April 2025

Dear supporters of *Friends of Madurai Seed* (*FMS*)

Over the past year, *Madurai Seed* has continued to consolidate its activities. In the **academic year starting in mid-2024**, it enrolled 174 learners (80 boys and 94 girls, slightly fewer than the previous year), of whom about 120 attend regularly. Currently, there are 16 student volunteer teachers, and 2 alumni volunteer teachers. There are 16 college-goers: eleven BAs, three B Eds, and two post-graduate students (Masters in Commerce). *Madurai Seed* has also reached about 500 children and teenagers through various programmes.

In summer 2024, 12 of 13 children in 10th standard, and 17 of 17 in 12th standard, passed their Government Board examinations. During the year, *Madurai Seed* supported 140 especially needy children in their school studies (books, stationery etc) courtesy of financial support from the KFR fund.

As usual, throughout the year there were numerous social, cultural and educational events: for example, a 15-day non-residential "summer camp" in May for almost 100 children and teenagers, which was held locally with a wide-ranging programme of classes and activities, plus many other social and cultural events.

During 2024, the collaboration continued between *Madurai Seed* and colleges in and around Madurai, who send students to conduct their research through case studies, field trips, and internships. Some interns also came from abroad (such as the USA). *Madurai Seed* also continued its work with two other local NGOs: *Sevalayan Hostel*, which is home to 120 boys from the surrounding area and which runs a similar programme to *MS*, and *Kaleidoscope*, which organises and hosts creative and cultural events and performances.

Laura and I went to Madurai for a two-week visit **from 26 January to 9 February 2025**: we ran four training classes and two practical workshops with the volunteers and some students on guided reading of graded readers, both fiction and non-fiction. We also met several alumni with their young families for an informal get-together in Madurai: these graduates of *Madurai Seed* are now established in their careers, both in Madurai and further afield, as a direct result of their education made possible by their attending *Madurai Seed* programmes as children and teenagers, and then going on to college and professional qualifications with the support of scholarships funded by FMS members.

Our thanks as always go to all our donors: it is your contributions that have made this possible, from the very young children in 1st Standard classes right through to young adults attending college.

Regarding the latter, in the **academic year 2023-2024**, *FMS* was able to sponsor a total of 17 college students. 13 BA students received funding for their degree courses, while four B Ed students were enrolled on two-year post-graduate courses to become teachers. We are extremely grateful for these substantial donations, which will change the lives and prospects of these young people and their families immeasurably – the next generation of alumni. Thank you everyone.

Once again, in **July 2024**, I hosted a Zoom meeting for *MS* staff, some volunteers, and donors who have supported B Ed students. This has now become an annual event, with the next planned for July this year. My weekly Zoom meetings with Elaa, which began in 2020, are still taking place: these sessions help to develop her teaching and language skills.

You can read and download *Madurai Seed*'s extremely detailed and fully-illustrated **annual report for 2023-2024** from the **Downloads** page on the *FMS* web site. Our web site also hosts a **News** page, where you can keep up to date with developments at *Madurai Seed*.

The new building funded through a GoFundMe initiative set up by *FMS* members Nick, Maggi and Keith opened in November 2024. Although funding this project was not part of the core business of FMS, we are very appreciative of this initiative. The building is cool, light and quite spacious – we held classes and workshops there during our visit in February mentioned above.

Karthik had to have some treatment for a heart condition in October 2024, which went successfully. The medical fund that we established in 2022 was again used in 2024 to help to cover his medical costs, and it has also been made available for 2025. Karthik and Elaa are extremely grateful for this assistance, and they thank everyone who has contributed to the fund.

Once again, the Committee of *Friends of Madurai Seed* joins me in thanking you for your continued support and donations over the past year, and we hope that we can continue to count on your support in 2025. You will see that we have a QR code for payments to our account, as traditional payment slips have been phased out. Please note my **new e-mail address:** johnpotts@johnpotts.info

Without your help, none of the activities mentioned above could have taken place: the children and young people, the sponsored college students, the volunteer teachers, and the staff of *Madurai Seed* all send their heartfelt and profound thanks.

I have included the end of 2024 balance sheet prepared by Martin, our Treasurer, as an appendix.

An online Annual General Meeting will be held via Zoom later in the year: you'll be informed by e-mail of the exact time and date, and how to attend. **Important: if you wish to participate we need your e-mail address, so please e-mail us beforehand to inform us that you would like to attend: johnpotts@johnpotts.info**

Finally, I wish you and your families and friends good health and happiness in the coming year.

With best wishes

John Potts

John Potts, President, *Friends of Madurai Seed*
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Appendix: **end-of-year 2024** balance for *Friends of Madurai Seed*

Friends of Madurai Seed

Bilanz per 31. Dezember 2024

Vermögen	
Eröffnung 01.01.24	**221‘347.05**
Abschluss 31.12.24	**216‘242.92**
Vermögensverlust per 31.12.24	***-5104.13***
Vermögensverlust abzgl. GoFundMe	*-7513.75*
1. Ertrag	
Total Gutschriften 2024	**49‘368.86**
- Beiträge und private Spenden	20‘159.24
- Beiträge von Stiftungen	1‘000.00
- KFR/SfT	2‘000.00
- Zinsabschluss	-
- GoFundMe	25‘509.62
- Diverses (PF Fehlbuchung!)	700.00
2. Aufwand	
Total Lastschriften 2024	**54‘472.99**
- Administration (Internet, Porti etc.)	613.00
- Druck/Werbung	207.40
- Postkontoverwaltung	152.04
- ZKB Kontogebühren	42.00
- Versammlungen	-
- Banküberweisung an Madurai Seed	28‘933.55
- Ausgaben vor Ort (Madurai)	-
- Reisespesen Indien	1425.00
- GoFundMe	23‘100.00