

ViSiONS

G L O B A L

Education. Empowerment. Entrepreneurship.

MARCH 2012

Make a Difference: Volunteer with us in Sri Lanka or India this summer!

New Visions VIDEO Puts Spotlight on Youth Perspectives of Our Leadership Program



Empowering Young Leaders in India & Sri Lanka: Visions Leadership Program

Are you looking for a meaningful experience that will enrich both your life and the lives of disadvantaged youth in South Asia who have a passion for learning? We are still accepting volunteers for our Visions trips to India and Sri Lanka this summer. All the details, including trip flyer, detailed appeal, and application can be found online at www.VisionsGlobalEmpowerment.org. To apply, simply fill out the application form and send it back to us with a \$50 application fee. Hope you can join us!

INDIA Special Volunteer Trip 2012: *Chennai, Madurai, Dindigul, Mahabalipuram, Thiruvannamalai & Pondicherry-Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry*

March '12 Edition

Issue #15

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INDIA Special Volunteer Trip 2012: *Chennai, Madurai, Dindigul, Mahabalipuram, Thiruvannamalai, & Pondicherry-Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry, India*

Monday, June 18th-Sunday, July 8th

21 days/20 nights

Program fee: Apply directly to Amizade

**This trip is being organized in partnership with Amizade Global Service Learning. Interested applicants must apply directly through Amizade. Students can earn 6 academic credits from West Virginia University! This trip will feature one 7-day youth leadership training. Full details of this trip, including itinerary and academic descriptions, are available on the Amizade website at www.amizade.org.*

INDIA Volunteer Trip 2012: *Chennai, Madurai, Dindigul, & Bangalore-Tamil Nadu & Karnataka, India*

Tuesday, July 10th-Monday, July 23rd

14 days/13 nights

Program fee: \$1,250/person

**This trip will feature one 7-day youth leadership training.*

SRI LANKA Volunteer Trip 2012: *Colombo, Batticaloa, & Kandy, Sri Lanka*

Saturday, August 4th-Thursday, August 23rd

20 days/19 nights

Program fee: \$1,595/person

**This trip will feature one 7-day youth leadership training in Batticaloa and one 6-day youth leadership training in Colombo. Volunteers are encouraged to participate in both trainings, but can choose to participate in either training of their choice as well. In that case, the program fee will be adjusted accordingly.*

Computer Lab & Music Room Unveiled at St. John's College, Jaffna



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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As we reported in our last e-newsletter, thanks to the generous support of a private donor, Visions has partnered with St. John's College in Jaffna, Sri Lanka in developing and fully equipping a music room and computer lab in memory of the late Dr. Rex T. Arulanathan. In keeping with St. John's objectives, these efforts, focused on providing supplementary educational opportunities, will help enable the school to holistically nurture the body, mind, and spirit of these young people in order to empower them in discovering their talents, skills, and abilities. In response to the final phase of the war in Sri Lanka and the subsequent displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, St. John's provided free admission to 545 internally displaced (IDP) students in 2009, among which 222 were given free hostel accommodations. These new facilities will benefit these students and all others. Both rooms were opened to the students in January 2012 and have since begun offering regular programs. You can view a full photo gallery [HERE](#).



Projects Update from Sri Lanka & India



At the end of 2011, Visions provided assistance to the Women's Education and Research Centre (WERC) in Sri Lanka in support of a **women's trishaw drivers empowerment project**. WERC, which had already provided training to a group of marginalized women, simply needed the actual vehicles to hand over to the women. The trishaws were handed over to these deserving women on March 8th in Jaffna in commemoration of International Women's Day. These women are not only empowered to now provide for themselves and their families, they are also breaking down gender stereotypes and norms about the role of women in society and challenging the male-dominated order of this profession. It also has the potential to enhance the mobility and sense of security of women passengers, particularly those that travel alone.

In a continuation of our commitment to the tribal boarding school currently under construction in Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, India, Visions provided support in the amount of \$4,091 to SAWED Trust to purchase **10 classroom blackboards**. As progress continues steadily on the development of the new facility, SAWED is now starting to turn its attention to developing and equipping the actual classrooms. The school, which will serve tribal and dalit children, is set to open later this year.

Working in partnership with the STITCH Movement, **after-school programs for Ordinary Level (O/L) students in Kilinochchi** were conducted over a period of 6 weeks in November and December 2011. Instruction in basic subjects such as Tamil, English, math, and science have helped war-displaced students to catch up and put their education back on track. Evening classes were held within the Barathy Vidyalayam school premises for 6 consecutive weeks (2 hours/day, 3 times/week from Friday-Sunday), for 84 students sitting for their O/L examinations. STITCH volunteers and local staff were able to offer both classes/tutoring, as well as a midday meal for the students.



Past Events

For just 24 hours, Visions became the featured cause on Philanthroper.com, a website dedicated to bringing awareness to valuable causes and sharing with like-minded individuals the impact just \$1 can have on supporting communities in need. For \$1, a child at a Visions after-school tuition center can receive tutoring for a week. That covers

everything: the costs of the teacher, the teacher's housing and transportation, educational supplies and occasionally even a snack. This online campaign on March 6th resulted in raising \$718 from over 220 unique donors! If you feel so inclined, donations can still be made [HERE](#).

The Toronto Chapter of Visions hosted a 4-on-4 basketball tournament on Saturday, February 18th, raising more than \$500. Ten teams participated in the event, and many more came to show their support, all of which created a friendly and exciting atmosphere. Thanks to all who attended and supported this event!

Finally, Visions information sessions were held in Davis, California and Ottawa, Canada to present summer volunteer opportunities in Sri Lanka and India to interested applicants. Our Chapter Coordinators Venita & Ganeya have been working diligently to get the word out. We are still looking for volunteers to join us abroad this summer, so please feel free to contact us at visionseducation@gmail.com or visit our website at www.VisionsForTheFuture.org to learn more.

1621 Barry Ave. #PH1, Los Angeles, CA, 90025
visionseducation@gmail.com

www.VisionsForTheFuture.org

PLEASE DONATE:

Donations are accepted online through our website OR can be mailed to the above address. Make checks out to 'VISIONS'. All donations are tax-deductible [Tax ID#26-3386678].

We need your help--there are several projects which need funding, including the Visions Leadership Program, Scholarship Program, and various other educational initiatives. We can only do this important work with your support. Education is key to development & success.

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