for this project.
- We donated more than £240 for 8 handicapped persons in Puthukudiyirrupu/ Mullaitheevu area. Rev Suresh Paul is our local coordinator for this project.
- We donated £537 towards medical expenses (Prosthetic Limb) for a handicapped person in Coimbatore, South India.
- We donated £69 in Dec 2015 for building a hut for a war victim. We sent the balance of £94 for the completion of this hut in 2016. We also donated more than £250 in December 2016 for construction of a hut for a widow and two children in the same area.
- We contributed £1000 towards the construction of a well in Baticaloa area in 2016. Around 70 families will benefit from this project once the water tank / motor are

installed and we are hoping to achieve this by end of 2017.

- Since 2000 we observe the international prayer day annually for the Persecuted Christians. In 2016 we donated £500 for Christian Solidary World (CSW) and £500 for Barnabus Fund who work amongst persecuted Christians.

In total, we sent more than £8,300 in 2016 for these projects.

### **Christmas Gifts**

We annually provide study material as Christmas presents for more than 800 - 1000 poor children. In December 2016, we sent more than £3,350 worth Christmas presents to more than 1000 children in Batticaloa, Valaichchennai, Puthukudiyirrupu, Pitakotte and Trichy. Rev Karunanithi, Bro Yoganathan, Rev Kathireson and Jayakumar coordinated these projects for Bridge of Love. We also donated more than £260 for the widows in Kilinochci.

## Contact Information

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The trustees hereby declare they approve the trustees' report given above

Rev G I Ebenezer

Chairman, Bridge Of Love

Varnan Goodwin

Secretary, Bridge Of Love