

VISIONS

G L O B A L
Education. Empowerment. Entrepreneurship.

JUNE 2011

Visions Projects Update

Bicycles & After-School Tuition for War-Affected Youth in Eastern Sri Lanka

Visions continues its support for ongoing A/L and O/L tuition classes at after-school centers in Karadiyanaru and Vaharai through our local partner, the Church of the American Ceylon Mission (CACM). With our second installment of \$3,700, in addition to providing salaries for tuition teachers, we have also been able to support the cost of constructing a temporary shed where the classes are held. Visions thanks our Chapter Teams and donors for enabling these educational programs for hundreds of war-affected youth at risk of dropping out of school.



To-date, Visions has also provided 18 bicycles to needy students in the Eastern Province, also through CACM. Due to the extreme distance from school and the cost of a bicycle, many students in these areas stop attending school or do so very irregularly. As a result, the literacy rate and educational standards are very low. Most of these youth crave activities and desire

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Visions Chapters

We invite you to get involved with one of our many Visions Chapters today or start your own. Please feel free to contact any of the following individuals if you are interested in joining.

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students in these areas stop attending school or do so very irregularly. As a result, the literacy rate and educational standards are very low. Most of these youth crave activities and desire to go to school regularly, which is why Visions has helped provide bicycles to several deserving young people.



Kalagam Staff Support

Visions has provided an incentive allowance to a young student teacher at Saiva Mangaiyar Vidyalayam to assist with classroom activities and gain teaching experience. For this effort, Visions has given \$550 for the full year to support this young female teacher. Aside from our commitment to disadvantaged youth, empowerment of teachers remains a core focus of Visions as well.

Vision Summer Interns

This summer Visions has two volunteer interns who will be spending time in Colombo, Sri Lanka, working with students and teachers at Saiva Mangaiyar Vidyalayam (Hindu Ladies College). Each of these interns was given a grant by Visions to participate in this internship program, in which they have been tasked with conducting a one-week youth leadership training at the school and helping to develop both the office and a working plan for programming at the Kalagam Visions Learning Centre. We look forward to sharing details about this collaborative process in our next newsletter!

Children's Learning Centres in South India

As Visions grows, we continue to diversify our efforts and forge new partnerships. We are excited to share with you one such new partnership with SCOPE India Trust, a local nonprofit committed to serving children, particularly from rural communities, through education and development efforts. Visions has given \$1,000 to SCOPE to establish 3 new Children's Learning Centres (CLCs) in Madurai, South India and to support the implementation of an evaluation survey to measure their success. The CLCs are designed to offer after-school tuition in the subject areas of language, math, English, and science, for children in Standards 1-10. Once the new CLCs are established, mentors will offer remedial classes for children in reading and math. Age and level appropriate competencies as well as supplementary enhancement education will be provided for all children in the age group of 6-15. Libraries will be established with diverse reading materials such as comics and story books that

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We need YOUR

children can borrow and take home. Computer education will be initiated, and there will be ongoing training for mentors.



donating **just \$25** today!

Visions Adolescent Health Education Program to Launch this Summer

The Visions Adolescent Health Education Pilot Program (VAHEPP,) a program designed by one of our most committed and ambitious volunteers was recently granted funding by another Los Angeles based nonprofit organization and is set to launch in Sri Lanka this summer. The program is being done in partnership with the Church of American Ceylon Mission (CACM) and will benefit 150 adolescents, ranging in age from 13-16 years old. These young people will be drawn from 2 participating CACM after-school centers in Jaffna and will participate in health education sessions twice monthly during the school year.

Keeping with our mission to empower local staff and build their capacity, 6 community health workers from the Jaffna Teaching Hospital will be chosen to teach the education sessions. Additionally, a recent Masters graduate from Chennai, India who is now living in Jaffna, Sri Lanka will be trained to run all the administrative and management tasks to ensure the program runs smoothly throughout the year. The curriculum will be developed based on the needs of the communities with whom we are working, with a strong focus on physical, emotional, and reproductive health behaviors of adolescents. We look forward to sharing more about this program with you in future e-newsletters.

Visions Team Continues to Grow

Visions would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest team members, including 3 new Board members and 1 new Chapter Coordinator. Joining the Visions Board of Directors is **Katherine Redington**, who recently graduated from Columbia University where she obtained her Masters in International Education; **Sonny Thadani**, a partner at financial consulting firm Accordion Partners in New York City; and **Shyamala Nagendran**, who recently obtained her PhD in Computing Science and Informatics with a focus on medical education from the University of Alberta. Finally, our newest Chapter Coordinator is **Mythili Sivaswarupan**, who is starting a Visions Chapter at UC Berkeley this fall. You can view our entire team and read more about it on our website [HERE](#).

Boston & Davis Chapters Hold Successful Events

Boston Chapter Raises \$2,000 at Social Event

The Visions Boston Chapter held an event on the night of Thursday, April 28th at Tommy Doyle's near the Harvard campus. DJ Pup Dawg was generously on-hand for the event, which raised \$2,000 for the Visions Scholarship Program. Thanks to the event organizers Vince, Viji, and Deepa for their hard work in putting this together!



Visions' Davis Chapter is Keeping Busy!

The Davis Chapter of Visions held two more events since our last e-newsletter. The first was an all-day fundraiser at Thai Canteen Restaurant on April 14th, where Visions received 10% of all purchases made that evening by supporters who brought the event flyer with them. And the second event was a karaoke night held at UC Davis on May 10th. Both events had a good turnout and helped to spread the word about Visions. The Davis Chapter is now gearing up for a big fall fundraising event and other exciting activities. Anyone interested in joining or getting involved can email Venita at ucdvisions@gmail.com or join the Visions Davis Facebook group [HERE](#).

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