



APRIL 2009

Youth & Teacher Trainings Held in Colombo in 2009

Over the years the Visions team has been able to develop and refine the Visions Leadership Program and create a truly unique opportunity for youth and teachers to grow as leaders and citizens of the world. In January/February, Saiva Mangaiyar Vidyalayam (Hindu Ladies College) in Colombo played host to another set of Visions Leadership trainings to benefit their students and staff. A 5-day youth training was held from January 26-30 for **50 A/L girls**, who will continue the work of the Student Leadership Committee that Visions established at the school last year. The new group is full of energy and ideas, and they are eager to further serve their school as young leaders.



Visions also held its second teacher training at the school from January 31-February 1, **benefiting 26 teachers** from Saiva Mangaiyar Vidyalayam and a few nearby Colombo schools. This training enables teachers to learn about leadership themselves and helps to develop their skills. It also helps them to teach leadership to their students and work these values-based lessons into their curriculum. In addition, teachers are shown how to

Spring '09 Edition
Issue #4

- In This Issue**
- [KVLC Construction Begins!](#)
 - [1st 2009 Scholarship Recipient](#)
 - [Visions Fashion Show in San Diego](#)
 - [Join us in India this Summer](#)
 - [Youth & Teacher Trainings Held in Colombo](#)

We need YOUR support!

Please consider making a donation to Visions today or getting involved in our work. There are many ways you can help, including:

- *Organize a fundraiser or event on Visions' behalf (or turning an event or party into a fundraiser for Visions)
- *Organize a school supplies drive (using our Amazon Wishlist) with campus groups, friends, your church/temple, local businesses etc.
- *Offer your professional services such as legal, business/accounting, architectural, web design, and more
- *Ask your company to make a corporate contribution or matching grant
- *Volunteer with us locally or

develop their skills. It also helps them to teach leadership to their students and work these values-based lessons into their curriculum. In addition, teachers are shown how to incorporate many games and other fun activities for their students into their lesson plans, taught interactive and creative teaching techniques, and allowed the rare opportunity to interact with their fellow staff. Each teacher was given a **"Creative Teaching" supply kit**, as well as many other classroom supplies and resources.



*Volunteer with us locally or abroad

This year the new Visions Leadership Education Program will benefit an estimated 1,000 youth & teachers in Sri Lanka and India. Help give them crucial Leadership & Life Skills and Human Rights training by donating **just \$25** today!

Visions Summer Wishlist Now Online

Please consider donating much-needed supplies for our summer trainings in India by purchasing items on our **Amazon Wishlist**. Please use the following link: [HERE](#)

Construction of Kalagam Visions Learning Centre (KVLC) Begins!

After several years of planning, preparations, and hard work, construction of the Kalagam Visions Learning Centre (KVLC) began on March 31, 2009 at 10:41am, an auspicious time for the ground breaking. This learning center, which is being constructed just opposite the Hindu Ladies College in Colombo 6, will house a Visions office, ample space for student groups and activities (including aesthetics) from the adjacent school (Saiva Mangaiyar Vidyalayam/Hindu Ladies College), halls for special trainings and English, a computer lab, a multimedia room, and a Montessori nursery. Over 400 refugee children from the Northeast will benefit from this project, as well as countless other disadvantaged and deserving youth and teachers. Especially as **the situation in the Northeast continues to deteriorate**, the **influx of internally displaced persons** and others seeking to leave the Northeast into Colombo is expected to rise. Thus, this center will help to provide an exceptional education to thousands upon thousands of young women (and others from the community) for many years to come.

We are currently about **\$200K** shy of our fundraising goal for this effort. If you are a Kalagam alumni or simply believe in the power of education, and are **willing to host a fundraiser or help us to raise the necessary funds**, please contact Visions Director Greg Buie at greg@visionsforthefuture.org as soon as possible. Thank you!

VISIONS GUIDE TO LEADERSHIP & LIFE SKILLS



VISIONS
Education Empowerment. Compassion.

