



Gods Own Children Foundation

Jaffna Office : 140, Temple Road, Jaffna, Sri Lanka.
Colombo Contact : 4, Pinto Place, Colombo 06, Sri Lanka.
Tel : 021 222 5796 / 077 3627 055
Email : gods.ownchildren@gmail.com
Web : www.godsownchildren.com

Dear Donors and Well Wishers,

On behalf of the Children, Volunteer Staff and Teachers of Gods Own Children Special Needs Schools, we wish you, and your families a Prosperous New Year 2009.

We are pleased to present the following information in this issue of our Periodical Newsletter.

REPORT ON INAUGURATION OF SEWING CENTER - PHASE 1 OF EMPLOYMENT TRAINING CENTER FOR DISADVANTAGED YOUTH

We are pleased to inform you that the Sewing Center (In Sangarapillai Road, Manipay) was inaugurated, on the 14th of December 2008. There was an official opening ceremony at 3pm, where the following Guest of Honors, graced the occasion - Reverend Father Anthony Pillai - Parish Priest, St. Anthony's Church, Manipay, Mr. Mathivanan - Manager - Union Assurance, Jaffna, Mr. Sarma - Manager - Bank of Ceylon, Manipay, Mr. Yogenthiren - Regional Manager and Engineer - Sri Lanka Telecom, Jaffna, and Mr. Thangarajah - Head of Lions Club



In the above pictures you can see the front view of the Training Center with the sign board.

Mr. Mathivanan is seen lighting the traditional lamp in one picture, and Mrs. Jecinta Anton - Director/Principal of Gods Own Children is lighting the traditional lamp, and Miss. Poobathy Sinnathambi - Director - Finance and Administration of Gods Own Children, is looking on with another staff member.

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JANUARY

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In these pictures you can see Reverend Father Anthony Pillai, lighting the traditional lamp, Mr. Sarma cutting the ribbon, and both Hindu and Christian prayers and blessings are being said, by Reverend Father Anthony Pillai and Mr. Sarma. In one picture you could see the Sewing Teacher starting off the first Sewing Lesson.



We are extremely delighted that we were able to inaugurate this project. We have been planning this project for quite a long time now. However, we were unable to implement this Project all this while, due to lack of funds.

As you know, we have 350 plus children in our Special Needs Schools. We anticipate more enrolments in the New Year. Some of the existing students will be leaving our school in a few years time, and **when they leave school, we need to ensure that they are properly trained and take up gainful employment.** When these children become responsible youth, they must learn to be independent and manage their own lives. We, as their guardians should encourage them to have a wholesome and complete education, and then train them for gainful employment. We should be practical and pragmatic, because we cannot expect many of the children to gain admission to University.

It is with this objective in mind that we started the **Employment Training Project.** Currently, we are going to admit girls from poverty stricken families, and train them in Sewing. We are also planning to start Centers in Point Pedro and Ariyalai, where there are hundreds of poverty stricken youth. The current Employment Training Center is located at Sangarapillai Road, Manipay, and we cannot expect, Youth from faraway Ariyalai and Point Pedro to travel to Manipay to attend the Training Program daily.

We also hope to expand our Employment Training Center to include a **Workshop Based Training Center** for young men, **Training In Poultry Farming, Animal Husbandry, Agriculture and Home Made Edible Products & Bakery.**

The **Employment Training Center** is a very important venture, because we must not let our people depend on subsidies the whole time. We have to encourage them to be independent and earn their own living. Mr. Sarma - Bank of Ceylon, Manipay promised us that he will provide the Youth with loans for starting self employment ventures after they complete any of the **Training Courses** at our **Employment Training Center.**

We now appeal to all our Donors and Well Wishers to promote our cause among your contacts, to raise funds for the following purposes.

1. We require funds for the operating cost of the Training Center. This includes - Rent, Salaries, Electricity and Cloth and Accessories.
2. We require funds to start up a Workshop at the same premises.
3. We require funds to start up a Poultry Farming Project at the same premises.
4. We require funds to Purchase Sewing Machines and all the above 3 requirements, for two more centers planned for, in Point Pedro and Ariyalai.

