



SJC87 Initiative Newsletter 2015

Greetings Sponsors, well-wishers, volunteers and partners

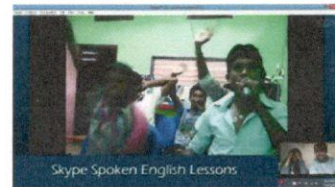
SJC87 is nearing 7 good years of service to children. What we have achieved thus far as a volunteer organization couldn't be possible without the support of people like you. For this we are immensely grateful. We are proud to declare that more than 95% of funds we raise support our strategically devised holistic educational development work in Northern Sri Lanka. The strength of our grass-root level volunteer base, field visits to monitor and constant feedbacks enable us to adapt to volatile local environment and be effective.

The primary focus of SJC87 remains the sponsorship of children at schools. We currently sponsor 105 children in 20 different schools in Jaffna and Vanni with larger numbers attending the Tharmapuram Central College (TCC), Urithirapuram MV, and Pirapanthanaru MV. In February 2015, Dekala Murugesu joined as Field Officer to visit children at schools in order to monitor progress and update sponsors.

With the support of sponsors in Australia, bi-weekly Skype English lessons are conducted at Karuna Nilayam, which is an orphanage by a group of youth volunteers based in Australia. Merit



Field Officer Dekala Murugesu



Skype image of Karuna Nilayam classroom



Australian Volunteers

based *Tesla* science awards are given to top students at GCE A/L with the support of Luckman Associates and Tamil Engineers of Australia.



Cycle4Life recipients



Local volunteers with global committee members

Exam preparation and revisions classes are conducted at Grade 5 level for the scholarship examination and for GCE O/L to assist children in Vanni area schools where shortage of teachers for vital subjects has been a chronic issue. A group of volunteer teachers from Jaffna go to Vanni consecutively for 11 weekends to instruct Grade 5 and 24 weekends for GCE O/L students. They provide coaching from the past examination point of view. Tamil Aid, UK and Unifund, Australia generously sponsor these weekend classes.

To further address the teacher shortage problem, salary support for two science teachers at TCC and two commerce teachers at Konavil GTMS are provided through the sponsorship of Carers Foundation of Australia.

Cycle4Life focuses on children from impoverished families who struggle to find a practical means of transportation to schools. To date, *Cycle4Life* has provided 58 bicycles to needy children. Various sponsors from Australia have come forward to sponsor bicycles to such children.

To provide career guidance to assist students who miss the opportunity to enter universities, we have undertaken an initiative to develop a career guidance manual. Career guidance counselors will also be trained and placed at each school we work.

Psychosocial need remains a problem that has not been properly addressed among school children and their families in the North. We are partnering with Australia Medical Aid Foundation (AMAF) to train psychosocial counselors in Jaffna and Vanni to meet this need. A training manual is being published through the sponsorship of AMAF.

In 2015, four of our global committee members along with two independent professional development workers visited our schools at different times to witness our programs thus to provide feedback in order to improve our future engagements.

Lastly, SJC87 Initiative has come out with calendars for 2016. Each month is adorned with beautiful photography taken at the settings where we work. Please make sure to get a copy from your local country representative. Again, we would like to heartily thank you for your generous monetary contributions, support and partnership.

SJC87 Global committee