

2024-2025 Annual Report



**Gram Vikalang
Punarjanmam**

WALK INDI 
...making rural amputees walk



Founder's Insights



Dr. S. Sunder
Founder & Managing Trustee

“The bestway to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” – Mahatma Gandhi

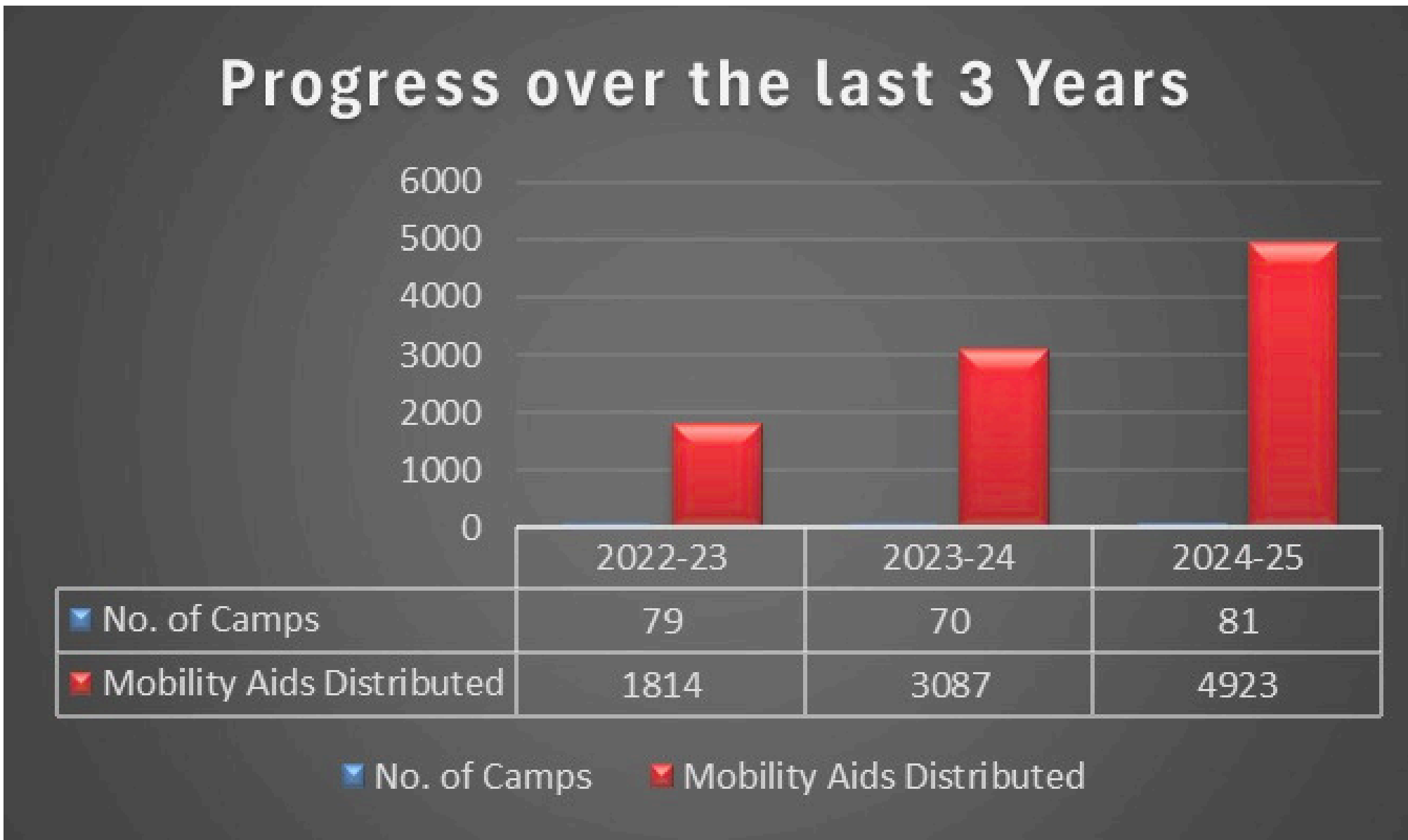
The instinct to reach out and help is deeply embedded in the human spirit. Yet, in today’s fast-paced world, we often race through life, scarcely pausing to notice the silent struggles of those around us. A few of us, however, choose to listen to that quiet voice within—responding not just with sympathy, but with action. We give in many forms—our time, our energy, our resources, and sometimes, our skills. I was fortunate to experience such a moment of clarity—an epiphany—nearly three decades ago. As a trained professional in rehabilitation, I realized that I could offer something invaluable to those who had no access to such services. That realization led to the founding of Freedom Trust—a name chosen to reflect our mission: freedom from disability.

