



# The Scudder NEWSLETTER

SPRING-SUMMER 2025

*"Service to Others"* Virgil Scudder, *Editor*

## SAF Leaders Visit India Institutions

"You have to see it to believe it," said SAF President Sue Swanson after a tour of the Scudder-founded schools and hospitals in India. "It's amazing how well these institutions are serving poor people in spite of limited budgets," she added.



Sue was referring to Walter Scudder School, Arni Secondary School, CMC Vellore, and Scudder Memorial Hospital.

Sue, Second Vice President Virgil Scudder, and Secretary Clive Conner toured in late January.

The trip was made at the invitation of Bishop Sharma Nithiyanandham to join in celebrating the Jubilee 50th anniversary of the Vellore Diocese of the Church of South India under whose aegis the Scudder institutions operate.

For Sue, it was the first visit since 1992 and for Virgil and Clive, the first ever. "It's very important," said Sue, "for the leadership of our organization to understand the situation in southeast India and the critical need for our continuing financial and moral support for these institutions. It was also important for SAF to show its support of the Diocese and its good works."

Religious services to celebrate the anniversary drew huge crowds of worshippers, often a thousand or more. They poured into Christian churches large and small. But it



was not all joy and celebration. The SAF leaders got a first-hand look at the serious needs of those schools which Sue described as "real eye openers."

At Arni School in Arni the kids attend assembly by sitting on the dirt courtyard, rain or shine. There is a clear need for a shelter for school gatherings along with a number of other things.

At Walter Scudder School in Tindivanam the roof on the main building is full of holes, leading to rendering some classrooms unusable as a result of severe water damage.

SAF funds the 11th and 12th grades at Arni which gives the students a chance to go on to college or rewarding careers. The government's financial support ends after Grade 10, leaving the kids short of essential preparation for a productive life.

"Great needs remain at all four institutions," said Sue, "but their level of service to their communities is extraordinary. We're very proud of all of them."

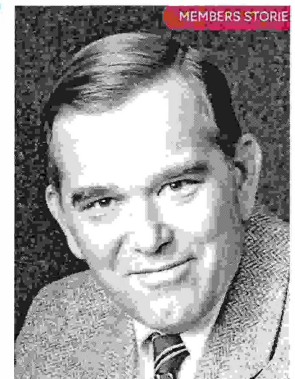


## Caddy Swanson 1937-2025: Loss of a Leader

The Foundation is saddened to report the passing of Sage Cadwell Swanson, known to all as Caddy, a great supporter of SAF's missions and a former president of the Scudder Association. He was 87. Caddy headed the association from 1974 to 1977. He was married to current SAF president, Sue Swanson, for 63 years.

The New York City native believed that life was for living and serving and he did both fully. He was active in local and national charities including heading the United Fund in Pelham, NY, serving as an associate vestryman and choir member at his church, coach of the Pelham Girls Ice Hockey Team, and organizer of the Pelham Town Tennis Team. He loved model trains, golf, sailing, camping, pumpkin pie, and spending time with his family.

Survivors include his wife, two children, Megan and Kristin, and five grandchildren. A memorial ceremony is planned for late summer or fall.



MEMBERS STORY





## It's Official: SMH Staff Quarters Now Open

The new staff quarters at Scudder Memorial Hospital in Ranipet is now ready for residents.

SAF President Sue Swanson made it official on January 28 when she snipped the ribbon marking the completion of the building project.

The new facility provides clean, modern housing for up to 16 staff members including doctors, nurses, and administrative staff. It replaces 70-year-old quarters that were in bad repair and highly inefficient.

Scudder Memorial Hospital, founded in 1866 by Dr. Silas Scudder, is a vital institution for the Ranipet area. It provides low cost and often even free medical care to residents of the area, serving nearly 100 communities and towns in a region of 2.5 million people. With 240 beds, it serves over 150 inpatients and 350 outpatients a day with 15 wards, 15 clinics, and 27 departments and sections.

## Service, Gratitude, and Ceremony *By Virgil Scudder*

Warm welcomes, colorful ceremonies, gratitude, and dedication are the things that I'll remember most about the India tour. I was told by first vice president Dr. Jim Taylor that we would be treated like royalty because we are Scudders. We were.

I'll remember the great hospitality of Bishop Sharma and his wife, Bishop Amma Sofia, in the evenings we had dinner in their home. I'll remember the wonderful courtesy and efficiency of Muti, our driver, and the religious devotion and dedication to service of so many people.

Most of all I'll remember the warmth and gratitude showered on us in the form of words and garlands wherever we went. As someone once said, "The Scudders love India and India loves the Scudders." I found that to be true.



## "Overwhelming!" *By Sue Swanson*

I was overwhelmed many times during our trip to India. When I walked into the large central CSI church in Vellore for the Thanksgiving service that began the Jubilee and heard hundreds of worshipers singing "Be Thou My Vision", Aunt Ida's favorite hymn, in Tamil, I was so choked up that I couldn't speak, let alone sing! How proud and amazed those three young missionary Scudder boys and their father, Rev. Dr. John Scudder, would have been to see the results of their work begun over 150 years ago.

The love and affection the people of Vellore still have for the Scudder missionaries and the work they did surrounded Virgil, Clive, and me as we visited each of the two Scudder hospitals and two Scudder high schools. As Bishop Sharma, our host, said, "The Scudders are our family!"

## SMH Excellence Seen First-Hand *By Clive Conor*

In January, I unintentionally became an out-patient at Scudder Memorial Hospital in Ranipet, India. While visiting there, I developed a urinary tract infection. I asked Mrs. Suganthi Bengimen, SMH's Nursing Superintendent, to help me see a doctor. She introduced me to Dr. Anbu Suresh, the Medical Director of SMH, who arranged for me to be tested. I did have an infection with concerning results so I needed a blood test and an ultrasound at SMH. He gave me some starter antibiotics and later upgraded them, given the results of my blood test. Fortunately, the infection did not spread.

