



August 2012

Dear Supporters and Friends of Shining Life Children's Trust

Firstly, I would like to express my thanks for your continued support of SLCT over the last year; it makes a substantial impact on the communities we work with.

By the time you read this, I will have come to the end of my two year placement and am very sad to leave Sri Lanka. Professionally it has been a great experience, as I have gained many skills and attributes that will, hopefully, serve me in my future career and (fingers crossed) PhD. Possibly the most significant thing I have learned about development is the large gap between policy and development practice, including the human issues that occur when a project is being implemented on the ground.

Perhaps Shining Life's greatest achievements come through working with our local partner organisations. Shining Life reinforces the sustainability of projects by building the capacity of local Women's Societies through micro-finance and savings schemes programmes, and training Women's Societies to behave professionally and responsibly. Through the long-term commitment we offer our local partners, they are able to plan for a sustained period of time while benefitting from the training programmes for social service, reporting and monitoring and evaluation provided in our projects. This has enabled them in turn to access funding from larger international Non-Governmental Organisations and International NGOs.

Personally, I have achieved a lot over the last couple of years. I've played rugby against the army cavalry and commando unit teams, football for the expat Colombo Lions and the British High Commission, had dinner with the Norwegian Ambassador, spent long weekends by the beach and cycled round the ancient sites of Anuradhapura. My experiences in Sri Lanka will be hard to replicate and represent a unique time in my life.

Working for Shining Life Children's Trust has been a great honour. Please continue to support Shining Life Children's Trust activities, and your new Field Director, Kevin. I've witnessed first hand the positive impact that the charity has. Your donations are greatly appreciated and significantly change the lives of women and children in Sri Lanka.

Many thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Dean". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Dean
Field Director 2010 - 2012