



www.rainbowcentresrilanka.com - UK Registered Charity Number 1114933

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Patrons: Her Excellency Shiranthi Rajapaksa, Mrs Jane Chilcott, Mrs Evelina Girling and Mrs Heidi Paradise

Summer 2011



The Rainbow Centre provides daily welfare, education and loving support to children living in extreme poverty in South Western Sri Lanka

Our Valuable Work

The Rainbow Centre is a haven for children who live in appalling conditions. Its aim is to equip children with the skills to break free from the poverty in which they live. The Centre operates vocational training programmes, a school, pre-school and nursery. It runs medical programmes for children and their families. It works to ensure, when possible, that children can enter into the mainstream school system. The Rainbow Centre is the only facility in this area for these children to turn to. It has been praised highly for its standard of care.

Summer School

Volunteer teacher visits from Pembridge Hall and Francis Holland Schools

The Rainbow Centre was delighted to welcome volunteers from two of London's top schools. Past visits from teachers have been invaluable to the Centre by helping improve the standards of its education and care. Such visits are always a highlight of the Rainbow Centre year.



*Sheila on a river trip
the Tooth*



At Kandy's famous botanical garden



At Kandy's Temple of

In July, the Rainbow Centre was delighted to have a third intensive teaching and training session from Sheila Ross-Hulme from Pembridge Hall School. Sheila has given invaluable guidance to the Centre on its teaching. The children were delighted to see her again. During her visit, Sheila taught all the children and focused particularly on English lessons. She also took the older children on a trip to Kandy, a place to which they had been dreaming of going for years. Pembridge Hall School continues to support the Rainbow Centre and, thanks to Sheila, it is to focus on providing education and training to the older children. In the past year, Sheila has organised a sale of the children's paintings, hand-woven bags and photographs. Sheila is a great asset to the Centre's work and all the children missed her when she had gone.

Sport for all the children thanks to the Francis Holland Team



*Kirsty teaching volleyball
football*



Colette teaching swimming



Jane Teaching

In August, the Rainbow Centre was transformed by the arrival of sports teachers from Francis Holland Regent's Park: Kirsty Gallagher; Colette Mahieu; and, Jane Tucker - who were assisted by the Sri Lankan based tennis coach Dhammika Ekanayake. All the children were given swimming lessons in the river. All had the chance to improve their skills in cricket, volleyball, rounders and football. Despite the extremes of temperature and heavy rain, the volunteers were tireless in their dedication to teaching. The amount of excitement and happiness generated cannot be exaggerated. The Rainbow Centre is extremely grateful to have had this support and to be able to benefit from this expertise. It now plans to

include more sport in the timetable. It is hoped by everyone at the Centre that the teachers will be able to return. The children have not stopped talking about them.



Jane, Kirsty and Dham

Moragalla School's Headmaster joins the Rainbow Centre

Educational programmes at the Rainbow Centre were given a tremendous boost with the arrival of Peter Perera, who retired from his job as headmaster of Moragalla School earlier this year, after a career spent teaching some of the country's most disadvantaged children. Peter now gives weekly classes to Rainbow Centre children who are at school in the mainstream system as well as to the Rainbow School children. He oversees all teaching in the Rainbow Centre schools.



School Trips

Recent trips have included a visit to Kids World in Panadura, Kandy and Kanivihara Temple, thanks to the generosity of Pembridge Hall School and Rotary Clubs on the Isle of Wight, and to Uragsmanhandiya Library, thanks to the kind generosity of Rebuild Foundation.



Rainbow Centre Children Sit Grade Five Scholarship Exams

children. This is the most popular area in the Centre. The queues to go down the slide are enormous.



For the first time, ten children from the Rainbow Centre sat for important scholarship exams. If they are successful, this will enable them to attend elite state schools from the age of eleven. Congratulations to all the children who took part. This is a great achievement for children, who live in appalling circumstances, without any support at home, but who were able to benefit from tuition at the Rainbow Centre.



New Play Area thanks to the Rotary Clubs in the Isle of Wight

Rainbow Centre's Head is on Advisory Board working with Street Children

It is thanks to the great generosity of the Rotary Clubs in the Isle of Wight that the Rainbow Centre was able to move to new premises, construct purpose-built facilities and transport children to and from the Centre and school. Thanks to further generosity, the Rotary Clubs have donated a new play area for the younger

Aruni Cooray, who runs the Rainbow Centre has joined a panel of experts to discuss how best to address the problems of street children in the south of Sri Lanka. This is a tribute to Aruni's many achievements with the children at the Centre. The authorities would like to use her methods at the Rainbow Centre as a model for other facilities.