You might wonder why we are so ambitious for expanding this Project. **IT IS BECAUSE WE REALIZE THAT POVERTY CAN BE ELIMINATED ONLY THROUGH EDUCATION AND TRAINING.** We can operate schools and give the children handouts and subsidies, and when the children graduate from school, they will still depend on the handouts and subsidies because they won't know how to move forward. **THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE THAT THESE CHILDREN WHO SUBSEQUENTLY BECOME RESPONSIBLE YOUTH, IS TO ENSURE THAT THEY RECEIVE SPECIALIZED EMPLOYMENT TRAINING AND GIVEN THE NECESSARY SUPPORT, SUCH AS , A LOAN TO START THEIR OWN SELF EMPLOYMENT PROJECT.**

PLEASE ADOPT AN ORPHAN FROM JAFFNA

As per instructions from the GOC Chairman, a Team from [Gods Own Children Foundation](#) met the Mallakam District Judge, Honorable Ms. Sarojini Ilankovan and the Court Registrar and Staff, regarding the Orphan Children under the care of the Court (Judiciary). Currently, there are , approximately 70 Children under the Care and Supervision of the Mallakam Courts at the Inuvil Hospital.

The objective of the GOC Team's visit to the Mallakam Court was to obtain permission to canvass for the adoption of Orphan Children in Jaffna. The Court Staff were extremely cooperative and helpful and have given us the guidelines to be given to any interested persons who wish to adopt a child from Jaffna.

[Gods Own Children and its Volunteer Staff](#) are more than willing to act as an intermediary and facilitate the process. Our main interest and objective is to ensure that these unfortunate children of Jaffna obtain loving foster parents and a good home. **OUR SERVICES WILL BE ENTIRELY FREE OF CHARGE.**

If there are any persons, overseas, who are interested in adopting a child, the following documentation is required.

1. Certified Copies of Birth Certificates of Foster Parents.
2. Certified Copy of Marriage Certificate of foster parents.
3. Certified copies of Income Details (Salary Slips / Bank Statements)
4. Certified 10 years Police Report of both Foster Parents.
5. Certified Medical Certificate that the parents are in good health. (Forbidden - AIDS/Tuberculosis)
6. Certified Medical Certificate that the Foster Parents are unable to have a child of their own. (Comment by GOC - In some cases, even parents having their own children could adopt).
7. A Character Certificate for each parent from a Religious Organization (Church for Christians, Temple for Hindus or Even any other Social Service Organization).

Since, the Foster Parents might not want to visit Jaffna, due to the prevailing conditions, the Judicial Case could be transferred from the Mallakam Courts to the Colombo Mount Lavinia Courts, if a request is made to adopt a child from Jaffna specifically. [Gods Own Children](#) will provide all the relevant assistance. At one point the Foster Parents need to visit Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Those who are interested in providing a meaningful life to an unfortunate Child from Jaffna, and also wish to have a bundle of Joy from Jaffna, in your home, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. B. Anandkumar. All information will be maintained strictly confidential.

THE UNFORTUNATE CHILDREN OF JAFFNA

As you are aware, there are thousands of [unfortunate children from poverty stricken families in Jaffna](#). There are also hundreds of [differently able children](#) who are unable to attend our schools or any other schools due to lack of transport. There are other Social Service Organizations in Jaffna, who are doing yeoman service to humanity by looking after unfortunate children, within their scope and ability. However, it may look an impossible task to serve all the unfortunate children in Jaffna.

As far as GOC is concerned, we think it is possible, if all us ([Social Service Organizations, Donors, and Well Wishers](#)) work as a team. We do not want to be bound and constrained by a name tag called GOC or Gods Own Children. [Our Goal is to improve the lives of all the unfortunate children in Jaffna](#). We are only limiting our presence in Jaffna and not expanding to other regions because of the lack of funds and because we cannot bite more than we can chew.

The Children in the North (East too) have gone through severe stress and strain over the past few years. The war conditions, the [Tsunami](#) and the damage caused by [Cyclone Nisha](#) in November 2008 has made the lives of all the children in the North very miserable.

We thank all our [Donors](#) who supported our efforts to look after all the children in our schools and provide them with the basic necessities to live a meaningful life.

MILESTONES IN 2008

2008 has been a reasonable good year for GOC, and we have been able to achieve some major milestones due to the generosity of all our Donors.

