

# VISIONS

G L O B A L

*Education. Empowerment. Entrepreneurship.*

FEBRUARY 2013

Join us in Sri Lanka or India this summer for an unforgettable service learning experience!



Looking to be inspired? Consider spending a few weeks volunteering in Sri Lanka or India with us this summer...exploring the culture, experiencing development first-hand, learning about a new place, and giving your time to deserving youth. All volunteers serve as camp counselors at a Visions leadership training, working to encourage creativity, analytical thinking, and personal skills development. Volunteers will also visit and learn from local nonprofits that serve their communities year-round and get to explore some of the immense cultural richness and diversity that South Asia has to offer! To access and download our event flyer, detailed trip appeals, and application form, please visit our website by clicking [HERE](#).

## INDIA

**Chennai, Madurai, Mahabalipuram, Thiruvannamalai, Pondicherry, & Goa (with optional 3-day Delhi/Taj Mahal add-on)**

Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>-Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> (or thru Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup> with Delhi add-on)

February '13 Edition

Issue #19

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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](mailto:venita.sivamani@gmail.com)

### LOS ANGELES/ORANGE COUNTY:

Greg Buie & Vince Gonzales  
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[vgonzales@gmail.com](mailto:vgonzales@gmail.com)

### **3-day Delhi/Taj Mahal add-on)**

Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>-Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> (or thru Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup> with Delhi add-on)

14 days/13 nights (or 17 days/16 nights with Delhi add-on)

Program fee is \$1695/person (\$1995 with Delhi add-on)

*\*This trip will feature one 5-day youth leadership training at the Arcot Lutheran Church School Project. There is an optional 3-day add-on for those interested in visiting Delhi & the Taj Mahal in Agra.*

### **SRI LANKA (Part I)**

**Colombo & Kandy, Sri Lanka**

Monday, July 29<sup>th</sup>-Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>

11 days/10 nights

Program fee is \$1100/person

*\*This trip will feature one 5-day youth leadership training at the Kalagam Visions Learning Centre (KVLC) in Colombo.*

### **SRI LANKA (Part II)**

**Colombo, Batticaloa, & Kandy, Sri Lanka**

Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup>-Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>

12 days/11 nights

Program fee is \$1200/person

*\*This trip will feature one 6-day youth leadership training at St. John's Church in Batticaloa.*

*\*\*Volunteers may join for either Part I, Part II, or both (for which the program fee is \$1800).*

## **Celebrating 10 Years of Visions: Get Your Tickets for our Gala Event Today!**

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 23rd, 2013

6:00 - 7:00pm Social Mixer & Appetizers

7:00 - 11:00pm Evening Program & Dinner

**WHERE:** Marconi Automotive Museum

1302 Industrial Drive, Tustin, CA 92780

**TICKETS:** \$75-general

\$50-students & past Visions volunteers

\$25-children 7 and under

*\*Includes dinner, wine, appetizers, valet parking,  
& entrance to car museum*

<http://visionsreunion.com/buy-tickets/>

It's a once-in-a-decade opportunity...please join us for our Visions 10-Year Gala on March 23, 2013 in Orange County, CA in recognition of all the wonderful youth, teachers, volunteers, and community leaders we have worked with in Sri Lanka and India over the years. Our **"Rising Stars"** 10-Year Gala marks a decade of Visions, of empowering the leaders of tomorrow and positively impacting the lives of others. The event will take place on Saturday evening, March 23rd from 6:00-11:00pm at the Marconi Automotive Museum in Tustin, CA and will include dinner, cultural performances, awards, and more. Please get your tickets today by visiting our special event website and make sure to check out all the event details. We are deeply excited and look forward to welcoming you then!

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## **Stay Connected with Us!**

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

## Honoring Deserving Medical Students in Chennai with Scholarships



*N.S.S.T. Founder, Mathioli Saraswathy, who is the daughter of Jayalakshmi Ramachandran, enriched the ceremony with her presence.*

A small ceremony was held on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 for the two newest recipients of the Jayalakshmi Ramachandran Scholarship Program, a collaboration between Visions and the Nandalala Seva Samithi Trust in India. Mr. A. Kavin Kumar and Mr. S. Raguraman are both second year medical students pursuing an MBBS at Stanley Medical College in Chennai. Each of these young men earned very high marks on their secondary school exit exams and come from difficult financial backgrounds. The scholarship funds they received cover their tuition costs for the coming year. The JR Scholarship Program was established last year with the creation of an endowment fund, with the annual interest accumulated supporting disadvantaged students who have demonstrated high academic excellence and lack other options for support. The preference is to support those studying medicine, and all successful applicants make a commitment to repay part of their scholarship within 5 years either by service or monetarily, enabling many more future applicants to take advantage of this same opportunity.

**Carnegie Mellon University "Social Change Semester" in India Underway**

RAZOO

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





*Students of Carnegie Mellon University Professors Nico Slate and Emily Slate interact with rural villagers in Wardha, Maharashtra.*

In a new initiative, Visions is now in the midst of running its second accredited trip in India. As part of a partnership between Visions, Carnegie Mellon University, and Amizade Global Service Learning, a team of 10 students and 2 faculty from CMU are participating in a 3-month "Social Change Semester" coordinated locally by Visions. The group's goal is to learn how to change the world by partnering with those who are already making a difference. The group first spent 3 weeks in Qatar at CMU's Qatar campus where they volunteered with South Asian migrant communities before embarking on their journey in India. For the first month in India, the group is living at Mahatma Gandhi's ashram in Wardha, Maharashtra. While here, the group is working with a rural development organization, the Kamalnayan Jannalal Bajaj Foundation, to carry forward Gandhi's legacy of service and empowerment. The Bajaj Foundation is actively engaged in water management, sustainable agriculture, education, and other community development projects. The group has so far conducted site visits over several days, engaged with local staff and community members in understanding the issues that affect their lives, and developing a strategy for how to support their efforts.

From Sevagram, the group will travel south to Chennai to volunteer locally with Visions' partners and conduct a 5-day youth leadership training. An update on Part II of this program will be shared in our next e-newsletter. Throughout their time in India, the group hopes to learn alongside their local counterparts how to mobilize social innovation in pursuit of social justice. For Visions, this represents a major step in further developing our accredited volunteer programs and enabling a larger pool of socially minded individuals to have the opportunity to learn and serve abroad. You can follow the group's progress and tap into their insights by following their blog at [www.SocialChangeSemester.org](http://www.SocialChangeSemester.org).

## **Volunteer Opportunity:** **Local Partner Assistance in Batticaloa**

For the past several years, Visions has been partnering in Sri Lanka with the Church of the American Ceylon Mission (CACM) in developing and implementing educational programs for the benefit of disadvantaged youth in the Eastern and Northern Provinces. As our programs have grown and our reach expanded, so has the need for administrative responsibilities, including data collection, monitoring & evaluation, reporting & communications, and more.

These are all integral components of responsible development work, and our local partner is in need of assistance. Visions has agreed to fund a local staff person this year under CACM to take on these responsibilities, but we are actively seeking volunteers who are willing to go to Batticaloa and spend time with CACM in developing systems, training the program staff, and generally serving as a Visions ambassador. There is no specific timeframe, although the sooner the better (ideally sometime this spring). We will help to make any necessary logistical arrangements for you during your stay and will work with you in advance to prep you and hash out a plan. This is an open call; all interested volunteers are welcome. Please contact us at [visionseducation@gmail.com](mailto:visionseducation@gmail.com) if you are interested!



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[visionseducation@gmail.com](mailto:visionseducation@gmail.com)

[www.VisionsGlobalEmpowerment.org](http://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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