



Serendip Children's Home.

<http://www.serendipchildrenshome.com>

NO. 1

NEW TAMIL CHARITY LAUNCHES HELP FOR ORPHANED CHILDREN IN SRI LANKA

A new charity Serendip Children's Home was formed late last year in the UK by Ms Trisha Selvaratnam with a desire to help Tamil children that have been orphaned as a result of the civil war in Sri Lanka. Thousands of Tamil civilians were killed last year many of leaving behind orphans, a number of whom are also disabled.

Now registered as a charity and run by a Board of Trustees Serendip have a number of projects in mind including the building of an **orphanage for 50 young girls** in the Jaffna area. This is a last resort for those children that can't be placed with extended families or foster parents.

The land for the orphanage has already been purchased. To construct the building the charity needs around £100,000 and is seeking funders.

However, the first project Serendip has launched is known as 'Care in the Community'.

Care in the Community

'Care in the Community' involves sponsoring a number of children of both sexes to provide for their educational and welfare whilst being cared for in their extended families or foster parents. Many children lost one or both of their parents leaving them destitute and disadvantaged. Serendip hopes to help them to overcome their traumatic experiences and develop them as well adjusted, productive citizens by providing for their needs from early childhood until they are able to provide for their own.

The Charity's founder Trisha Selvaratnam went to Sri Lanka this year to launch the project. She established the charity's credentials in the country as well as meeting newly recruited trustees and volunteers. Trisha said "Apart from meeting supporters I wanted to work with the Local authorities (and international agencies) to identify the needy children and to ensure as much local assistance could be obtained as possible. I was quite unprepared and overwhelmed however to witness the **enormity** of the children's struggle to simply survive. I realised at that moment how vital the financial support of the Tamil diaspora is to this project".

Presently, sponsors are helping the Charity take care of **34 children**. Their regular standing orders (typically around £15) are already making a difference to the lives of these little children. For example, a donation of £20 can feed a widow and her three children for a whole month in Sri Lanka. Ultimately Serendip would like to extend this to 100 children.

One of the children being helped is 10 year old **Sahitha Sarvanadasarma**. Both her parents have been killed. Her mother was killed after being raped by security forces at Punkudutivu in 2000. Her father was killed in a shell attack in the so-called 'Safe Zone' 2009. Having no siblings she is being looked after by her guardian, a family friend.

The regular donations given by sponsors can help continue her schooling and provide her with healthy food, clothes and medical care. It is children such a Sahitha that Serendip's 'Care in the Community' is helping.



Apart from the financial help the mere fact that someone outside Sri Lanka cares about these children's welfare is a great boost to the welfare and morale of them and the families.

If anyone would like to be kept in touch with Serendip's work please contact us by writing or e-mailing to our address(es) below.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

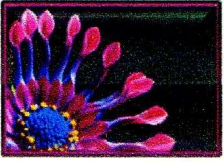
Apart from sponsorship we are always in need of volunteers to help out in our administration. We are also looking to fill two very important positions namely a **PROMOTIONS MANAGER** and **FUNDRAISER**. These roles are fairly self-explanatory but if you want to find out more or wish to apply please contact us as below.

CHRISTMAS LAUNCH

Serendip's public launch was at a evening of entertainment and dinner at a venue in North-East London. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the event and a much needed sum of £3,980 was raised towards the orphanage.



Trisha Selvaratnam (Chairperson, Board of Trustees) - Serendip Children's Home,
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info@serendipchildrenshome.com



Serendip Children's Home.

Charity No. 1133461

Dear friends,

If you can help us on a regular basis, please complete the standing order form below. Your £15 per month will be used to support a child within our 'care in the Community' Project while £25 per month will support a girl within the Children's Home. But whatever you can do, we are grateful.

Thank you.

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To The Manager	
Bank Name	
Bank Address	
Bank Account Number	
Bank Sort Code	
Please Pay	
Payee Bank Name	NatWest Plc.
Payee Account Name:	Serendip Children's Home
Payee Sort Code:	60-04-36
Payee Account Number	11637749
Payment Amount (please circle / complete)	£15 per month £25 per month £___ per month
Reference (office use only)	
Your details	
Charity Name	Serendip Children's Home
Address	34, Brightling Road, Brockley, London, SE4 1SQ
Signature:	
Print Name:	