New Scholarship Program Launches with 1st

New Scholarship Program Launches with 1st Beneficiary



Visions is very pleased to announce that the Visions Scholarship Program has been officially started. In February 2009, the first of the new scholarship recipients was identified. A former Visions student from **Jaffna, Northern Sri Lanka**, Anantharasa is a very deserving young man in need of assistance to pursue his career goals. We first came to know Anantharasa in 2004 when Visions held its second ever camp at the children's home where he was staying. Visions Director Greg Buie was able to meet with Anantharasa in February in Colombo to discuss the details of his scholarship. We believe this is just the start of a much larger program we are committed to in order to support other young people just like him. We wish him all the best!

2nd Annual "Fashions at the Cove" Fashion Show Raises \$4K

On Thursday, April 16th from 6:30-8:30pm the 2nd Annual "Fashions at the Cove" Visions Charity Fashion Show took place at the La Jolla Cove Suites in San Diego. It was a beautiful event with almost 200 guests and 30 volunteers. We had 17 wonderful young men and women model for us. This exciting evening featured great fashions by local designers, vendors, a henna artist, live DJ, opportunity drawing, drinks & refreshments, presentations, and more. It was hosted this year by fashion & lifestyle expert Anna Nguyen [www.stylewithanna.com]. Anouk Vashe [www.anoukvashe.com] kindly served as our volunteer photographer and Sara Wilson [www.makeupbysarawilson.com] provided the makeup. Our contributors this year include:

- *Chillers Clothing [www.chillersclothing.com]
- *Fashions by Hemlatha Samdria
- *Shop Moderne [www.ShopModerne.com]
- *Traditional South Asian & African Dress

We were thrilled that so many were able to join us and be involved with this exciting event, which raised **nearly \$4,000** for Visions. This will go a long way in bringing much needed educational support to disadvantaged youth in Sri Lanka, India, and Kenya. To be specific,

Lanka, working with disadvantaged and orphaned youth.

Soon after, a **4-day youth leadership training in Batticaloa** due to take place in **mid-May** benefitting approximately 65 orphaned and tsunami-affected youth. Please consider supporting this effort today with even a \$2 donation (to support the education of 1 child)!

Visions Outreach Efforts

Over the last few months Visions has been able to meet many new people in **Boston, San Jose, Los Angeles, San Diego**, and elsewhere. We hope that those of you we met will **follow up with us and get involved** with our organization. Please email greg@visionsforthefuture.org or visionseducation@gmail.com. Make sure to include a bit about yourself, your interests, and your availability, and we will happily respond. Thank you!

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

These funds will go towards our Visions Leadership Education Program, which trains youth aged 14-18 in Leadership & Life Skills, Human Rights & Citizenship, and Global & Local issues. We are in the process of translating and printing our own materials which were revised off of 6 years of experience working with youth in these countries, and we are very excited to be launching this revamped program next month! You can read more on our website: www.VisionsForTheFuture.org



Thank you to all who attended or participated for your commitment, your generosity, and your support of the work we do. It means the world to us and to the kids abroad with whom we have the privilege of working...

2 Upcoming Trainings in South India This Summer: Final Appeal for Volunteers

It's that time of year again...Visions is holding 2 youth leadership & empowerment trainings in **South India** this summer, and you are invited to come and volunteer! This is now Visions' **7th year** of running this program, for which over 80 international volunteers have now volunteered their time abroad. For those of you who have volunteered with us before, you know how meaningful and insightful these trips can be. For those of you who have not volunteered with us, we invite you to take advantage of this unique opportunity to explore, have fun, and make a difference in the lives of many underprivileged young people from destitute communities and disadvantaged backgrounds.

For the full story, including trip dates, itinerary, and Volunteer Application & Release Waiver, please visit our [Our Needs/Volunteer](#) page on our website. We hope you will join us for this memorable experience! **Application deadline is May 15th.**

1621 Barry Ave. #PH1, Los Angeles, CA, 90025

visionseducation@gmail.com 714.315.0518

www.visionsforthefuture.org

www.visionseducation.blogspot.com

PLEASE DONATE:

Donations are accepted online thru 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 Kalagam Visions Learning Centre, Leadership Education Program, Scholarship Program, IT Institutes, and more. We can only do this important work with your support. Education is simply too important...

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent by visionseducation@gmail.com.

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Visions Global Empowerment | 1621 Barry Ave. #PH1 | Los Angeles | CA | 90025