

Dear Friends,

How quickly a year comes around, it feels so recent that I wrote the last Christmas letter but so much has happened in this time. Sri Lanka has a new President and a democratically elected parliament. Whilst great work has continued with our Galewala project, Shining Life started a new project in Pupuressa and is finalising the proposal for another new project to start in the New Year.

Our Galewala child-centred development project has been producing some really positive outcomes with some of our Children's Club children winning dance competitions and performing around the country. Communities have started composting for their home gardens and they have learnt how to preserve foods so they can be stored out of season. Small enterprise trainings has enabled women to increase their family income through selling their products which range from leather sandals to flower pots. Children in the area now benefit from libraries where they can access a variety of books thanks to a recent donation from King Edwards VI Five Ways School. The donation also enabled a trip for 85 children to visit Trincomalee, many for the first time.



In September we started a new sewing project as an extension of the work Shining Life had done on Pupuressa Levallon Tea Estate. The project is empowering unemployed women in the Pupuressa District. Women are being trained in various sewing methods and entrepreneurial skills with the overall aim of being able to set up their own group cooperatives so they can sell products amongst their community. The training is going very well and the participants have now formed groups for their cooperatives and are receiving entrepreneurial training to complement their new sewing skills.

I am excited to be able to share that Shining Life will be starting a new project in January. We will be working with the Kirimetiyaawatte community in the Kandy District. This community is very isolated and remote which means children growing up there face severe disadvantages in education. The project will develop capacity within the community through the formation of children's clubs, self-help groups and awareness training in health and environment.



In a world filled with uncertainty and change, Shining Life continues to move forward with positive energy to help make a sustainable impact for disadvantaged and marginalised communities in Sri Lanka. We are excited about the new year and hope that you will continue to support us with our efforts.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2016.

Best wishes,

Bella Hodgkinson

Field Director, Shining Life Children's Trust