

# OCEAN STARS TRUST

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Registered Charity  
1110022

NEWSLETTER 7

2008 JUNE



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## Key Highlights:

- Over £70,000 has been raised so far
- Funding over 50 projects
- Ocean Stars operates 3 child sponsorship programmes which directly benefit over 50 families
- 20 teachers are being funded by OST
- Lunch project for 50 children at Urani Nursery
- A team of nine people from UK to visit OST projects in October 2008

## AYUBOWANG VANAKKAM HALLO

Dear Friends,

**Welcome to our new-style summer newsletter 2008.**

**By doing so we hope to keep our costs down. Our winter newsletter will have more details about individual projects.**

**We would like to thank as always our donors and supporters. Without you we could not carry out the work we do in Sri Lanka. We continually receive positive feedback from Sri Lanka.**

**As the ethnic conflict continues and investment in the east is sparse the people we support are truly grateful for our help. Rev Terence a superintendent minister recently wrote " I thank you for the wonderful work you are doing for the people of Sri Lanka."**

### OCEAN STARS TRIP 2008

A team of nine people are planning a trip to Sri Lanka in October 2008 to visit OST projects and work with the children in the playgroups.

We hope to spend 5 days in Batticaloa working with the nurseries that Ocean Stars sponsor. Games, arts and craft activities, songs and dance are some of the activities we plan to do whilst out there.

The team are busy fund-raising to take money out there with us to spend on projects on the ground. A curry evening on May 10<sup>th</sup> for 80 people raised £750.00.

A variety show is planned for the autumn as well as an all day breakfast, lunch and dinner.

### CURRENT WISH LIST:

- Five more sponsors needed for 5 teenage girls from poor families in Batticaloa at a cost of £10 a month.
- 4 more people required to sponsor 4 teachers @ £15 per month.
- 5 sponsors to set up our second lunch project @ £10.00 a month per person.
- School uniform for 15 children @ £2.50 per uniform= £37.50
- £43.00 towards the purchase of a cupboard for storage at a playgroup

### URANI LUNCH PROJECT

Following our appeal in our last letter we were lucky to find a sponsor for our lunch project for another year. We would however like to sustain this project for longer and would like interested donors to get in touch with us. We need 15 donors to commit to £10 a month to secure the future of this very successful project.



### ONGOING PROJECTS

- Provision of educational equipment, drinks and snacks for 10 playgroups in Batticaloa.
- Sewing/ painting project for refugee women in Batticaloa.
- Child sponsorship and teachers' wages



## Grace Children's Home Link

Heatherside Infant School in Fleet has been linked with Grace Children's Home since April 2005. Over the last three years the children have raised over £1000 for the Grace Children's Home. This home is situated in the North of Sri Lanka and is near the area of conflict. The children at the home are orphaned war refugees. Mrs Nadarajah the lady in charge works on her own and looks after the 25 children at the home. Over the last three years Heatherside Infant School has raised funds for 22 mattresses for the

children's beds (because they slept on wooden planks), desks and chairs for each child to do their homework, ward- robes for the children to hang their few belongings, play equipment, money towards the construction of an extra room for the children, a hi-fi set and a fridge.

Maureen Johnston who is a



teacher at the school is part of our Team 2008. Ocean Stars have been making regular presentations to the children as they prepare for their teacher to go to SL and visit Grace Home. Plans are in place to fund-raise for the home as well as to collect pens, crayons and drawing books for the team to take out.

## Wesley High School Link

Ocean Stars has linked Wesley High School in Sri Lanka with Calthorpe Park School in Fleet. In summer 2007 Calthorpe Park had a Charity walk day and raised over £1000.00 for Ocean Stars. Dilanee

and Janaki took this money and gave it to the Headmaster who needed funds to buy tables and chairs for the library, nursery school as well as help with funding two teachers' wages.

"The children now have tables and chairs to do their studies in the library"



## Farnborough Grange Primary School

Following a presentation by Ocean Stars in December 2007, the pupils of Farnborough Grange Primary school raised money to give Christmas presents to the pupils in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka.



