

The Pediatric Center

Tambaram Hospital, India

The Pediatric Center at Tambaram Hospital is an ongoing effort to support and improve the pediatric care delivered at Tambaram Hospital near Chennai (formerly Madras), India.

Tambaram Hospital is a large public teaching hospital. Originally founded as a tuberculosis sanatorium in the 1920s, Tambaram began seeing HIV in 1992, and since then has seen an exponential rise in the number of HIV admissions. They are currently diagnosing approximately 1000 new HIV cases each month. As a public hospital, Tambaram accepts all patients at no charge, despite extremely limited resources.



At Tambaram, inpatient pediatric facilities are centered in a large open ward. The majority of the children come from poor rural families, and a significant proportion are AIDS orphans. Parents, grandparents, or guardians stay with children in the ward, sleeping on mats on the floor next to the children's beds.

Our Programs

Currently, our main project is to support a social work program in the ward. Previously, children and families in the pediatric ward did not have any games, diversions or structured activities, and families had no support or advocacy services. Our first priority has been to support a full-time social worker dedicated to the pediatric department at Tambaram, who can work with families and children facing the crisis of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other illnesses. We began supporting the social worker in March, 2003.

We also support other programs in the pediatric ward, and have a longer term plan to impact clinical care and improve the infrastructure. You can learn all about our programs at our website, www.TambaramKids.org.

How You Can Help

The nonprofit Sahaya International provides fiscal sponsorship for this program, and maintains the account from which activities are funded.

Mail donations to:

Sahaya International • c/o Koen Van Rompay • 2949 Portage Bay Avenue # 195 • Davis, CA 95616

Please make checks payable to Sahaya International. Please indicate that your donation is for Tambaram. Sahaya International is a 501(c)3 non-profit and donations to them are tax-deductible.

How to Keep in Touch

Visit our website, or join our e-mail announcement list by writing to us at info@tambaramkids.org.