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Children's Resource Centre
• Hambantota • Kataragama
• Eravur • Arugam Bay

VOICE OF Progress

YPF  NEWSLETTER

Give a
Gift of
HOPE



August 2011

Dear YPF Donors, Friends and well wishers,

We are happy to present to you our second (quarterly) newsletter for the year 2011. We have had a busy and successful 4 months.

Our most noteworthy event since you last heard from us, would be YPF's first Dinner Theatre fundraiser which was held on the 29th of April at Water's Edge Grand Ballroom, on YPF's 5th birthday. The event was to raise funds for our activities in the coming year. Guests at the event enjoyed an exquisite four-course meal and lively performances by Soul Sounds, Billy Fernando, Krishan Maheson, Natasha Ratnayaka and "Puss is Back" by Stage Light & Magic. We succeeded in attracting several principal sponsors who made generous donations towards the event, helping to make it a resounding success. We thank all the diners, corporates, friends and well wishers who were present for helping us in raising awareness of the foundation and helping to continue the activities of the Children's Centers. Judging by the success we had, we look forward to making it an annual event.

Before taking a better look at the colourful events we have organized in the last quarter, I would like to take this opportunity to give you a brief update on some of the important strides we have made recently with regards to YPF, creating more awareness on our work, improving the services we provide and new ventures we are embarking on.

In April, we started the 'A Voice for A Child' sponsorship program. Currently, our services are provided to approximately 600 children at our four centers in Hambantota, Kataragama, Arugam Bay and Eravur. It is estimated that to provide these services it will cost a minimum of US\$ 10 per child per month or US\$120 per child for an entire year. This includes the costs of maintaining the centre, payment to teachers, and the purchasing of educational material to improve the quality of education they obtain at the centers. There are no costs associated with non-related project expenses, therefore, 100% of all donations directly impact the beneficiaries involved.

Thanks to our main donors, CAP, we have also started upgrading of the Eravur centre in July. On completion, children of the centre will benefit from a well with clean drinking water, and improved bathroom facilities.

Charity Wardrobe has also really kick-started this last couple of months. Thank you to everyone who contributed with both toys and clothes in the last quarter. Your contributions and that extra step to make the time to clear your cupboards and drop them off at our drop off point has put a smile on many faces! We look forward to your continuous support! A special thanks to Mrs Radhee Kumararatne from Los Angeles and Ms Kimberly Kim from Singapore who also sent us boxes all the way!

We are very proud to announce the YPF has teamed up with Harpo's/OLAK Hospitality and Tourism School to bring a much needed hotel management course to the youth of the North Eastern Coastal regions of Sri Lanka. In the post-war context, with the boom in the tourism industry and un-trained, unemployed youth of those areas, we saw huge potential for a 'hotel/tourism school' and with its internationally accredited hospitality and tourism management courses, OLAK was identified as the ideal partner in taking this project forward. YPF has recruited students and will be responsible for general management and operations of the school and OLAK will focus on course content and delivery. The first batch commences their course on the 5th of September. We really look forward to working with OLAK and are excited to be a part of this programme.

The YPF also welcomes back Madhu to our team. A qualified counselor, Madhu has recently re-joined our Hambantota CRC. She was one of our first staff members and was away on maternity leave. Madhu will be involved in training designated staff from each center to be a staff resource person for counseling and will help to continue and improve upon our psycho-social programs that we run at the centres for the many children in need of such therapy, having endured much trauma in their lives as a result of the tsunami and civil war.

Thanks to the entire YPF team for a great few months. We look forward to the next quarter being as busy as and even more successful than the last.

We hope you enjoy a look back at some of our highlights of the 2nd quarter (May – August 2011).

Thank you,

Rejanne Perera
Communications Manager
Youth Progressive Foundation

A SAPLING OF THE SACRED SRI MAHA BODHI IS PLANTED AT THE SRI BODHIRAJA VIHARA TEMPLE, KATARAGAMA



The Sri Maha Bodhiraja Viharaya (Temple) of Kataragama, where the CRC Centre is housed, is a fast developing religious institution. The CRC commends the efforts of the present chief incumbent of the Viharaya the Venerable Krinde Sri Rathanalankara Thero. A Sapling of the Sacred Sri Maha Bodhi Tree of Anuradhapura was planted in the Viharaya premises on the 12th of May 2011 to commemorate the 2600th year of the 'Sambudhathwa Jayanthiya' or the 2600th anniversary of the Enlightenment of the Lord Buddha. This is the main event of several religious and community services organized by the Viharaya to commemorate the 'Sambudhathwa Jayanthiya'. The sacred Bo sapling will be venerated by the local residents and thousands of devotees visiting the Viharaya.

