

The SOS *Newsletter*





SOS SISTERS – A FAMILY TO CALL THEIR OWN

The story of common bonds and families being created at SOS

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce three girls from SOS Children's Villages, namely, Buddhika, Madhu & Charuni. They are not natural siblings but sisters in an SOS family. They share somewhat similar life stories. All of them are in the same age studying together for the G.C.E. (A/L) examination.

Buddhika and her own brother came home to SOS Children's Villages when she was in grade 8. According to Buddhika, they did not attend the school regularly before they come to SOS. Buddhika & her brother lost their mother when they were quite young after suffering from a cancer. Subsequently, Buddhika and her brother brought home to SOS Children's Villages on a request made by the Department of Probation & Child Care Services. The two young siblings were fortunate enough to grow up in one of the SOS families with love, care & security in an environment where they can enjoy their childhood.

"It was rather difficult to forget the memories of my own mother but my brother and I had a chance to stay in the same SOS family. From the very first day of my life at SOS Village, I knew that both I & my brother would be able to go to school every day and do not have to go starved anymore..."

After some time Buddhika and her brother realized that it is not only going to school every day and being well fed, they receive warmth of a caring SOS Mother and the company of many brothers & sisters in the SOS community. They got a kind



Madhu says "I do not know my biological parents; According to my SOS Mother, I came home to SOS Children's Villages when I was 1 ½ years old. And up to this day, I have not made any inquiry from my SOS Mother, Aunties and Uncles at SOS Children's Villages about my parents as I am completely content with my life at SOS. I receive love & affection, warmth, care & protection I need, along with the best education. For which I always receive the required backing from my SOS Mother & other elders". "The only thing I have in my mind is that my sadness to leave my SOS Mother, Family & the community when I start working or get married. But I know that we should give a chance and space to other children who are in need like us to come home to SOS Children's Villages, so that they too can look forward to a better future like us..."

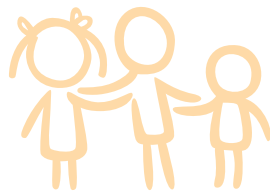
Charuni too, has many happy memories to share with you like Buddhika & Madhu. One day she told me that "Uncle I like to stay with SOS and do not want to go anywhere, I wish to study law after my A/L exam, so that I could be a lawyer in future. I like this profession". I did not ask anything else from Charuni but smiled at her with heartiest pride.

Buddhika, Madhu & Charuni are now quite young girls who are in their 18th, though they came to SOS Children's Villages at different ages. They have made a number of dreams which are usual to any other girl in their age.

Thousands of children like Buddhika, Madhu & Charuni are there in this world, who need your support and benevolence. The hope we observe in their eyes can be achieved through your generous support!

Your constant generous support would definitely help them to realize their dreams. Buddhika, Madhu & Charuni are now quite confident young girls who would reach their full potential to own a bright future which is unique to each individual.

There are many Children who have lost the opportunity to enjoy their childhood due to many unfortunate reasons. But fortunately for some, they receive a second opportunity at SOS Children's Villages to live in a loving family environment



female caretaker to call 'Amma' once again. "As our mother was mostly away from us, overseas before her death we had a very few memories but our SOS Mother is always with us. She is very supportive in our schoolwork & day-to-day activities like any other mother in the surrounding community. She does lot of sacrifices for us" Buddhika says with tears of happiness in her eyes.

Like Buddhika, Madhu & Charuni also share similar life stories.

ANANDA B. KARUNARATHNE
National Director,
SOS Children's Villages Sri Lanka





A MOTHER'S LOVE

Learn why Shirley says,

“I have gained much more than I have given up...”

The hand that rocks the cradle, rules the world ... and when you meet Mother Shirley at SOS Children's Village in Piliyandala you know that she is the living embodiment of that proverb.

Mother Shirley is retired now, but 30 children have experienced her loving care in the years in between. At SOS Children's Villages where she made motherhood her vocation, she was one of the first batches of Mothers who dedicated their lives to the future of vulnerable children, 32 years ago.

