



## KARUNA SRI LANKA INC.

### MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2025.

We wish to share with you a recent visit to Sri Lanka by our Treasurer, June Foote and Vice-President, John Woods plus update you on all our other activities.

June enjoyed her visit to Galle, arriving on the 10<sup>th</sup> March and leaving on the 24<sup>th</sup> March John arrived on the 21<sup>st</sup> March and stayed until 31<sup>st</sup> March.

*(In keeping with our charities policy June and John personally pay for their own flights and accommodation)*

We invite you to enjoy following their trip to keep you up to date with all the young ladies, families and orphanages we support with your fantastic donations. PLUS news of 72 dresses and underwear donated to the Moravinna Orphanage, a visit from a family with sporting equipment, 2 of our young ladies attending a British Way International school.

June and one of our co-ordinators, Jayani, visited Sukitha Orphanage for special needs children and adults. It is always good to visit the vocational centre and purchase hand-crafted items which June sells in Australia and returns the money to Sukitha, this enables them to purchase more materials.



*One of the residents loves having his photo taken with Jayani, Maneesha, from Sukitha and June.*



*Bath mats are a very popular product made in the vocational centre. The ladies enjoy showing off the bath mats they have made.*



*June made this fidget board as a sample to see if it would be suitable for the residents to use.*



*June, chatting with some of the ladies.*

*Kay, a committee member and June made these sensory items for the residents. They soon enjoyed playing with them.*

## Visit to Sachini



*We always take dry foods*

*Also, small gifts for the children of course*



*Sanuli received one of Kay's knitted dolls which she loved with the special socks we gave her.*

*Senuk enjoyed his colouring book, pencils and stickers. Miheli (Jayani's granddaughter) had fun helping him.*





## Thanuja – always smiling.

Thanuja is busy setting up her home seamstress business with the assistance of Karuna. She is purchasing an overlocker from Karuna and has started sewing bags to sell. June purchased a few which she will sell and give the money raised to Thanuja. This will enable her to continue purchasing more fabric



*June purchasing the bags from Thanuja*



*The overlocker which Thanuja is buying from Karuna.*

We also presented Thanuja with a donated laptop from Samantha Stripp to assist Thanuja with her business. She asked if she could share it with her nephew who lives with them and is studying engineering at university. Thanuja has just let us know that her nephew has passed his exams which is great.

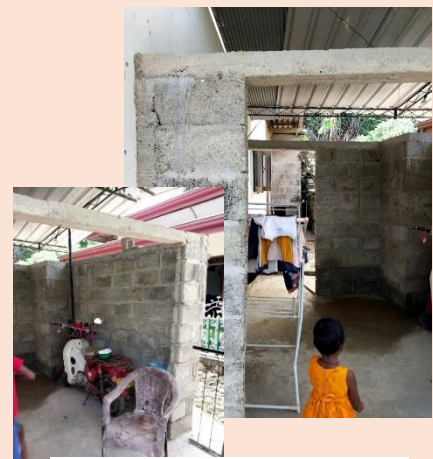


## Bhagya

Bhagya and her husband live in a small village well away from the nearest town. With help from Karuna they have temporarily set up shop in their home which is doing well. They are in the process of building a shop at the side of their house which Karuna is giving them financial assistance. This will enable them to expand the stock they can sell.



*Serving a customer from the shop inside the house.*



*The outside shop under construction*





We always take dried foods for which Bhagya is very grateful

Oshimi received one of Kay's dolls and socks.



Bhagya was very happy to receive one of the laptops donated by Samanatha Stripp to help with her business.

## **Thisendi**

We assist 15 year old Thisendi with school fees to enable her to attend school. She is a very good student as well as being an excellent netball player. Jayani coaches netball at her school, and June was able to visit one of the coaching sessions and caught up with Thisendi.



*Thisendi and June*



*This is the practice court which is a bit different to courts in Australia!!!*



*Since arriving home June has received ball bags from the Padbury Netball Club. They will be great to take the remainder of the netballs and uniforms this club donated previously. The bags will be a great asset to the teams in Sri Lanka.*



# Bhashini

We always enjoy visiting Bhashini to give her support and some food. The girls enjoy watching Manulya growing, she is nearly 2 years old.



*Bhashini with Manulya who is hugging 2 of Kay's knitted dolls.*



John had arrived in Sri Lanka and he was very happy to visit Bhashini with Piyuma, Shashi, Sanduni and Dileka.