Disability can be permanent in many cases, and while full recovery may not always be possible, the gift of mobility—even if partial—can transform a life. Over the years, we have been privileged to bring hope and support to over 42,000 individuals through our camps. In recent times, our efforts have taken a giant leap through our flagship WALK INDIA project. This was achieved through the large heartedness of Mr. Vardhman Jain who through his Vara Future LLP enabled thousands to walk again in the districts of Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi. We also have new donors in the form of Fuji Electric and S L Lumax. Our list of corporate donors has been growing and some of them like Cavinkare, Savex Technologies and Hyundai Transys Lear continue with us on our journey for over a decade.

We have marched across a giant swathe of Andhra Pradesh, with huge turnouts of over 250 amputees in a single day, due to the tireless efforts of our local partners – the District Rehabilitation Offices of Kadapa, Chittoor, Tirupati and Annamayya districts. Another local partner who has emerged is the National Engineering college in Kovilpatti, who provided so much of logistic support. The number of camps therefore is increasing exponentially and has imbued our mission with a truly national character. In the next financial year we will be reviving our Shishu Punarjanmam scholarship scheme for the talented differently abled children, sponsored by Sanmina Group of companies.

Behind the scenes, there is our dedicated team of field officers, our Board members Usha Bharadwaj & Sudharshan Reddy who stand as pillars of strength and purpose, and our Trustees Sankaran and Hariharan who work tirelessly for the cause. To them, and to every supporter of Freedom Trust, we offer our deepest gratitude. We invite our newest Board member Mr. Prasad to our team. Our special thanks are also due to my friend Madhavan who has worked on the FT App. This journey has been humbling in every sense. It would not have been possible without the wholehearted and spontaneous support from each one of you. Your belief in our cause continues to power our steps forward.

We dedicate this Annual Report to you—our partners in purpose, and to the countless lives that remind us every day why we do what we do. We give below the progress we have made over the last three years.



Our Trustees



Dr. S. Sunder
Founder & Managing Trustee

Dr. Sunder is a distinguished figure in the field of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, holding an MD Degree in the same discipline. With a lifelong dedication to serving the needs of the differently abled community, his outstanding contributions have been acknowledged by both the Central and State Governments, who have honored him with the prestigious title of "The Best Doctor in the Field of Social Service." In addition to governmental accolades, Dr. Sunder has been the recipient of "Lifetime Achievement Awards" from prominent institutions which serve as a testament to his unwavering commitment to enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities. Through his leadership and vision, Dr. Sunder continues to inspire positive change and empower individuals to overcome obstacles and live life to the fullest.



Mr. Hariharan Sankaran - Trustee

Mr. Hariharan, an engineer with a postgraduate degree in Computer Science, was the Head of Infrastructure at I-Flex Solutions. His career trajectory showcases exceptional leadership and technical proficiency. Beyond his corporate role, Mr. Hariharan actively supports Freedom Trust, demonstrating a deep commitment to disability rights. He plays a pivotal role in securing corporate sponsorships and organizing disability camps, showcasing his dedication to the cause. His contributions extend beyond financial support to hands-on involvement, making a tangible impact on beneficiaries' lives. In summary, Mr. Hariharan's multifaceted involvement as a Trust Member highlights his strategic thinking, compassion, and dedication to social impact, ultimately advancing the mission of Freedom Trust.



Mr. Sankaran Annaswamy - Trustee

Mr. Sankaran Annaswamy, is a seasoned corporate leader with 32 years of experience, with a profound dedication to social and environmental causes. Outside his professional obligations, Mr. Annaswamy channels his passion into direct action, actively collaborating with NGOs to uplift underprivileged communities and bridge societal gaps. As an avid member of the 'Dream Runners' running group, he not only prioritizes personal fitness but also fosters community camaraderie, further enriching his contributions to societal betterment. In his role as Trustee, he plays a pivotal role in steering the trust towards initiatives that address pressing challenges and pave the way for a more inclusive and sustainable future.

