



## WELCOME

Thank you for supporting the Kerala Christian Fellowship (KCF) over the years and enabling us to provide educational grants for underprivileged beneficiaries in India for over 40 years.

Given the constraints of the last few years with the pandemic and not being able to engage through our annual fundraising event, we as trustees want to renew our commitment to you and the organisation with a refresh to our approach. Here are three things we have done this year:

- **Caught up on our backlog of students on the wait list from the pandemic years and committed to supporting 4 pending students from this year**
- **Continued to support the existing cohort of 11 students from previous years**
- **Elected new committee members with expertise in fundraising, safeguarding and social work, along with medical professionals**

Earlier this year we asked our supporters what they wanted KCF to do better, based on responses, here are our commitments for the year ahead:

1. **Communication** - we commit to quarterly updates about the charity
2. **Connection** - we will focus our communication on bringing you closer to the cause and beneficiaries
3. **Community** - we will endeavour to grow the KCF community of supporters so we can support more individuals in need.

## WE ARE STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

Many of you asked about our mission and vision so we thought it would be helpful to be reminded of how this all began.

In 1957, Christians from various denominations met together for worship. It was an informal gathering of like-minded people, mostly trainees and students who were in the U.K. for a short period of time. By the mid-70's the community had grown, and worship moved from being inter-denominational in favour of gathering by denomination.

“Some of the members of the Malayalee community felt that the opportunity to meet together without any denominational barriers was being lost, thus forming Kerala Christian Fellowship just to get-together once a month to pray and to share an evening meal together in each other's home”, recounts Dr. John Thomas, one of the founders.

A few years in, the community was approached to support the rehousing of families from slum dwellings into purpose-built homes in the Kottayam district. The Kerala Christian Fellowship raised funds to support 16 families. This was the start of its charitable effort. In 1989 KCF was registered as a U.K. charity and committed to raising funds to support the marginalised.

The focus on supporting education and vocational training courses pivoted in the mid 90's. Since then, we have supported more than 280 students who have completed courses, primarily in nursing. Many of those we have contacted are working in hospitals across India, the Middle East and even Ireland. Through the coming months we will bring you short stories of how they are getting on.

The KCF will continue to focus on educational grants through which we see individuals grow professionally but also raise the quality of life for their families.

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### OUR VALUES



#### VISION

Empowering young people from lower socioeconomic backgrounds to support their families by removing barriers to education.



#### MISSION

Guided by Christian principals of love, compassion and service, we're working toward breaking the cycle of poverty through education, healthcare or housing grants. We aim to improve employability & economic independence of young people in Kerala.

## STORIES OF PROGRESS

In keeping with our commitment to bring you closer to the individuals you have supported over the years, here are three stories of individuals we supported through the years.

Sumi completed her nursing degree in 2014 supported by KCF. After completing additional courses to help her move overseas, Sumi has been working as a nurse at a well-known private hospital in Saudi Arabia. Sumi is married and has a 7-year-old son. Through this job she can support her family back in India and build on her professional expertise.



*Sumi and family*

In 1998, we supported Johnson to study printing technology from CMS School of Printing Technology. He was able to get a job in Kochi after this and then went on to the Middle East for better job prospects.



*Johnson and family*

He was able to support his parents and siblings set up their homes and met their financial needs. He was able to support the education not only for his children but also his brother's two children for 4 years.

With the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic, Johnson lost his job and returned to India. He used this opportunity to retrain in nursing and since August 2021 is working as a carer in Israel. "I believe the blessings I have received are with the help of KCF", Johnson recounts. The footing KCF

provided in the early years gave Johnson the opportunity and confidence to chart his own course. It can't be coincidental that he too has found his vocation in healthcare now.

Johnson is married and his son is now in his 2nd year of Engineering, while his daughter is completing her 12th grade (A-level equivalent) in India.

Jasmine completed her BSc. Nursing from Mangalore in 2017. She has realised her dream of becoming a 'good nurse' and works in Dubai now. She hopes to try writing the OET exam again when funds permit so she can move to a European country, which is what she would like to do next.



*Jasmine*

## CARRYING ON

KCF supported 11 students last year and has added 4 new students this year. One of the 11, Merlin has topped her batch at the College of Nursing, Ananthapuri Hospitals and Research Institute, Trivandrum and is now in her final year.

We have been blessed to be able to continue the work of KCF all these years because of well-wishers who have invested in the cause both financially and give time by reviewing cases and help with event preparations. We continue to enjoy support from our founders and families who have been connected from its early days. Your support has been invaluable, and we extend a heartfelt thanks to each one of you – for your prayers, for your financial support and for coming out to support our events.

As a committee, we are committed to continue the humble work of KCF and are excited to see what 2025 holds for the organisation. While we have seen a reduction in both donations and direct debits over the past 2 years, we prayerfully hope to be able to rely on your continued support in the coming months and years to be able to continue to provide transformative change primarily through education to people who need it the most.

Wishing you a blessed new year from Team KCF and we look forward to bringing you more updates in 2025.

## FUND RAISING

### RUNNING TO RAISE FUNDS

Two of our supporters, Stephen and Sushil are helping raise funds for the KCF through sporting events next year. We ask you to pray for them as they prepare and participate in these events and join us in wishing them the best of luck for it.

1. Battersea Park Run - 10K - April 2025 - **Stephen**
2. Hackney Half Marathon - May 2025 - **Sushil**
3. Cheltenham Running Festival - 10K - June 2025 - **Stephen**

#### 2024 - 2025

##### Committee Members

-  Roshni Jacob
-  Ajit Thomas
-  Karen Abraham
-  Susan Stephan
-  Kevin George
-  Sushil Thomas
-  Vijay Jacob

#### WAYS TO GIVE TO KCF



**PayPal** is an online payment system that makes paying for things online and sending and receiving money safe and secure. Donors can use credit or debit cards to make a one time donation or start a monthly contribution. Scan the QR to give today.

If you choose to set up a Standing Order or make a donation to KCF, you can make your gift worth 25% more at no extra cost to you. **Gift Aid** allows charities to reclaim the tax paid on the donations of UK Taxpayers, which means we get more out of the money you give to us. Scan the QR to get a copy of our gift aid form today.



Visit our website for more details on how you can be a part of the transformational work we do.

If you have any questions, or would like to know more please do write to us, we'd love to hear from you.