*Shashi with some of the shopping for Bhashini*



*Bhashini receiving the food supplies we purchased.*



*Bhashini loved the bedspread we gave her which had been donated by Margaret and Ray Fischer*



*The girls saw some guavas in the trees at the house.*



*Piyuma could not resist climbing up to pick the guavas.*

## Maheesha

Maheesha is working hard on her “A” levels. Her goal is to train as a dancing teacher. She is very talented and often performs at traditional dance events. We fund Maheesha’s school fees, travel and pay for a boarding house with your donations where Maheesha can live safely. We wish to thank The Free Town Trust for donating towards the school fees for Maheesha.



*Maheesha danced at the school sports day which is a very important event.*



We presented Maheesha with one of the 4 laptops donated by Samantha Stripp.

## Miheli



It was a pleasure to pass on an i-pad with a lovely pink cover (her favourite colour) donated by Jeremy Chittock to Miheli. She is a very good student and speaks english fluently even though she is only 7 years old.

Miheli was so pleased to have her own i-pad and she has been using it to assist her with school work.

Her mother is working overseas and Miheli can now have her own video calls with her mother, this means such a lot to her.

## Piyuma and Sanduni

We are very happy to report that 2 more of our young ladies have completed an english course at the British Way English Academy. Piyuma and Sanduni were very enthusiastic to attend this intensive, 55-day live-in course at the academy. This now means that Karuna has supported a total of 6 girls to attend this highly recommended course.



*Sanduni and Piyuma arriving for the course.*



*Sanduni and Piyuma will receive a Diploma for passing the course at a special ceremony.*



*Study groups at work*

## *Chamodi*

Chamodi is Maheesha's elder sister. She lives with her husband's family while he works overseas. Chamodi works from home for a fashion warehouse finishing off garments. She receives 20 slkr. (11 cents) per garment and has to check 250 per day.



*Chamodi with Jayani and Miheli.*

## *Piyuma and Sanduni*



Piyuma and Sanduni live in the safe house.

Karuna received a good I-phone from Viv and David Baker. We were happy to present it to **Piyuma** as her phone has broken down. She uses it for online classes therefore it is important she has a good working phone.

**Sanduni** was very happy to receive a laptop also donated by Viv and David Baker. She is waiting for her exam results then she can take the next step towards a career. The laptop will certainly be very helpful for her ongoing studies.



## *Tamara meets up with some of the girls she met at Yasodara Orphanage*

Many years ago, Tamara visited Yasodara Orphanage and met many of the girls we support and where our charity began. She contacted Justin during a visit to Galle in March this year and asked if she could take the girls from the safe house out for dinner.

It was a very enjoyable evening and the girls, now young ladies, enjoyed chatting to Tamara about their hopes and dreams moving forward



*Now all grown up.*

*Miheli, Jayani, (Co-ordinator) June, Sanduni, Sathya, TAMARA, Piyuma, Ishara and Shashi (Co-ordinator)*

## *Piyumi*



Piyumi is one of the young girls who lived at the Yasodara Orphanage.

Karuna has assisted Piyumi through difficult times and it is good to see her happy and working full-time at Ansell Sri Lanka. You may have seen their products in the supermarket.

She is very happy in her job and wishes to save enough money to build her own house in about 5 years'

time. June was happy to meet Piyumi and give her a small gift.



*Even though Piyumi does not need our support now we still feel it is important and enjoyable to keep in touch and let her know she is still part of the Karuna family.*



### Jayani – one of our hard-working Co-ordinators.

Jayani has been working on a very old laptop for a long time. We were very lucky to receive 5 laptops in Australia for June to take to Sri Lanka, therefore we decided to donate a laptop donated by Samantha Stripp to Jayani. Every month Jayani and Shashi, our other co-ordinator send detailed accounts to our treasurer, complete with all receipts, bank statements and financial reports. All assistance payments and expences are approved by our President, Justin before they are processed.



### ORPHANAGE VISITS

#### Tikiri Sevana Children's Orphanage

Tikiri Sevana is situated near Kandy, it is a government run orphanage looking after babies and children up to 5 years old. A few years ago, we were able to assist this orphanage with some much-needed equipment. This year we were in a position to be able to help them again. We had contacted the manager to find out how we could help and they requested a new gas stove to replace the old broken one. The stove is used for boiling clothes therefore it is an essential item. We also purchased food and some treats which the children will love.