On June 29, 2012 Mother Shirley Wilson was publicly felicitated for her outstanding contribution to society – she was one of the recipients of the Abhimani Award. That same evening, the Professional and Career Women Awards 2011/2012 were also awarded. Both the Abhimani and the Professional and Career Women Awards were awarded by the organisation Women in Management. Women in Management are headed by the versatile Ms. Sulochana Sigera. The organisation is “Dedicated to the success of women”.

The Abhimani Awards were presented to ladies who shared their success stories to inspire women in rural areas through the ABHIMANI talk show and helped to empower single mothers in Sri Lanka. The Awards were presented by Hon. Minister Dr. Rajitha Senarathne.

A TV programme on Siyatha TV, (a privately held national TV channel chosen for its wide reach in outstation areas) is where Mother Shirley made her first public appearance on behalf of SOS Children's Villages Sri Lanka.

In the programme, Mother Shirley shared her life story, a tale so inspirational that the programme hotline was inundated with calls from well-wishers.

“I feel that by becoming a Mother to orphaned and abandoned children who otherwise would have never known the love and affection of a caring Mother, I have gained much more than I have given up. I am very happy with the life I have lived. I have cared for and received the love of 30 children and now I enjoy the love of 6 grandchildren - I feel fulfilled and at peace with this momentous decision that I made many years ago” says Mother Shirley with a gentle smile.



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The Abhimani Awards are given in appreciation of the service rendered by exceptional women who have brought honour and glory to their workplace, community and country; a true testimony to the enduring nature of a woman's strength.

Mother Shirley echoes the sentiments of the WIM organisation when she says “I hope that my story will inspire the younger generation to dedicate their lives towards the good of others and come up in their lives.”

Among the other recipients of the Abhimani Award that evening were Pearl Weerasinghe, the first lady Commissioner General of Labour; Charmaine Vanderhoevan, the First Sri Lankan Lady to hold a HR Manager position in the entire Hilton Chain and she is the CEO of four companies within the MIL Holdings Group; Thilaka Ranasinghe, First Live TV Presenter in Sri Lanka; Ramya Weerakoon, Vice President of InfoTech's International (Pvt) Limited.

The Professional and Career Women Awards were presented to 18 women and among them were Hon. Mrs. Rosy Senanayake, Inspiration Woman of the Year Award; Ms. Indrani Fernando, Chairperson/Managing Director Philip Hospitals - Winner of Women Entrepreneur (Large Scale); Ms. Mumtaz Siriwardene, Managing Director Dave Tractors (Pvt) Ltd - Winner of Women Role Model of the Year (Business) and Ms. Dayani Fernando, DGM Corporate & Offshore Banking Bank of Ceylon - Winner of Women Role Model of the Year (Career).





READY TO FACE ANY CHALLENGE WITH HER SOS FAMILY BESIDE HER

Learn how Dinushika's life changed and took a turn for the better...

This is a story of a girl whose life has changed drastically with the help and the support of her SOS Mother and she recognizes it and appreciates it with tears of happiness in her eyes. The way pages of her book of life turned and continue to turn in a very beautiful manner is quite interesting... According to her SOS mother, she holds the key to turn those pages and draw a beautiful and colourful picture or a grey picture... Dinushika, being a wise child she chooses to take her mother's advice to her heart and act on it.

Dinushika's life at SOS started, when she was 11 years old. As Dinushika says, she had her own biological mother but she has never seen her father. Dinushika's mother had to provide for Dinushika and other expenses. They had to bear single-handedly and unfortunately after her sudden death, Dinushika had no one to turn to. Fortunately for Dinushika, she was referred to SOS Children's Village, Monaragala by the Probation ministry.

"I found it very different when I first came to my SOS home as all the other children who were there before me started telling my SOS mother, that they have found another sister. And most of all I was never going to call another person 'amma' and when other sisters and brothers were calling her 'amma', it was somewhat different to me, but she never forced me to call her 'amma'.



