

*"A man never stands as tall as when he kneels to help a child"*



## Arobanam Children Fund Newsletter – Dec 2020

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

Welcome to our last newsletter of the year. The last 12 months have tested us all, but we have found new ways to work, communicate and continue with our daily lives. Unfortunately, the spread of COVID-19 in Sri Lanka is getting worse and there have been a number of documented cases of COVID positive individuals, including in the Northern Districts. Schools are largely closed, some tuition centres have begun to open, and Universities are operating through online courses. As well as the issues arising from the pandemic, there has been severe flooding over the last few weeks – please take note of the urgent appeal on page 2.

As 2020 ends, ACF is disappointed that we have not been able to engage with our supporters in a more personal way, however, we are extremely grateful for your continued support even in these tough times. With this we have been able to continue with our work to better the lives of many children and their families in Sri Lanka and India. It is still unclear how much change we are yet to face; however, as we move in to 2021 you can be sure we will continue to assist those who are in need.

We wish you a restful Christmas and peaceful New Year and hope to see you all in 2021.

### NEWS IN BRIEF:

**Chairperson news** – Mr Varathan Thiagarasa has been appointed as the new chairperson of ACF. Please refer to letter from our newly appointed Patron Mr Ramakrishnan dated 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020.

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner** – Unfortunately, the ACF annual event has been postponed until further notice. Given the current situation we will not be holding any events until it is safe to do so.

**Mahadeva Ashram** – ACF was one of the first organisations to provide support to Mahadeva Ashram (MASH) / Saiva Siruvar Illam from its beginning. It has been great to watch MASH go from strength to strength and many of you will also have seen this for yourselves. Today it has become a self-sufficient organisation and we are optimistic that it will continue this way in the future. As such, ACF has decided to exit from assisting MASH as of the end of December 2020. We will of course stay in touch to see how they progress.

**School bag initiative** – ACF is delighted to inform you that we will be supporting a local individual who grew up in a children's home; now living in the Killinochi area with a new business venture. She is making stronger, more robust school bags and selling them locally. We are working with this individual with a view to buy required school bags for children in the future.



ACF are always in need of more sponsors to assist more children in need  
TO SPONSOR A CHILD PLEASE CLICK HERE: [Sponsor a child](#) OR contact a member of the team

**URGENT APPEAL: Funds needed for Sri Lanka & South India to help recover from heavy cyclones and rain**

In the latter part of November and early December, Sri Lanka and Southern India have been badly hit by heavy cyclones and floods. This has caused much disruption to daily life to include damage of buildings, surrounding areas and vegetation. We expect the recovery period to take several weeks. It is also anticipated that further cyclones are expected between now and the New Year.

To date the worst affected of our partners is Good Shepherds Welcome Home in Anaikottai, which is a refuge to provide shelter, food and care to abused young women. The roof and floor of the building where they prepare food has been severely damaged, requiring us to fund repairs urgently. See below for latest pictures of the disruption.

ACF is setting up this urgent appeal to support with recovery of needs right now and in anticipation of further damage. Given that heavy rainfall and cyclones are a frequent occurrence in this area we will also consider using these funds to reinforce buildings and strengthen foundations.

We kindly ask you to donate what you can to support us with this initiative at this link: [Virgin Just Giving Link to donate](#)  
Alternatively, you may make a bank transfer to ACF's account as follows with a reference "Floods" (CAF Bank Limited, Account Name: Arobanam Children Fund, Account No: 00029004, Sort code: 40 – 52 – 40)



For further information, please contact one of our committee members at:  
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Together We Can Make A Difference