

Visions Youth Guidance & Support Program

Bridging the gap between school and either higher education or the working world is always a major challenge and concern for youth worldwide. With this in mind, Visions has provided more than 150 scholarships to-date for high-achieving, motivated individuals to pursue their dreams across Sri Lanka, India, & Ethiopia, including all of the following:

- Scholarships for 3 young women from Sri Lanka to attend multi-year professional **Bharatha Natyam dance** program in India
- Opening education savings accounts for 10 **orphaned boys** in Jaffna, Sri Lanka
- Scholarships for 45 **tsunami-affected** dalit Indian & Sri Lankan refugee youth in India
- Dozens of scholarships for youth & young adults to pursue **undergraduate & graduate** studies or **vocational / technical** training programs, or to start a **small business**
- Multiple **internships & apprenticeships** for war-affected youth from Northern & Eastern Sri Lanka to pursue professional development opportunities
- The establishment of an **endowment fund** (the Jayalakshmi Ramachandran Scholarship Program) in India to support low-income students interested in pursuing higher studies in medicine, which has so far resulted in the disbursement of more than \$22,000 to 14 high-achieving youth / future doctors
- 14 scholarships for American & Canadian volunteers to spend time on focused development initiatives or general volunteering opportunities abroad



Though we continue to facilitate and make available scholarship opportunities like these for youth in the communities we serve, the Visions Youth Guidance & Support Program today seeks to provide more structured and holistic support, including:

- counseling / mentorship
- exam prep & registration
- access to information about higher education & technical opportunities, requirements, etc.
- support with drafting applications, CVs, scholarship applications, and essays
- interview training
- intensive spoken English training
- leadership & life skills development training
- field trips to prospective universities, programs, etc.
- parents counseling & planning support
- regular communication with Visions-supported local staff in order to track and document progress & overall development
- whenever possible, provide financial assistance or interest-free loans to qualified students

