

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

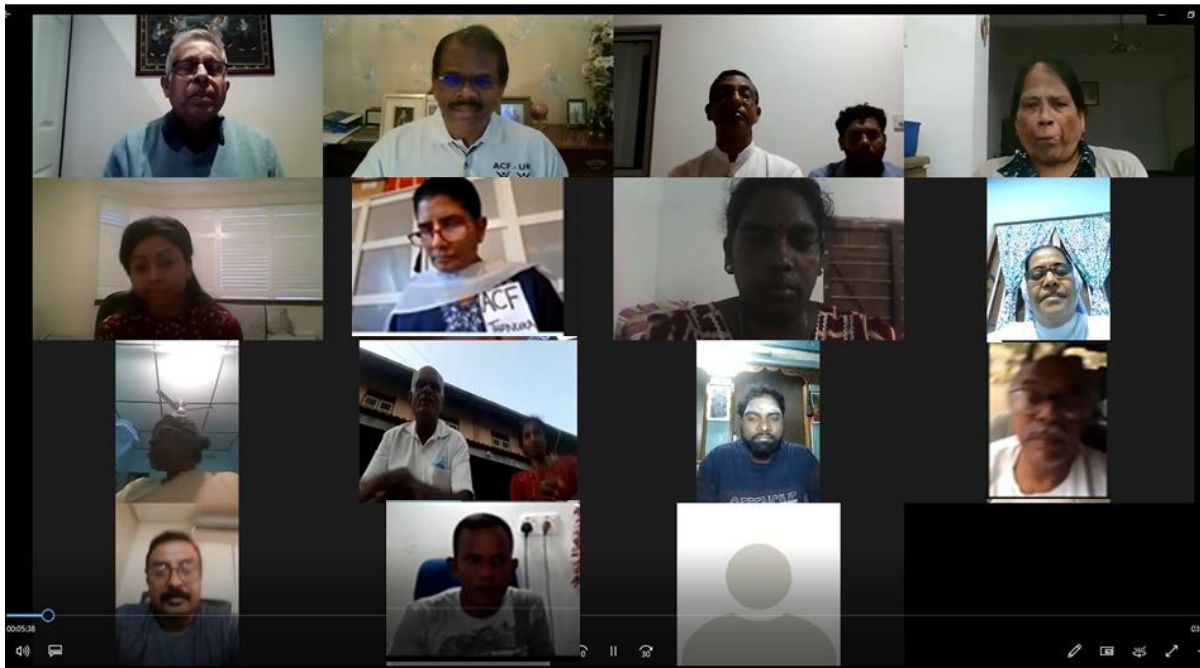


Arobanam Children Fund Newsletter – April 2022

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

Dear Sponsors & Friends of ACF, we are already nearing the end of the 1st quarter of 2022 and the ACF committee hopes this year's various challenges will be small ones for everyone. Despite the covid situation, we have been making progress, albeit rather slowly than expected. As the last two years have been testing and uncertain in many ways, ACF has had to delay its 5-year strategic plan by one year. Now that the situation is appearing to get better, we are optimistic and looking into the possibilities of arranging and hosting an event soon, where we can meet you in person.

Arobanam Children's Fund's 2nd Partners Conference: ACF held its 2nd Partners Conference on the 8th of January 2022. It proved to be another successfully attended and appreciated conference. It proved to be valuable to both ACF as well as the partners. Our Chairperson and Operations Manager made presentations, as did several partners and beneficiaries, along with primarily, current and former university students. The partners consider this online gathering an ideal way to learn about each other's work and share experiences. This second conference also provided project newcomers with the chance to learn and have a better understanding of ACF's work through the other partners' presentations about their projects and the way in which ACF helps them towards achieving their goals.



New Support

We need volunteers and supporters who can help us achieve our strategic growth plan. If you or your friends can help us, please contact us via email & telephone/mobile nos.



An Introduction to Arobanam Children Fund (to a new audience):

We also held two sessions of "Introduction to Arobanam Children Fund" with a view to attract future supporters and sponsors. Attendees included UK and overseas young individuals primarily. The sessions had very useful "Questions and Answer" sections which resulted in volunteers coming forward to sponsor children and assist in the strategic growth of ACF.



Home Gardening Initiative:

As part of phase 2 of ACF's garden initiative, we provided over 300 turmeric plants to 80 families within the Mankulam foster care scheme and a first distribution to Mankulam Good Shepherd Convent. Turmeric, among several other herbal plants, is an expensive commodity in Sri Lanka; so we are optimistic that this initiative will be extended by the beneficiaries and become a long-term extra money earner for them in the near future.



Beneficiaries were trained to preserve seedlings to reproduce new plants and are successfully doing so with the plants and seedlings that were provided during phase one of the initiative.

School Starter Kits:

We have also provided school starter packs for the children where the new school year has started and for those whose new year will begin soon.

**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**

Monthly Dry Rations Distribution:

We have also restarted monthly rations distribution to the Mankulam foster care children from January 2022.



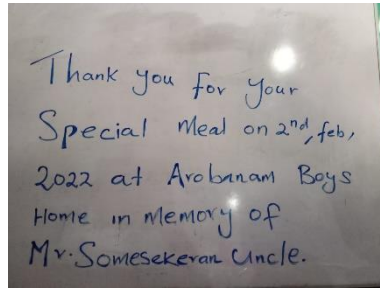
Festival Celebrations:

Thai Pongal celebrations at ASSETS in Kilinochchi, Arobanam Boys Home in Kilinochchi, Annai Illam in Mannar & SPACE in Madurai



Special Meals & Teas:

We have provided over 15 special meals, since the beginning of this year, and all have all been sponsored by our supporters, the children were able to enjoy extra treats at these meals also. Since the start of the covid pandemic and up to the end of 2021, due to the health challenges, the government restrictions and its curfew enforcements, we were unable to bring together the children from foster care schemes in Mannar and Mankulam, to arrange their special meal. We are now pleased to inform you that In January and February of this year, we were able to do so and have provided three special meals to all the children, under the ACF foster care scheme, in Sri Lanka and South India.



Fundraising: Sing For Arobanam - Janani Suresh's Fundraiser Page for ACF



arobanam.co.uk



Janani's fundraiser for AROBANAM CHILDREN FUND- #singforarobanam

Janani Suresh, an ardent supporter of Arobanam Children Fund, has offered to raise funds to help the children. Here is her message to all our readers. We hope you will support her in her efforts.

Here is the link to her fundraising page:
<https://www.facebook.com/donate/640005807110311/>

New Projects:

We have started three new projects in January 2022.

In the Hill countries

Hill countries of Sri Lanka need such assistance, and we are optimistic that such help will contribute significantly towards children's education and wellbeing. Vishnu Arohanam is a project that will assist University students, provide nourishments to underprivileged children and provide foster care assistance.

In Jaffna

We hope to be able to provide foster care for underprivileged children

In Mullaitivu

Iniya Vazhvu Illam is a special home of deaf, blind and mute children in Mullaitivu. It is in quite a remote area. ACF hope to provide skilled training for 30 children with hearing and speech impairments. This training has three different streams such as tailoring, making leather products, and handicrafts (which includes training in bridal makeup). Once trained, the children will have the option of either setting up their own workshops or continuing to be part of the home and working in their workshops.

After six months of training, Iniya Vazhvu Illam will set up a retail outlet within their compound grounds, where they will continue to produce and sell their products through the outlet. Trained children will be allocated a reasonable percentage share of the profit from the shop.



Projects in the Pipeline:

With the aim of assisting more children who are still in need, we are continuing to work with prospective partners in Batticaloa (special needs children) and Mannar (foster care children).

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