

ViSiONS

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

OCTOBER 2012

SAVE THE DATE: March 22-24, 2013
"Rising Stars" 10-Year Visions Gala & Reunion Weekend
Los Angeles, CA



Ten years ago a simple idea to conduct a meaningful summer camp experience for orphaned youth in the war-affected region of Eastern Sri Lanka sparked the creation of what later become "Visions"--an organization committed to serving disadvantaged youth and communities affected by poverty and conflict through education. We are humbled by the support we have received over the years and the compassion of those who have generously helped build the organization into what it has become today. In recognition of you and of the youth, teachers, and community leaders we work with in Sri Lanka and India, we are hosting our "Rising Stars" 10-Year Gala Event and Reunion Weekend in March 2013 in Los Angeles, CA.

"Rising Stars" marks a decade of Visions--of empowering the leaders of tomorrow and positively impacting the lives of others. **Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us for this exciting milestone!** All

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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.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA:

Venita Sivamani
venita.sivamani@gmail.com

LOS ANGELES/ORANGE COUNTY:

Greg Buie & Vince Gonzales
gtbuie@gmail.com;
vgonzales@gmail.com

WEST VIRGINIA:

Rose Cole (*interim*)
rose.simis.cole@gmail.com

tomorrow and positively impacting the lives of others. **Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us for this exciting milestone!!** All previous Visions volunteers who have gone abroad with us (about 115 to-date!) and any & all friends of Visions are invited to join us for a full weekend of reunion activities and fun. And on Saturday evening, March 23rd, we will be hosting our gala event that will include dinner, cultural performances, awards, and special visiting guests from Sri Lanka. All event details and ticket information will be publicized soon...hope to see you in LA in 2013!

Creating a Support Network for Teachers in Eastern Sri Lanka:

*Spotlight on 3 Exceptional Visions Volunteers--
Dharsha & Vinosha Jegatheeswaran and Matangi Thillai*



Earlier this year a dynamic trio of volunteers from Canada--**Dharsha & Vinosha Jegatheeswaran and Matangi Thillai**--headed to Sri Lanka on their own initiative to rediscover their roots and engage in a number of service-oriented projects. Visions was delighted to have their support in organizing and conducting a 3-day workshop and interactive session with 30 teachers in Batticaloa. Discussion topics and activities touched on a variety of important areas, including teaching English, pedagogy of the learning process, understanding the different types of learners (auditory,

rose_simis_coile@gmail.com

TEXAS:

Nitya Kumar
nityakumar90@gmail.com

NEW YORK:

Kari Dietrich & Niru Sahadevan
dietrich_kari@gmail.com

TORONTO:

Shivanu Thiyagarajah
shiv_thiya@hotmail.com

EDMONTON:

Branawan Gowrishankar & Leka Sivakumar
branawan@ualberta.ca;
lsivakum@ualberta.ca

MONTREAL:

Ganeya Gajaram
ganeva@live.ca

WASHINGTON DC:

Katherine Redington
katroseredj@gmail.com

PHILADELPHIA:

Romero Santiago
romero3344@gmail.com

Stay Connected with Us!

Keep up to date with Visions and all our efforts, events, upcoming trips, and more...

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<http://www.razoo.com/story/Visions-Global-Empowerment>

Upon their return they shared the following insights from their trip: *"The opportunity to work with 30 Primary School Teachers from the Batticaloa West division was incredible in the insight it gave us to the education system there. When examining how to develop effective programming for the education system, it must be done through a multi-faceted approach. This is the one major conclusion we have made...Based on our experiences and the 3-day workshop, the following are the four major obstacles we saw in furthering a child's education or developing the education system itself...transportation, poverty/livelihood, de-valuation of education (by parents), and unstable home environments."* Visions is grateful to Dharsha, Vinosh, and Matangi for their service and for their forward-thinking ideas. All three are committed to the idea of improving education for youth in Sri Lanka, and we are honored to have them be a part of our volunteer team now. Great job, ladies!



Volunteers engage in icebreaker activities and a lively discussion with teachers about the problems they face.

Investing in Early Education & Child Development in Sri Lanka



For families residing in Northern Sri Lanka a lack of access to quality Early Childhood Care and Development services limits the growth and development of their children during those crucial first few years of life. In Jaffna, many preschools do not follow universally accepted standards for early childhood care, and invest a considerable amount of time in programs focused on reading and writing, ignoring the child's other basic needs. Refocusing the attention of the development of social skills, healthy habits, emotional and psychological development, life skills, etc. enables the child to be better prepared for the academic rigors to follow and life in general. In an effort to address these needs and the dearth of adequately trained teachers, the Association for Health Education and Development (AHEAD) Trust has launched a new initiative to develop preschool education to benefit youth between 0-6 years of age. Visions granted AHEAD Trust an initial \$1,400 to support the training and salary of 1 full-time preschool teacher for a period of 1 year. We plan to keep up with the organization and monitor their progress as they strive to develop a model preschool and daycare system that will serve children and their parents throughout the region.

Upcoming Visions Events

"Davis, CA: Colors of India Cultural Extravaganza"

WHEN: November 17, 2012 from 5-7:30pm. Doors open at 4:30pm
WHERE: Richard Brunelle Performance Hall, Davis Senior High School
TICKETS: \$ 25 for VIP (\$35 at the door), \$ 15 for general (\$20 at the door) and \$10 for students (\$15 at the door). Free for children and seniors. You can purchase your tickets online by clicking here: [PURCHASE TICKETS](#)

For tickets and more information, please contact Visions at ucdvisions@gmail.com. All proceeds go towards youth education and empowerment in South Asia. You can download the event flyer here: [EVENT FLYER](#). After purchasing your tix, make sure to bring your confirmation email in print or on your smart device for event seating.

1621 Barry Ave. #PH1, Los Angeles, CA, 90025

visionseducation@gmail.com

www.VisionsGlobalEmpowerment.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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