

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



Arobanam Children Fund Newsletter – July 2020

<http://www.arobanam.co.uk>

Unprecedented times for us all

We hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well during these uncertain times. While here in the UK we hope to be returning to normality, there still remains a long road to recovery for all and the lasting effect of the COVID-19 pandemic will be felt for many years. Sri Lanka and other countries across the world are no exception. Over the last couple of months, ACF has been working with local partners to deliver urgent relief and support to families who have been worst affected with an allocation of over £5,100. Thank you to everyone who donated and supported our appeals so far.

Our urgent appeal to support families affected by COVID-19 is still ongoing

Sri Lanka and India entered lock down in third week of March 2020 and Madurai has been under a second lock down since 23rd June, with no sign of restrictions easing. With the help of ACF supporters we have utilised over £3,800 to directly fund food rations to the Jaffna, Mannar districts in Sri Lanka and the Madurai district in South India. Thankfully, the situation in Sri Lanka is now returning to normal and daily wage earners are returning to work. However, we are still receiving requests from Madurai, for assistance so have kept our appeal page open, please do share our appeal with friends and family so we can help more people recover from this unfortunate situation. Link to appeal: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/COVID19Appeal>



- We worked with authorities in Sri Lanka to ensure dry rations were provided and distributed evenly and there were no duplications with similar NGO initiatives. Our partners worked tirelessly and distributed rations during curfews by obtaining special permits which also helped recipients in a big way
- In Madurai, we delivered dry rations and vegetables to families of ACF assistance programme and we are in the process of organising further deliveries to this community to an approximate value of £1,300

Status of our homes during COVID-19

Firstly, we are pleased to report that all children and families are safe. During lock down children either remained under the direct care of the homes or stayed with relatives. ACF continuously aided homes with a view to keep carers and other employees in continuous employment. According to the Government and health service department schools are scheduled to start around 6 July 2020 with a small intake and that preparations to enable frequent hand washing and hygiene are underway.

Specific details on the homes are as follows:

Bharathi Illam – During lock down all children stayed onsite, were cared for by the home's carers and were taught by local teachers and graduates

Assets – This home was closed during lock down, however, all of the children have now returned safely

Sivapoomi – Special needs schools are still closed and while we await Government instructions, we are in the process of resolving other logistics

CACM day care centres - These facilities are still closed and the commencement of island-wide grade 1, 2, and nursery are yet to be decided

Other homes – Children are currently returning, and preparations are underway to send them to schools.

Supporting the education of the children

To support with maintaining education for children during lock down, some foster care children received private tuition which were paid for by ACF. All university students have returned to their homes since universities closed in early March. They have been provided with home schooling resources and accessing course information online. ACF has provided them with IT equipment and resource to upgrade data/internet packages, in order to continue with their education remotely. It is understood that students will go back to universities in stages, starting from July 2020.

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

Arobanam Children Fund, 29 Helmsdale Road, London, SW16 5UT, E-mail: arobanamchildrenfund@gmail.com
Together We Can Make A Difference



ACF visit to Sri Lanka

In early March 2020, our Deputy Chairperson along with our local Manager visited the Northern regions of Sri Lanka to review the progress and operations of our ongoing projects. We also wanted to understand each project's strengths, shortcomings in order to facilitate resolutions and offered further ACF assistance as appropriate.



ACF feels that this was a very useful visit where the following were negotiated / achieved:

- Agreed and resources provided for non-functional computer centre to be reopen
- Reinstated play areas
- Engaged in lengthy conversations with operators and agreed utilisation all available resources
- Identified a further need for assistance in the community, advised partners to expand ACF foster care scheme, and recommended other small projects

Our work continues at Home of Joy / ASSETS - Home of Joy / ASSETS - An ACF supporter from Sri Lanka learned about some immediate needs and donated a freezer for Home Of Joy (HOJ), a residential home for special needs children in Mankulam which would reduce HOJ's daily marketing efforts and some transport costs; and two therapist's chairs for ASSETS, a residential home for special needs children in Kilinochchi which would enable ASSET's counselling sessions more effective.



Father James Pathinathan

We fondly remember our founder Patron Rev Fr James Pathinathan who passed away a year ago on 12th July 2019. Fr James is the foremost person to bring the Arobanam family together at the beginning, in 1995. In addition to his religious services, Fr James involved himself in countless volunteering activities as a passionate and dedicated charitable person.

His wings spanned to secure all spectrums of the needy, such as feeding the poor, caring for helpless children, the elderly, and those with special needs. During ACF's long journey Fr James worked very closely with the committee – guided, supported, and offered his credibility and trust at all times. We believe that his leadership and honesty will continue to guide us, and we pledge to continue to serve the children in need.





Arobanam Sponsorship Scheme
STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To the Manager

Name of Bank: _____

Address: _____

City & Postcode _____

Please pay: CAF Bank Ltd. 25 Kings Hill Ave, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

For the credit of: Arobanam Children Fund Charity Reg No: 1082803

A/C No: 00029004, Sort Code. 40-52-40

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 an amount 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 _____



For future communication please provide your email address. This is the only way you will receive our Newsletter. We assure you that we will never pass your email address onto third parties.

Tel Number: _____

Email: _____

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.

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