I had no trouble calling her "amma" and that word came out of my mouth without an effort"

"I was enrolled to the grade 4 of the school, though I was supposed to be in the grade 6 at the age of eleven. But since I have only attended school only up to grade 4, the School had no choice but to enroll me in the 4th grade. When I was struggling with my schoolwork and the fear of being in a school class after grade 1, it was amma who was always beside me to comfort me and help me with my schoolwork. As the time passed by seeing the sacrifices she made for me and the support she gives me I had no trouble calling her "amma". That word came out of my mouth without an effort."

Dinushika still remembers with tears in her eyes, how her mother came to her first netball practices after school. "Amma



came with other brothers and sisters and waited in the playground till I finished my practices". That was because she was crying and refusing to go for netball practices.

Every time she brings a medal or a certificate home, her mother sheds tears of happiness and tells her that this is not the end of the journey or the final achievement, there is more space in their home to keep her medals and certificates.

Dinushika wiped a drop of tears while she is happily admitting that, she has brought home 151 certificates apart from several medals merely because of the strength and courage her mother gave.

When I asked Dinushika if she is ready for her GCE A/L exam, what she said was that her mother told her when she passed the GCE O/L exam that there is another big step ahead of her and prepare for that without being satisfied with only one achievement. So she is prepared!

"As long as I know that my SOS mother and my SOS family are with me. I'm ready for any challenge which life brings with a smile on my face."

We invite you to be a part of lives of children like Dinushika and help them to get rid of the fear of abundance, so they would not be scared to fall knowing that there's someone of their own to catch them without letting them fall!!



A loving home for every child

● If you prefer to receive the receipts as and when payments are made, please tick this box. Yes
Help save the environment - if not ticked, we will assume you prefer to receive your payment receipts at the end of the year. (i.e. we send you all your receipts in December)

▣ The coupon below enables you to become an SOS friend and help a child in urgent need, today! By filling out the Standing Order form you ensure that your donation reaches your sponsored child monthly / quarterly / annually.

▲ Help us serve you better –please enter your NIC number in the form below.

DONATION FORM

Yes, I want to give a child a second opportunity to have a family!

Have you contributed to SOS earlier? Yes No

I wish to...

- Sponsor a child Rs. 1000/- per month Rs. 12,000/- annually
- Sponsor a child's education Rs. 500/- per month Rs. 6000/- annually
- Sponsor a family Rs. 10,000/- per month Rs. 120,000/- annually
- Rates for non-residential Sri Lankans (Sponsor a Child) Rs. 2500/- per month Rs. 30,000/- annually

OR Make a one-time contribution of Rs. _____

Share my ideas on helping more children at SOS Children's Villages

Introduce my company to help the cause of children in need

Tel: _____

E-mail: _____

Occupation: _____

Birth day: ____/____/____

▲ NIC No: _____

SOS is an approved charity. Your contribution is tax deductible

Payment method; Cheque Money Order

No. _____ Date ____/____/____

Please draw in favour of "SOS Children's Villages Sri Lanka"

Visa/ Master Credit Card AMEX

Card Holder's Name

Card No.

Expiry Date ____/____/____

Signature _____

Date ____/____/____

You may also make your donation at www.soscvrilanka.org

Be a friend, Tell a friend...

Do you have friends interested in helping SOS Children's Villages?

Name and contact details:

STANDING ORDER APPLICATION FORM (TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

NL-13

The Manager

Bank Name and Branch : _____

Date ____/____/____

Please make the periodical remittances as given below by debiting my account:

ACCOUNT HOLDER'S FULL NAME :

ADDRESS :

ACCOUNT NO. :

TRANSFER TO

BENEFICIARY'S NAME/ADDRESS: SOS Children's Villages Sri Lanka, National Office, P.O. Box 5, Kesbewa, Piliyandala, Sri Lanka

BANK NAME & ACCOUNT DETAILS:

