



NEWS

AND CURRENT EVENTS

CHARITY NO.1133461

NEWSLETTER NO.27



AUTISM (update)

As reported in an earlier newsletter we sent a panel of seven teachers/health professionals to India (Chennai) to receive an intensive one month training in Special needs, particularly on autism.

More recently, Serendip has joined with a local group of Medical and Non-medical professionals (including those from the health department) to help create **Autism policy** on the Island. Thus, one of its' joint ongoing projects is to develop such a policy document for Autism. The draft policy was launched in July in Jaffna. It is estimated that it will take two years to complete the development of the policy before it can be implemented.

We are also working on a new initiative where a trained group of professionals will assess children with Special Needs and then issue a **Statement of Education** (a document explaining a child's medical condition). The Statement is also a document which sets out a child's special educational needs (SEN) and any additional help that the child should receive. The ultimate aim of the Statement is to make sure that the child gets the right support that will enable them to make progress in school. You can help us **conquer the stigma and lack of understanding of autism** in Sri Lanka by contacting us at autism@serendipchildrenshome.com.



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Fourteen students from the Tamil Student Institution and others from Serendip partnered together in a recent volunteer program in Sri Lanka. Spending three weeks together in the island, it was a great success. The students worked with schools, care centres, and hospitals. For example, they visited two of the nursing schools in Manipay & Paasayoor. They spent a few days teaching the student nurses English translations of basic medical procedures. Some of these students' courses are fully financed by Serendip. The Volunteers also spent time with elderly patients at the same hospitals. Both sides learnt something from each other!!!

Please see some highlights from the program produced by TSI. Everyone worked hard for the whole three weeks and made some meaningful contributions to some children's lives. We are hoping to repeat this program in the future.



TRAINING PROGRAM FOR WOMEN

Every six months over 25 young adults join our professional dress-making course. The Course trainers are from one of the leading sewing machine company "Singer" in Sri Lanka. We also give training in cake making, and a beautician course.

Sponsor students books & educational material on any of your special occasions

ANY AMOUNT YOU WISH!



COMPUTERS 4 SCHOOLS

One of our ongoing projects is to equip computer labs for primary schools, especially in rural areas such as in the Wannu. This year we delivered laptops to Kompavil Vigneswara Vidyalayam and Vathrapallai Mahavidyalayam in Mullaithivu and others. This took place recently when our volunteers were working in Sri Lanka (see below).

A great deal of these computers have been donated to us but also purchased from funds donated by our long term supporter Johannes who raises the monies through his annual charity walks. We would like to thank him for his continued support.



Sponsor a child... food & educational material for as little as

£5 ON WARDS...



CULTURAL CENTRE

A new cultural centre was opened in August in Erlalai, Jaffna, to add to our existing three centres. In each centre there are over seventy five students learning different disciplines in Musical Art, namely, Bharatham, Violin, Muruthangam & Vocal.



Sponsor one-off
livelihood small business project

£250 EACH



ONE-OFF PROJECTS

As always, we are continuing to fund one-off school projects based on pressing needs e.g. bicycle deliveries, music equipment, school bags, projectors, and equipment for special need children.



WALKING FOR CHARITY

This year we held our annual charity walk around the Hyde and Regents Parks covering over 5 miles. We raised over £5K. Thanks to all of you who took part.



WINTER BALL DECEMBER 29TH!

Serendip's 9th Annual Winter Dinner & Dance will be held this year on Friday evening the 29th December.

We invite you to join us for a magical evening filled with LIVE MUSIC, TRADITIONAL & MODERN DANCE, PRESENTATIONS, THREE-COURSE MEAL AND DRINKS, RAFFLE, DJ and much more!

Price: Adults £30 (5-16 £10, Under 5's free).

When: Friday 29th December 7pm - Midnight

Where: Walthamstow Assembly Hall, Forest Road, London E17 4JF

Rsvp: trisha@serendipchildrenshome.com or 07799 756158

If you would like to help out on the day or could part-sponsor the event help please contact us urgently.

We hope to see you there!

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.serendipchildrenshome?fref=ts>

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

or why not give us a DONATION via <http://www.justgiving.com/serendipchildrenshome>