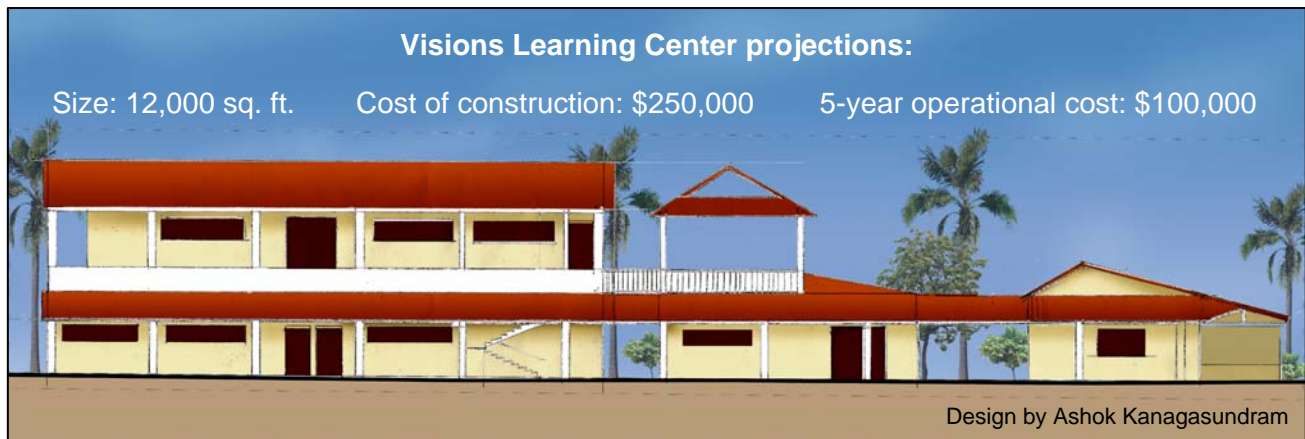


January 4, 2007

Dear Friends,

We hope this letter finds you well. This year has been a rather trying time for the people of Sri Lanka, and Visions remains committed to helping during this humanitarian crisis. Unfortunately, the political situation has made it impossible for Visions to carry out all of our anticipated plans this year. Construction and development of the Visions Learning Center (VLC) was postponed due to the resurgence of violence in the Northeast. We continue to make preparations for this extremely important project and are awaiting an opportune time to commence. We are eager and excited to see the VLC come to fruition so that we may be able to reach out to youth in the Northeast and provide them with the skills and knowledge to succeed and better their own communities.



*Construction of the Visions Learning Center in Trincomalee is estimated to cost \$350,000 and will commence once the ground situation normalizes. Meanwhile, Visions is focusing on identification and capacity-building of future VLC staff, as well as curriculum development and long-term operational planning. Please contact Greg or Meera to get involved.*

Perhaps our greatest effort this year was put forth with the Visions scholarships. Each year Visions hopes to sponsor a number of talented and motivated youth from the Northeast to receive a scholarship for further study. These scholarships will enable selected youth to benefit from an education beyond what would otherwise be available to them and will provide them with an important and practical training. Amongst these programs is an English teacher-training program based in Colombo, as well as a dance and culture program based in Chennai, India.



*Shantha & VP Dhananjayan, Sulogini, & Thevaki*

We are proud to congratulate two of the first dance scholarship students, Kumari Thevaki K. of Jeeva Jothy Children's Home and Sulogini K. of St. John's Girls Home, on their beautiful debut performance (Arangetram), held on April 22, 2006 in Chennai, India. Both girls were selected from their Batticaloa Children's Homes in 2003 on the basis of their perseverance and talents. Since then, they have undergone intensive training at the Bharata Kalanjali dance school, founded in Chennai by world renowned artists, the Dhananjayans.

Other scholarship opportunities will soon include a computer and technology training program and a VLC scholarship award. Efforts to get these programs off the ground in 2007 are currently underway, with the goal of selecting at least 10 youth to be the first recipients of these scholarships. We are also exploring opportunities for scholarship students to work as interns at the International Medical Health Organization's Colombo-based partner, Center for Health Care.

Another Visions partner, Youth League for Sanatana Dharmic Perception (YLSDP), continues to monitor and work in Northeast Children's Homes where Visions has conducted English and Leadership camps. As an outcome of 5 Visions volunteer camps involving 15 different Children's Homes, Jaffna, Trincomalee and Batticaloa youth have formed Student Leadership Committees (SLCs), through which they organize a variety of educational competitions and activities for children in their communities. Through YLSDP, Visions works with SLC Advisors and Selvi Thambirajah of St. Johns Church Batticaloa to provide monetary and other support to the youth. In 2006, Visions also supported a Health Awareness Training program launched by YLSDP in seven Northeast children's homes. This program included trainings on basic hygiene, nutrition, yoga, and preventative health care.

There were a number of Visions events held this year to raise funds and to promote Visions' causes. To name just a few, on April 1, 2006, a gathering and presentation took place in Los Angeles, which raised over \$110,000 in funding and commitments for the VLC. The event was highlighted by the unveiling of VLC building plans by Ashok Kanagasunderam, architect of the VLC, and the presentation of a \$50,000 check from Honeywell and Operation USA, facilitated by Nimmi Gowrinathan. Additionally, a dance performance of 'Thirukkural Bharatam' held on June 4, 2006, generated \$21,000 thanks to the lead organizer, Mr. Yoganathan, and the nearly 1,000 guests in attendance. Other small fundraisers and events were held throughout the year, and we thank all who attended and supported us through donations of time, money, and resources.

Finally, some exciting news...this year Visions will be making the transition to become its own non-profit organization. We are grateful to Tamil Refugee Relief Organization for hosting and guiding Visions since its inception. Now entering its 5<sup>th</sup> year, it is an appropriate time for Visions to take this crucial step forward. We are very much looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead and hope to continue to grow and learn so that we may be better able to serve Sri Lanka's northeast.

All the best for 2007,

Greg Buie & Meera Pathmarajah  
*Visions Co-Directors*



As always your support and donations enable Visions to better help those in need in the Northeast, so we thank you in advance. Your tax-exempt donations to Visions may be channeled through either of the following organizations:

- **Tamil Refugee Relief Organization, 43847 Heaton Ave., Lancaster, CA 93534, USA. [Tax ID # 77-0169600]** or
- **Operation USA, c/o Nimmi Gowrinathan, 3617 Hayden Ave., Suite A, Culver City, CA 90232, USA. [Tax ID # 95-3504080]**

Please make check payable to TRRO or Operation USA & specify 'Visions' on the front of the check. Receipts will be issued. Thank You.