

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



## Arobanam Children Fund Newsletter – June 2023

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

**Dear Sponsors and Friends of Arobanam Children Fund. We have already passed the first trimester of the new year, and for the most part, much of the UK population is coping well with the much-diminished challenges of covid these days. As you are aware, the political and economic situation in Sri Lanka is still unstable and increasingly worsening at an ever-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 current basic needs.**

### New Projects

**Nanaattan (Mannar)** - The foster care project started in October 2022, with the undertaking of the welfare of 7 children. This project is progressing well. The distribution of dry food rations for the selected families was also completed in the same month.

**Batticaloa** – At the request of ACF, The Brothers of Charity are managing the schooling of 12 special needs children whose homes are located within a 7km distance from the school. A school bus is in place to collect and drop them back on the days they attend school. Each day they are provided with nourishment and skilled training.

While researching the basic needs of poorer families in rural areas of Batticaloa, ACF's Operations Manager, Mr Dinesh Thiruchelvan reported that there is a real need for assisting the very young children of these families and therefore, ACF is looking into with setting up 3x preschools / day care centres for families living in the remoter villages, with the assistance of The Brothers of Charity.

ACF also wishes to encourage community participation in children related activities among these families



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## New projects continued...

**St Henry's (Illavalai, Jaffna)** - 10 students, primarily from the Vanni area, have been enrolled at St Henry's College residential hostel, following requests for financial assistance for their welfare. Most of the children are from poorer homes in the small islands off the western coastline of the Jaffna peninsula.

**Hill Countries** – This project commenced in February 2022. 6 university students from the Hill countries are currently being assisted by ACF.

**Iniya Valvu Illam Skills Training Project** – This training initiative is located in Vallipunam in Mullaitivu. The students with visual / hearing impairment have been undergoing instruction and training for a period of 6 / 7 months in 3 specific skill sets:

- needlework & embroidery and machine stitched garments
- hair styling & cosmetics application
- producing various leather products

On completion of their training, the young adults can remain and work in the organisation's factory or find employment in other businesses. As part of the leather goods production the students also made school bags. The good quality of this product has encouraged ACF to order this item in bulk from the students, for the purpose of distributing to all the foster care children who are being assisted through ACF's schemes. ACF has negotiated that in the event children continue to work at Iniya Valvu Illam, realised profits will be shared equally between the Illam and the children.

**Special Relief for Poverty Stricken Families in Mannar** – Due to the worsening economic climate in Sri Lanka and the consequential increasing burden that is brought about on poorer families and specifically, families living in the remote villages in the country, ACF has been asked to help. With the support of the area grama sevaka, 17 families were selected, and they have received monetary aid to help with their immediate needs.

## Annual Field Visit in Muttur and Batticaloa



ACF's Operations Manager visited Muttur and Batticaloa. He arranged a meeting with the Foster Care Children in Muttur, and also had the opportunity to meet some of the pre-school children's parents in Kalmunai with regard to collecting information about Day Care Centres.

## Opening of Arobanam Girls Hostel in Mannar



Destitute Welfare Fund (DWF), a long-term partner of ACF, have opened a hostel for girls near Annai Illam, in Mannar. It's located in the building that was built by ACF in the past, and had housed boys who were in need of rehabilitation. It has been named Arobanam Girls' Hostel and has a capacity to accommodate 25. It currently houses 10 high-school girls.



## ACF Charity Dinner Event in 2023

We are glad to announce that we will be holding our long-delayed dinner event in summer of this year ... details of the date and other relevant details will be confirmed soon and emailed to you in good time. We are very keen to include live entertainment in our programme this year and are currently looking into various options that would be suitable for our audience.

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## Special meals plus rations distribution in Mankulam



## Home Garden Initiative

This initiative is progressing steadily with families planting and harvesting primarily eggplants, ladies fingers, green beans, chillies, and turmeric. Some of the seedlings from the new plants are saved for replanting for a new crop.



## 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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## Arobanam Children Fund Assistance Reports - 2022

	Project	Assistance	Location	Beneficiaries	O/L Passes	A/L Passes	Reunited with family
1	DWF FC	Foster Care	Mannar	45	3	3	
2	Mankulam FC	Foster Care	Mankulam	89	4	3	-
3	Mutur FC	Foster Care	Trincomalee	9	1	-	-
4	Nanattan FC	Foster care	Mannar	7	-	-	-
5	Sivapoomi	Foster Care	Jaffna	1	-	-	-
6	Arobanam Boys Home	In-House	Kilinochchi	25	-	-	-
7	CDI Home	In-House	Cheddikulam	19	1	-	-
8	Good Shepherd Convent Home	In-House	Mankulam	24	-	-	-
9	ASSETS	Special Needs	Kilinochchi	41	-	-	8
10	Welcome Home	Single Mothers & Abused Children	Manipay	10	-	-	-
	SPACE	Special Needs Foster Care Learning Ctre	Anaiyur Muniyandipuram Anaiyur	35 25 65			11

	University Project	Location	Beneficiaries	University Passes	University Entries
1	CDI	Vavuniya	2	-	-
2	DWF	Mannar	29	8	-
3	Hill Country	Hatton	3	-	-
4	Mankulam	Kilinochchi + Mullaitivu	8	-	-
5	Sivapoomi	Jaffna	4	-	-