The medical staff is professional and wants to provide the best possible care. They use modern equipment and treatments but at the cost of the building becoming increasingly in need of repairs. SAF is trying to give them the building grants they need.





## The Perfect Gift

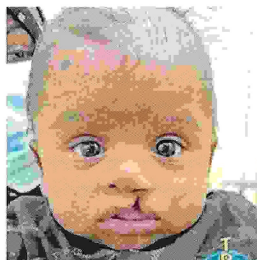
How about giving friends and family something special?



Here's a suggestion for a unique and wonderful gift: a contribution to a better life for people in need.

That's what you give when you join the Scudder Association Foundation, give a gift membership to someone you love, or make a donation to the organization's charitable missions in India. Your money goes to support the two excellent hospitals the Scudder family founded over a century ago and the two Scudder-founded schools which offer hope for a successful future for low-income boys and girls who otherwise might not have the opportunity for a satisfying career or good jobs.

Here's just one example. This little boy had a cleft lip



Boy with cleft palate



Same Boy After Surgery

and palate, a birth defect that, unless corrected by surgery, would not only cause him to be ridiculed and ostracized all his life but could also cause eating problems, difficulty in speaking, hearing problems, and frequent ear infections. An operation at Scudder Memorial Hospital gave him a new lease on life.

You can make the gift in honor of a special person and/or indicate which institution you would like to receive the money—Christian Medical College and Hospital, Scudder Memorial Hospital, The Walter Scudder School, or the Arni School.

Membership is only \$35 a year and anyone who donates \$1,000 or more in a calendar year is honored with a lifetime membership. Act today. Sign up yourself or a beloved one

online: [scudder.org/membership](http://scudder.org/membership)

Donate online: [scudder.org/donate](http://scudder.org/donate). It's hard to find a more loving or appropriate gift.

## CMC Vellore Diabetes Expert to Co-Lead Vital Research and Policy Implementation

The medical and scientific excellence of the Christian Medical College and Hospital in Vellore (CMC) continues to receive global recognition.

At the recent World Congress of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), CMC's **Dr. Nihal Thomas** was named co-chair of a working group to develop diagnostic criteria and therapeutic guidelines for Diabetes 5, a disease linked to antenatal and postnatal undernutrition and often has a poor outcome.

Type 5 Diabetes, a frequently overlooked and under-diagnosed disease, is estimated to affect 20 to 25 million people worldwide, primarily in Asia and Africa.

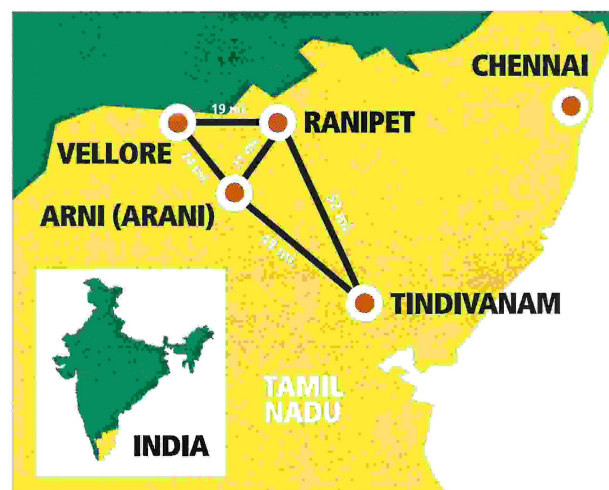
The other working group co-chair is equally distinguished. She is Dr. Meredith Hawkins, an endocrinologist and founding director of the Global Diabetes Institute at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York.

In announcing the project, the IDF President and Professor Peter Schwarz said, "This is about equity, science, and saving lives."



Distance was no object when the missionary Scudders were building schools, churches, and hospitals in poor areas of southeast India.

This map shows the distance between the four institutions founded and supported by Scudders that continue to this day.



RICH SHENNAUS/GOTHAM DESIGN

**Vellore:** Christian Medical Center and Hospital. Founded: 1900 by Dr. Ida Sophia Scudder to train Indian women as nurses and doctors. This world-renowned facility serves two million patients a year.

**Ranipet:** Scudder Memorial Hospital. A smaller facility known for its medical excellence and free or low-cost services to local residents. Founded in 1866 in an abandoned British cavalry barracks by Pioneer Dr. John's son, Dr. Silas Scudder.

**Arni:** Arni Secondary School. This institution was founded by Pioneer John's son, Rev. Ezekiel Scudder and his wife, Sara Tracy Scudder, in 1876. It now serves 200 students.

**Tindivanam:** Walter Scudder School. Founded by Pioneer John's great-grandson, Walter, in 1922. Grades one through 12 are offered.

## Our Impact:

**\$200,000+**

Donated annually for scholarships and to Indian hospitals and schools

**2 million**

Patients helped annually at Vellore CMC Hospital

**500**

Students educated daily at Scudder schools in India

**400**

Patients treated daily at Scudder Memorial Hospital

## Check Out Our Website

There's always something new on our website ([scudder.org](http://scudder.org)). We've upgraded it in several ways in the last few months to include more current news and features and more videos. You'll like what you see.

## Follow us on Social Media

Stay up to date on our foundation's latest activities through social media. Follow "The Scudder Association Foundation" on Facebook and LinkedIn, and "scudderassociation" on Instagram to see the life-saving and life-enhancing work being done by our Indian institutions and here at home.



THE SCUDDER NEWSLETTER: Virgil Scudder, *Editor* • Rich Sheinaus, *Layout* • Richard Scudder, *Distribution*

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*"Service to Others"*