

Dear Friend

2014 has been a successful year for Shining Life. The 'Child Centred Development Project' in Galewala started, and is now running in three villages: Silvathgama, Nuwanapura and Yatigalpottha. Health care programmes and dental camps have helped local children and mothers improve their health awareness whilst vocational training programmes have taught young women skills in dress making, leather working and sweet making. Children from the village schools have been making full use of the musical instruments that were donated and now run after school music clubs. Drum playing has proved especially popular and has led to the unexpected emergence of a dance troupe of year 9 girls. The girls recently won a district competition after dancing for just a couple of months. As the project develops next year, we will be running more children's clubs, healthcare and vocational training for young women, as well as credit training programmes.



The 'Empowering Communities in Kandy' project came to an end this year, but we maintain good contact with the communities and our project partners, the Women's Development Foundation. A recent visit to Kadugannawa School showed how beneficial Shining Life's work has been there. The teacher training has resulted in motivated and confident teachers who understand the importance of their work and take pride in it. Enthusiastic teachers now hold extra tuition classes, before and after school, which students can participate in.

A group of year 9 students prepare for their O-level exams at Kadugannawa School

I have only been here for two months but it is clear that the work Shining Life does and the relationships we build actively help to improve the lives of children. In 2015 we will continue to support quality projects in Sri Lanka where help is needed most. We will be initiating new projects, to continue playing an essential part in enriching the lives of children in a range of communities. None of this would be possible without your contributions. From all of us at Shining Life, we thank you for your ongoing support.

Wishing you a happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2015.

Best wishes,



Bella Hodgkinson
Field Director, Shining Life Children's Trust