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



# Arobanam Children Fund Newsletter – May 2019 http://www.arobanam.co.uk

Tamil Information Centre's Mr. Vairamuttu Varathakumar

(With Sadness We Remember Our Friend who was Dedicated to the Tamil Cause)



Soon after Black July, the 1983 anti-Tamil pogrom and riots in Sri Lanka; the Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora were in urgent need of information relating to their families' and friends' whereabouts and safety back home.

In response to this need and towards obtaining funding to support the massive Tamil refugee population in Sri Lanka, Mr. Varathakumar, together with several other like-minded people founded the Tamil Information Centre, in Clapham North, in 1984. Several committee members of Arobanam Children Fund were fortunate to have known and worked alongside him in the 1980s.

Mr. Varathakumar proved to be the driving force of this centre. His dedication to obtaining all the necessary information from Sri Lanka and assuring its authenticity drove him with a unique determination. He distanced himself from a materialistic lifestyle and prioritized his own health needs and family life as secondary requirements.

Through his wholehearted single-mindedness and his service to our community, spanning nearly 40 years, he will be remembered as one in pursuit of unity and community development which in turn has bequeathed our Tamil community with his lasting legacy, the Tamil Information Centre.

## ACF Annual Event 2019

Thank you to everyone who attended our 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at the Shiraz Mirza Hall, Manor Park, New Malden. We had a good turn out and guests were entertained with music recitals through the evening and our famous American Auction. The brochure will be available on the website to download shortly.



For further information, please contact one of our committee members at: Arobanam Children Fund, 29 Helmsdale Road, London, SW16 5UT E-mail: Rama: <u>vijayanathanr@yahoo.co.uk</u>, Thenuka: <u>thenup@hotmail.com</u> Together We Can Make A Difference

## London Marathon 2019

We are so happy to announce that **Christena Shivashanker** successfully ran and finished the London Marathon! Despite injuring her knee at mile 19 and as a result had to visit first aid every mile after, Tina still pressed on in order to stay true to her promise to the children of ACF and to those who donated and supported her. Arobanam is truly grateful that she chose to take on this challenge to help the children and sincerely thank all her efforts.



#### Welcome Home - Annaikodai

Arobanam has recently started to support a program run by Sister Rajesh who is caring for abused young girls. Welcome Home in Annaikodai currently houses 7 young girls who have come in to the care of the Home by direction of the Courts and Probation Office. In essence these young girls are teenage unwed mothers or soon to be mothers. Arobanam is keen to support these young girls and their babies and is currently assessing the best way to offer the right assistance.

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Please call +44 (0)20 8764 4948 if you have any queries. When completed, please return to Mr V Ramakrishnan (Chairman), Arobanam Children Fund, 21 Yew Tree Bottom Road, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 3NE. We will then send this form onto your bank. Please allow at least 2 weeks between the date you fill this form and the date of your first payment. Thank you.

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