

AUTUMN

2010

Shining Life enters a second decade.

Our Project in Galewala

Kalpitya—moving on.

Our 10 year Anniversary Project

Lunch for Founder Friends

A Day at the Beach for tea-estate children.

How to donate to us

“Before the trip I’d never been out of my village. Now I’m inspired to strengthen the Women’s Society to go on another trip.”

Member of Galewala Women’s Savings Group



Shining Life Children’s Trust—building on our strengths into a second decade!

Welcome to another Newsletter from Shining Life Children’s Trust. Our last newsletter showed the effectiveness and impact of Shining Life Children’s Trust’s work in Sri Lanka. There is much to be proud of in this newsletter too. Since our foundation in 1998 the Trust has raised an amazing £250,000, through fundraising events, but mostly thanks to the commitment and generosity of our Friends and supporters. Thank you!



We are an adaptable organisation which learns and grows through experience. This is evident in the way that new projects develop strengths from previous projects; in the long-term relationships we build with our partner organisations in Sri Lanka; in the transitions between Field Directors which ensure continuity; and in the way we use new technologies to improve communication between different parts of our organisation. Thank you for supporting us along the way.



A New Project in Galewala

Shining Life Children’s Trust has embarked on a 3-year project with three villages in the area of Galewala, situated to the north-east of Colombo. As with all our projects, this began with a 6-month Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) in which all elements of the communities came together to share the problems and challenges they face. Here are some of the issues that the members of the community raised in that preliminary exercise:

Education: there are no library facilities.

Health: some villagers find it difficult to get water for drinking and domestic consumption.

Finance and Employment: the villagers do not have the funds to start their own businesses.

Environment: irrigation facilities are inadequate.

Shelter: some villagers have inadequate and temporary housing.

Having gathered the people’s concerns, our Field Director set about collecting ‘baseline’ demographic and statistical information via a questionnaire through which the impact of the project will be measured. This revealed that only 48% of the adult population gained the equivalent of ‘O’ level qualifications; that 34% of households do not have their own toilet and that 49% of the adult population of the villages claimed they were unemployed.



Shining Life Field Director Jane Slocombe has worked hard alongside the villagers and our partnership organisation HDF to devise a 3-year programme of training and activities to address the needs of the community. These will include a micro-credit savings programme to finance sustainable small business, and health training for women’s societies and children’s clubs.

Women from the villages come together to share their concerns about health and employment.

Our project in Kalpitya draws towards to a successful conclusion

“Thanks to the micro-finance programme, I now have access to small, short-term instant loans so I can buy medicine for my father when we have a bad month’s fishing.”

Member of Women’s Society in Kalpitya

“We now have a pre-school, where we are proud to send our children—it doesn’t let water in and there is play equipment outside. Before I didn’t send my daughter, but now I do and I have more time to work.”

This project aims to improve educational opportunities and childhood care, and to ensure families are better equipped to provide a sustainable income and an improved living environment for themselves.

Underpinning much of this work has been the successful formation of women’s savings groups. 68 paid-up members deposit regular amounts from which they can take a loan to support a small business initiative. There is 100% rate of repayment of loans. The women have visited other savings groups and have been inspired by the range

of entrepreneurial activities undertaken by the women there. In addition these visits have been invaluable in showing the women of Kalpitya that micro-finance does not need external funding and that they themselves have the potential to achieve great things in their community. The community have developed their ability to identify the problems

and challenges they face, and to work together to find local solutions to these. A good example is the successful installation of a new pre-school teacher in one of the villages.

Our Field Director is now working with the community to ensure that the progress they have made is sustainable, so we can move on.



News from our 10 Year Anniversary project in Rikillagaskada

Our project with the people of the tea-estate is making good progress. Highlights have included an educational trip by the women’s societies to a Women’s Development Centre where they learned about successful small businesses in soap, soya, sweets and even a bakery which women there had started. The health and nutrition training has been well attended, and the people have responded well to the materials such as posters and leaflets produced by our partner organisation. Finally, over one hundred children recently took part in a children’s writing and art competition organised by the newly-formed children’s clubs. These children’s clubs are raising confidence and giving a voice to the children of the tea estate.



