

Annual
Giving
Campaign
2025

Friends of Vellore Victoria



Supporting the health
care miracle that is
happening in South India



About Christian Medical College and Hospital (CMC)



This year it is exactly 125 years ago that the American medical missionary, Dr Ida Scudder, founded a one-bed hospital ward and dispensary in Vellore. A nursing school for women was soon established, followed by a medical college. Today CMC is a highly respected teaching institution with three hospitals and an international reputation for high quality medical services, research, innovation, and community health.

CMC does not discriminate between patients: people of any faith or none are treated equally. Those who can, pay; those who cannot are subsidised, often including hospitality for supporters of long-term patients.

You can choose
the project you want
to support. FOVV
works together
with the AVB to
ensure that your
donation reaches its
destination in India.



Thousands of patients seek medical attention at CMC every day. None is turned away. The more than 10,000 staff (60% women, 40% men) embody the Christian spirit of open care and love – a nearly overwhelming task. Professional services have a special focus on disadvantaged people in Vellore and the surrounding rural communities.



You can also donate to the work of the Australian Vellore Board here in Australia. The AVB has a General support fund for chosen causes in Vellore, or requests for assistance from the Director. In the past it has supported a Retreat centre for staff, an Ambulance for work in rural areas, and so on.

Friends of Vellore Victoria (FOVV) Annual Giving Campaign

Once again, we invite you to contribute to our annual fund-raising drive. We have selected three projects that support the most vulnerable people who seek and benefit from CMC's services:

1. Emergency Help
2. Dental Care for Children with Disability
3. Allied Health Scholarships

Emergency
help is entirely
funded by
donations.



Emergency Help

Development Department Emergency Fund

CMC has a big heart: their policy is 'never turn anyone away because they cannot pay'. Thousands who come to CMC cannot pay or cannot pay very much. Emergency grants of up to Rs.100 000 (A\$2000) can be made very quickly: no fuss, little paperwork. Emergency Help is entirely funded by donations.



Naina is a two-year-old little girl from Tiruvallur near Vellore. Sadly, she was born with a deformity of her hands – bilateral clasp thumb. Her father's family rejected her and she lives with her mother's family.

Due to the deformity, Naina struggles to use her hands and needs support for feeding and daily activities. Her mother brought Naina to CMC Vellore. The medical team at the Hand Surgery assured her that surgery could correct the deformity. Plans were made to have a staged reconstruction of her hands, starting with Naina's right hand. The cost of the surgery would amount to \$1,375. Naina's mother could contribute as little as \$37 out of her savings. The rest was covered by the Emergency fund. The surgery for her left hand will be done later.

Inclusive dentistry

Dental Care for Children with Disability in India

Last year's appeal for support for the Community base inclusive disability program was very successful and we thank donors who selected it.

This year we continue with the theme of assisting people with disability, focusing this time on children. Generally, dental care and dental health for children with disability are much poorer than for children without disability. This inequality not only leads to worse dental care but also to poorer health and developmental outcomes. The CMC Vellore dental department has been increasingly undertaking dental outreach programs in communities where CMC has other work and clinics. However, they have found it difficult to engage with children with disabilities as they often do not attend the dental clinics on account of accessibility, travel and behavioural issues. This project aims to establish outreach programs initially involving house visits to assess and provide dental care to these marginalised members of society.

The Dental Department, working together with RUHSA, will also undertake a small study to better understand the problem of access and to inform the development of systems at CMC to ensure future access.

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Education

Allied Health Scholarships Project

Allied Health Sciences at the CMC Vellore include all professional educational courses which are not nursing or medical. It covers specialities such as Occupational Therapy, Optometry, Dietetics, Medical Laboratory Technology.

The fees for all these courses are highly subsidised. But the amount may still be too high for many families where the sole breadwinner earns as little as Rs.100 (A\$2) a day. The college encourages students from disadvantaged backgrounds to apply for scholarships which are awarded according to need.

The cost of a full scholarship is about Rs.50,000 p.a. (A\$1000).

FOVV works together with the Australian Vellore Board to support up to five scholarships a year. The life of every recipient of these scholarships will be forever changed through the opportunity which they create.

Photo above: Allied Health Graduation Ceremony.

+ Giving Form

Title: _____ Given name: _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Postcode: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

All gifts over \$2 are tax deductible.

I/we wish to make the following contribution:

☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$300 ☐ \$200 ☐ \$100

☐ Other: _____

Please direct my gift to the following:

☐ Development Department Emergency Fund

☐ Dental Care for Children with Disability

☐ Allied Health Scholarship Project

☐ General support fund Australian Vellore Board

Donations can be made to Friends of Vellore Victoria as follows:

By Direct Deposit:

Account Name: Friends of Vellore (Bendigo Bank)

BSB: 633 000 Account Number: 139185151

Please advise your contact details by email to

fovvtreasurer@gmail.com

By Cheque:

Made payable to "Friends of Vellore Victoria"

Please send by mail with your contact details to

FOVV Treasurer, P.O. Box 455 Essendon North 3041

Ongoing donations: if you would prefer to arrange an ongoing donation, please email Ken Gilbertson at fovvtreasurer@gmail.com

☐ Please tick if you do not want your name to be published as a donor