Our Chief Executive participated in transporting the sacred sapling from Anuradhapura in a colourful procession and sponsored the construction of the protective wall around the Bo tree and a compound for pilgrims to worship. The Sapling was planted by Mr. Ashan Malalasekera. A large crowd was present for the occasion, including children of the CRC and their parents.

A SPECIAL WESAK

During the festivities to commemorate the 2600th year of the 'Sambudhathwa Jayanthiya' or the 2600th anniversary of Enlightenment of the Lord Buddha, the children of the Hambanthota CRC had a wesak lantern-making competition on the 12th and 13th of May. Children were awarded prizes for the lanterns they made. Children belonging to all religions participated in this activity.



‘A CHOICE FOR A CHILD’, YPF’S FIRST DINNER THEATRE FUNDRAISER IS A SUCCESS



On the 29th of April, 2011, on its 5th birthday, the Youth Progressive Foundation was happy to host its first Dinner Theatre Fundraiser, at the Water's Edge Grand Ballroom to raise funds for our activities in the coming year.

Guests at the event enjoyed an exquisite four-course meal and lively performances by Soul Sounds, Billy Fernando, Krishan Maheson, Natasha Ratnayaka and "Puss is Back" by Stage Light & Magic.

We were successful in attracting several principal sponsors who made generous donations towards the event, helping to make it a success. We thank all the diners, corporates, friends and well wishers who were present and for helping us in raising awareness of the foundation and helping continue the activities of the Children's Centers. Judging by the success we had, we look forward to an even more exciting event next year.



CRC CHILDREN TO USE AUDIO-VISUAL MEDIUM

A new chapter in the creative activities of the CRC Centres, a Radio Unit was established in the Hambanthota CRC on the 25th of April 2011. 40 applicants were enrolled for the training. The Unit will help combine all CRC centres in the future, facilitating the provision of information for the worldwide sponsor network of the CRC centres. Webcast and Skype technology will be used for this purpose.

The children will be trained in activities of communication, controlling mind and speech, and development in audio visual communication. On completion of the training the children will be entrusted with the task of maintaining the Unit.



THE CRC CHILDREN CELEBRATE SINHALA & TAMIL NEW YEAR



The dawning of the Sinhala and Tamil New Year was celebrated by the children of the Ulla, Arugam-Bay CRC in a festive manner. The parents, who are extremely pleased with the services offered to their children by the CRC, raised the funds needed for the occasion.

The festival was held on the 22nd of April at the world famous Arugam-Bay beach front with the participation of thousands of people from the area. It was the first ever New Year celebration held by the centre, and was a great success not only with the children but also amongst the people of the area.

During the festival several traditional New Year sports and games were held for the children and the parents. Gifts and certificates were awarded to the winning teams.

Meanwhile, at the Hambantota CRC, A children's get together was held on the 08th of April 2011 for the New Year. A discussion was held in relation to the traditions and games associated with Sinhala and Tamil New Year. Refreshments were served and at the end of the discussion and the children took pleasure in each other's company by singing together. The objective of the programme was teaching the children to respect each other's traditions as children belonging to Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim communities are studying together at the Centre.



CRC GOES NATIONAL



H. P. Subhoda Madushani, a student of the Hambantheta CRC was selected to represent the Conference on Children's Rights organized by The Network for Children's Rights Campaign. The conference was held at the Hotel Topaz, Kandy on the 18th and 19th of April 2011. Madushani was one of three children selected to participate at the conference from the district of Hambantheta, a great achievement for the CRC Hambantheta. Subhoda is in grade 9 of The Suche National School in Hambantheta. She has been part of the CRC Hambantheta family since 2005 after she lost her mother to the Tsunami. She is a bright student, skilled in extracurricular activities such as dancing and drama.

MORE CRC TALENT



Two students of the Hambantheta CRC, twins, K. P. Thisindu Gayathra and K. P. Kavindu Anjula have passed their GCE Advanced Level exam with excellent results. Thushindu Gayathra has secured 'A' passes for Political Science and Dancing and 'B' for Sinhala while Kavindu Anjula has secured 'A', 'B' and 'C' passes for Political Science, Dancing and Sinhala respectively. They have been part of the CRC since 2004 after losing their father in the Tsunami. Highly talented in dancing, they were decorated with 'Ves' for Kandyan Dancing in 2008. Thusindu Gayathra has secured a place at the University of Aesthetic Studies and Kavindu is waiting for entrance to the same university.

FROM STUDENT TO TEACHER AT THE CRC



CRC Hambantheta commenced dancing classes in 2009. Ms K. A. Shanika, the dancing teacher at the Centre, interestingly, studied at our centre during the period of 2006-2009 and sat for GCE Advanced Level. Shanika showed her skills in dancing even while still a student at the centre and participated in all programmes conducted by the Centre. She is very happy to serve the institution which has helped her to grow and develop into the educated and talented person she is today. The Centre is also proud to see its former children doing well for themselves in society.

