



Sukhita Child

2013 - Newsletter

www.sukhitachild.org

Reg. Charity No: SC03755

Welcome to the third edition of the Sukhita Child Annual Newsletter aimed at giving our generous sponsors feedback on the various projects that we are involved in. It gives us great pleasure with your help to be able to support these projects. Many under privileged children benefit from the funding that we give through your donations.

Manacare

2013 has seen many challenges for Manacare, the village of hopes and dreams. With the exceptional work being undertaken with children, the word has spread throughout the country! On one occasion a lady arrived at Manacare with her young daughter, having travelled in excess of 7 hrs on a bus. She approached Joy asking 'are you the woman who can perform miracles', and then handing her daughter to Joy!! Support to this girl and her mother was provided by the physiotherapy service that is provided on a part time basis at the village.

Many children now come to Manacare where they learn English; dance; music; art; receive physiotherapy & simply to have fun in a safe environment. One young girl from Manacare recently won a national dance award, even although she was competing against privileged Sri Lankan children from dance schools. Such an achievement!! Those with special needs who have their own home at Manacare continue to thrive in such a positive environment. Joy recently achieved custody of a young boy from a government orphanage. They said he would never smile! Well after a few months, not only does he smile, but he laughs & is enthralled by the trees moving with the wind and also now eagerly awaits his favourite scheduled TV programmes. It is amazing how a little love & attention transforms a life!



The sewing, soap & candle making continues with a fairly steady income stream. Indeed at 18,000 bars of soap produced per month, the soap wing is now self-sustaining!! It is really important to remember that the ladies who work at Manacare are from impoverished families, who now receive a good salary for their work.

With global economic challenges, businesses try to seek more products at a cheaper cost, however Joy continues to ensure viability for Manacare.

The maid's course for orphaned girls has proven very successful. All six students on the course passed and now have paid carer's. 5 now work in the Far East and 1 in Sri Lanka. Unfortunately due to funding, this educational programme has been temporarily suspended due to priority funding issues. This means that we need to continue our efforts to support Manacare towards self-sufficiency!!

Therefore we will provide a:

- Specialist physiotherapy massaging light. This is a specific item that is needed to support the children who have limb problems. The lamp, coupled with intensive physiotherapy will help those children to eventually & hopefully walk unaided.
- Specialist sewing machine to allow the sewing ladies greater ability to expand their product range and provide a higher quality of specialist sewing products. This will in turn support potential increased income opportunities.
- A number of specialist soap drying trays to allow the products an increasing appeal to international businesses.
- A sustained amount to restore the children's dance stage at Manacare which has become unsafe and unusable, complete with curtains.
- A supply of infant medication for 6 months. This will support a new baby at Manacare, born with a hole in her heart. After successful surgery recently, our pledge to fund all medication will ensure full recovery & survival of the baby.

The village of Hopes & Dreams continues on, helping those who are unable to help themselves.



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Child Action Lanka (CAL)



In Kelaniya we held our first Father's workshop meeting, in time for Father's Day. We were de-lighted that fifteen fathers attended. The children had made cards and bookmarks for them and gave them cake and juice to enjoy. Project Manager Dilhani spoke to the men about the importance of the role of a father in a family and how important they are to the children. She told them that a child's father is their hero and that they long to look up to them. She also emphasized the importance of spending time with the children make them feel valued.

The response from the fathers was incredible, they were so touched by the event. It was very moving to see them receive gifts from their children. Whilst many of them struggle in many, many ways – with anger, alcohol, lack of jobs and regular income and so on, we recognize that also many of them have never had any encouragement whatsoever to get on in life. They too were neglected and brought up in a context of violence, abuse and poverty. The impact of a morning of encouragement and support was life-changing. Below is a story from one of the mothers following the event;



A mother's story following the Kelaniya Father's Day Workshop:

"My husband is drinking, that is a habit, somehow or other he finds money and drinks. Even on holidays he needs to drink. He won't spend time with children, most days he fights with me, and my children are living in fear. But after he came to this programme,

his life has changed. He decided to stop drinking gradually. The whole of last week he didn't drink, he spent time with kids. He told me 'I want to be my children's hero.' Now my kids are happy. He goes to work now and brings money home. I am so grateful."

Spotlight on Killinochchi

It almost goes without saying that for many of the children CAL's centres are a lifeline of food, opportunity and most importantly, hope. The contrast in the children between how they are when they start to visit the centres and who they become can be startling.

At Adventure Killi, there are two brothers Suranjen* and Jay* whose home life is so violent they spend as much of their time as possible at the centre, either playing cricket or in classes with Ramesh, the centre's manager.

As a pair they're a hilarious double act, always laughing, joking and creating mild mischief. At home, they are completely the opposite – silent, and subdued, afraid of being beaten. Their father has two wives, and their mother lives further north, in Jaffna. Every day they are among the first to arrive and the last to leave, often wearing the same clothes, day after day. For them, the CAL centre in Killi isn't just a place to learn, but a safe haven from the reality of their daily lives, and a place they can come and truly thrive.



Last year Sukhita Child ring fenced £1200 in the event that CAL would purchase a bus for outreach IT education. The funding would pay for a teacher for a year. They now have the bus and we are delighted to say we have sent the money along with a further £2500 to fully equip the bus with a generator, electrical wiring, lighting, cooling fans and laptop tables.



