

*“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 – March 2015

Arobanam Children Fund web-site: [www.arobanam.com](http://www.arobanam.com)

### **A Special Night of Celebration!**

Our “20 Year Journey Update & Charity Dinner” was held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at Oakington Manor School in Wembley, Middlesex, UK.

Our patron, Rev. Fr James Pathinathan graced this very special occasion together with ACF’s present & passed members, sponsors and supporters.

Special effort was taken to highlight our 20 years of work, with the destitute children, through a gallery of photos that depicted important events in each year of its existence. Personal letters and artwork from the children were on display. In addition all female committee members wore blue stonework sarees (purchased by the members) that had been hand decorated by the children in Mankulam as part of their handy-craft project.



As in all our annual events, the programme started with the traditional lighting of the “kuththu vilakku” and the observance of a minute silence in respect of all who lost their lives in the Sri Lankan civil war.

The chairman, in his speech, took the audience through from ACF-UK’s inception to its current status. In the main, it covered the reason for raising £1,200, through its first hat collection, twenty years ago (to support the then Long’s Institute, which is now currently Arobanam Boys Home in Kilinocchi) to how it has evolved to today’s structured approach of raising funds through its sponsorship and foster care schemes and special fund-raising events .

Committee members presented details of ACF’s current state and future needs via a sketch video and slide presentations and highlighted the urgent need to find sponsors in order to ensure that support for our children is maintained for as long as there is a need. At present 232 children are supported through our contingency funds.

For further information, please contact one of our committee members at:

Arobanam Children Fund, 29 Helmsdale Road, London, SW16 5UT

E-mail: Rama: [vijayanathanr@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:vijayanathanr@yahoo.co.uk), Thenuka: [thenup@hotmail.com](mailto:thenup@hotmail.com)

Together We Can Make A Difference

Our patron Fr James Pathinathan stated in his keynote speech that although Sri Lanka has undergone many constructional developments in recent times and given itself a “facelift” (whilst giving the impression that all is well with the country and its people), it should not deflect us from the important task that still remains: caring for the basic needs of the parentless children. He appealed to the UK community to help close the shortfall in sponsors by taking on new sponsorships. Furthermore, he emphasized that there are more than 80,000 female headed families currently struggling in the North and East of Sri Lanka.



Following our popular raffle draw the main part of our evening was rounded off with a delicious traditional Tamil dinner.

Excellent live entertainment was provided by vocalist Rachael Rajan and saxophonist Praveena Ravindrakumar.



Your contribution and support has so far enabled us to achieve the following:

- Invest approximately £1.5 million to support the children’s needs
- Assist 642 children with their day-to-day needs (including 7 day care centres with 142 infants)
- Produce 28 university graduates (including a lawyer)
- Produce a successful singer/musician (released her first CD in Sri Lanka in 2014)
- Assist 14 university students on courses (including Engineering and Management Degrees)
- Set up building projects to renovate children’s homes in need of urgent repair
- Distribute bicycles to provide urgent transport to school
- Provide milk, on a daily basis, for children under 12 years at Mahadeva Ashram in Kilinochchi
- Set up emergency relief appeals, such as Tsunami 2004, food parcel distributions in 2009, flood disaster to name a few.

Please remember that there are currently 232 children being sponsored through our contingency funds. This is not sustainable in the long-term & as such, we are in urgent need of sponsors. Please don’t wait; complete a standing order form now and visit our website [www.arobanam.com](http://www.arobanam.com).



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E-mail: Rama: [vijayanathanr@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:vijayanathanr@yahoo.co.uk), Thenuka: [thenup@hotmail.com](mailto:thenup@hotmail.com)  
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## We Need Your Help to Rebuild Arobanam Boys Home

As you may recall from our December newsletter, Arobanam Boys Home, set up in Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka was severely damaged by bombings and shell attacks in early 2009 and had to be shut down, with many of the staff and children missing in action.

Although we have recently reopened the Home, it requires substantial rebuilding. The Home has the potential to accommodate over 130 children however, due to the damage, only 30 boys are presently able to live here in a small area that has been restored. With your help, we can rebuild this Home to its former glory and enable it to operate at maximum capacity.



### Don't forget about our Milk Appeal...

ACF identified some of our children lacked basic nutrition necessary for a healthy diet.

So, to tackle this problem we set up a Milk Aid Initiative.

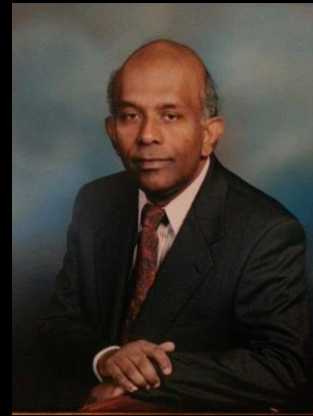
The appeal ensures children under 12 years of age will be provided with a fresh cup of milk every day.

Please visit our website and donate towards this great cause as follows:

1. Go to [www.arobanam.com](http://www.arobanam.com)
2. Select the "Urgent Appeal" tab
3. Click on "Please click to donate to support the Milk Aid Initiative"

Thank you to all those who have already donated, we can report that the total raised (including gift aid) currently stands at £2,356.25!

On 8<sup>th</sup> February 2015 a dear friend and long-time supporter of ACF, Dr K Nirmalakumaran sadly passed away.



Nirmalan, as he was affectionately known to us, was not only a sponsor but also assisted our University Students over the past 10 years. He had a special interest in the further education of these students and his legacy will live on in each of them. The compassion he showed to ACF will never be forgotten.

May his soul rest in peace.

