



REGISTERED CHARITY: 1110022



Ocean Stars Trust
2 Netherhouse Moor
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NEWSLETTER 15
JULY 2012

Christmas Gift Catalogue recipients thank donors for their gifts

HIGHLIGHTS FOR
2012

-Gift catalogue gifts distributed to grateful recipients

-15 playgroups supported by OST

-30 teachers wages funded by OST

- 500 children received new school uniforms

-OSL office received a new printer

-Diana and Kugadarshini OSL fieldworkers, received motor bike to help them travel to OSL projects

CURRENT WISH LIST

-£25 A MONTH needed to sponsor a teacher. 15 teachers still to be sponsored

-£10 A MONTH to sponsor a child. 10 children still on waiting list

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We would like to thank all those who bought items from our Christmas catalogue 2011. The recipients have asked us to pass on their personal thanks to you all for your kindness. These gifts can transform lives and give some people the opportunity to earn a living and support their family.

Goats were donated for the first time through the catalogue. Mr Geevaretnam was very happy to



receive the goats. He will use them to produce fertilizer and breed them. He will then sell a goat every six months and earn an income to help with his children's education.



Chickens are a popular gift at Christmas and make a big impact on the recipients. They are able to collect eggs and take them to market and earn an income. Thevamaal, the teacher at



Little Stars nursery receives a bicycle from the Gift Catalogue.



This means she does not have to walk 50 minutes very morning to the remote playgroup she works at and is able to

carry her resources in the little basket on her bike.

School uniforms for all 500 children who attend our playgroups were distributed in April 2012. Many thanks to all who support our gift catalogue. Your donations



change peoples lives and they are very grateful to you.

Resources for Vellaimanl Primary School

The primary school at Vellaimanl has had to move out of the senior



school. The children in Years 3 and 4 were being educated at a local community building. The two teachers asked Ocean Stars if we could provide them with basic equipment to educate the 50 children who



were all working together in one big room. OST were able to buy tables, chairs and a cupboard to help the children to get on with their learning.



A day in the life of Ocean Stars teacher Thevamala of Little Stars Playgroup



Little Stars is a new playgroup which was opened in October 2011 by the OST Team. The playgroup was funded by Matt Marshall and Domino's in Fleet. Thevamala wakes up at 4.30am every day. Her first job is to tutor her niece in Maths and English till 5.15am.

She then does all her housework. Thevamala used to leave the house at 6.45 am to walk to school. The purchase of a bicycle in April 2012 has made a big differ-

ence to her. She collects the children who attend the playgroup each morning as she passes their homes.



Playgroup is from 8am till 11.30am. Thevamala gets home at about 12.30pm. She then has her lunch and a little sleep. The rest of the day is spent preparing for the

next day, cooking and washing. Thevamala receives a wage of 3000 RS from Ocean Stars. She gives 1,000 RS to her mum, uses 500 RS for monthly expenses and saves the rest for her future. She lives with her mum and two sisters in a little house. Her father was killed during the armed conflict. She is very grateful to Ocean Stars for giving her the opportunity to use her skills and earn a living and save for her future.



OST has raised over £225,000 over 7 years to help rebuild shattered lives in Sri Lanka.

CHILD SPONSORSHIP

COST: £10 per month

All the money goes to the family



TEACHER SPONSORSHIP

COST: £25 per month

Provides food, clothing, fire-wood, for a family for a month



CALTHORPE PARK SCHOOL, FLEET, LINKS UP WITH PILLIYADIMUNAI SCHOOL IN BATTICALOA, OUR FIRST SECONDARY SCHOOL LINK. FLEET TEACHERS TO VISIT SRI LANKA THIS OCTOBER.



PAINTING AND PALMEIRAH WEAVING CLASSES FOR WOMEN

OST aims to empower people to help themselves and become independent and earn their own incomes. We support a painting class where a group of women meet twice a week and create craft items to sell to the local community at markets.

The women I met were very grateful to OST for giving them



this chance to learn new skills. Mrs Bavan the teacher is also very grateful that she has the opportunity to pass on her skills to the local community. Wall hangings below made by the class to sell locally.



Palmeirah weaving classes have been run by a teacher at three of the playgroups supported by OST. Mothers and local village women attend these classes and learn a new skill, and make items to sell at local markets.



FUND RAISING IN THE UK



One of our main sources of income is through fund-raising. We would like to thank all those who fund raise for us each year. Individuals, schools, playgroups, companies and churches in the UK continue to organise fund-raising events for us.

CURRY EVENING One such event is the annual curry evening at Fleet Methodist Church which was held in May this year. 75 people attended the event this year. A variety of Sri Lankan curries were made by OST supporters and greatly appreciated by all.



