

JUNE 2013

## New Short Documentary Film Highlights Ambitious Visions Scholarship Recipients



For the past few years, Visions Global Empowerment has been supporting the education of hard-working, ambitious, and high-performing youth in Tamil Nadu, India who were deeply affected by the tsunami of December 2004 and are from severely disadvantaged backgrounds. In 2013, Visions renewed its commitment to 18 of these youth through our local partner organization OfERR. Many of these youth have lost parents, have endured great hardship and caste discrimination, and would otherwise be unable to afford their tuition without this support. Most of their parents and family members are hardworking day laborers eager to see them succeed and break the cycles of poverty. We invite you to meet some of these impressive youth who have not only overcome great hardship to achieve high academic success, but have stepped forward as young leaders for their communities as well. A new short documentary film is now available online [HERE](#).

To-date, Visions has provided more than 80 scholarships to deserving youth across both Sri Lanka and India, enabling a whole cadre of young leaders to pursue their academic and professional ambitions. Join us in supporting these efforts and these exceptional future leaders...learn more about our [Visions Scholarship Program](#) by visiting our website.



**Alumni Fundraising Campaigns:**  
*Commemorating 100 Years of Chundikuli Girls College & 190 Years of St. John's College*

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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  
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On July 15, 2013, Chundikuli Girls College in Jaffna will celebrate its 100-year anniversary. Since 1913 Chundikuli has been providing exceptional educational opportunities to girls and young women throughout their primary and secondary education, preparing them to lead meaningful, productive, and fulfilling lives. And on Friday, July 5th St. John's College Jaffna will hold its 190th Anniversary Thanksgiving Celebration and its Annual Prize Giving Ceremony on the following day. Since St. John's founding in 1823, the school has served as a haven for educational distinction and opportunity in the North and as a positive example throughout the country for the high academic achievement and personal success of its students.

As these institutions mark these major milestones, we have joined hands with both schools in forming a partnership to collect donations and offer support that will hopefully set both on a strong footing with which to carry on their proud tradition of excellence. We are appealing to all Chundikuli and St. John's alumni, their families and friends, members of the Sri Lankan diaspora, and other well-wishers to invest in the growth and development of this fine establishment. For this purpose, we have established partnerships with each to help collect donations and facilitate your support. Please help us give back to these schools that have given so much to so many...

As an immediate concern, the Chundikuli school administration is seeking urgent financial support to finish construction on the new block of classrooms and enrichment labs currently being built for the middle school for which an additional USD \$140K is urgently needed! For more information, you can download a personal appeal from Chundikuli Principal Mrs. Dushy Thuseetharan by clicking [HERE](#). And to make an online donation (or obtain instructions for mailing a check), please visit our Chundikuli fundraising campaign page here: [Support Chundikuli Girls College Centennial Celebration](#).

St. John's is appealing to all alumni to help invest in their Scholarship Endowments that will provide scholarships for high-achieving students, and also in their Prize Endowment Funds to continue their tradition of recognizing and supporting youth through our annual prize-giving efforts. Of course, any support in any amount is welcome. You can access the [St. John's Alumni Donation Form](#) for all details and instructions, and can make an online contribution (or obtain instructions for mailing a check) on our website here: [Support St. John's 190th Anniversary Celebration](#)

## Meet our Newest Visions Team Members!

As we grow as an organization, more and more people are stepping up and taking on leadership roles. Our team members provide vital support through fundraising efforts, volunteer recruitment, spreading our message and the reason for our work, and otherwise engaging their communities in a whole host of creative ways. One of these exceptional leaders is Venita Sivamani, who has served as our Visions Chapter Director for NorCal/UC Davis for the past several years. We just recently invited Venita to join our Board and thrilled she has accepted.



*Clockwise from top left: Rose Cole (VA), Marie Avilez (PA), Venita Sivamani (CA), Alexandria Hernandez (PA)*

We are also very happy to welcome 4 new Chapter Directors to our Visions team, bringing our total number of chapters now to 12:

- \*Marie Avilez, Pittsburgh/Carnegie Mellon University Co-Director
- \*Alexandria Hernandez, Pittsburgh/Carnegie Mellon University Co-Director
- \*Rose Cole, Virginia/UVA Director
- \*Shreehari Raghavan, Philadelphia/UPenn Director

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## Stay Connected with Us!

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

FACEBOOK



TWITTER



YOUTUBE



RAZOO

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

We invite you to meet our whole team by visiting our website here: [Meet Our Team](#). Starting a local Visions Chapter in your city or at your university can be a highly rewarding volunteer experience, and we are always looking for new leaders to step forward and start a Chapter. Contact us at [visionseducation@gmail.com](mailto:visionseducation@gmail.com) to receive more information about starting a Visions Chapter and visit our website for more information: [Visions Chapters](#)

## Still Accepting Application for our Summer Volunteer Programs in India & Sri Lanka!

For anyone still looking for something worthwhile to do with their summer, we currently have one volunteer trip opportunity for India and one for Sri Lanka! Volunteers are already signed up and the itineraries are finalized, but we are able to accommodate a few more volunteers if anyone is interested in joining us. But please act ASAP! To access and download our event flyer, detailed trip appeals, and application form, please visit our website by clicking [HERE](#) and email us at [visionseducation@gmail.com](mailto:visionseducation@gmail.com) for more info.

### INDIA

**(Chennai, Madurai, Mahabalipuram, Thiruvannamalai, Pondicherry, & Goa w/ 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 )

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 3-day staff training and one 2-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.*

## PLEASE MAKE A CONTRIBUTION!

We need your help! There are several projects that need funding for 2013, including the Visions Leadership Program, Student Scholarships, and various other educational initiatives. We can only do this important work with your support...education is key to development and personal growth! Donations are accepted online through our website OR can be mailed to us. Please make checks out to "Visions". All donations are tax-deductible [tax ID#26-3386678].

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Try it FREE today.