

“A man never stands as tall as when he kneels to help a child”

Arobanam Children Fund

Charity No: 1082803



Supporting Children in need in North and East of Sri Lanka

Welcome to the Arobanam Children Fund Newsletter – October 2011

Our new project, in support of VAROD (Vanni Association for Rehabilitation of the Disabled)

This project helps disabled children and children with disabled parents. Children without limbs are struggling to live their lives with dignity. In Kilinochchi VAROD is helping these families, under the guidance of Fr. Arulraj and Arobanam Children Fund is now looking after 50 of these children.

Please sponsor one of these children. It costs £15/month; just 50p a day. Such a minute amount of money can help these children be nurtured and cared for.

New Home

The Arobanam Children's Home building in Mannar is now complete. Mannar District Court has asked DWF (Destitute Welfare Fund) to accommodate 20 boys who were originally displaced from Kilinochchi.

These boys, on average 15 years of age, have behaviour problems and therefore cannot be housed with other younger children.

DWF needs to arrange permanent accommodation for these boys elsewhere before the new building can be utilised to its maximum potential.

We still need to furnish this building; and are looking for funds to achieve this.



Special Meal for Adampan Children

In June some of our foster care children were treated to a special meal. It was prepared in memory of a long standing ACF sponsor who, sadly, died unexpectedly. With the help of the DWF staff 120 children enjoyed this special meal. We would like to encourage others to make similar gestures on their loved ones' special dates, such as birthdays, anniversaries and other notable days.



Handing Out Assistance

It is in the nature of the foster care scheme that children are looked after in their own homes. Often they have lost the bread winner. There are currently 89,000 widows in the NE of Sri Lanka. Through funding DWF are able to supply the children with educational material and dry rations, and in some cases, money also.



In Chilean poet Gabriela Mistral's words:

Many things we need can wait, The child cannot.

Now is the time, His bones are being formed.

His blood is being made, His mind is being developed.

To him we cannot say tomorrow, His name is today.

Urgent Appeal

We are looking for sponsors for children living in remote villages around the Mankulam area. These children have lost their Fathers. Currently, 89,000 widows are struggling to feed their children without a stable income.

Arobanam Children Fund is caring for 160 of these children via its contingency fund, but cannot sustain this in the long run. Can you sponsor one of these children and help make a difference? Please do!

Dragon Boat Race Event

A massive thank you to all who took part in our charity fundraiser on 16th July 2011 at London Regatta Centre. Unfortunately the bad weather conditions impacted the amount of fundraising we were able to achieve. Hopefully, with next year's weather, we will have better luck!

The event saw 11 teams compete throughout the afternoon while entertainment on dry land included a BBQ, bouncy castle, kids activities, henna stall, massage stall, face painting and threading stalls.

Although it was a rather 'wet' day and despite all the other teams' best efforts, 'Double 5' stormed ahead down the Thames in just over 1 minute beating the runners up with only seconds to spare!

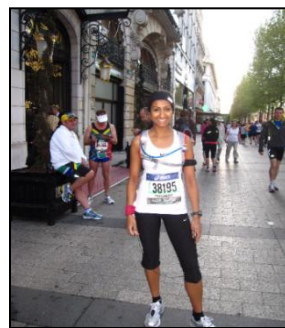


FUNDRAISING NEWS

Paris Marathon

Our congratulations and big thank you to Prashanthy Shankar (right), for raising over £3500 for ACF. She successfully ran the Paris Marathon and we are currently working with her to see where this money will benefit the most. We hope you will run for us again in the future Prashanthy!

"Running the Paris Marathon was an amazing experience ... I ran the course in 4hrs 10mins (position 1591 out of 6129). Thanks to people's generosity, I have raised £3500."



British 10K Run

A further congratulations and thank you to Sivani Senthilkumar, our fellow ACF member, who ran the British 10K in July and raised £1,285 for ACF. Furthermore; Schroder Investment Management Limited, the company she works for, generously matched this by donating a further £1,000!



Future events

In March 2012 (date to be confirmed), we are hosting our 17th Annual Charity Dinner event in East London. Join us to celebrate this event and to find out how we are helping our children with your funding and continued support. Please see www.arobanam.org for further details.

**For further information please email: Rama vijayanathanr@yahoo.co.uk Thenuka thenup@hotmail.com
Please send all correspondence to: Arobanam Children Fund, 29 Helmsdale Road, London SW16 5UT.
Together We Can Make A Difference!**