

A photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and blue. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow. The ocean is dark with gentle waves. In the lower right, a person is visible in the water, and a bird is flying in the sky.

**Ocean Stars Trust**  
**Registered Charity: 1110022**

# What is The Ocean Stars Trust?

- A UK Registered charity based in **Fleet**, Hampshire.
- Formed in April 2005
- It aims to provide relief to the people of Sri Lanka who have been the victims of the Boxing day **tsunami** and other natural disasters.
- Run by five people on a voluntary basis.

What is a “tsunami” ?

**A large sea wave caused by an underwater earthquake.**

# Why Did The Ocean Stars Trust Start?

- A lady living in Fleet called Dilanee Bunter, who was born & brought up in Sri Lanka felt compelled to do something to help the people of her country following the tsunami.
- She became concerned that the money being collected by the big charities was not getting to the people who really needed help & decided to do something about it.
- So she started to collect money from friends & family to take with her on a trip to Sri Lanka in April 2005.
- However when she came back from Sri Lanka, she felt that help would be needed for a long time & Ocean Stars was formed.

# Objectives Of Ocean Stars

- Immediate tsunami relief to families.
- Identify long term projects which need funding.
- Trauma counselling work.

# What Has “ Ocean Stars” Achieved?

- It has helped **hundreds** of people in Sri Lanka through aid given in 45 different kinds of projects.
- Ocean Stars helps people in **ALL** parts of Sri Lanka.
- It provides **direct feedback** to donors of how their money has been spent.
- Ocean Stars sponsors 75 children in Sri Lanka.
- It has now raised over **£50,000!!!!**

# Location Of Current Ongoing Projects



- Trinco Teacher Training Project
- Trinco Child Sponsorship
- Trinco/Buttercups Playgroup Link Scheme

- Batti/ St Vincents Child Sponsorship scheme
- Batti/St Lukes School
- Batti Lunch Project

Grace Children's Home/Heatherside Link

Thoten Environmental Project  
Thoten Educational Programme

- Welligama Sewing Machine Project
- Fishing Boat Project

# Welligama Fishing Boat

- Sunil lost his fishing boat in the Tsunami.
- This meant that Sunil and his 11 crew members could no longer earn any money.
- Ocean Stars managed to find a sponsor to buy Sunil a new boat.
- Now 12 families now have an income thanks to Ocean Stars.
- The new fishing boat is called “Ocean Star”



# Welligama Sewing Machine Project

- Many of the men in Welligama were fishermen who lost their boats and are still very traumatised.
- Ocean Stars has helped the women get their families back on their feet by buying 15 sewing machines for a new business.
- It has also paid the first 5 months running costs & placed the first order for the new business to help it get started.



# Thoten Environmental Health Programme

- Aims to teach people about being responsible in their environment.
- Identifies where the mosquitos are breeding so that diseases like malaria can be prevented.
- Educates people about the **importance of washing their hands**.
- Disributes medical aid to villagers.
- Ocean Stars supports this project by paying the wages.



# Thoten Educational Programme



- Ocean Stars has paid for 12 young people who are very clever to have the chance of learning a computer course/ language course to help them get a better job.
- Without Ocean Stars, these people would not have had this opportunity to improve their lives.

# Grace Childrens Home

- Heatherside Infant School in Fleet raised over £400 at their Harvest Festival.
- This paid for all the orphaned children at The Grace Childrens Home to have a mattress & sheets to sleep on.
- The children used to sleep on a wooden board & a straw mat.



# Trinco Child Sponsorship Scheme

- Ocean Stars has managed to find each of the 38 children at this playgroup in Trinco a sponsor.
- Each sponsor pays £10 a month.
- £7.50 will feed, clothe and provide for all the child's needs.
- The remaining £2.50 is put in a bank account for when the child is 18 years old.



# Trinco Teachers Wages

- Ocean Stars is paying the wages of the teachers at this pre school.
- £21 per month will cover the wage of just one teacher.



# Trinco Playgroup/ Buttercups Day Nursery Link

- This playgroup in Trinco has started a link scheme with Buttercups Day Nursery in Fleet.
- Buttercups raised £200 & this is being spent on a complete new playground for the children.



LIFE IN SRI LANKA

# Home

- Most children share a room with their brothers & sisters ( & sometimes even their parents).
- Most homes do not have a TV, computer, running water or even own toilet!
- Most children only have one toy.
- All children know their neighbours & they all take care one another.



# School Life

- All Children wear uniform no matter how poor the family.
- School runs from 8.30am till 2.30pm
- A lot of children have extra classes in English after school
- Most children travel by bus or walk to school.
- Few schools have computers.



# After School Activities

- No after school clubs
- Hardly any children have swimming lessons
- Extra tuition
- Play cricket, volleyball with friends



# Life in a village

- No supermarkets, people shop at markets.
- Most houses do not have running water, so people use a local well
- Most people do not have cars, so they either walk, cycle or take a bus.
- There are lots & lots of stray dogs running around!!!



# SUNDAY SCHOOL

- Sunday School runs from 8am till 1.30pm
- Begins with breakfast at “The Manse” !!!!
- All children attend full service with their parents before lessons with their Sunday School teachers.
- All children in one class



# Food

- Curry is the main food eaten in Sri Lanka
- Curry is even eaten for breakfast!
- Most people eat with their hands
- Crisps, chocolate are rarely eaten
- Most children have fruit as a snack



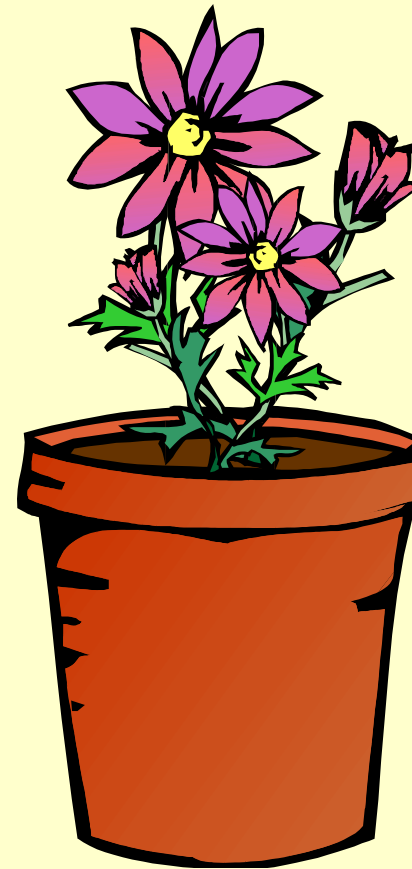
# HOLIDAYS

- Children visit relatives in nearby town for holidays.
- Most children have never left Sri Lanka.
- Most children do not know how to swim.



# Our Gardens

- Most people grow vegetables in their gardens.
- Few children have swings or play equipment.
- Palm trees & Coconut trees grow freely.
- Very hot & humid climate



# Local Wildlife

- Snakes
- Monkeys
- Elephants
- Stray Dogs!.....