

OCEAN STARS TRUST

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www.oceanstars.org.uk

oceanstars2010bogspot.com



DECEMBER 2010

OST TEAMS VISIT SRI LANKA



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A MESSAGE FROM DILANEE

Welcome to our 11th newsletter. As we come to the end of our sixth year of operation I would like to say a heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in the work of Ocean Stars. We are truly making a difference to the lives of children and families in Sri Lanka. The changes are noticeable with each OST team visit. The teachers are



The welcome we received from the children and teachers alike in all the playgroups in Batti, from the boys at Grace and from the whole community in Trinco reinforced the important place that the Ocean Stars Trust plays in all their lives. The sponsorship programmes that help raise families just a little above the poverty line; the lunch projects that provide one good meal a day to the poorest of the poor; the fishing boats presented to the men to enable them to make their own livelihood and care for their own families; so many projects tailor made to suit the individual needs of each community.

Helena and Danny
Carter OST TEAM 2010



putting into practice all the interactive teaching methods they learn from team members. The children are more confident and the sponsor children are doing well academically. The lunch projects provide a hot meal for over 100 poor children. I would like to wish you all our donors and friends a Very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

KAT DUNBAR OST TEAM MEMBER reflects

I feel so lucky and privileged to have been able to be a part of the charity and to witness the impact Ocean Stars has had on so many families. I will cherish all that I experienced out in Sri Lanka, and having seen how the charity can improve people's lives and having felt the Sri Lankan people's warmth and kindness I am inspired to do all that I can to continue helping where I can, and raising money for the charity. I have been so touched by the way the people welcomed us into their lives with such generosity



Kat hosts a Pampered Chef Party to raise funds for Ocean Stars.

Special points of interest:

- Over £160,000 raised so far and currently funding over 25 projects.
- The roads to the east have been rebuilt so travelling times have changed dramatically for OST Teams.
- A waiting list of 28 playgroups that want to work under Ocean Stars.
- Scottish supporters of OST provide fishing boats and a market garden for the community of Vellaimanal in Trinco.
- Shona Ho Iroyd steps down from her role as Treasurer.
- Two new trustees join board of OST.
- Ocean Stars 3rd Gift Catalogue out this Christmas
- 300 Children received uniforms from Christmas gift catalogue donations 2009

OST DRIVERS RANGA, SUDHA AND JANAKA

I shall remember the skill and tirelessness of the drivers



Without the hard work, dedication, caring and endless driving of our three drivers Ocean Stars could not do the work we do in Sri Lanka. Janaka said that working for Ocean Stars brings him "deep joy" because he can visibly see the difference we make to the communities we work with.

Children enjoying craft activities during team visits to playgroups.





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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE PLAYGROUP CHILDREN FROM VELVILVI PRE-SCHOOL SORU-



The children listen intently to the story of the Rainbow Fish being read in Tamil and English.



Playtime was followed by group activities of play dough, Duplo, playing with musical instruments and playing pretend trains.



OST team enjoy an array of curries especially the okra curry cooked by Annie one of the mums of the children who attend playgroup.



OST Team of Dilanee, Georgia, Maureen and Suzi travelled with Ranchan for two hours to reach this very remote playgroup.



The children move on to making their own rainbow fish with glitter, tissue paper and glue.



The children walk up to a kilometre home on their own as there is no transport in this remote village and therefore no safety issues for walking home.



The playgroup building was donated by a foreign NGO that has now left so the community has no support from anybody.



The children sing songs about the ocean and fish.



Rushky goes home with her teddy and bag of gifts



They had no possessions.



The morning activities start with circle time where the children are able to relax and get to know the team.



A mid day meal is provided each day by a small group of mothers who have a rota. This would be the main meal of the day for most of the children.



Another morning draws to a close for OST Team. Ranga packs the bags onto the mini bus. The children have gone home and a group of mothers cook an amazing meal for the team.



Play-time follows meal.

Through visiting Rushky's home we were able to begin to understand how she lives on a day to day basis. Life for this family, as well as for many of the other families that Ocean Stars works alongside, is touched through the friendship and partnership of the OST visits. By receiving an education from a young age OST hopes that the Rushky's future will be nourished with perception and ambition. By being welcomed into Rushky's home a sense of pride and honour was felt and I'm sure the occasion was unforgettable for everyone involved.



