



Serendip Children's Home.

<http://www.serendipchildrenshome.com>

NO.23

NEW YEAR, NEW PROJECTS!

'SPONSORSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY'

Our first ever project back in 2010 was named 'Care in the Community'. It was designed to help orphans from the war by matching individual sponsors with a child in need. A monthly donation helped the child's family to ensure that they were properly fed and assisted in their education.

It is now six years since the end of the war but there are many children, orphans or otherwise, who are living in constrained and difficult circumstances. Parents without jobs, villages without adequate clean water supplies or electricity; all of these



contribute to a poor lifestyle. We believe that the key to a better future of such families is good education.

You can help these children to obtain the much needed education by contributing just £5 per month. This money will go towards the cost of their tuition.



If you would like to sponsor a child through our new '**Sponsorship in the Community**' project, please contact trisha@serendipchildrenshome.com.

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

Up to 90,000 women lost their husbands in the war. Life has been very hard for them and their families. There is no social security or benefits from the Government available in northern Sri Lanka. Any aid available is very little and not adequate. Even if such 'hand-outs' were forthcoming it would not provide a long-term solution for the problems at hand. The only sustainable solution is the **Livelihood Support** programs, especially for families headed by women. This entails providing seed money or a capital for them to set up small businesses which would help the women bring in the much needed income to support their families.

Serendip, with the help of individual sponsors, has so far helped over 500 women, including many widows, to provide

a steady income for their families through these businesses. These are small enterprises and they include poultry farms, dress-making, animal husbandry and small shops.



In January we helped 30 women in Kilinochchi by providing capital for such businesses up to 50,000 SLR per person on a 24 month recovery term. This enables us to provide further help to more women by re-investing the monies into other businesses.

IT - THE FUTURE FOR YOUTH



The latest batch of 75 computers have been shipped this year to five IT centres in the Jaffna and Vanni areas. We feel it is important to uplift these children's knowledge of the IT world and everything it has to offer. Almost everything we do these days involves some form of IT and without any exposure to it these children would be at a **massive disadvantage**.

We have also financed tutors since 2014 to run afterschool and weekend classes for local children in 32 schools in the Vanni area. We have witnessed a significant increase in the pass rates in 'O' and 'A' level exams.



OPEN UNIVERSITY EXPANSION

We launched our financial support to enable students to take (Open) University courses in Enterprise and Business Management. We have now expanded this to include a course in Civil Engineering too. This provides another chance for students who couldn't get admission in other universities as a result of low marks due to poor education (linked to the war and lack of resources). Interested in helping us expand this further to include more 'practical' and vocational disciplines? Please contact trisha@serendipchildrenshome.com



FLOOD RELIEF

South Asia received heavy rainfall in the latter part of last year causing extensive flooding and damage. This has been particularly severe in northern Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu in India.

In northern Sri Lanka over 100,000 people had to move into temples and schools. Serendip provided help for a small proportion of flood victims in areas where flooding and damages were at its worst like the villages of Selvapuram, Vadduvaikal, Arumugathan Kulam, Ponnagar



& Poothanvayal in the Vanni area.

Our help focused on providing help for their immediate needs, for e.g. dry food (rice, flour, milk powder, lentils, sugar & teabags) and basic clothing. Later we also provided over 300 mosquito nets to families with small children to protect them from dangerous illnesses like Dengue and Malaria.

In Tamil Nadu we collaborated with a number of UK charities and local bodies to provide various items like kerosene cookers, crockeries, school bags and blankets.



FINE ARTS

As part of last year's 'Year of Culture' we provided instruments, especially traditional musical instruments to a number of schools. We are now running two centres in the Vanni area, with a new centre to be opened in the Kilinochchi district. We are also financing the tutor's salaries. These centres are open on weekends for local children.

We are also financially assisting local schools to equip their students to take part in musical and drama competitions. For example, the school Kilinochchi Mahavidyalayam won first prize in a national 'Street Drama' competition.



XMAS SUCCESS

Our seventh Xmas event, as always, was a very successful and well appreciated evening. Given the increased demand to attend the evening we changed our venue from the usual to a much larger one which was also in north-east London. The event was on a Saturday and it was a complete sell-out which was hugely successful!

We raised over **£14,000** (net) for our charity work. Ensure to book your social calendar for 2016's event on **Saturday, 26th November**.



UPCOMING PROJECTS

We are researching into the possibility of expanding the little provision available in northern Sri Lanka to cater for **autistic children**. We shall report the result of our findings and our suggested course of action in our next newsletter.

DONATE

If there is no specific project that you favour you can always donate to our general work. After all if we cannot provide for our kith & kin in Sri Lanka who will? Please donate generously using the link

<https://www.justgiving.com/serendipchildrenshome/Donate/>

HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

If you would like to **help us** in our charitable work why not **join** our facebook group on

<https://www.facebook.com/SerendipChildrensHome?fref=ts>

Visit our website on <http://www.serendipchildrenshome.com/>

Or why not give us a **donation** via <http://www.justgiving.com/serendipchildrenshome>