The women were inspired by this woman’s successful bakery business.



News of our Field Directors

The role of Field Director for Shining Life Children's Trust is one which provides a unique and amazing opportunity for people wanting a career in international development. At the same time it is a very challenging post. Over the years we have been blessed with skilled and committed Field Directors who have all worked hard to build Shining Life into the success it now is.

Our current Field Director is Jane Slocombe, who arrived in Sri Lanka last September. Jane graduated in Classical South Asian Studies from Cambridge University in 2009. She has also studied international development and worked for various charities in India.

Our former Field Director Beth Rattigan secured a job with a charity in

Thailand immediately after leaving Sri Lanka last summer. She now works with the Aga Khan Foundation in Afghanistan on grants management. We are extremely grateful to Beth for ensuring an effective handover to Jane, even though she had begun work in Thailand by the time Jane arrived in Sri Lanka.



Our Field Directors Jane (left) and Beth (right)

Special Lunch to thank our 'Founder Friends'

As we have said many times before, Shining Life Children's Trust would simply not exist without the commitment and generosity of our Friends and supporters.

Many of our Friends have been with us since our foundation in 1998, making regular monthly payments to support our work with disadvantaged children and families in Sri Lanka. We call these our 'Founder Friends'.

In recognition of this commitment we held a special 'Celebration Lunch' to thank our Founder Friends for their support over the years. The Lunch was held at Papaya restaurant in Ealing on Saturday 24th April. In the intimate surroundings of Papaya, Founder Friends joined with Trustees, former Field Directors and Significant Supporters to share in our past successes, hear first-hand about our current projects and share in our plans for the future.

Papaya restaurant was voted 'Best Sri Lankan restaurant in the UK' by UKLANKA. Thank you to all who came along and supported the event!



Shining Life Gifts in Action!



Many thanks to all our supporters who have purchased a **Shining Life Gift** for a loved-one. Buying a **Shining Life Gift** provides life-enhancing opportunities to the children and communities in Sri Lanka with whom we work. Many of you bought 'an educational trip' for £5, and recently Jane accompanied the children of Rikillagaskada on what was for many of them their first trip to the coast. Judging from their faces, they had the time of their lives! Thank you! Shining Life Gifts are available for purchase at www.shininglife.org.



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Objectives of Shining Life Children's Trust

- To work with local communities and help children disadvantaged by war and poverty.
- To provide support to children in a family-centred environment.
- To work in Sri Lanka.
- To work across cultures and religions.
- To ensure work undertaken facilitates sustainable development.
- To work in partnership with local organisations.
- To support small, unique and new projects.
- To support and develop projects that build on the strengths of Shining Life Children's Trust.
- To promote understanding and knowledge of Sri Lanka amongst supporters in the UK.

How to Donate to Shining Life Children's Trust

Visit our website at www.shininglife.org to donate to us
safely and securely through charitychoice.co.uk

I would like to help bring a shining life to children and their families in Sri Lanka by donating:

£10 a month £25 a month £50 a month £100 a month other amount £_____

Standing Order

NAME:.....ADDRESS:.....
.....

Telephone:.....E-mail:.....

To the manager of:.....(insert the name of your bank)

Address:.....(insert the address of your bank)

My Account Number:.....Sort Code:.....

Please pay Shining Life Children's Trust, Sort Code 40-52-40 Account Number 0016399

Amount:.....Date of 1st payment:.....Ref:.....(insert your last name)

I want the Trust to treat my donations as Gift Aid - if you are a UK tax payer, this enables us to increase your donation by 28%

I am unable to give regularly but would like to make a donation of A cheque is enclosed

Signature:..... Date:.....

Please send this donation form to
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