CYCLE RIDES

A team of 12 people will be cycling from London to Brighton on the 17th of June and raising funds for OST. If you would like to support them then please go to

www.justgiving.com/OST2012londonbrighton

to make a donation. Many Thanks to all those who have already done so. We also have Steve and Francis who on Tuesday 3rd July will set off

to cycle from Land's End to John o'

Groats and have chosen OST as one

of their charities. If you would like to sponsor them then please go to www.justgiving.com/Stephen-Plumb to make a donation.

Peter Barton has run a half marathon, will be cycling from London to Brighton and climbing three peaks in Yorkshire for OST. If you would like to support Peter please go to:

www.justgiving.com/Peter-Barton1

Coffee mornings, quiz evenings, recycling second-hand clothes are a few of the other ways people have raised funds for us.



Tempered Okra Curry/ Ladies Fingers



INGREDIENTS: 3 Table spoons olive oil, 1 sprig curry leaves, 2 green chillies sliced, 1 onion chopped, 1 teaspoon red chilli powder, 1/4 tsp turmeric powder, 1/2 tsp fenugreek, salt to taste, 500 grams okra cut into 1" slices 1/4 cup coconut

METHOD: Heat oil in pan until very hot, then add curry leaves, green chillies, and onions. Sauté for a few minutes, then add the red chilli powder, turmeric, fenugreek, and salt and cook until onions are caramelized. Add the okra and toss for 5 minutes. Add coconut milk and simmer until most of the liquid is gone and only a thick gravy remains. This curry is a favourite with OST visitors to Sri Lanka. Enjoy!!

OST TEAM 2012

A team of 13 people from the UK have begun preparations for our annual visit to Sri Lanka in October 2012. The theme for working with the children is the Very Hungry Caterpillar and we are all busy collecting resources to keep the children busy. Staff from Calthorpe Park school Fleet, St Luke's Primary school and Tarneland Nursery in Brighton are all part of Team 2012.



GIFT AID

If you are a new donor, please contact us about receiving a Gift Aid form. If you are a taxpayer, we are able to claim tax back on your donation.

Gift Aid is an extremely important form of finance to OST. It should be noted that if you are a higher rate tax payer, you may be able to obtain further relief on your Gift Aid donation in your tax return.

Ocean Stars Web-shop

www.buy.at/Oceanstars

We would like to remind you to shop at www.buy.at/Oceanstars. All you have to do is log on to our web shop at www.buy.at/Oceanstars and select the retailer that you would like to shop from. You will then be directed to the normal on-line web shop of your choice. Any purchases you make from the retailers will generate commission for Ocean Stars - at no additional cost to yourself. Many of the big-name on-line retailers feature on the web shop e.g. Amazon, Marks & Spencer, John Lewis etc and many have **free postage**. The commission they pay Ocean Stars is our reward for promoting their retailer.

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Rebuilding Shattered Lives

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Message from Dilanee, Ocean Stars Trust Founder and Trustee

As OST embarks on it's seventh year of operation I would like to extend my warmest thanks to you all our friends and donors for your continued generosity and support for our work. OST was founded in March 2005 in the aftermath of the Tsunami and during the 25 year armed conflict. A lot has happened over the seven years ,too much to mention here. I would like to share with you some of the highlights for me. Buying mattresses for the 25 children's beds at the Grace Children Home ,and seeing their smiles, our sponsorship schemes which help over 150 children with their education, helping over 700 children in remote areas of eastern Sri Lanka access pre-school education, providing wells for play groups so that children have access to clean water, empowering women with an income to support their families, the Christmas catalogue, the teacher -training mornings we organise in Sri Lanka, and all the people in the UK who have come on OST trips to Sri Lanka and experienced first hand the work we do. The warmth, friendship, generosity, kindness and smiles of the people we work with touches all who have the privilege to meet with them. It is the personal relationships, the laughter and tears that makes the Ocean Stars Trust a charity like no other. We thank you again for your support. I would also like to welcome Kate Whyatt as a new trustee. Please spread the word about our work. May God Bless you.

Dilanee



The trustees would like to say a very big thank you to Bron Lambert for all her hard work as a trustee for Ocean Stars. Bron stood down as a trustee in January 2012. We will miss Bron and her amazing ideas. The Gift Catalogue and Curry Evenings were launched by Bron and are two very successful fundraisers for OST. We wish Bron all the very best in her future endeavours.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.

We hope you continue to support our work in making a difference to the lives of the people of Sri Lanka. Donations made payable to "Ocean Stars Trust" can be sent to us at the above address. We will continue to keep you updated with our work



Dilanee Bunter: Founder, John Bunter: Chairman, Andrew Marshall: Treasurer, Joanna Barton: Secretary



Maureen Johnston: Trustee,

Kate Whyatt: Trustee,

Matthew Marshall: Trustee

Trustees of the Ocean Stars Trust.