

VISIONS

Education. Empowerment. Entrepreneurship



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Issue #2

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Visions Embarks on a New Journey in India



This past August a team of 6 volunteers became the first group to work on behalf of Visions in India, the third country (after Sri Lanka and Kenya) in which Visions has worked. A 9-day Visions Leadership & Empowerment Camp was held for 65 tsunami-affected youth in Karaikal, Tamil Nadu, Southern India, thus marking another crucial milestone in the development of the Visions organization. Working in partnership with SAWED (Social Action Women's Education & Development) Trust, our incredible host organization, the training was a success.

Over the 9 days, students were trained in Leadership & Life Skills and Human Rights, and engaged in thoughtful discussions and activities related to global and local issues shaping our society today. Students were trained and encouraged to look at issues through an analytical lens, to do some deep personal reflection and critical thinking, and to be creative. On the final day of the camp, all students and volunteers took a day-long field trip to Thanjavur to visit an ancient temple, children's park, museum, and more. It was assuredly a highlight of the 9 days for the Visions students.

All students who participated attend Karaikalmedu High School in the small community of

CHANGE A LIFE
WITH JUST \$15!!

VISIONS GUIDE TO
LEADERSHIP & LIFE SKILLS



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For just \$15 you can enable a child to be given Leadership & Life skills that will serve him/her for the rest of his/her life! Please DONATE TODAY!!

All students who participated attend Karaikalmedu High School in the small community of Karaikal, which was devastated by the tsunami disaster in December 2004. Based on the success of this first effort in India and the efficiency with which SAWED Trust was able to execute all tasks, Visions plans to return to India in the near future.

INTRODUCING THE 'VISIONS VOLUNTEERS'

Visions Returns to Kenya

For the second year in a row, a team of Visions volunteers (7 total) traveled all the way to East Africa to conduct a leadership training for disadvantaged youth. Although we ran into technical problems with our host organizations and were unable to proceed with the training as scheduled, our team made the most of the situation. Two 1-day leadership trainings were held in both Nairobi and Kitale, and supplies were donated at 3 different children's homes in Nairobi, Nakuru, and Kisumu. Overall, the team had a very positive experience and was able to make a real difference in the lives of the young people with whom we worked.

**In photo: Local volunteers serve a hot lunch to Visions students in Nairobi, Kenya.*



OUR NEEDS: Help us change the lives of young people forever!

1. **CHANGE A LIFE WITH JUST \$15!** All it takes to educate one child with leadership and life skills that will serve her/him for the rest of her/his life is \$15. Selected needy students will be able to partake in an intensive training organized by the Visions team and local implementing partners. Human rights education is another invaluable part of this experience. Change a life--give just \$15 today!
2. **Call for grantwriters, local volunteers:** Visions needs a local volunteer(s) who can help with grant research and grant writing, as we look towards foundation & NGO funding. Prior experience is of course preferred but not necessary. This is a crucial component to enabling Visions to operate, so we encourage you to get involved today.
3. **Funding for Kalagam Visions Learning Centre & St. John's IT Institutes:** Significant funding is still need for both the KVLC (\$140K) and the St. John's IT Institutes in Colombo (\$260K). Interested donors are encouraged to contact the Visions team for more information. We cannot do any of this without your support, so thank you!

Update: Visions Efforts in Sri Lanka Intensify

as Needs Grow...

As the political situation in Sri Lanka shows no sign of peace or progress in the near future, the realities of the humanitarian situation only deepen and intensify. Given the abundant needs of those affected, Visions remains committed to doing everything we can to help through improving the education and opportunities available to needy youth and teachers. Let us provide you with an update on our efforts in Sri Lanka...

Kalagam Visions Learning Centre: With final legal and architectural plans now being settled, we hope for construction to begin in December '08 or January '09. In an effort to support this effort and generate excitement for it, Saiva Mangaiyar Kalagam held a dance fundraiser in August that both showcased the incredible talent of their students and raised money for the cause. We are still in need of funds for the project, however, so donations are always welcome!

St. John's IT Institutes: Meetings between our partners at ITTPO (based in San Jose, California) and St. John's (based in Colombo, Sri Lanka) were held over the summer to discuss how best to move forward with a collaborative effort. It was agreed that both parties, along with Visions and others, would work together to see through the development of 3 IT Institutes in Sri Lanka. As we now search for funding for these efforts in Colombo and Jaffna, we would like to make an appeal to any and all persons for your monetary support. Once funding is secured, construction can begin, with the ideal start-date being early 2009.

Leadership, English, & Computer Programs: Our team is currently working on developing materials and plans for programs in all three of our areas of focus: Leadership, English, and Computers. We are still in the development phases of all these efforts and hope to launch them all within the coming months in Colombo and Batticaloa, at designated schools and orphanages with which we have been talking. We are very excited to implement all 3 programs, all of which are crucial areas of education today.

Yorba Linda Rotary Club Donates \$2,000 to Visions

In the month of August the Yorba Linda Rotary Club generously gave \$2,000 to Visions for the summer Leadership & Empowerment Camp in Kenya. This Rotary Club supports both local and international nonprofit efforts to bring about positive change, and we are thrilled to have their support. We look forward to speaking at an upcoming meeting later this month and continuing our relationship with this dedicated group.

involved in the organization as we grow.

Visions is always looking for those who share our passion for helping youth through education to join our team. **GET INVOLVED today!**

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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PLEASE DONATE:

Donations are accepted online thru our website OR can be mailed to the above address. Make checks out to 'Operation USA' with 'Visions' written on the subject line. All donations are tax-deductible

under Operation USA, our fiscal sponsor [Tax ID#95-3504080]

We need your help-there are several projects which need funding, including the Kalagam Visions Learning Centre, Leadership & Empowerment Camps, IT Institutes, and more. We can only do this important work with your support. Education is too important.

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