

**“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 – April 2013**

**Bharathi Illam is now up and running, however we need to find sponsors for Bharathi children. Arobanam is now funding 50 children, most of whom are supported by our contingency fund. Please sponsor a child and make a difference.**



### **Bharathi Illam**

Now a home for 80 children; 50 children are sponsored by Arobanam; 30 more are sponsored by a new organisation named Blossom Trust (through their own sponsorship scheme). We wish them well with their work in helping children



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



### **Senthalir – A drop of hope**

The Tsunami destroyed Senthalir in 2004 with a tragic loss of 111 children . We rebuilt it at a cost of £170,000 now able to house 288 children. However, sadly we lost the home again in the 2009 war.

Recently we had access to the area and found the armed forces occupying the buildings . We are hoping to restart the home once the forces leave the premises. Let us pray it will be sooner than later.

### **SPACE – Society for Peoples Action for Change & Education**

We are providing financial aid for 25 differently-abled children at SPACE in Madurai, India. These children are affected by some form of disability and have no family to support them.



Diferently abled children with Fr.jeyachandran in Madurai, South India



**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), Thenu: [thenup@hotmail.com](mailto:thenup@hotmail.com)**

**Together We Can Make A Difference**

## Annual Dinner 2013 in Surrey

Thank you to all who attended our 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Dinner event which was held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2013 in Surrey.

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 are sorry for the technical difficulties we experienced. You can see this slide show on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6y1coiAmMBc>

We were fortunate to be honoured with our guest speaker Dr Elisabeth Harris, from the Liverpool Hope University. Dr Harris is a long standing supporter of Arobanam.



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.*

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 210 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](http://www.arobanam.org)

## University Opportunities

After reaching A Level standard and children are offered a place at University, they often struggle to accept the offer due to financial reasons.

A university student needs £24/month to rent a room and to pay for his/her domestic obligations. Arobanam are supporting 25 students from our higher education fund. You can leave a lasting legacy by including Arobanam in your will. Dr. Siva from Guildford did. He is sadly no longer with us but his heartily felt £40,000 is helping these students. Alternatively you can sponsor a university student now.

It is only £24/month to fuel a child's future and aspirations.

## Special Meals for Our Children

Recently the children enjoyed a special meal. Mankulam children are living in 5 remote vilages. Fr. James brought them together for an enjoyable get-together.

Our partner organisation Destitutes welfare fund gathered the Adampan Foster Care children for a speccial meal at Annai Illam in Mannar.



A special meal for our Foster Care children was given at Annai Illam in Mannar arranged by the Destitutes Welfare Fund (DWF).

Provide a special meal on your special day. Contact our joint social secretary Mrs Kalpana Aravinthan on [kalpsaravin@aol.com](mailto:kalpsaravin@aol.com). It can cost as little as £50

## Outcome of Flood Relief

Communities in Batticaloa, Amparai, Kilinochchi, Mannar and Mullaitivu had to face severe flooding once again. With your kind donations the results have made big changes.

ACF have allocated £5,000 to assist with the Church of American Ceylon Mission in East Sri Lanka with housing displaced people and provide urgent relief and support to the communities. Another £5,000 has helped 425 families in Mankulam and a further 131 families in neighbouring villages. Furthermore, £5,000 has helped many of the 1,425 families who were displaced and aided them in returning home and restarting their lives.



Please keep your thoughts and prayers with our committee member, Varathan and family, for the loss of his wife Gowri.

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