

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



## Arobanam Children Fund Newsletter – August 2022

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

Dear Sponsors and Friends of Arobanam Children Fund.

We have entered the 2nd half of 2022 and for the most part, much of the UK population is coping well with the much-diminished threat of covid these days. As you are well aware, the political and economic situation in Sri Lanka is unstable and increasingly worsening at an alarming rate. Even so, the children under ACF's sponsorship and foster care schemes are being well looked after and our project partners are managing well and able to meet the children's basic needs.

### Iniyavalvu Illam Training Programme

This training initiative, located in Mullaitivu, is according to latest updates, being managed well. Children with visual/hearing impairment are being trained in needlework, handicraft (including hair and makeup skills) and creating leather products, for a period of 6/7 months. On completion of their training, the young adults can remain and work in the organisation's factory or find their own employment. Further updates will follow in future newsletters.



**ACF are always in need of more sponsors to assist more children in need  
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## Children's Individual Bank Savings Scheme

The latest project partner to join this scheme is ABH (Arobanam Boys Home). This scheme, where a small amount of money is deposited into individual children's account on a monthly basis, is monitored and maintained by the projects that have already joined. This scheme is a very positive and practical long-term investment that will be really useful for students when they leave ACF's sponsorship scheme, to set out for further studies or employment. Our other project partners who are not already in this scheme are keen to join and are considering their feasibility and the options to make it work for their children.



## Games Initiatives

In the provision of games equipment for the projects, DWF (Destitute Welfare Fund) is the latest to receive outdoor and indoor activities equipment. In recent updates, the project managers have reported that the provision and use of these items have increased the enjoyment and lifted the spirits of the children. These reactions were especially apparent during the lockdown months. We are currently in discussion with the CDI (Child Development Initiative) project's needs, with regard to them accessing games equipment.



## School Starter Kits

In the latest provision of school starter kits, deliveries have been made to Mankulam foster care, DWF (Destitute Welfare Fund) foster care, in Mannar and SPACE (Society for People's Action for Change and Education), in South India.

## **Cancellation of ACF's Events in 2022**

Members of the committee have been contacting various supporters who usually attend ACF events, to find out their general feeling about coming together for an ACF event this year, and it was proving very hard to plan for a successful event as most people are still not keen to attend a large gathering. In light of this finding and the fact that, currently, there are ever increasing cases of Covid infection in England, the ACF committee has decided not to hold any event involving a gathering of people this year. Our concern is to prevent even the smallest spread of the virus among our audience. We hope you understand our concerns and will be encouraged to attend our ACF annual event in 2023.

## **Current Operational Difficulties in Sri Lanka**

Due to the prevailing fuel crisis in Sri Lanka, ACF's Manager of Operations, Mr Dinesh Thiruchelvan, has been severely restricted in attending his usual visits to the projects and foster homes, but is maintaining phone contact with the managers whenever possible and is awaiting the next fuel allocation in order to resume his visits as soon as possible.

## **New Schemes**

A foster care scheme in Trincomalee has been initiated with 9 children and ACF is currently seeking a reliable new project partner in the area where regular assistance can be provided for these children.

## **Fr James' Memorial Special Meal**

2022 marks the third anniversary of the "Fr James Memorial Special Meal". Following a special memorial mass that was attended by all the children, the meal was offered to the children at ABH (Arobanam Boys Home) on 11 July 2022. The meal consisted of a special lunch followed by tea and cake.



## **Dry Food Ration Distribution**

In April and May, rations were distributed in Mankulam. In the same distribution additional biscuit packets, donated by a sponsor, were also given.



## Home Garden Initiative

We are well into the second phase of this initiative. The 300 turmeric plants which were distributed to Mankulam Good Shepherd's Convent, Mankulam foster care and DWF several months ago are in the process of being tended and nurtured to produce a healthy harvest of tubers and cuttings (for the next yield).



The photos below show the turmeric yield from one plant from one family and a second calf from the cow that was donated to a destitute family, by ACF.



## Sivapoomi Trust

Organised by the Kilinochchi District Office of Social Services, the Sivapoomi School for Children with Special needs held its sports day on 3 June 2022. In the 100m Sprint : C Vijyakumar = 3rd place, V Thuvarahan = 2nd place, S Bathushalini = 1st place



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](mailto:arobanamchildrenfund@gmail.com)  
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## **Special Meals**

Since our last update in the April newsletter and on various days over the last 3 months, our sponsors' and friends' separate generous donations, have provided the children at DWF (Annai Illam) in Mannar, ABH (Arobanam Boys Home) in Kilinochchi, ASSETs (Association To Empower The Special Needs Children) in Mullaitivu and CDI (Child Development Initiative) in Vavuniya; the treat of special meals and special teas.



### **New Support Needed for Arobanam Children Fund**

We need volunteers and supporters who can help us achieve our strategic growth plan. If you or your friends can help us, please contact our chairperson, Mr Varathan, via his email address: [vthiagarasa@aol.com](mailto:vthiagarasa@aol.com) or via the contact details on the Contact Page on our website [www.arobanam.co.uk](http://www.arobanam.co.uk)

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