Board Members



Usha Bharadwaj

Humble and self effacing, Mrs. Usha Bharadwaj has been a pillar of support for Dr. Sunder and Freedom Trust. She attended a camp over 25 years ago where her children rendered a prayer song. Upon seeing the disabled individuals, she became a volunteer for the Trust and hasn't looked back since. She is also the force behind Shishu Punarjanmam, the talent development scheme of FT.



Sudharshan Reddy

Mr. Sudharshan Reddy a book retailer since 1987 with over two decades of experience in the not for profit sector. His life changed when he joined Freedom Trust in an active role. He travels the length and breadth of the Southern States and also enables mobility to thousands of beneficiaries.



Sumathy Iyer

Mrs. Sumathy Iyer is India's first National and International woman cricket umpire, was also part of the National and State teams and has been associated with Freedom Trust for over twenty years. She is a regular feature at most of our camps, and is extremely empathetic in her approach to disability.



P S Prasad

Mr. Prasad a professional in financial services, has worked in senior positions at companies like Citigroup and HDFC. He has a passion for photography, motorsports, and social work, skills that he will bring to the table when organizing our camps

Our Staff



Abhilash M
Field Officer



Jagadeeswaran M
Field Officer



Dhanasekaran
Logistics



Nagarajan V
Office Assistant

An Overview

The year that was 2024 - 2025

No of Camps	No of Beneficiaries	No of Appliances
81	3755	4923

History

Freedom Trust, formerly known as the Foundation for the Rehabilitation Education and Empowerment of the Disabled of Madras, was established in 1997 by Dr. Sunder, a renowned rehabilitation specialist. The trust was founded with the aim of addressing the mobility needs of physically challenged individuals in rural areas. Over the past 28 years, Freedom Trust has made significant strides in fulfilling its mission. The trust has distributed mobility aids and appliances to over 42,000 physically challenged individuals across India. Additionally, it has organized over 1200 rural camps, reaching out to remote communities in various states including Assam, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Goa, Karnataka, and Kerala.

Vision

Reach out to persons with disability across India who are economically disadvantaged and provide mobility, rehabilitation and a sustainable livelihood.

Mission

Our mission is to empower disabled and economically disadvantaged individuals in rural areas by providing them with mobility aids like wheelchairs, walkers, tricycles, tripods, calipers, crutches and other locomotor aids, lower and upper limb prosthesis free of cost. The trust's strength lies in its expertise in mobilizing, assessing, and distributing mobility aids through a camp approach across the country. Through its dedicated efforts, Freedom Trust has become a beacon of hope for thousands of individuals with physical disabilities, empowering them to lead more independent and fulfilling lives.

The Need...

Disabled people in rural areas struggle with accessing rehabilitation facilities due to distant hospitals, lack of good roads, poor transport, high costs, and lack of specialized services. Many health workers aren't trained to handle disabilities, and families often aren't aware of available options to aid them. A handicapped person means a handicapped family since there is often the need for a dedicated caregiver to provide mobility for the person with disability.

In many parts of the world, the increasing need for rehabilitation is going largely unmet. More than half the people living in some low- and middle-income countries who require rehabilitation services do not receive them. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/rehabilitation>

Disabled people are subjected to exclusion from supportive communities in their locality. The absence of peer groups, counseling services, and inclusive communities can make it harder for them to cope with daily life. There are several mental and emotional struggles that disabled people in rural areas often face due to isolation, discrimination, and lack of support.

GRAM VIKALANG PUNARJANMAM

Gram Vikalang Punarjanmam, is a dedicated initiative focused on transforming the lives of individuals in rural areas living with physical disabilities such as Polio, Muscular Dystrophy, Locomotor disabilities, and spinal cord injuries. Through this program, we aim to deliver customized assistive devices such as wheelchairs, calipers, surgical boots, special furniture, and other essential mobility aids.

