

“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 – September 2012

URGENT APPEAL – Bharathi Children Care Centre

You may remember Bharathi Illam, a home ACF managed up until we lost contact with it in 2009. ACF is delighted to update supporters that in the last month we have had news from (insert) that the building is still standing and is already providing shelter for 60 children. The home has the potential to house up to 200 children.

ACF has agreed to help support some of these children and we already have 25 children awaiting sponsorship. We urgently need your help to find sponsors for these children.



For more information visit <http://www.bharathiillam.org/>

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.*

SENTHALIR – A drop of hope

Boxing Day, 2004 a dreadful tsunami destroyed the ACF home Senthilir. Following this disaster ACF did a lot of work to rebuild the home and re-house the children that survived. However, once again, due to the end of the war in 2009, ACF lost contact with Senthilir and have not heard or seen any evidence of its existence since.

We are encouraged by the news of Bharathi Illam and very much hope that as many of the missing children can be identified. ACF has sent across details and photographs of the missing children to the Bharathi management asking for help in locating these children.



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 Dinner and Dance goes East

Thank you to all who attended our 17th Annual Charity Dinner event which was held on 10th March 2012 in East London at the Ursuline Academy in Ilford.

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.

We were fortunate to be honoured with guest speaker Lee Scott, MP for Ilford. Cultural performances were also given by (insert). We rounded off the evening with our raffle draw and a traditional Tamil dinner. Although not primarily a fund raising event, ACF managed to raise £1,035.30 for the children.



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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University opportunities

ACF is happy to inform supporters that two more of our foster care children have now entered University. This brings the total number of sponsored children who have entered University up to ten. Five of these have now successfully graduated and hopefully will move on to find jobs. These children would never have reached this stage without our policy of helping children from poor backgrounds with basic needs. We would like to thank our supporters over the years, without whom the above would not have been possible. A special mention must be made to Dr. Siva who is sadly no longer with us, left £47,000.00 to our higher education fund.

Mankulam update

Under the management of our patron Fr. James Pathinathan, ACF is assisting around 165 children in the Mankulam area. Out of these children 48 are housed in the Good Shepherds Convent in Mankulam. Arobanam is funding nearly 40 of these children from the contingency fund. We urgently need to find sponsors for these children before the money runs out in Feb 2013



Children from the Good Shepherds Convent in Mankulam



Some of the Mankulam Foster Care children with Fr. James Pathinathan



Good Shepherds girls in a dance recital