

A timeline of TRUSTchildren Support Group UK and the TRUST Children's Homes.

(The information is drawn from the Support Group website, where articles were posted based on UK visitor reports and emails from Thirumaran. The numbers of children are approx and sometimes include a few who are away at college most of the time.)

	It all started with the tsunami on Boxing Day 2004.
2005	Thirumaran had already set up his NGO, TRUST (Thirumaran Rural Upliftment Stable Trust), and was a local activist alongside a job as a teacher. While helping with disaster relief after the tsunami, Thirumaran agreed to look after 25 children of fishing families from the east coast whose communities had been devastated.
	Thirumaran had a link with a GAP Year organisation, Teaching and Projects Abroad (TPA), and was hosting UK volunteers who had local placements. They returned home, encouraged their families to support Thirumaran's work and their friends to visit, independently of TPA.
	The 25 children arrived in the village and an existing building was renovated to accommodate them. (Eileen Claudia Hall)
2006	A steady flow of volunteers support Thirumaran's project and more capital donations are given.
2007	The first permanent building (Bell Hall) and a bore hole with a hand pump at the Children's Home campus.
2008	Word of mouth continues to involve more friends in visiting and support.
2009	Around 40 children now, as Thirumaran offers support to local destitute children as well as the original 'fishing' children. TRUSTchildren Support Group UK is formed as a UK charity , to enable GiftAid and formalise donations to a fundraising Paris Marathon. Friends and family canvassed for regular small donations to the charity to support the children.
2010	www.TRUSTchildren.org.uk hosted for free by a supporter's company. The Paris Marathon raises £5000 which is used to improve the well. The water is used for irrigation of trees and vegetables as well as by the children for washing.
2011	Thirumaran is hosted in the UK and was able to meet many supporters. TRUST-INDIA School set up by Shanthi.
2012	The upstairs girls dormitory is completed. Older children are moving successfully into Further Education and University. Authorities refused to allow boys and girls to share the same campus. A generous gift purchases a second site and the Boys Home building is started . By the end of December the main building is complete.
2013	The boys toilet and bathroom block is built. Severe drought. On 14 April the 14 older boys (over 10 years) moved to the new Boys Home, leaving 5 young boys still with the girls. A sponsored climb of Kilimanjaro purchased beds for the boys. The first wedding of a girl from the initial 25 children was attended by several hundred local supportive guests.

	58 children (31 girls and 27 boys). There was a cow and vegetable planting. The Children's Home well was dug a bit deeper while dry in the drought. Now 60ft deep.
2014	A grant from a UK charitable trust enabled digging a well for the Boys Home, based on the hole from which the building stone had been excavated. It's a big hole about 36ft square and 50ft deep. Ten new admissions (girls) to the Children's Home, five moves of ten year old boys to the Boys Home and one new boy. On 30 May the Children's Home received official approval for 50 girls, subject to some additional buildings being provided in the next year. In July, having obtained the necessary certificates, a submission was made for official approval of the Boys Home. In August RajTV invited Thirumaran and the 75 children for a programme to raise awareness. Fundraising provided the raised stage at the Children's Home in ten minutes! Good rain in the autumn ended the worst drought in living memory
2015	Now 75 children (43 girls and 32 boys) and a staff of 15. Bigger vehicle (Bolero) provided to replace Thirumaran's small car. 26 June – celebration of ten years of TRUST Children's Home. The CWC (Child Welfare Committee) examined the children and found them happy and healthy. Sick Room built at the Children's Home.
2016	Another RajTV programme funded a water tank at the Boys Home to hold water pumped from the well. More dormitory space built because the authorities said there was only space for 25. The village Panchayat (council), after many requests, allowed a connection of the Boys Home to the village river water supply. Made in Feb 2017. Solar lights provided at both Homes by STAR Health Insurance. 'One Time Food' – the children fed by local families and groups over 200 times in the past year. 72 children (40 girls and 32 boys) aged between 5 and 17. Extra bore hole at Children's Home reached water at 600ft. Local friends provided a serviceable second hand pump.
2017	78 children (42 girls and 36 boys) between the ages of 5 and 18 see themselves as one large loving family supported by a wonderful staff. Unusual number of medical issues – 2x appendicitis, small boy with unidentified issue in intensive care and 40% burns from a firework accident. All made good recovery. 22 May – Boys Home awarded Certificate of Registration (valid for five years) for max of 37 boys. Children's Home well depth increased from 59 to 76ft and side bore added. State Officials decided that a solid wall was required around the Children's Home and a start was made with a section along the road. The worst drought for years – usually resilient trees died. Rain eventually arrived in November and new saplings were planted. A connection to the village water supply for the Children's Home was allowed.
2018	70 children (37 girls and 33 boys) Thirumaran made a second trip to the UK, with Nannan. Another RajTV fundraising show provided a Store Room at the Children's Home.

	A new small van provided by Indian friends working in the USA (match funded by Google!) Pipes installed to harvest rain water from the roofs of the buildings into the wells at both Homes. A Dining Hall (required by the authorities, separate from the communal Bell Hall) was built.
2019	A further bore hole (1000ft deep) provided at the Children's Home by a Tamil in the US. 66 children (29 girls and 37 boys) between the ages of 6 and 19. Social Services say that over 18s are 'adults' and may not be in the Children's Homes. Two Hostels are proposed and the Girls' 18+ Hostel was opened in November (though still needing water and electricity). A new bicycle shed was provided for the girls by an ex-student of Thirumaran.
2020	COVID struck while Thirumaran and Aekalaivan were far away in Assam on an epic Blood Donation Awareness drive. State borders were closed and they had a challenging journey back. A container of (58,000!) books from America gave the boys lots to do during sad covid times! Building of Boys' 18+ Hostel continues. Mobile phones donated to help with online learning.
2021	Schools still closed much of the time and no exams. Girls' 18+ Hostel well used by students whose college hostels had been closed. A Supreme Court Team made a routine visit and identified some improvements needed – replace asbestos roof on Bell Hall, further dormitory at Boys Home, seating in the dining hall, a library and a visitors' reception. Covid detected amongst the girls, but not the boys. Assessed at a local centre and then returned to isolation in the Homes.
2022	Boys' 18+ Hostel opened in March. A bore hole was provided. TRUST-INDIA School started a project to support children of migrant labour. A new bike shed for the Boys' Home was provided. The well at the Boys' Home was made an extra 5ft deep while it was almost empty in the dry season. 27 October the renewed Certificate of Registration (valid five years) for the Boys Home allows only 20 boys unless more dormitory space is added.
2023	Dormitory building started in January. August – without warning, and with no formal paperwork or reasons given, all the girls were transferred to Government Homes and Hostels and the Children's Home was closed. October – the new dormitory at the Boys' Home was opened. There were about 18 boys.
2024	By April the hope of re-opening the Children's Home had vanished and the site is repurposed as an Old Age Home. Signage in place. June – still about 18 boys. A replacement Bolero vehicle was provided for the one purchased in 2015. November – issues with the paperwork for the new dormitory remains and is presumably the reason for fewer than 20 boys.
2025	May – still no paperwork and about 18 boys.