



Serendip Children's Home.

<http://www.serendipchildrenshome.com>

HELPING WIDOWS TO HELP THEMSELVES! NO. 3

When formed one of Serendip's core goals was to help, not only the child victims of conflict, but the countless thousands of widows struggling to look after their children. After losing the traditional breadwinner they struggle to survive on meagre handouts. Instead of adding to these handouts Serendip wanted to empower these women to create a new future for themselves and their family.

We are therefore delighted to announce the imminent launch of two new initiatives of our Widows Project. The general aim is to make these widows **self-sufficient** by supporting start-up businesses.

Self-Sufficiency

The first initiative is a Co-operative for 30 women from villages around Jaffna making and selling candles and stationary within the local area. Our financial contribution will allow them to purchase the machinery and some stock. This will provide them with a valuable income for their families.

The second initiative is to assist 20 widows in becoming self-employed workers in the Wannu. Serendip will purchase the necessary 'stock' to allow them to start a small business. This could be for example, a chicken 'farm' or a brick making enterprise. In this way, for minimal cost, they will be able to become self-sufficient. We will be supplying grants (free) and soft-loans (interest free). The loan element is a way to motivate the beneficiaries to work hard and will be paid back within two years when the 'business' is successful. That money will then be recycled towards other widows launching similar businesses.

Successful businesses will provide a living income for these widows and children, reduce their dependence upon handouts (which are never sufficient) and inject valuable finance into the local economy. We will be drawing upon our general funds but will also be sourcing sponsors (at £250 per business). **Would you be interested in becoming one?** Please e-mail us at info@serendipchildrenshome.com.

CARING FOR THE CHILDREN!

When visiting Sri Lanka our Chairperson took the opportunity to visit all the children that we and our individual sponsors are helping under our 'Care in the Community' scheme which presently consists of 34 children. They are being looked after by their extended families in the Jaffna area of Northern Sri Lanka. The monthly sponsorship is designed to support their upkeep and education. These children are orphans that lost one or both parents. They are often looked after by their grandparents with little or no income. Thanks to all our sponsors and generous donors these children's future looks a lot brighter!

We would like to extend our help to looking after more children. For example we have been asked to take care of 13 children and families in the Mannar district (North-west Sri Lanka). We are in the process of sorting out the paperwork. If you would like to become a **valuable Serendip sponsor** and help these children please complete the standing order overleaf.



CHILDREN'S HOME PARTNERSHIP

Serendip's Chairperson Trisha Selvaratnam went to Sri Lanka in February this year to visit the existing children we support and to meet various charity organisations, local officials and Government Advisers to discuss our desire to open a home.

Unfortunately she was advised that the Government had changed its policy and wished to reduce the number of children living in homes. Obviously no new homes will be built. There is an opportunity however to enter into a **partnership** with an existing home. Some of these homes fit our criteria but struggle financially. We are therefore looking at taking 50 children under 'our wing' financially. We are actively seeking out a suitable home for such a partnership. Many thanks to our donors that will allow us to help keep these children safe. We will announce the details of the partnership in the near future!

HELPING THE FLOOD VICTIMS OF BATTICALOA

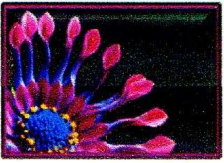
Whilst in Sri Lanka our Chairperson witnessed first hand the voluntary efforts to help the flood victims of Eastern side of the Island. Record rain fall in and around the town of Batticaloa displaced over 300,000 people and many left dead. Farmland was flooded and rice fields destroyed. The UN believed up to a million people were affected. The immediate challenge was to provide fresh water and food.

Serendip quickly set up and sent out an Eastern Flood Appeal to our supporters and raised over £1,000 in a few days. The donations were used to purchase emergency supplies in the south and with the help of the Tamil Students Union of Colombo and the local Ramakrishna Mission the aid was delivered to the most needy. If you were one of the donors to the appeal **thank you!**



HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

If you would like to **help us** in our charitable work why not **join** our facebook group on <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Serendip-Childrens-Home/149069726272>. **Visit** our website (presently being revamped!) on <http://www.serendipchildrenshome.com/>. Or why not give us a **donation** via <http://www.justgiving.com/serendipchildrenshome> !



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: | |