



KARUNA SRI LANKA INC

MAY NEWSLETTER



Hi everyone!!

Welcome to our latest Karuna Sri Lanka Newsletter.

We always enjoy sharing the ongoing activities and news about our children. It is important for you to know how we assist so many children with your support.

Shashi, our hardworking co-ordinator, has had a busy time since Christmas organising classes, visiting orphanages, delivering Karuna Care Kits and taking some of the children for a day out to Coconut Tree Hill at Mirissa. We hope you enjoy reading all about these activities and just remember:

WE CANNOT DO THIS WITHOUT YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!!

OUR AIM IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- Update on the programs we fund.
- Tertiary education.
- Karuna Care Kits
- Report on our continuing support for the orphanages we assist.
- Day out to Coconut Tree Hill, Mirissa.
- Introduce you to some of our children.

On-going Programs

English Classes - The very important English classes are now continuing each week. We have been able to source a new teacher which means the classes are now

split into 2 groups depending on their level of English. This is a big improvement and the feedback from some of the students has been very encouraging. It is so



Junior Students



Senior Students

important for the children to become fluent in english as we know this will assist them to find work in a variety of employment opportunities and improve their standard of living.

Swimming Lessons – The children are very excited to be able to resume these



fun but important lessons. The swimming pools have been allowed to re-open which is great. The children are so committed to these lessons that they requested to have lessons at 6am on Sunday morning instead of midday when the weather is too hot and humid. That is dedication for you and shows how much they enjoy this activity!!

New Program

Computer Classes - Shashi has worked hard to find a suitable computer training college. We are now funding 2 classes at the training college where they divide the children between Introductory level and Advanced level. The programs include:

Certificate Level – Introductory

Concepts of Information Technology (IT)
Using the computer and managing files.
Word Processing (MS Word)
Spreadsheets (MS Excel)
Presentation (MS Powerpoint)
Database (MS Access)
Information & Communication (Internet & Email)



Diploma - Advanced

Includes all the above qualifications

PLUS

Photoshop & Adobe Flash

Tertiary Education

Ishara is one of the girls we watched grow up at Yasodara Orphanage and later at the Still Waters Orphanage. She is a very dedicated student and is continuing to work on her online studies in Accounting, Business Studies and Economics classes which we fund. Ishara is now living with her mother.



Pradeepa, another of our children brought up in Yasodara, is also working hard on her studies. We are funding:



Science, Mathematics, Sinhala (the local language), English and History classes for her and she has recently taken her O Level exams. Shashi's mother took Pradeepa to her exams every day and stayed nearby for the 9 days during the examination period. We are very grateful for this assistance because in Sri Lanka Pradeepa would not be allowed to do this on her own.

After leaving the WB Wijesinghe Home (Orphanage), Pradeepa was unable to live with relatives. Since then, Shashi has found suitable accommodation for her and we are funding the boarding house fees.

Shashi has also purchased items Pradeepa requires in her room at the boarding house.

Fun experiences!

Birthdays

Pradeepa celebrated her birthday in January and Shashi organised a party and gifts for her with some of her friends.



Dileka also celebrated her birthday and enjoyed a party and the gifts she received.



The children are always excited to have a birthday party.

As you can imagine it makes them feel very special to cut their very own birthday cake and open presents. We are sure all of our donors are happy to know some of your kind donations are used in this way.

Day out at Coconut Tree Hill, Mirissa

Shashi took 8 children for a great day out to Coconut Tree Hill, Mirissa. They started the day with breakfast and a train ride to Mirissa where they had a great time. It is not usual for them to travel by train so this was a fun experience for them. The day out included lunch and snacks before returning to Galle by bus. *The whole day out cost Karuna less than 40 AUD!!* The photos at the beginning and end of the newsletter show how much they enjoyed the day.

YOU CERTAINLY PUT A BIG SMILE ON THEIR FACES!

Karuna Care Kits



Our Karuna Care Kits were once again given to our children in February. These kits are full of hygiene and cleaning products which the children receive each month and are very popular. Shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, toothpaste and sanitary products are just a few of the items they receive. Having their own personal items is very important for the children.

