



Established January 2005

Newsletter 31: JULY 2020



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Ocean Stars Trust



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OCEAN STARS LANKA

Ocean Stars Lanka



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LATEST NEWS

26 Preschools supported by Ocean Stars Trust UK and Ocean Stars Lanka.

887 Children island wide attend OST preschools and new uniforms distributed to all children in January 2020.

Ocean Stars Lanka completes partnership with World Vision in delivering scaling-up nutrition workshops to our preschool parents and teachers.

300 Food parcels delivered to poorest preschool families following our Covid-19 appeal.

Home learning has been in place since March 2020 ensuring that preschool children don't miss out on their early years learning.

Ocean Stars Lanka welcomes Dishanthini as their new Sponsorship and Preschool Manager.

Ocean Stars UK and Lanka selected by World Vision to promote food security through home gardening.

Dilaneer Bunter, Founder and Operations Manager of Ocean Stars Trust, reports on what has been a challenging 2020 so far for the charity, as with many other UK charities.

"I was in Sri Lanka in January 2020 and had the privilege of visiting our all-island projects, distributing new uniforms, spending time with our Ocean Stars Lanka team and opening both a new music classroom at Urani High School and a new preschool building at Thantha for Little Stars. All this seems like a dream now as we complete almost 12 weeks in lockdown in the UK.

During the UK lockdown Sri Lanka has been on 24/7 curfews with people being allowed out every 4th day to get essential items during a 6 hour window. It soon became clear to us that several of our preschools located in poorer villages relied on a daily wage income and therefore children and families were struggling to find their daily meals. After considering carefully the hardships endured by people everywhere we launched our Covid-19 appeal for a month from April to May. We were truly thankful to everyone for their support and for their generosity which meant that we were able to provide 300 food parcels to our neediest and poorest families. The local government offices were also very appreciative of the help we were giving to their communities. We would like to thank our Ocean Stars Lanka staff who have worked non-stop during curfews from home and subsequently from our office to make sure that all our communities and families had enough to eat and remained healthy.

We set up from the beginning of lockdown weekly zoom calls with our OSL team. Zeddy, our Monitoring and Evaluation Supervisor joins our zoom calls from Kenya so we span 3 time zones with the UK getting the early morning slot!! We have begun to really value these weekly meetings as we have completed lots of major admin tasks and talked about our weekly plans.

Home learning has become the new norm for our preschool children. OST UK and Lanka have been working closely with the Preschool Bureau to establish a learning programme and to make sure that it has been implemented. New WhatsApp groups have been established between teachers and parents, and teachers and OSL staff and myself. It seems like a whole new world of communication has been opened up, certainly, and we all feel more connected than ever before.

Our fundraising has moved to virtual events. If you feel you would like to make a donation to support our continued work in Sri Lanka further details on how to donate can be found in this our Newsletter. Thank you for your support and, as the future seems uncertain, I wish you all peace and good health."
Dilaneer

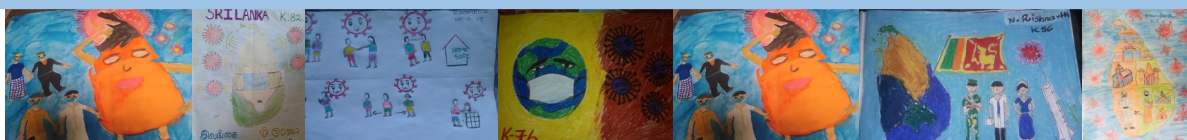


300 food parcels were distributed to 10 preschools and 48 sponsor families following our COVID-19 Appeal. A Big Thank You to all our supporters and donors for helping us feed our communities.



Photos show families from Panchenai, Vellaimanal, Naripulthotam and Thevilamunai receiving their food parcels. Rice, flour, sugar, lentils, salt, tea, biscuits, coconut, soya were some of the items included. The children were also given paper and colouring pencils for drawing at home.

COVID-19 ART WORK BY OST SPONSOR CHILDREN



Change a life through sponsoring a child for £15 a month.

Julie talks about her experience of visiting Rimsha, her sponsor child.

One of the many experiences that really moved me during my first visit to Sri Lanka was the day we spent in Trincomalee, a fishing community that was resettled after the Tsunami. It was a truly humbling day in which we received such a warm welcome and amazing hospitality. We met many sponsor children, some of whom who were receiving school bags and school shoes. Seeing the impact of sponsorship was so encouraging. We heard the story of a girl who was about to embark on a medical degree, having had her education sponsored since she was young.