# “உதவுவதால் மனிதன் உயர்வடைகிறான்”

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## ஆரோபணம் சிறுவர் நிதியம் - செய்தித்தாள் பங்குனி 2015

### சிறப்பு நிகழ்வு

எமது 20 வது ஆண்டு சிறப்பு நிகழ்வு கடந்த மாசி மாதம் 28ம் திகதி Wembley, Middlesex, UK இல் இடம்பெற்றது.

போஷகர் அருட்தந்தை ஜேம்ஸ் அவர்களும் அங்கத்தவர்கள்களும், நலன்விரும்பிகளும் பிரசன்னமளித்து இச் சிறப்பு நிகழ்வுக்கு மெருகூட்டினர்.

எமது 20 வருடச் சேவைப் பயணத்தின் சிறப்பம்சங்களைச் சித்தரிக்கும் படங்களை உள்ளடக்கிய சிறிய பதாகைகள், மற்றும் கைவிடப்பட்ட சிறார்களின் தனிப்பட்ட கடிதங்கள், அவர்களால் வரையப்பட்ட ஓவியங்கள் போன்றவையும் அங்கு பார்வைக்கு வைக்கப் பட்டதுடன் அவர்களின் இலட்சியங்களை வெளிப்படுத்தும் கானொணிகளும் காட்டப்பட்டன. மற்றும் எமது செயற்குழுவின் பெண் உறுப்பினர் அனைவரும் மாங்குளத்தில் எம்மால் பராமரிக்கப்படும் இல்லத்திலுள்ள சிறார்களினால் அவர்களின் கைத்தொழில் சாலையில் அலங்கரிக்கப்பட்ட நில நிற சேலைகளை விலைக்கு வாங்கி அணிந்திருந்தமை சிறார்களை ஊக்குவிப்பதாகவும் பார்வையாளர் கண்களுக்குக் குளிர்சி ஊட்டுவதாகவும் இருந்தமை குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது.

நிகழ்வுமங்கல விளக்கேற்றலுடனும் தாய் மண்ணில் உயிர் நீத்த மக்களுக்காக ஒரு நிமிட மௌன அனுஷ்டிப்புடனும் ஆரம்பமாகியது.

தலைவர் தனது தலைமை உரையின் போது, எமது நிதியத்தின் ஆரம்பம் நண்பர்களின் உதவியுடன் ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டு எவ்வாறு இன்று ஒரு கட்டுக்கோப்பான அறக்கட்டளையாகப் பயணித்து வருகிறது என்பதை விளக்கினார். அத்துடன் தற்போது 232 சிறார்கள் நிரந்தர ஆதரவாளர்கள் (sponsors) இல்லாது தற்காலிக நிதியினால் பராமரிக்கப்படுகிறார்கள் என்பதையும் அவர்களுக்க நிரந்தர ஆதரவாளர்கள் (sponsors) பெறவேண்டியதற்கான அவசியத்தையும் விளக்கினார்.

அருட்தந்தை ஜேம்ஸ் அவர்கள் தனது சிறப்புரையின்போது நாட்டில் தற்போது பல முன்னேற்றங்கள் இடம்பெற்றபோதும் பெற்றோர் இல்லாத சிறுவர்களினது வாழ்வில் மாற்றம் ஏற்படவில்லை என்பதை விளக்கியதோடு தற்போது வடக்கு, கிழக்கு இலக்கனையில் 80,000 இற்கு மேற்பட்ட குடும்பங்கள் தலைவனை இழந்த நிலையில் பெண்கள் தலைமையில் பல இடைஞ்சல்களுக்கு உள்ளாகியுள்ளன என்றும் கூறினார்

அதனைத் தொடர்ந்து சுவையான உணவு வழங்கப்பட்டு பின்னர் இன்னிசை, வேடிக்கை நிகழ்சிகள் நடைபெற்று நிகழ்வு இனிதே நிறைவேறியது.



## Sponsoring A Child

Sponsoring a child costs just £15 per month. That's only 50p a day. Just think of the difference you can make to a child's life by giving such a small amount. You will be touching a child's heart in the most profound way possible, by helping to provide him or her with a better future. We have well over 200 children awaiting sponsorship in Mannar, Mankulam, Kilinochchi (including Arobanam Boys Home) and Batticaloa.

PLEASE DON'T WAIT - complete a standing order form now. Furthermore, at no cost to yourself, if you tick our Gift Aid Donations (GAD) section, it allows ACF to receive money from the Inland Revenue also. Don't delay – please contact us via the ACF email address if you need further clarification. Visit our new website: [www.arobanam.com](http://www.arobanam.com)

### Arobanam Sponsorship Scheme

#### STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To the Manager



Name of Bank: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City & Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay: Lloyds TSB, New Malden Surrey KT3 4EX  
For the credit of: Arobanam Children Fund Charity Reg No: 1082803  
A/C No: 02144743 Sort Code. 30-94-77 Ref No. 78721-6-9477

The sum of (in words): \_\_\_\_\_

Pounds (£15/per child): \_\_\_\_\_

On the \_\_\_\_\_ (day), \_\_\_\_\_ (month), \_\_\_\_\_ (year)  
And thereafter every month until further notice and debit my account accordingly.

Name of account-holder to be debited: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Sort Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like tax to be reclaimed on my donation under the Gift Aid Scheme. I am a UK tax payer and pay a sum of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that can be reclaimed on my donation.

Please tick: YES  NO

Tel No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

For future communication please provide your email address. It's the only way you can receive our newsletter.  
Be assured that we will never pass your Tel No./email address onto third parties.

**If you have any queries please call 01372 812 595.**

When completed, please return to:

**Mr V Ramakrishnan (Chairman), Arobanam Children Fund, 108 Manor Green Road, Epsom, Surrey KT19 8LN.**

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.

**The information you provide on this form is subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998.**