<input type="checkbox"/> HATTON NATIONAL BANK	038-01-000302-1	<input type="checkbox"/> HSBC	012-088480-001
<input type="checkbox"/> BANK OF CEYLON	71307430	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL BANK	1770030300
<input type="checkbox"/> NATION TRUST	031166000057	<input type="checkbox"/> SAMPATH BANK	0018-1000-9442

PAYMENTS TO BE MADE Monthly Quarterly Half Yearly Annually

DUE DATE ____

FIRST PAYMENT DATE ____/____/____

FINAL PAYMENT DATE ____/____/____

PAYMENT AMOUNT (IN WORDS)

_____ Rs. _____ . _____

In view of your undertaking to make these remittances, it is expressly understood that the Bank is relieved from all claims for losses, which may arise through error, omission or delay. It is also understood that in the event of there being insufficient funds in my/our accounts to meet the payments on dates specified, the Bank cannot accept responsibility for enduring that the instructions carried out when funds subsequently become available. The Bank will also cancel this order without reference in the event three payments are defaulted. On the date of effecting payment, the bank reserves the right to determine the priority of this payment order against cheques presented or any other existing arrangements made with the bank. The bank may terminate this order as to future payments at any time by notice in writing to the applicant or without notice at any time after being advised by the beneficiary/beneficiaries that no further payment is required. This order will remain effective notwithstanding the death or bankruptcy / liquidation until notice of such death or bankruptcy/liquidation or the revocation of this order is received by the Bank. Any amendments and cancellations should reach the Bank at least one week before the successive payment is due. A charge will be levied for each amendment.

SIGNATURE/S

Contact No.



DONATION FORM

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BANK STANDING ORDER



EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE: TEARS OF PRIDE AND JOY

A successful event that allowed SOS children to shine

The Sun went down beautifully and calmly leaving reddish orange rays in the sky. With the beautiful colours in the sky, the children of SOS Children's Villages rose up with pride, excitement and colourful rays on their own. They were all accessorized with their talents and their innocent smiles to showcase their talents on the stage of "Expressions of Love 2013" at King's Court, Banquet hall in Cinnamon Lake Side Hotel to the valuable guests who were present.

The Show started off with a performance, in order to welcome the audience and invoke the blessings of Gods. This item which the Children performed has been made up of the techniques extruded from Sri Lankan & Indian dance styles. The Children indeed got the blessings of Gods and the guests who were there to witness their performances. It was an encouragement to the Children and the Organizing committee. After the first dance which was the welcome dance, the thundering applause from everyone seated and standing in the King's Court Auditorium, indicated that everyone was enjoying every bit of the Children's Performances.

The two announcers who compered, side by side with the professional announcer in Tamil language and English Language fluently, were two daughters who were



adults in the community. Today SOS Children's Villages are home to over 1000 less-fortunate children, who are enjoying the different facets of childhood due to the generosity, trust and steadfast support of our many friends and well-wishers. A song which was solely dedicated to our supporters and well-wishers was released to public for the first time making it the ideal occasion at the "Expressions of Love 2013."

Most of the audience was either trying to conceal their tears which eventually came out after every performance by the children or wiping their tears of pride which they felt towards the children and happiness to be a part of their lives to share their laughter, joy and excitement while they were witnessing the wonderful performances.

The presence of the audience which consisted donors and even the guests at the hotel who were passing by was an encouragement and support for this young performers who were showcasing their incredible talents through songs and dances which they prepared themselves. It was also a salute to the SOS Mothers, teachers and Co-workers who have taken great pleasure in organizing and presenting the programme.

The live Concert by the Children of SOS Children's Villages was not just an event of entertainment for them; it was a special effort of making their contribution and paying their tribute to their own family while demonstrating the talents to a compassionate audience who was there to witness the performances.

We wish to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all those who have contributed in numerous ways to make "Expressions of Love 2013" a success and the guests who were present for their concern, interest and enthusiasm which enhances the SOS Children's courage and feeling of Security and Love in the hearts of the Children.



brought up in SOS Children's Villages Nuwara Eliya and Piliyandala. The Graphic designing with a touch of artistic appearance to the stage backdrop, tickets and the theme background was designed by one of the daughters from SOS Children's Villages Anuradhapura.

