

"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 June 2010

Picking up the Pieces

Many people released from the camps have found their way to the Mannar and Mankulum districts. Mannar is an area which has been largely unaffected by the war. Mankulum is the town closest to Mullaitivu and people are encouraged to settle here, away from Mullaitivu, as Mullaitivu is still a highly restricted area. However, there is one problem with Mankulum.

Mankulum is under developed and there is no infrastructure present to support the people in their daily lives. As a result, ACF is trying to do all that is possible to help this area. ACF has started a large project to help up to 150 families with children. With the help of our Patron, Fr. James Pathinathan, we have managed to select 50 children who need immediate help. Most of these children have lost one or both parents.

With your help we can make a difference to their lives. If you are interested in sponsoring a child from Mankulum, please contact a member of the ACF team.

The Indian connection

In our last newsletter we told you about our new project in the Annaiyur Camp, Madurai. Most people in this camp were displaced from Mannar and Trincomalee.

We are setting up learning centres to help them. These centres will be run by the "Mother Mary Education Trust" based in Dindugull, Tamil Nadu. This organisation is registered with the Indian authorities and has a licence to help 100 children in the camp.

We will be able to access some pictures of the centre for our next newsletter. Please sponsor one of these children. Please fill a form today and help us to help them.



People waiting to collect water in Anaiyur Camp in Madurai

Chilean poet Gabriela Mistral wrote these 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.

ACF home in Mannar



We are building our own children's home in Mannar. It is nearing completion and is a three storey building capable of housing up to 100 children. Some of the funds from our sponsorship scheme have been diverted (with the sponsors' permission) in order to fund this project. So far, the cost is £35,000; however, the total cost may eventually exceed £55,000.

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

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

E-mail: Rama: vijayanathan@yahoo.co.uk, Thenu: thenup@hotmail.com

Together We Can Make A Difference

Annual Charity Dinner

Thank you to all who attended our 15th Annual Charity Dinner event which was held on 6th March 2010 at the Archbishop Lanfranc School in Croydon. We were very fortunate to be honoured with guest speakers Jeremy Bowen, BBC Middle East Editor and former MEP, Robert Evans.

The evening proved to be another successful get-together where supporters and friends were updated on ACF's previous, current and future projects and activities. We presented a slide show depicting our work over the past 12 months and our objectives for the future. The audience generously contributed towards our ever popular American auction.

This evening also provided the opportunity for new friends to join our children's sponsorship scheme and enabled our existing sponsors and friends to receive copies of our annual brochure (including details of the previous year's audited accounts) and newsletters. We rounded off the evening with our raffle draw and a traditional Tamil dinner.



2010 Summer Family Fun Day

Some of you may remember the scorching hot day in July of 2008 when we held our very first Summer Fun Day. The event proved to be very successful and due to popular demand we are holding our second fun day on Saturday 24th July 2010 at Morden Park from 12noon until 6pm. Once again there will be a wide range of activities for all ages, a selection of great stalls and food and drink to satisfy all appetites. Attractions include white elephant stall, massage stall, face painting, children's bouncy slide, coconut shy, tug of war and grand raffle draw, youth's competition matches and children's fun races ... and many more.

In the wake of the football World Cup, why not enter a football team in our five-a-side tournament? There will also be a netball tournament, fun races and a rounders match. (For football and netball tournaments, teams need to be pre-registered). If fast paced action is not for you, we urge you to take part in the main event of the day, our sponsored walk of 2 miles (3 km). Walk times will be 4pm and 5pm on the day and a route will be clearly marked out and easy to follow.

So please come and join us for some fun in the park, a perfect day to simply relax and unwind whilst doing your bit for charity. All proceeds from this event will go to funding of the new children's home and the IDP of North and East Sri Lanka. For more information please contact members of the ACF Committee.



Sponsoring a child costs just £15 per month. That's only 50p a day ... the cost of a bottle of mineral water. 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 more than 150 children awaiting sponsorship.

PLEASE DON'T WAIT - complete a standing order form now. Furthermore, if you complete our GAD form it allows us to receive money from the Inland Revenue too. Don't delay - you can download a form from our website: www.arobanam.org

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