Milestone 1 - Opening of a Special Needs School Siththankerny.

Milestone 2 - Commencing a Nutrition Project for all our children, Kind Courtesy of the IMHO.

Milestone 3 - Conducting an Art Exhibition in Jaffna and Colombo, Kind Courtesy of the European Union.

Milestone 4 - Inauguration of a GOC Chapter in Canada. (By this, Donors in Canada would be able to obtain Tax Benefit and also avoid bank transfer charges).

Milestone 5 - Inauguration of a Sewing Training Center - Phase 1 of Employment Training Center for Youth.

FUTURE PROJECTS - 2009

We expect to implement the following projects (Subject to availability of funds) in 2009.

1. Opening a School in Puththur (A very backward area)
2. Opening a School in Chullipuram (A very backward area)
3. Expanding our Employment Training Center Schemes to Point Pedro and Ariyalai, and also to include other Employment Training Courses mentioned earlier.

We appeal to all our Well Wishers and Donors, to continue assisting us, enabling us to uplift the lives of the unfortunate children and youth in Jaffna.

Thanking You,

Volunteer Committee

Gods Own Children Foundation.



INFORMATION ON THE GOC SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOLS

GODS OWN CHILDREN is a non governmental , non profit organization which was established to assist Disadvantaged Children in the Jaffna Peninsula. **GODS OWN CHILDREN FOUNDATION** is a non political secular social service organization, and provides equal opportunity and access to education, to all Disadvantaged Children who seek its services , and does not discriminate on the basis of Religion , Caste , Creed or any other factor.

Gods Own Children operates three non-fee levying special needs schools in the Jaffna Peninsula in Sri Lanka accommodating a total of more than 350 children ranging from the ages 2+ to 16+.

The special needs schools accommodate the following types of students ;

- Intellectually and physically challenged students,
- Children from poverty stricken families
- Children whose families who have been directly or indirectly affected by the war.
E.g. Children of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's)
- Children whose families who have been directly or indirectly affected by the tsunami
E.g. Children who are traumatized, children whose families who have lost housing and employment
- Children who are backward in the mainstream schools, and are identified as Slow Learners
- Slow learners and school dropouts.

Children who are backward in the mainstream schools, and who are identified as slow learners, are provided Remedial Education, part-time, during the week ends. All other children attend the school full-time.

Almost all the children in the schools come from backgrounds where the parents cannot even afford to provide a morning meal to their children before sending them to school. As a result, we provide a fresh glass of milk and a nutrition meal daily. We also provide them with most of their requirements such as books, clothes, shoes, school bags, rain coats and other needs, thanks to our generous donors.

Jaffna cannot and will not forget the horror of the ongoing continuous three decade war. The horror and misery created by indiscriminate killings even today, and abductions in the peninsula, have created numerous children, who have been affected physically and mentally; children's brain and sensory powers have been retarded and development has been delayed. Many hundreds of children were traumatized. Most of these children in the last two decades, have grown up into adults without ever enjoying the wonderful life span of childhood.

Mother Nature also has been cruel; The Asian Tsunami which hit the coastal belt of the Jaffna peninsula in December 2004 has further aggravated the misery of children who have already been affected by war. Hundreds of children have been traumatized by the gigantic tidal waves which destroyed everything in its path. Even in November 2008, Cyclone Nisha, lashed the Jaffna Peninsula mercilessly, and without discrimination, which resulted in thousands more internally displaced persons.

LOCATION OF GOC EMPLOYMENT TRAINING CENTER FOR YOUTH.

MANIPAY : Sankarapillai Road, Manipay

THE LOCATION OF THE GOC SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOLS

POINT PEDRO : 2, Kanthavudaiyar Lane, Puloly, Point Pedro.
SITHTHANKERNY : Dutch Road, Vaddu East, Siththankerny.
ARIYALAI : 107, A.V. Road, Ariyalai.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Our Website : www.godsownchildren.com
Our Email : gods.ownchildren@gmail.com
Our Telephone : 021 222 5796 / 077 3627 055

OUR ACCOUNT DETAILS

Account Name : Gods Own Children
Bank : Nations Trust Bank
Account No : 002100011742
Swift Code : NTBC LKLX