PROFILES

We thought you may wish to be introduced to the children you assist with your amazing donations. John Woods, our Vice-Chairman, lives in London and has been working hard to prepare profiles of some of our children. John has watched many of the girls who previously lived at the Yasadora Orphanage grow up. We will continue to feature his profiles in our newsletters.

Dileka is our first young lady to be profiled and you will have read about her in previous newsletters. Justin and John have seen the always smiling and cheerful Dileka grow from a child into a young lady.

DILEKA



Dileka has just celebrated her 19th birthday with a party organised by Shashi and Karuna for which she was very grateful. She is currently staying in a boarding house, however, Shashi is in the process of looking for new accommodation.

Shashi also found Dileka a job in a clock shop where she worked for a long time before moving to a factory job. However, she really wants to do a make-up course once the present restrictions are lifted. Dileka is busy trying to find the right course to choose and Karuna will be there to assist with the fees.

She attends all the activities Karuna arranges and especially loves the swimming lessons. She is always happy to go on visits to meet the other girls with Shashi who she spends a lot of time with. She sometimes spends time with Anjula and Ganguli at their home which she loves doing as they became very good friends during their time at Yasodara.

BHASHINI



Eighteen-year-old Bhashini has been living with her aunt since Yasadora closed. She is still at school but wishes to join the Sri Lankan Army in the next couple of months. The paperwork has been submitted. Bhashini attends the days out which Karuna arranges and Shashi sees her regularly.

ORPHANAGE VISITS

We always wish to assist the orphanages where our children were placed when Yasodara closed down.

Shashi has been able to visit Apeksha and Children's Corner Orphanages in January and Still Waters and Matara Buddhist Ladies Orphanage in February. She takes food and cleaning products and the Matrons of the orphanages are very thankful for our assistance. Shashi always checks with the Matrons for any special requests before

shopping. This entails quite a lot of travelling for Shashi, but she is happy to do this as it also gives her an opportunity to catch up with the girls from Yasodara which she enjoys.

DONATIONS

We thank our regular donors for your continuing support. We could not help these children have a better life without your help.

In our last Newsletter we featured Scott Funston who requested the guests at his 50th birthday party to make a donation to Karuna rather than give him a gift. We have been very fortunate to have one of Scott's friends, Gavin West, make a similar request.

Gavin West



Celebrated his 60th Birthday in February and the generous donations from his party raised \$1,014.60.

Many thanks to Gavin, his relatives and friends for their very kind generosity.

Gavin and Elaine West ready to party!!

James Krishna Floyd



We have continued to receive donations from James which has been great and we thank him very much. These donations are now funding the english and computer classes, swimming lessons, tertiary education and boarding fees for the girls that lived in the Yasodara Orphanage.

THANK YOU, James your assistance with these expences will give us a chance to fund more projects and assist more children.

To Our Donors

GIVE NOW has become a very easy and cost-effective way for our *overseas donors* to process either a one-off or a regular monthly donation. We now have a Give Now donation button on our website which connects directly to their website.

PLEASE NOTE: Payments from overseas to Give Now can **only** be made through a Credit Card account.

Our donors in Australia are able to make payments **direct** to our bank account from their own Debit account or Credit Card with no transfer fees attached.

OUR COMMITMENT

Our commitment to our Karuna Sri Lanka Inc. donors is that all money donated is used entirely for the support of our organisations in Sri Lanka. We are a volunteer run

organisation and we do not use any of your donations for our running costs. These are met by Justin, our President, and other committee members.

We are always seeking more donors to assist us in our efforts to continue our work.

If you have friends or relatives that you feel may be interested in reading this newsletter, donating, visiting our website or following us on Facebook please pass this newsletter to them to read about our work.

Website: www.karunasrilanka.com.au (Donation form is available on this site.)

Facebook: Visit our [Facebook page](#) karuna sri lanka inc. OR contact Justin on 0423 169 328.

Best Wishes to you all and thanks once again for your ongoing support. Karuna Sri Lanka Inc. would not exist without you.

Please remember:

You helped to put smiles on the children's faces!!



A VERY BIG THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!