SOS Children's Villages Sri Lanka, have been taking care of abandoned children in distress since 1979, providing them with a secure family environment to grow up in hope, faith and love. Each one of these Children is being nurtured to become confident, skilful and responsible



SPREADING LOVE AND HELPING ONE ANOTHER

“When my cousin wanted to sponsor a child and asked if I knew of a good children’s home, the very first name that came to my mind was SOS...”

When a child is truly happy, you can see the sparkle in their eyes. I find it amazing that all the Children at SOS Children’s Villages all seem to have that beautiful sparkle... that warmth in their heart which comes only when you know you are truly loved and cared for.

When I first got to know of SOS Children’s Villages through my bank, I was told that all it took was a donation of Rs. 1000 a month, which seemed small if it brought a priceless smile onto a little child’s face. I was impressed



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of the unique system where children are brought up in a family environment with a mother and siblings as well. This provides a stable mental environment for the children and a sense of normalcy that they need and deserve. It isn’t just children’s home, but a home with a mother to love and guide you and brothers and sisters to grow up with. How wonderful is that!

This year, when my cousin wanted to sponsor a child and asked if I knew of a good children’s home, the very first name that came to my mind was SOS. It was quite

easy for us to get information as SOS Children’s Village is maintaining a well-updated Facebook page and e-mails are answered quickly. Payment can be made online securely, which makes it quick and easy. That’s how we became sponsors of beautiful Dilki from Monaragala. Dilki, I take this opportunity to tell you how proud we are to be your sponsors and hopefully friends.

Soon after sponsoring Dilki, a feeling was tugging at my heart ...something told me we shouldn’t forget kids in the war-stricken North. SOS had just opened its village in Jaffna so I asked if we could also sponsor a son from there. Handsome 11-year-old Suventhiran was suggested to us. Dilki was born in the same month as me and Suventhiran born in the same month as my daughter. Happy coincidences maybe, but I like to think maybe heaven was somehow involved. Suventhiran, we are privileged to know you, Son and to be a part of your life.

SOS has villages all over Sri Lanka and many children are awaiting their turn to smile. I really believe that in the end, all that matters is how much we have loved and helped one another. If we could have made a child’s life brighter, then we are sure to leave the world a lot better than we found it.



DR. RISHANI GUNASINGHE
Patent Technology Specialist, Immunologist, Nature Conservationist.

CORPORATE PARTNERS WHO HELP THESE LITTLE CHILDREN IN A BIG WAY...!!



Weerodara Books join hands with SOS Children's Villages by contributing 0.25 cents from the value of each exercise book sold.



All hotels of Amaya Resorts & Spas carry our brochures in their rooms.



Pizza hut helps us to reach out for more supporters by sending out our brochures with their deliveries, at 5 different locations.



Mahogany Masterpieces extended their support by donating a percentage of their sales from the month of August.



Glitz has held hands with us with their product Chathak, donating 1% from all Chathak products sold.



NEW SOS VILLAGE IN JAFFNA

A long-awaited dream comes true for children in the North



The long-awaited dream has come true!! The 6th SOS Children's Village, in Jaffna has fulfilled the need for many more children. Situated in 2.5 acres, just 4.5 km from Jaffna at Nallur's Nayanmarkatta, the new SOS Children's Village has 12 family houses that is a loving home to the 56 children. In January 2014, this SOS Children's Village will be dedicated to all the children in Sri Lanka. Presently 56 children are quite content with their families in their new homes. The ritual ceremony was held on the 23rd of August receiving the blessings of religious activities carried out. It was indeed a very content and a warm sight to witness the ritual activities being carried out and the mothers and the children happily gathering around certain activities carrying pots from here and there. Their gestures shout out the happiness in their hearts and the love & the security which now they know is theirs.

