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

## Summer 2010



*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 more than 100 children who live in appalling conditions. Its aim is to equip children with the skills to break free from poverty. The Centre operates vocational training programmes, a school, pre-school and nursery. It runs a full medical programme. It ensures that children do not go hungry by providing two nutritious meals a day. 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 at national and local levels for its standard of care. This work is made possible thanks to the generosity of individual and corporate donors and the support of AdoptSriLanka, one of the country's most dynamic and effective charities and an international partnership of Rotary clubs.

## Summer School



***Congratulations to the students above left who came top in mainstream school exams. These are stunning results, especially as all of these students struggle with extremely difficult problems at home – Above right, one of the Rainbow Centre scholarship classes for Rainbow Centre children hoping to access the region's top secondary schools.***

The Rainbow Centre has had an extremely busy summer with more than 100 children coming in daily during the holidays for school lessons and support. Thanks to a programme of intensive tuition, the Rainbow Centre's most able children in the mainstream system are being prepared to sit for scholarship exams; while weaker students have been given special support. The older children also took part in art and photography workshops.



***Mask making in the pre-school – Rainbow Centre children who attend mainstream school during term time***





*Some of the 20 day care children outside the playroom– two of the five new babies in the Rainbow nursery- the dining room*



*Harry Barron, pictured above, giving his last much loved English class before his summer break – Miss Iresha who has made massive improvements in the work of the less able students.*

## **The Rainbow Centre is to Move to New Premises in October 2010 - Huge Thanks to Rotary Clubs on the Isle of Wight**

For the past year the Rainbow Centre has been seeking new premises after its current landlord announced a four fold rent increase. Thanks to Rotary Clubs on the Isle of Wight the Rainbow Centre was able to obtain a ten year lease, at a much cheaper rent, for a new property, a short distance from the existing premises in Bentota. The new site has tremendous potential with a large garden and quiet location.

Thanks to a further substantial donation from Rotary the Rainbow Centre is able to construct six purpose built classrooms, toilet and showers, a large dining hall and kitchen as well as carry out all necessary renovation work on the existing buildings and one acre site. The long lease provides the Rainbow Centre with much needed security and the ability to plan how to improve its services to the children in the long term.



*The Rainbow Centre's stunning new premises are also located in Bentota. Construction work is progressing rapidly.*

## Vocational Training News



*Bag making is a highly skilled craft; the students straighten, dye and dry the reeds before hand weaving them – Greeting card making using paper sculpture producing highly professional results.*

The older children at the Rainbow Centre day school have gained places at a government run training centre, Janakala Kendraya where they are learning a broad range of handicraft skills. These students continue to make greetings cards and hand woven bags at the Rainbow Centre where they are also given school lessons. Their bags are extremely popular and are still selling out at Barefoot, the country's top handicraft shop, faster than they can make them.

## Photography



### *What makes a good picture?*

Fifteen of the Rainbow Centre's older children were selected to take part in a photography project. Using cameras lent by volunteers, the children went on outings to the beach, the market, the market, Brief Gardens and their homes. The idea was to ask them to show us their world. The results were highly impressive. It is planned to hold an exhibition of this work later this year.



*The photographers – at the Centre, at the beach and at the temple*

## Temple Flowers

Following school trips to an ancient Buddhist temple, all Rainbow Centre students over the age of ten took part in a competition to paint flowers copied from the temple walls. The best of the entrants went on to paint their pictures on canvas. The results were beautiful and extremely colourful. These works will also be the subject of a later exhibition.



*A break from hard work – swimming lessons with Priyantha Gunewardena, Sri Lanka's champion windsurfer- a boat trip on the river.*

## Employment for Mothers

Two Rainbow Centre mothers who were in crisis have joined the Rainbow Centre to work as assistants. Theiwani, a single mother aged 26, has all of her four children at the Rainbow Centre. Her youngest child is just two months old and is in the nursery. Kamala, also a single mother, has nine children, three of whom are at the Rainbow Centre. Both women are living in temporary slum accommodation and were struggling to meet their children's needs. They are both working extremely hard.

## Adopt Sri Lanka

The Rainbow Centre continues to depend significantly on the support and guidance of one of Sri Lanka's most dedicated and effective charities, Adopt Sri Lanka. It is extremely grateful for all this support.

## 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 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 and international Rotary partnership.*
- ★ *It benefits greatly from the generous funding, expertise and practical assistance of numerous private individuals. We would like to extend our thanks to the following organisations for their funding, assistance and support: The Rotary Club in the Isle of Wight; Boyer Allan Investment Management LLP; B and I Capital AG; LINE Communications; Kingsley Napley; Passion Pictures Limited; Pembridge Hall School; Francis Holland School Clarence Gate; Dominic Sansoni; Harry Barron; Sheila Ross-Hulme; Sue Nelson; Geraint Hughes; Stephen Byfield; Clare Allen; Douglas Ng; Naren Patel; Judith Sheard; Deborah and Jennifer Nadel; Marjan Shephard-Auping; GraceYasothatpalan; Karen Brand and her tuk tuk rally team, Neale, Wes and Liane; Chris Tasker and Janaki Wijesekara; and, the MacKay, Burnett, Desai, Duncan, Higgins, Grove, Gordon, Warr Hill, Durant, Lea, Blair and Paradise 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](mailto:alisonnagle@yahoo.co.uk)***



***No water, no roof, no electricity – typical examples of places where the Rainbow Centre children live***