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NEWSLETTER 5: JUNE 07



- £50,000 raised so far
- 43 projects funded by OST
- 65 children sponsored in the east
- Lunch provided for 75 children
- 20 teachers wages paid for by OST

THANK YOU

A very big thanks you to all our donors and fund raisers for your continued support. Thanks to your generosity we are able to continue making a difference to the lives of people in Sri Lanka. Our fund raising continues as we carry on supporting projects in the east of Sri Lanka where the need is greatest. Over 600 children have benefited from our funds and have access to better resources thanks to your generosity.

POLITICAL UPDATE

The ongoing political unrest means that our support is vital for the families we support. As our projects are linked to Methodist Churches the money goes through the church accounts and reaches the people who need it most. We are fortunate with our projects in Batticaloa where Rev Ranchan and his assistant are able to visit the projects. Below refugees receive aid funded by OST.



POLITICAL UPDATE CONTINUED

Travel to Trincomalee for our Trinco contact Yasmin who is based in Colombo has been difficult. However over the last two months she has been able to visit the camp where the children live and the playgroup that they go to. What used to be a 45-minute journey into Trinco from the neighbouring town of Dambulla now takes her 3 hours because of the security checks. This means that once she arrives at the camp her time there is limited. The children we support live for the most part in fear. The noise of shelling at night keeps many of them awake at night. Rev Ranchan says that all the families are indebted to Ocean Stars for the support we offer and giving them hope for the future.

NEW PROJECTS

- 120 more children benefit from our funds
- 20 women have employment and an income for their family
- OST fund project manager for the east

KURUMANVELY NURSERY

Situated 25 kms from Batticaloa this nursery has 27 children and no resources. OST are funding the wages of the teacher. We have also bought tables, chairs, a water container and a whiteboard for the children of the nursery.



Christmas presents funded by OST

KALKUDAH NURSERY

30 children attend this playgroup. 2 teachers wages funded by OST.

SEWING PROJECT

OST are funding this project providing employment for 15 Tsunami widows. The products are sold locally and generate income for the families.



MANDOOR NURSERY

Facilities at this playgroup are very basic. Teachers' wages are funded by OST.



Mandoor Nursery Building.

AMIRTHAGALI PLAYGROUP

The children meet in a temporary building with no resources. All the children come from Tsunami- affected families. At present we are funding the wages of the two teachers.

WELLIGAMA COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

The Weligama Methodist church runs this project. They are working to help Tsunami affected and poor local women to earn an income. A loan of £20.00 is given to each woman who then has to use it creatively to generate an income. Market produce, dried vegetables, textiles and handicrafts are some of the projects undertaken by the women. Rev Dareeju and his team visit

the women once a month and take the products back to Colombo and sell to members of the Colombo Methodist congregation.

BATTICALOA ASSISTANT

Rev Ranchan asked us if he could have an assistant as the 15 projects that involve him take up a lot of his time. Since January 2007 OST have funded the wages of an assistant Ms Thevaranjini Thomsan who is 32 years old. She did not have a job and is very grateful to us for providing her with an income.



ONGOING PROJECTS

TRINCO SPONSORSHIP SCHEME

38 children are being sponsored for £10.00 a month each. The conflict has meant that jobs at sea and in the jungle are prohibited and our funds are the only source of income for these families. We have 5 more families that we have tried to include for over a year now but access into Trinco town has made it difficult for Yasmin to open bank accounts for them. She is always positive and hopes to do so as soon as it is possible.

KALLADAY SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME

18 deaf and dumb families are benefiting from this programme. The children now have access to school resources. Having a disability is a double disadvantage for a poor family in the east.

There are 5 more families awaiting sponsorship. If you would like to make a real difference to the quality of life for a child in Batticaloa for £10.00 per

month then please do not hesitate to contact us.



Kalladay families send us their thanks.

ST VINCENT'S SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME

10 girls are enjoying extra music, maths and English lessons as well as having the funds to buy school resources thanks to this sponsorship scheme.



**SPONSORSHIP
SCHEMES
THANK YOU**

OST would like to thank all our sponsors in the UK, France and Spain for your continued support for our work. We hope that by now you have had contact with your sponsor family. As well as the financial benefit we hope that the programme will form cultural links between the nations. If you have had no contact from your family then please let us know. We can ask our contacts in Sri Lanka to follow it up.



Refugees take shelter in a church in Batticaloa.

GRACE CHILDRENS HOME

**£1400.00
NEEDED TO
COMPLETE
NEW
KITCHEN**

Heatherside Infant School has been raising money for the home since April 2005.

Mrs Nadarajah and the 20 children at this Home are always thanking us for our support. Situated in Vavuniya the conflict is around them all day long. Bomb blasts, shootings and massacres take place near the home. The only journey the children make daily is to school. The kitchen and dining area of the Home belongs to a local church and they have now told Mrs Nadarajah that they need the buildings back. She needs £6500 to build a new kitchen and dining area for the children. She has already obtained £4500 in funding so needs another £2000.00.

From Heatherside Christmas donations we were able to send the home an initial payment of £600.00. We hope to raise the remaining £1400 as soon as possible.

BATTICALOA LUNCH PROJECT

This project is funded by YUMMIES children's boutique in Brighton. It has been in place for 18 months. The parents of the children are grateful to YUMMIES for making a difference to the health and lives of these children. Many of these children would not be having a hot meal every day.



THOTEN PROJECT

We have been involved with this project since it was set up in March 2005. We have funded several strands of this project:

- Children's English classes
- Community assistants' English classes
- Community welfare society
- Women's programme: coir mat cottage industry
- Rebuilding of tsunami-damaged bakery.
- Weighing scale for local grocery store
- Rebuilding of Thotagamuwa cafeteria



Opening of post office in THOTEN village partly

funded by Ocean Stars.

FUND RAISING EFFORTS

St Luke's Brighton

St Luke's Infant School kindly donated their Christmas takings to Ocean Stars. The money has gone to buying tables and chairs for two playgroups in the east.

Many thanks to St Luke's for their continuing support of our work.

SAM'S CAR BOOT SALE

Following a presentation to 2nd Fleet Anchor Boys 9 year old Sam decided he wanted to help the children of Sri Lanka. With his mum's help Sam did a car boot sale, standing in the cold on a freezing winter's day and raised funds for us. His money has gone towards buying teaching resources for the children at a Batti nursery. Thank you Sam.

Location of Ocean Stars

Projects

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

- Grace Children's Home/Heatherside Link



- Batti/ St Vincent's Child
- Sponsorship scheme
- Batti/St Luke's School
- Batti Lunch Project
- Kurumanvely Nursery
- Kalkudah Nursery
- Mandoor Nursery
- Amirthagali Playgroup

- Thoten Environmental Project
- Thoten Educational Programme
- Thoten Well Being Village

- Weligama Sewing Machine Project
- Fishing Boat Project

Komari School linked With the Connaught School Aldershot