Due to heavy fighting in the war-torn northern part of Sri Lanka in April 2009, hundreds of thousands of people were stranded in huge IDP camps (IDP—internally displaced person), amongst them hundreds of unaccompanied children. SOS Children's Villages were able to open a temporary care Programme in Zone 4 of the IDP Camp in Cheddikullem (near Vavuniya) in August 2009. Since then, SOS Children's Villages Sri Lanka have cared for some 200 unaccompanied children and youth, 120 of which were reunited with their families. Other children are now happily moved from the temporary care to new homes in SOS Children's Village in Jaffna and they all belong to their SOS Families, without the fear of losing their warmth and protection...





BEING AN SOS MOTHER

An unexpected calling that became a way of life



- **What was your motivation to become a SOS mother?**

In 1991, at the age of 30, I was looking for jobs and my parents were looking for marriage proposals. When I saw an advertisement calling for women who would like to be a mother to children who have lost the care of their parents, instantly something told me that this is going to be my path. I wanted to find more about SOS Children's Villages; I came to the Village and walked around. I felt like I have finally come home. The next day I went home, packed a bag and enrolled to the SOS mothers' programme.

I first became an aunty for the first six months and I was among the first batch of Aunties of SOS Children's Village – Nuwara Eliya. After two years, as the Village Director was confirmed that I was ready to be a mother, He brought my eldest son Bathiya and gave him to my hand. I still can remember as soon as I took him to my hand I started crying, feeling his soft skin against me and this bundle of joy is looking

up at me expectantly. At that moment I knew there is no other place I would rather be, other than here in my SOS home taking care of all my children. They needed me as much as I needed them... Today I can tell; to become an SOS mother was my destiny.

- **What does it mean to be an SOS mother?**

I have so many of my children to take care of, so my days are fulfilled! Most of the children here in the Village have not experienced love, warmth and security for a long time before they come to SOS Children's Village. It is my role; and I am destined as a mother to make my children feel that they are welcomed, loved and safe and this is their home! Moreover, I live in a community with other SOS families; where as other mothers are my sisters, friends. We share with each other and we support each other.



“Most inspiring thing about being an SOS mother is that I can witness with my own eyes how the children grow and how they can stand on their own feet one day”



- **When do you feel most happy?**

The moment I hold my children in my arms, I am just happy and I want to protect them and give them the love, warmth and the childhood they deserve. We are one family, and as a mother I want to protect my family; my children. I will not abandon these children for the second time in their lives. I have raised over 15 children. I am a grandmother now. Some of my daughters and sons are already married and they have their own children, I am the happiest when my children come to visit me with my grandchildren and I think I am so lucky to have such a big family...

- **What do you want to give your children?**

Most important thing for me is that my children have trust in life. I wish my children to be self-confident and face the world without fear and hesitation. I want to give my children a real home, the love of a mother and the possibility to grow like other children of society. One day they should grow up to be responsible citizens and they should lead independent lives in their own happy way.



LOVE, FAMILY, AND A SENSE OF BELONGING

A success story that started at just 6 days old

Chaminda was just 6 days old, when he was found in a hospital abandoned by his parents. Chaminda was brought to a SOS home. Chaminda soon was cuddled up in the warmth of his new-found SOS mother, who up to today he is fond of. Taking care of Chaminda was not an easy task for the SOS mother as he was just an infant of 6 days. She fed Chaminda with the help of a cotton soother she made as Chaminda was too small to be fed by a feeding bottle. Chaminda was given all the love, care and warmth as he was the SOS Mother's pet being the youngest of his newly found family...

It was not an easy task for Chaminda's mother to take care of an infant of 6 days with 6 other children. But regardless of the circumstances, each child receives the love, warmth, security and protection they deserve to have a beautiful childhood.



their homework and other school projects. Chaminda's SOS mother says, that Chaminda assures that he is going to take care of her and his brothers and sisters when he grows up to be an Engineer.

