

Life Lines

October 2014



Empowering Communities In Kandy

For the last 3 years we have been working with vulnerable children and their families living in three tea plantation communities around Kandy. It has been a busy few years. When we started the communities identified a whole range of issues that kept them in poverty from access to education, lack of vocational skills, disability discrimination and drug and alcohol abuse. So our project was designed to work with the communities in all of these areas.

3 years later the school buildings have seen significant improvement with each class now having a separate area rather than being in one big hall, play areas have been improved so the children have somewhere to run off steam, new library books are in place and counselling support programmes established.

The mothers have learned a whole range of new vocational skills and are successfully employing these to earn incomes. One lady is now supplying packed curry lunches to the free trade zone making Rs 800 profit a day, another is making bridal dresses and



School Children in Kandy District

with each one makes a profit of Rs 4000. All new income to families who previously relied on tiny earnings from picking tea.

We could go on with the amazing range of improvements the communities have achieved, please read the full report on our website.

We will keep in touch with these Kandy communities to ensure their development continue. Thank you for your donations that have made this possible.

Our new Field Director

In July our Field Director for the last two years, Kevin McParland, returned to Ireland. Kevin helped us take big strides forward, setting up our project in Galewela, completing our projects in Kandy and Rikillagaskada, improving reporting procedures with our partners and introducing our Volunteer Programme. Thank you Kevin!

Bella Hodgkinson now takes over the reins. She has an MSc in Development Management and has worked in India and Tanzania. All her experience will help us develop our projects further over the next two years.

She has just arrived in Sri Lanka, so you'll hear more from her soon!



Bella



Christmas is approaching fast!

3 ways you can support us as you prepare for the festive season:

Shining Life Gifts A selection of virtual gifts for you to give that support our work directly – from buying books to training a mother in dress making. Order online, by email or with the attached form.

Christmas cards We have a great selection this year, just £4 a pack and almost 50% comes directly to Shining Life. Order online, by email or with the attached form.

Give as you Live It is so easy – register with Giveasyoulive.com, download the widget and shop as normal. Registered retailer sites then donate a proportion of your purchase to Shining Life.

Fundraising Update

The 2014 Cycle Challenge was held in the New Forest on 7 June; a day that started out with torrential rain, but ended gloriously.

For the first time we split up to take on three activities, to give cyclists of all abilities a chance to compete a personal challenge. The seasoned cyclists stuck to the 100k route. The less regular cyclists and family groups cycled 50k, whilst the youngest cycled a 10k, off road, route. And our absolutely youngest was just 5¾ years old!!

A staunch supporter of Shining Life, Peglyn Pearson, set up a very welcome tea point for a mid afternoon break and her chocolate brownies fuelled the final stages! All in all we raised over £5,000, as well as having an enjoyable weekend in beautiful surroundings.



This year's participants

Next year's date is **Saturday 13 June 2015**. If you are a regular cyclist, or if we can tempt you to pull the dusty bike out of the shed, we can promise you a sense of achievement and a lot of fun, at the same time as raising funds for our projects.

How to donate to Shining Life Children's Trust

Regular donations

Regular donations help us to plan our work in Sri Lanka better. If you would like to donate regularly, please set up a standing order to our account. You will need to give your bank these details:

Account name: Shining Life Children's Trust, Sort Code: 40-52-40 (CAF Bank), Account Number: 00016399

If you set up a standing order, please let us know by email admin@shininglife.org or write to us at our address.

By credit card

You can donate by credit card through the Charities Trust or BTMyDonate websites. Please go to <http://www.charitiestrust.org/charities/shining-life-children-strust/index.html> or <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/shininglifechildrenstrust> to make a donation. There are also links from the Support page on our website (<http://www.shininglife.org/support.html>)

By cheque or charity cheque

Please send your donation to Shining Life Children's Trust at 1 Chestnut Lane, Amersham, Bucks HP6 6EN.

Thank you