Aruni, centre, in blue

Huge thanks to the Vectis Sunrise Rotary Club for donation of Rainbow Drops

All the children who attend the Rainbow Centre and are supported at mainstream school were given gifts this summer put together by the

Vectis Sunrise Rotary Club on the Isle of Wight. Huge thanks to Maire Reeves and her team for all the hard work and thoughtful gifts. The children were absolutely thrilled.



Special thanks to Dzine Interactive for the stunning new Rainbow Centre Website

The Rainbow Centre is extremely grateful to Vernon Dias, Sophie Hull and the Dzine Interactive team for the extremely generous donation and design of its new website www.rainbowcentresrilanka.com



New artwork at the Rainbow Centre where the walls are covered in life size self portraits by the children

Vocational Training News



Recent garment factory order-Christopher to go on apprenticeship- A greeting's card- Renuka, the Centre's new teacher

Older children at the Rainbow School continue to produce greetings cards using intricate and painstaking quilling techniques. They have completed another sewing order for Elasto, the local garment factory and continue to produce high quality woven bags for Barefoot, the country's leading handicrafts shop. In early September, two of the Rainbow Centre students were offered apprenticeships at Elasto. Meanwhile, Christopher, the Rainbow Centre's oldest boy and resident artist has started training to be a mechanic. Over the summer he produced a stunning mural for the Rainbow Centre's front wall. The other students started a painting project based on outlines drawn around each others' bodies. From September the older children's academic classes will be taught by a new teacher, Renuka, who has joined the Rainbow Centre with extensive experience of teaching and working with underprivileged children.



Fact List

- ★ *The Rainbow Centre currently provides daily education, medical care and welfare to more than 100 children who live in extreme poverty, on the street, in slums and in conditions that threaten their survival.*
- ★ *The Rainbow Centre opened in December 2005 in response to the plight of street children living in Aluthgama and Bentota. It has grown very quickly.*
- ★ *It is run by a team of four (three of whom are volunteers): Alison Nagle who travels regularly to Sri Lanka; Piyathissa Cooray a retired businessman; Aruni Cooray an extremely talented and dedicated social worker; and, Alasdair Nagle a banker and accountant.*
- ★ *It has attracted top level recognition: the wife of Sri Lanka's President, Shiranthi Rajapaksa, is a patron, as is the wife of the former British High Commissioner to Colombo, Jane Chilcott.*
- ★ *Local authorities propose using the Rainbow Centre's approach as a model to work with street children in other areas.*
- ★ *It operates out of secure, rented premises in Bentota with a large garden. All the children are brought to and from school and the Centre by the Centre's own bus donated by an international Rotary partnership.*
- ★ *It is extremely thankful for the funding, assistance and support of the following organisations, families and individuals: The Rotary Clubs of the Isle of Wight; B and I Capital AG; Passion Pictures Limited; Pembridge Hall School; Francis Holland School Regent's Park; Wetherby School; Jane Chilcott; The Paradise family; Evelina Girling; Bill and Pauline Wyke; John Hamar; Barry Reeves; Douglas Ng; Geraint Hughes; Harry Barron; Sheila Ross-Hulme; Sue Nelson; Mohamed Adamaly; Barry Evans; Line Communications; the Grove Family; the Nadel family; Stephen Byfield; Marie and Ian Carter; Margaret Hughes; Srilali Grace Yasothapalan; Julia Weetman; Rosie Rowel, Atalanta Miller; The Tuesday Afternoon Group; Clare Allen; Roger Grove; Dominic Sansoni; Abbas Esufally; Jankaki Wijesekera; Chris Tasker; Judith Sheard; Marjan Shephard-Auping; Els Mens-Auping; Dave Wise; Karen Brand, Neale Faulkner and the Lanka Challenge Team; Rosanna de Lisle; Tara Hetiarchichi; Hilary and Stewart Mitchell; Gordon Hall; Mike Tansey; Cayden and Udarie Kod; Maeve O'Rorke; the MacKay family; the Burnett family; the Lea family; and, the Blair families.*

If you would like to support the Rainbow Centre, please set up a standing order or donate by contacting <http://www.justgiving.com/rcsl/donate>. Or, please make cheques payable to: "Trustees of the Rainbow Centre Sri Lanka" at 26 Campden Grove, London W8 4JQ. Alternatively, please make direct bank transfers or standing order payments to: Trustees of the Rainbow Centre Sri Lanka, a/c no. 71647431, sort code 40-04-09, HSBC Bank, 16 King Street, London WC2E 8JF.

For further information, please contact Alison Nagle at alisonnagle@yahoo.co.uk