## Batticaloa Curry Evening

On Saturday 10th May the Ocean Stars Team 2008 hosted an evening of spice, quiz and chicken curry. This was to raise funds for projects whilst in SL. The fundraising event replicated a typical meal served up for the children of the Batticaloa lunch project. On the menu was Dhal, Rotis, potato curry and popadums, all of which were cooked in a Sri Lankan style. Read on for some of the authentic recipes...

"It was such a happy occasion, and everyone seemed to be relishing the experience."



**Eastern Projects in Sri Lanka supported by St Luke's Primary School, Brighton**



**KURUMANVELY PLAYGROUP**

St Luke's Primary School has helped this playgroup by buying tables, chairs and educational materials for the 30 children who attend this playgroup. They have also purchased a cupboard for storing the resources.



**POONOCHIMUNAI PLAYGROUP**

St Luke's has funded the purchase of furniture and playgroup equipment for this nursery.

**KALKUDAH PLAYGROUP**

St Luke's has funded training for the two teachers Premalatha and Jayamalar to do their teacher training course.



**MANDOOR NURSERY**

Two bicycles were purchased for the teachers at this remote playgroup.

**Gift Aid**

If you are a new donor please contact us about receiving a Gift Aid form, and, 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.

"Last year Ocean Stars received over £5000 in gift aid"

**Ocean Stars Web-shop**

[www.buy.at/Oceanstars](http://www.buy.at/Oceanstars) Web shop

We would like to remind you to shop at [www.buy.at/Oceanstars](http://www.buy.at/Oceanstars). All you have to do is log on to our web shop at [www.buy.at/Oceanstars](http://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.

**Spicy Potatoes** as served at the Batticaloa Curry Evening

| <u>Ingredients:</u> |                     |  |
|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| 1lb                 | Potatoes            |  |
| 1                   | Onion               |  |
| 2 tsps              | Hot pepper powder   |  |
| 2 tblsps            | Oil                 |  |
| 1 clove (tsp)       | Garlic (Powder)     |  |
| 1 tsp               | Salt                |  |
| 1 tsp               | Sugar               |  |
| 1 tsp               | Mustard             |  |
| 2                   | Small green peppers |  |

Boil or bake potatoes. Peel off skin and cut into cubes. Slice onions and green pepper. Add the oil to a large pan and heat. Add onions and fry for a minute. Then add hot pepper powder, garlic, salt, sugar and mustard and stir in for about 2 minutes. Finally add potatoes and green pepper. Mix in and cook for 3 minutes.



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## Images from Projects:



**Batti Lunch Project**



**Vincent Girls School**  
Sponsor programme



## **Vellaimanal Playgroup**

Children singing the Hokey Cokey taught to them by Dilanee and Janaki on their visit in October 2007.

## Rotis

as served at the Batticaloa Curry Evening

Similar to the Indian flat breads, but this Sri Lankan version contains fresh grated coconut or, in its absence, desiccated coconut. Serve with curries and sambols. It is a popular breakfast in Sri Lanka.

### Ingredients:

|            |                          |
|------------|--------------------------|
| 2 Cups     | Roti flour, self-raising |
| ½ Cup      | Desiccated coconut       |
| 1 teaspoon | Salt                     |
| 1 Cup      | Water                    |
|            | Ghee or oil for cooking  |

Mix flour, coconut and salt in a mixing bowl. Add enough water to form a soft dough. Knead dough until it forms a ball and does not stick to sides of the bowl. Rest dough for approximately 30 minutes. Shape dough into balls, approximately the size of a golf ball. Pat each one out to a circle the size of a saucer. Cook on a hot griddle or in a heavy frying pan very lightly greased with ghee or oil.

## Fabric Painting Classes

Ocean Stars is sponsoring a project which helps women in poor communities earn an income by making fabric painted items for sale. The women are also involved in several other craft activities. These activities include sewing, glass painting and flower arranging. Through helping these women with such opportunities, Ocean Stars hopes that they can earn not only some money, but also gain a livelihood and contribute to the community in which they live.



***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.***

May God Bless you. Budhu Saranay.

|                           |                            |                              |                        |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Dilanee Bunter<br>Founder | Shona Holroyd<br>Treasurer | Janaki Jayasuriya<br>Trustee | Jo Barton<br>Secretary | John Bunter<br>Chairperson |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|

*Trustees of the Ocean Stars Trust, Registered Charity 1110022*