*This is the new orphanage building. The old building is now available for unmarried mothers, mainly young girls to stay until their baby is born. The babies are often placed in the orphanage where they can be adopted.*



*The Manager accepting the gas stove, food and medical supplies we donated.*



*The Matron gave Jayani and June a tour of the orphanage. We are not allowed to take photos of the babies and children. They did, however, have fun playing with the older children.*

## Moravinna Orphanage

Shashi and some of the girls from the safe house visit this girl's orphanage every month. We take food and refill a gas bottle for cooking, plus, if there have been any birthdays in the month, we take a birthday cake for each of the girls that celebrated their special day. John, our vice-president, pays for the cakes which is very kind of him.



Karuna works hard to assist this orphanage with much needed items to make life easier for the cook to feed all the girls and staff. Some of the items we have purchased include:



We purchased a **blender** and **rice cooker** plus **food**.



The **water purifier** and **food** were very well received



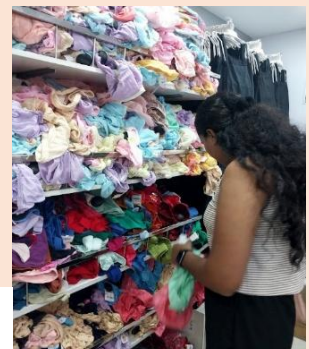
John presenting the **oven** and **food** to the Matron,



The rice cooker, blender and oven are used every day. The matron has told us that the oven is also used to teach the girls how to cook. Therefore, it has a dual purpose which is great.

*All simple items but it means the world to this orphanage.*

For our monthly visit in March, we had a big surprise for the Matron and girls. The Free Town Trust in England had purchased **72 dresses** which John brought to Sri Lanka plus they donated money to Karuna for Shashi, our co-ordinator, to purchase **underwear** for all of the **19** girls. Big thanks to the Free Town Trust for this amazing donation.



Shashi shopping for underwear





*The matron was amazed with the selection of dresses*



*Underwear all ready to take to the orphanage.*



*Presenting the underwear for the girls.*



*June gave each child a small gift and hand cream for the carers. The gifts had very kindly been donated by Margaret and Ray Fischer.*



*Giving the hand creams to the carers*

## **Caroline, John and family meet Jayani**

*Friends Caroline and John from Australia visited Sri Lanka with their family in January.*

*They were very kind to donate netballs, cricket balls, and cricket equipment.*

*Jayani, one of our co-ordinators was pleased to meet the family and accept the equipment on behalf of Karuna. She was also able to chat with them about the work of our charity.*



***BIG THANKS** for taking the time out of your trip to donate much needed sports equipment.*

## **NEW YEAR IN SRI LANKA IS A SPECIAL CELEBRATION.**

A very important time of the year in Sri Lanka is New Year which is held in April. It is a tradition in Sri Lanka to buy new clothes, decorate houses and enjoy celebrating with special food. Karuna gifts money to our girls, including the ladies who are married and our coordinators to enable them to purchase new clothes so they do not miss out.

Sathya and Piyuma (sisters) who live in the safe house sent these photos and a thank you note in appreciation.

*Happy new year, thank you so much for everything ❤️😊*





*The table set with food to celebrate this very important occasion at the safe house.*



*We trust you have enjoyed reading about our work in Sri Lanka. A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who makes all this possible, without your kind donations we could not achieve so much.*

*If you have any friends or relatives, you think may be interested in our work, please pass this newsletter on. We are always hoping for more regular donors to support our small charity. Even a regular donation of \$10 per month would be gratefully received.*

**There are different ways we are able to receive much needed donations.**



**DIRECT TO OUR BANK 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.

**Karuna Sri Lanka Inc. – Westpac Bank**

**BSB: 036-044    Account No: 339-908**

Please email [karunasrilanka3@gmail.com](mailto:karunasrilanka3@gmail.com) or message our Treasurer, June Foote 0417 553 320 with your name, email address, date sent and donation amount. This will enable June to confirm your donation has been received and forward a receipt to you. **PLEASE NOTE: Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible for Australian tax payers.**



**THE PAYPAL GIFT FUND does not deduct fees from any donations therefore all proceeds are received by the charity.**



**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 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.

**AND ALWAYS REMEMBER:**



***You help to put smiles on the children's faces and improve their health and education opportunities!***



***Just a bit of fun. June has always wanted to wear a sari. Her dream came true this time when Jayani dressed her in one of hers.***

***Goodbye from June and a big thank you for your support.***