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S~H~A~R~E

Medicine in the jungle – SHARE- Kalutara

It is with great pleasure that I share my thoughts with all our Well-wishers, Donors, Trustees, Center Management Officials and all the Clinical Staff as well as other Staff who rally round with enthusiasm and vigor to keep this unique entity march forward with more determination each year commencing from its humble beginnings.

The SHARE Foundation Sri-Lanka started only with one Community Health centre at Kotahena and over the years expanded steadily opening 2 more centres in Kalutara and Alagollawe and also a Day Centre for the children and adults of the differently abled community. In the year 2004 the devastating Tsunami which left a massive trail of Death, Sorrow and Destruction of Properties and Livelihoods of unexpected and un-imaginable magnitude gave SHARE Foundation an opportunity to get involved with the victims in a big way providing Medical/Nursing Assistance, Counselling Service and Livelihood Assistance to the much needed Fishing Community.

In the North Central Province the poor got exposed to another life threatening calamity which had been silently killing so many villagers, mainly farmers who were hitherto leading a peaceful, healthy and contented life with their meagre earnings. This chronic Kidney Disease of unknown origin was taking its toll in large numbers subjecting so many people to the miserable and agonizing path to a Trail of Death. It was a very big challenge to Health Authorities and at this juncture SHARE felt the urgent need to support the families of the victims who undergo a double blow of losing the Bread Winner's earnings on one side and the need for large amount of money for the treatment for the kidney Disease.



Apart from providing Medical and Financial Assistance SHARE embarked on another area connected to this dreaded disease by providing Rain Water Collection Tanks to enable the selected families to have pure, filtered water avoiding the well water which may contain the suspected Chemical Elements that may cause this Disease.



Our young and energetic Project Manager had been supervising these projects with lot of commitment and care. The Share Foundation has therefore come a long way to help so many innocent victims of circumstances, nature's fury and other situations which make them especially the sick and the old to be more vulnerable and hapless. It is indeed the unstinted support of all our Stake Holders from around the globe in their possible manner and possible time had seen the Share Foundation to be recognized as one of the Leading Charity Organization in Sri Lanka paving way for Our Government and His Excellency the President to confer the Approved Charity Status.



In conclusion, whilst being proud of our achievements, we understand the need for more commitment and determination to continue our journey with more vigour and enthusiasm. I also confirm that all of us at the Share Foundation will continue to serve the poor and hapless victims of illness and old age to lead a peaceful and dignified life in the twilight of their lives.

Dr S Udayakumar JP
Secretary- Share Foundation Sri Lanka



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Special Task Force (STF)

We committed our support to STF orphans in 2007. To date we have 45 children funded on 5 year educational scholarships. The children continue to receive monthly bursary amounts directly from the fully accountable and audited STF Welfare Fund.

As mentioned in our 2012 newsletter, our scholarship funds continue to gain a high interest yield each month. This to further help those STF families requiring additional financial support.

Following from our previous updates, it came to our attention that 1 officer and family that we previously supported had been forced to move from their home. They had no running water as their outside water well had dried due to a reduction in the water table. We provided resources to drill a new modern well to ensure the stability of his family. During this time, focus came upon his daughter, a young and very intelligent girl who had dreams of becoming a Doctor, to help people like her father. Regrettably however, the family could not fund her educational programme. We gladly stepped in to fund his daughter on a 2 year educational scholarship. We will continue to monitor her progress and that of the family.

The Sacred Heart Convent - Sister Alex

Sister Alex continues her tireless work in Galle to support tsunami widows; tsunami orphans and those in need. She tries to ensure income streams for her humanitarian work, however she suffers many setbacks, from rats infesting her mushroom crop to seeking ways from which to help those destitute children and adults alike who arrive at the convent seeking food.

We are completely humbled by the work of Sister Alex, who puts her commitment to people before her own physical health. We have released a further £2,500 to Sister Alex to continue her necessary work.

These funds will secure:

- Full sponsorship for 50 orphaned children for the following 6 month period;
- Supplies of Rice for 12 months;
- Polythene sheeting for her Mushroom project;
- Medication supplies;
- Powdered milk for children in need.

Charity Ceilidh on Saturday 14th SEPT 2013

It is now only 4 weeks away from the annual Ceilidh event and what a night it is shaping to be! We have "Scotland's Ceilidh Band" on centre stage again this year, ready to jig the night away. Good food and excellent company will also be the order of the night.

This year again, we will be running a charity auction on the night, however with one difference. Due to interest communicated, we will open all auction items to advance bid commitments (similar to the format at any official auctioneers). In other words, anyone can place a bid commitment with me in advance of 14 Sept. So if you are attending the Ceilidh & wish to remain anonymous with your bid or for those who are unable to attend the Ceilidh, there is an advanced opportunity to pledge a bid on any item of your choice! If you are successful on the night, you will receive your auction item. It is as simple as that. Some of the prices include;

Opera Tickets, Football Merchandise, 4-ball at Turnhouse, Signed Whiskey by the first minister, Concert Tickets.

For full details visit our website www.sukhitachild.org

Ceilidh Tickets are priced at £10 and are available by contacting one of the trustees.



Having fun at 2012 Ceilidh

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