It was after that trip that I looked into sponsorship. I asked if it might be possible to sponsor a child of the same age as my youngest daughter Ruby, and so we were matched with Rimsha. We pay £15 per month that goes towards educational supplies, and when she's older, will help with the cost of tutoring.

Having returned twice to Sri Lanka means I have had the privilege to meet Rimsha and her family again and find out more about their lives. Her father works delivering fish on his bicycle, while her mother takes care of Rimsha, younger brother and baby sister.

Ruby and Rimsha have exchanged gifts and cards and have even recorded video messages for each other.

Ruby has talked in her school harvest assembly about sponsoring Rimsha in the hope of encouraging others to do the same, and she is planning to sell some of the toys she has outgrown in order to raise money to provide Rimsha with a bike to help her get to school.

Ruby is already looking forward to going on an Ocean Stars trip in the future so that she can meet Rimsha in person.



BACS DONATIONS

If you would like to make a donation by BACS please use the following details

Account Name: Ocean Stars Trust

Sort Code: 30-93-32

Account Number: 02662990

Reference: Gift



MRS KANAGAMBY :
Karaveddy preschool teacher

Many congratulations on receiving a Government Award for 30 years service to Preschool Education, 15 of those with Ocean Stars.

Donate £10 towards our ongoing work in Sri Lanka by
TEXTING oceanstarstrust to 70085
(Texts cost £10 plus one standard network rate message).

VIRTUAL CURRY EVENING RAISING FUNDS FOR OCEAN STARS

OST has been organising a curry evening since May 2008 as a main fundraising event for the charity. It would have been our 13th curry evening this year so we decided to launch a virtual curry evening as we could not proceed with our planned event. The response was amazing, with over 40 people signing up. Videos of how to make a selection of curries were sent out a few days before. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped us raise money for our ongoing work in Sri Lanka.



Thank you to everyone who sent in photos of their culinary efforts. Sri Lankan roti, mixed vegetable curry, sweet potato curry, lentil curry and desiccated coconut Sambol were enjoyed by many. £650 was raised on the night.

Thank you

Uniforms for the New School Year January 2020

Over 800 uniforms and school bags were distributed to our preschool children in January 2020. All our teachers received their work saree and a work bag. Parents and teachers thanked Ocean Stars for our support and they said they feel valued and appreciated.



Scaling-Up Nutrition Project

Ocean Stars Lanka were successful in a bid to World Vision Sri Lanka to implement a nutrition programme to improve the lives of families living in poverty. The project involved spreading awareness of good nutritional practices so that children were better equipped to access learning. The workshop targeted the preschool teachers and lead mothers of preschool children as this target group have the biggest influence over what a preschool child consumes on a daily basis. Mothers are the most crucial vehicles for improving child nutrition in Batticaloa District. The follow-up Monitoring and Evaluation report concluded that parents had learnt good food behaviour and changed their meal plans for their children. Menu plans for each day have been developed and the communities are more aware of a nutritious diet. We would like to thank Mr. Logitharajah (World Vision Zonal Health and Nutrition Coordinator) as a facilitator to this programme.



OCEAN STARS TRUST

A MUSIC ROOM TRANSFORMED AT URANI SARASWATHY MAHA VIDYALAM



Calthorpe Park School, Fleet has been working with Ocean Stars Trust since 2013. Their trip scheduled for October 2019 had to be cancelled due to the Easter Sunday events of 2019. However the money raised by the students enabled their link school in Sri Lanka to rebuild their dilapidated music room and transform it into a state-of-the-art music room. As is the tradition in Sri Lanka a pot of milk was boiled as a sign of positive energy and happiness and good luck for the future.



HOME LEARNING DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

Our 887 preschool children have been busy learning from home. Working together with the Preschool Bureau we have been setting weekly themes and learning goals and the children have been busy with writing, drawing and gardening tasks!



Ocean Stars Lanka Team



From left to right: Sutharshan: Director, Dharshan: Project Manager, Chitra: Office Manager, Shalini: Finance Manager, Tharanika: Monitoring, Dishanthini: Sponsorship & Preschool Manager & Evaluation Manager and Zeddy Kibet: M&E Supervisor.

Founder and Trustees of Ocean Stars Trust UK



From left to right: Dan: Trustee, Dilanee: Founder, Aidan: Trustee, Maureen: Trustee and Chair, Jennie: Trustee, Jo: Trustee and Secretary, John: Trustee and Treasurer.

We thank you for your continuing support.