Many Children like Chaminda, with big dreams are growing up in SOS families receiving the warmth, love, care and protection they deserve. Most Children like Chaminda, are separated from their natural Parents and Local Communities owing to a variety of reasons. Loss of parents through death & illness, migration of parents to find paid employment, dysfunctional family relations, war-related separations, poverty, drugs/alcohol addictions have led to many child rights violations where children are separated from their biological parents temporarily or permanently.

At SOS Children's Villages, we make sure every child belongs to a caring family. They are protected and given a sense of belonging. Here, Children learn values, share responsibilities and form lifelong relationships. The "family environment" gives them a solid foundation on which they build their lives. Through love & acceptance, emotional wounds are healed and confidence is built. Children learn to trust and believe in themselves and others. With this self-assurance, each child can recognize and fulfill his or her full potential.



"Chaminda found a new family, a loving mother and a new life he deserves even though his life was almost shattered when he was just an infant of 6 days..."



Today, Chaminda is preparing to sit for his GCE A/L exam. As a young man, who is armed with energy and full of hopes, he is quite inquisitive about learning everything about mechanical products as well as his studies. Chaminda is doing his A/Ls in maths stream. Whenever time permits, he tries to teach other younger brothers and sisters with



LOVE, CARE AND PROTECTION DESPITE ANY DIFFICULTY

How our local sponsors have helped us to keep going

It is no secret that we are able to provide a range of opportunities for our children and reach out to more children who have lost or are at risk of losing parental care solely on the continuing support of our donors, sponsors, and promoters worldwide who have responded to our work with tremendous faith. But things are changing...

As you are aware there is a financial crisis that is affecting many countries in different continents. We at SOS Children's Villages Sri Lanka are extremely concerned about the current adverse financial situation in the European economies that make up the major share of the funding for our children in various SOS programmes; the stagnation in income is leading to a steady decline in international funds. The deepening crisis is beginning to impact the SOS Villages in Sri Lanka to a great extent. The SOS family in Sri Lanka is sharing the burden of financing the needs of (over 1200) children of our own society.

"A child, irrespective of the programme he or she is in, must remain our child and must receive the same level of care", said Mr. Siddhartha Kaul, President of SOS Family worldwide.

Clearly the most formidable challenge is to raise local funds for SOS programmes on a sustainable basis. The initial results of local fund-raising efforts have been encouraging. At this stage we seem to be a long way from our half-way mark, let alone our ultimate goal of becoming self-sufficient; it is definitely a major task. We believe that Sri

Lankans wherever they may be and corporate houses in Sri Lanka will respond to this call and do their best to rally round the SOS family in Sri Lanka sharing the burden of financing the needs of the children of our own society. SOS Children's Villages Sri Lanka seeks from you a long-term commitment to make sure our children can be provided with quality care and the chance to enjoy their right to education. A happy childhood will no doubt contribute to responsible adulthood. We have to act fast.

My colleagues at SOS Children's Villages Sri Lanka and I are deeply thankful to our local sponsors and donors who have joined with SOS in nurturing a child or supporting our SOS Children's Villages. Your solidarity with SOS Children's Villages Sri Lanka has been a source of encouragement, strength and hope to our SOS Mothers and Co-workers.

We look forward to more people and corporate houses joining hands with us and sharing the message with their family members, friends and colleagues and encouraging them to support our SOS Villages or sponsor a child to equip them to face tomorrow's challenges.

SANDHYA WEERASINGHE

The President,

SOS Children's Villages Sri Lanka.



For just Rs.33 a day...

Your donation help a child in need

To grow up in the warmth and security of a Family and receive an education or learn a trade which Prepares them for an independent life.

The funds will be used to cover living expenses and ensure Access to education and medical services.

Please send in your donation today...

You can call, write or interact with us at

SOS Children's Villages Sri Lanka

The National Office, P.O. Box 05, Kesbewa, Piliyandala

Piliyandala : +94112 702 712

Nuwara Eliya : +9452 2222 535

Galle : +9491 223 4607

Anuradhapura : +9425 223 5347

Monaragala : +94 55 227 6938

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