Our team works closely with local healthcare providers, volunteers, and families to ensure long-term care and follow-up.

Gram Vikalang Punarjanmam reflects our unwavering commitment to inclusivity, compassion, and equal opportunity.



WALK INDIA 
...making rural amputees walk

Freedom Trust's visionary initiative, Walk India, is a nationwide movement dedicated to restoring mobility and dignity to lower limb amputees, especially in underserved rural communities. Recognizing that a significant proportion of the physically disabled population consists of amputees, the project aims to bridge the gap between need and access by providing high-quality, customized prosthetic limbs. These prostheses are not just devices - they are lifelines that enable individuals to regain independence, perform daily tasks, return to work, and participate fully in community life.

Through meticulously organized camps our team of trained professionals ensures proper limb fitting, alignment, and follow-up support, allowing amputees to walk again with comfort and confidence.

Our mission goes beyond mobility, it is about restoring self-worth, enabling livelihood opportunities, and breaking the social isolation that many rural amputees face.



SHISHU PUNARJANMAM

"Shishu Punarjanmam" is a pioneering initiative dedicated to nurturing and empowering differently abled and exceptionally talented children in the fields of music and fine arts. Launched in 2003 by Freedom Trust, this visionary project recognizes that talent knows no bounds and that every child, regardless of physical or cognitive limitations, deserves the opportunity to shine.

Through a carefully structured program, Shishu Punarjanmam identifies gifted children and supports them with scholarships, individualized mentorship, and specialized training tailored to their unique abilities and artistic passions.

The impact of the program is deeply inspiring. Several students trained under this initiative have gone on to establish successful careers as musicians, painters, and performers. Notably, five outstanding scholars each differently abled were honored with the prestigious Most Creative Individual Award by the President of India on World Disability Day, December 3rd. Their achievements are a testament to the program's success in transforming lives and challenging societal perceptions about disability and creativity.

Beyond individual success stories, Shishu Punarjanmam promotes inclusivity by raising awareness about the importance of equal access to education in artistic fields. The program also organizes public performances, exhibitions, and showcases where these young artists can showcase their work, breaking stereotypes and inspiring others with their resilience and brilliance.

Ultimately, Shishu Punarjanmam is not just about talent development it is about empowerment, visibility, and dignity. It stands as a shining example of how compassion, opportunity, and belief in human potential can reshape destinies and redefine what is possible.

From 2025, Sanmina SCI Technology India private limited is sponsoring the project in a sustainable manner.



INDIVIDUAL DONORS

- Mr S. Hariharan & Family
- Ms Uma Vijaya Kumar
- Mr Ramanujam Sadagopan
- Mr Abhishek Hariharan
- Ms Neha Mehra
- Mr M O Parthasarathi
- Ms Geetha Murali
- Ms Maya Hariharan
- Ms Geetha Rajagopalan
- Mr. Subramanian Shanmugam
- Ms Ranjani Ramachandran

- My Race Timings solutions
- Mr Vijayagopal Reddy
- Mr PC Pai & Co
- Ms Geetha Rajasekaran
- Mr V. Bala Saraswathy
- Dr. R. Sanjeevi
- Mr. V. Sivasubramanian
- Ms. Amba Sanjeevi
- Ms Bhamini Parthasarathy
- Mr Sri Venu
- Mr Ganesh S

OUR INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

- Lodge Ramaprasad No 228
- Dream Runners
- Inner wheel Club of Madras
- Rotary club of Puttur
- Lodge Accountants No.194
- Stanley Medical College Alumni Association
- Dr.Vijay (Madhavi Amma Charitable Trust)
- M/S Sri Ganapathi Sachidanandha Trust
- M/S Dodla Parthasarathy Reddy & Lalithamma Trust
- Inner Wheel Club Of Madras Midtown
- The Mrs Madhuram Narayanan Charitable Trust
- Lions Club Of Madras (Host) Charitable Trust
- Rotary Club of Madras Ashoknagar Charitable Trust
- Ram Lodge Gurdial Gill No 31
- SRM Easwari Engineering College
- Inner Wheel Club Of Madras Charitable Trust
- Regional Grand Lodge Southern India Charitable Trust

OUR CORPORATE DONORS



SANMINA



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