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Hallo Ayubowang

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My head is a kaleidoscope of images. Most of all I feel privileged to have shared in a small part of these people's lives and humbled by the contrast between their meagre material possessions and the huge joy and generosity they show.

Chris Cooper



Member Team 2010

OST first worked with Melussa when she was aged 2 and attended Urani Nursery. She still looks forward to OST visits every year and takes a day off school to spend the day with the team each year. Melussa is now aged 7.



Last year OST raised over £1550 in Gift Aid.

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 .

THANK YOU

The Trustees would like to say a warm thank you to all our Scottish supporters led by tireless Helen Oliver and Sheila Duncan for all their fund raising efforts for Ocean Stars. Money raised by them provided the community in Vellaimanal with fishing boats so that the men folk could restart fishing which had been banned during the conflict. Helen, Sheila, Jan and



their team spent a morning training teachers in art and craft activities in Batticaloa in July 2010. Pictured right are the UK OST Team with the local Ocean Stars Team from Batticaloa.



A market garden was also opened by the OST Team. This project in Vellaimanal has been funded by our Scottish supporters and will enable the community to grow their own products and sell them at local markets.



THANK YOU SHONA: After five years of being Treasurer of Ocean Stars Shona steps down as she moves with her family to Aberdeen from Fleet. The trustees would like to thank Shona for her tireless energy and enthusiasm for Ocean Stars and wish her and the family all the best as they start their new life in Scotland. We are delighted to welcome Ben Carter as our new Treasurer. Ben comes to us with a background in finance and we wish him well in his new position.



THANK YOU HANDY MAN DANNY

The playgroups that are lucky enough to have handy man Danny visit them are so grateful for the transformations he creates in a morning's work. Visits to local timber yards, ironmongers, hard-



ware stores are second nature now to Danny. Putting up shelves, fixing broken see-saws and swings,

mounting ceiling fans are all in a day's work for the OST DIY crew.



TEDDIES TEDDIES TEDDIES

Each year the OST Team take with them teddies knitted by people all over the UK to give to children in Sri Lanka. Team 2010 took over 600 teddies with them this October. For a child who has no toys a teddy gives them something to cuddle and hold and possess. If any one would like to knit teddies for us then please do so and get in touch with us to arrange collection. If you would like to knit a teddy for Ocean Stars then you can find the pattern at

www.teddiesfortragedies.com



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OST have made so many people so happy.



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Web shop

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.



OCEAN STARS TEACHER TRAINING DAY



Teachers working at the 14 playgroups that Ocean Stars supports really value meeting the Team and learning new methods for working with children. Two teacher training sessions have been run this year by teams visiting Sri Lanka. We are looking for people to sponsor the wages of a teacher for £15 a month. The teachers are able to provide an income for their families as well developing personally and professionally.

COCONUT SAMBOL INGREDIENTS:



2 cups scraped, fresh coconut or desiccated coconut (add 1/4 cup of warm water and mix well to moisten the desiccated coconut).

2 small pearl onions or shallots, sliced.
1 small green chilli, sliced.

1 clove garlic, sliced.

1-2 tsp hot red chilli powder.

1 tsp salt.

1 medium lime.

METHOD:

- Grind or chop all ingredients except coconut, in a grinder or chopper (a mortar & pestle can also be used).
- Once the ingredients are crushed and mixed thoroughly, add the coconut.
- Continue to grind until the coconut turns evenly red and all ingredients are well mixed. (This can also be done with fingers).
- Squeeze half a lime. Mix well.
- Taste and adjust salt & lime.
- Serve with rice and curries.



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 address on page 1. We will continue to keep you updated with our work.

May God Bless you. Budhu Saranay.

Dilaneer Bunter: Founder, John Bunter: Chairman, Ben Carter: Treasurer, Jo Barton: Secretary

Janaki Jayasuriya: Trustee, Maureen Johnston: Trustee, Bron Lambert: Trustee, Matthew Marshall: Trustee

