

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



Arobanam Children Fund Newsletter – April 2021

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

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2021, as Spring approaches many parts of the world seem to be on the road to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and a sense of normality is returning. Unfortunately, things are still far from normal in Sri Lanka and while there is progress being made in reducing the spread of the virus a lot of challenges still remain.

At ACF, our newly appointed Chairman is settling into the role and you can hear more about his vision later on in the newsletter.

NEWS IN BRIEF:

25th 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.

Welcome Home – Following our flood appeal and due to generous donations received from the ACF community, emergency repair works have successfully completed on time and the home, including the kitchenette has become fully functional. Further building works will be carried out to strengthen and protect the home from future damage caused by bad weather.

SPACE (India) – ACF has taken over assistance to 20 children from the Muniyandipuram area in the Madurai district and will be supported through a newly established foster care scheme. Unfortunately, in order to comply with COVID-19 related Government guidance, evening school has been temporarily closed until further notice. However, ACF will continue to provide financial assistance. In addition, the Government has taken over support of special needs employees as part of the COVID-19 guidance.

The **Church of America Ceylon Mission (CACM)** organisation is in the process of restructuring and reevaluating its strategic priorities as part of its recovery from the pandemic in 2020 and the Easter bombings in 2019. During this process we have come to a mutual agreement that they no longer require our support as their work does not fall entirely within our charity's remit. ACF has been supporting CACM for almost ten years – through this we have been able to support vulnerable children and their families immediately after the war ended.

Patron Fr James memorial

In honour of ACF's founder Patron Fr James Pathinathan a memorial has been erected by the Parish of Mullaitivu within the Tsunami memorial compound in Mullaitivu. During the 2004, Fr James' played a crucial role in rescuing several people to safety. The statue itself was revealed on Boxing Day 2020, exactly 16 years following the tragic event. This is a great tribute to a selfless Priest who put humanity over religion.



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

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

School starter packs

School starter packs have been delivered to over eighty children supported through the Mankulam Foster Care project this year. The school starter packs consist of a school bag; exercise books, mathematics box, writing aids, drawing book and colour chalk, and snacks. To avoid children gathering in large numbers amid the current Covid situation; packs were delivered locally or door to door. ACF representatives and children were requested to wear their own masks and use hand sanitiser which was provided by ACF.



Travel assistance to student

ACF has provided a bicycle to one of our A-level students from our Mankulam foster care project.

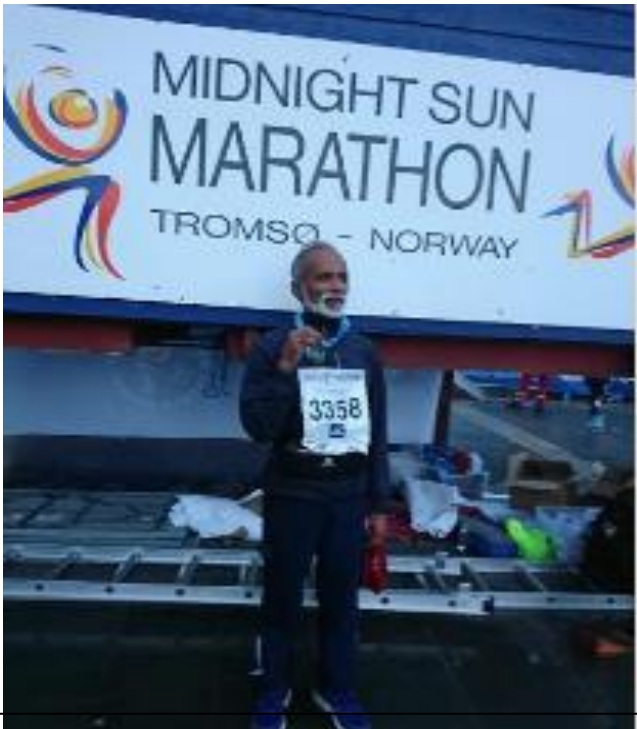
She is now able to attend school and tuition classes in evenings and at weekends.



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FUNDRAISING NEWS:

Three supporters of ACF living in Norway have come forward to run the Tromso – Norway's Midnight Marathon on Saturday 19th June in support of ACF. A fundraising page will be setup and shared with the ACF community shortly. Please share with friends and family and give generously.



Greetings from the new Chairperson:

It gives me great pleasure to take on the role of Chairperson of Arobanam Children Fund (ACF). Over the past 25 years, under the leadership of Mr Ramakrishnan's passion and selflessness, several committee members and supporters have taken this organisation from one boy's home to a charity that now supports over 350 children and at some points supported over 600. I am excited about working with the existing committee to take the organisation forward in coming years with the same passion and dedication.

I have been part of this great organisation for over ten years now and first-hand witnessed how we have adapted, responded and grown as the world around us has continually faced challenging situations.

I understand the ever-increasing needs of children and am committed to take ACF to the next level concentrating on ACF being borderless; with the support of the committee and supporters and assist more children in need.

Finally, I look forward to the day that we can all gather together, and I can thank each and every one of you in person for your continued support and commitment to ACF and its work. Stay safe and I will be in touch with various updates as the year progresses.

Varathan Thiagarasa

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.*