

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

**Newsletter - November 2008
Arobanam Children Fund**

Registered Charity No: 1082803
Supporting Children in need
In Sri Lanka



A mother giving a bath to her baby in Vanni.

Nearly 300000 people are displaced from their homes in Vanni. Many of their homes are damaged by the aerial bombardment. With the eminent rainy season, things are expected to get a lot worse. Lack of clean water brings another serious danger. Water bourn diseases are on the increase. Things we take for granted are denied to these poor people. Let us join hands and bring some relief to the people in Vanni.

Please help us to help these children
www.arobanam.org

Patron: Fr. James Pathinathan

There are also displaced people arriving in large numbers to South India. Many end up in Mandapam camp near Rameshwaram. During our recent visit to this camp we have identified 110 children under 5 years old without any form of preschool nursery education. Recently Church of South India was given permission to set up a Day Care Centre for these children.



**CSI Day Care Centre in the Mandapam Camp
near Rameshwaram.**

We are building a playground and get them in our foster care scheme to provide long term help. We can only do this with your support. According to Amnesty International 500000 people are displaced in Sri Lanka. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) quotes 118000 people are displaced in the north alone. ACF-UK is doing what it can to help some of these poor people. We have contributed £46000 to date since the emergency started 2 years ago.



The way a family lives under a tree



Another family in the same fate.

A great Chilean poet Gabriella Mistral wrote

*Many things we need can wait
The child cannot.
Now is the time
His bones are being formed.
His blood is being made.
His mind is being developed.
To him we cannot say tomorrow.
His name is today.*

This year our priority is helping the displaced people in Vanni. We can only do this with your help. ACF-UK will give complete peace of mind by our promise that all the funds raised for this will reach the people. Not a penny will be used for administrative expenses. Please donate generously.

Now let us look at our other ongoing projects.

**History is written by those who realise there's
never a right way...**

ONLY A BETTER WAY

Arobanam Children Fund was originally set up to help one home. We now support 5 homes in the northeast of Sri Lanka. We help children in many imaginative ways. First we came up with the sponsorship scheme where a family overseas sponsor a child in the north and east of

Sri Lanka. Then we decided to help poor children living with their own families. We call it our Foster Care scheme. We did this in Mannar as a pilot scheme. We are working with an organisation called "Destitute welfare Fund" Although it turned out to be a great success, this project is affected by the recent conflict in the area. We are helping children at a reduced level and using the surplus funds to help the displaced people in the area. This is done with the agreement of the Foster Care sponsors.

We decided our donors deserve to have all the information about the child they sponsor and to have feed back on how well the homes are managed. This meant at least one of our committee members visit all the homes we support at least once a year at their own expense. However for the past two years, we were not able to send anyone due to security problems.

We insist on having a copy of the audited accounts from all the homes although we don't succeed every time due to the current unrest situation and communication difficulties. Once a year we invite all our sponsors to a Dinner/ Dance to celebrate the success, **which is your achievement, not ours**. On the night we publish our accounts on the brochure so that you are fully aware how your contribution is utilised. We also organise a slide show with the latest pictures of our schemes and to show the difficulties our people are facing due to the current conflict.

Sponsoring a child costs only £12 per month, just 40p a day. **Just think of the difference you can make to a child's life by giving such a small amount.** You will be touching a child's heart in the most profound way possible, by helping to provide him or her with a better future. We have more than 120 children waiting to be sponsored. Please don't wait. Fill a standing order form now. If you fill in the Gift aid Declaration, we can get 28p out of every pound you donate. We earnestly appeal to

you to donate what ever you can to help the children in need in Sri Lanka.

A new Study Hall for Mahadeva Girls funded by the Kingston Institute of Tamil Culture

Girls housed in Mahadeva Ashram were struggling without even the basic necessities in this rather primitive home. They pleaded with us to build a study hall. We asked our friends at the Kingston Institute of Tamil Culture to see if they can help. As they say, the rest is history. As you can see the study hall is now complete and in use, thanks to our friends at the KITC. We especially thank the parents, friends and teachers association of ITC to take the trouble to raise the funds for this project.

Recently Children from Mahadeva Ashram and Arobanam Boys Home had to move the children to a safer area to escape from the aerial bombardment of the Kilinochchi town. We hope this situation will change in the near future and normal life can return.



Mahadeva Girl's Study Hall fully funded by the Kingston Institute of Tamil culture

Celebrate your special day with our children.

You pick the day. It could be your birthday, your wedding anniversary or any date that is special to you or your loved ones. For a minimum of £50.00 we can give a special treat to our children in one of the homes. Why not visit our website www.arobanam.org for further details. Help bring smile to our children.



Friends – It is our duty to help these children to have at least the basic needs to have a life with dignity. Please help us to help them.

For further information please visit our website www.arobanam.org

Or

Phone Rama at 01372 812595

Email – vijayanathanr@yahoo.co.uk

Phone Bala at 0208 949 7947

Email – bala.s@tiscali.co.uk



Photographs by courtesy of I T R O London