



# THE RĀHULA TRUST

(Child Sponsorship Programme)

Registered Charity No. 1075742

**2006 - 2007**

## PROGRESS REPORT FOR 2007

Dear Supporters,

**W**e are very pleased to inform you that the Rahula Trust has completed another year of significant progress.

The number of children in Sri Lanka whom we are sponsoring has increased to 345. We are very happy to let you know most of the children we are sponsoring are doing well in their studies. They send their educational reports annually. Most of the children who sat for GCE O/Level have passed with excellent marks. Also some children who sat for A Level examination are continuing their higher education at universities and other institutes.

As in previous years we continue to fund different projects to support children's education in Sri Lanka, Nepal and Kenya.

We started sponsoring 50 Tsunami-affected children who were previously supported by the Sahanodaya Foster Parents Children's Fund. As the Sahanodaya Foundation was looking for more sponsors we have undertaken 50 children and are considering increasing this up to 100.

We are continuing our support for the Pritipura Community in Wattala

where they are working to rehabilitate children who are physically and mentally handicapped.

We also made a contribution towards the development of the pre-school in Tawalama. Our donation was for payment of teachers and purchase of books.

We have expanded our support for the Viharamahadevi Girls' Home. In addition to continuing to fund extra classes for the children, we have established a computer centre, and given money to continue classes for small children in the home.

The Metta Centre in Nepal was given £800.00 for the educational needs of the children in the orphanage.

The Trust also made a grant to Mee-goda for the development of their library through the purchase of some books and a computer.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to some young fundraisers who have done great work in raising funds for the Rahula Trust. Mr. Navindu Katugampola raised £4000.00 from his sponsored walk. Mr. Graham Sinclair raised £1400.00 by running the Ed-

inburgh Marathon, and for the third successive year Mr. Alan Michel in Brussels organised an Art exhibition and auction which raised £1232.

In view of the continuing weakness of the Sri Lankan rupee against the pound Sterling, we have been able to increase our monthly contribution to the children. We now pay Rs. 2000.00 each to school children and Rs.2600.00 for the university students.

We should like to emphasise that all the money donated by our sponsors goes 100% to support children. We constantly monitor our administrative expenses to keep them as low as possible and these costs are met from our general funds, not from sponsorship.

As always, the Trustees join me in offering our heartfelt thanks to each and every supporter of the Trust. Without your generosity none of our work would be possible, but with your donations we are able to make a real difference to the lives of many deserving children. Thank you.

Ven. T. Bandula, Secretary

### SPONSORED CHILDREN IN KESELPOTA

We are now sponsoring over 25 children in Keselpota and Mapakadawewa, Badulla district. Ven. Kanugolle Ratana-jothi Nayaka Thera, Head of the Rambaken Viharya has kindly agreed to coordinate and monitor the progress of the children. Ven. Bandula visited those children on his recent visit to Sri Lanka.



# Report on visit to sponsored child in Bandarawela

After nearly four years of sponsorship I was able to visit Harsha, arranging to be in the area for ten days, thus covering two weekends.



He lives right at the end of a narrow jungle track, about 1½ kms from the road between Bandarawela and Welimada. One turns off the road onto a very rough track by a tea estate for one km before taking to foot and walking down a very steep path, past a few small houses, until reaching the end.

The family is mother, father, Harsha nearly fifteen, and younger brother of twelve. A Buddhist family. They live on about an acre of what used to be paddy but has now, with obviously a lot of hard work, been terraced for growing vegetables, their source of income. The house was built fourteen or so years ago very much by themselves, including the manufacture of bricks of course. It provides a good-sized living room and three bedrooms. There is electricity and they have arranged a water sup-

ply, using a tank they constructed. All the family are extremely pleasant and welcoming and mother is a very good cook. She sits on what appears to be a local parish council and is the organiser of the family. The boys are always smartly and cleanly dressed.

When I arrived - the letter from Harsha with instructions had not arrived before I left - the boys were at religious school, so arrived wearing their white smocks. I was not prepared for the formal greeting when they fell on their knees in front of me.

Harsha is small by our standards, looks about twelve and wears shirts for that size. A shy boy with an air of innocence as would be expected. I found him a delightful boy; the sort that does not exist in most of Europe these days and certainly not in England. Very polite and helpful. He lacks confidence in speaking English but my driver/guide stayed with me and helped us.

One morning I visited Harsha's school of about 1400 pupils. He leaves the house at 06.20 to be at school at 08.00. I first met the new Principal and then the Vice Principal, the Teacher for Harsha's year (who had also known him in grade 8) and the IT Teacher. It was only then that I found out that Harsha is monitor of his class and also one of

64 prefects in this large school. He is a modest boy.

All teachers were very helpful and emphasised the boy's excellent work and results. He was second in class again last year. The IT Teacher gave me his email address and is anxious to correspond on a general level.

Both boys in the family are very bright. A year or two ago a local paper wrote a feature on the school and included a half-page of photos of students under the heading 'Our Pilots' or 'Our Leaders'. These were the titles told to me by my driver/interpreter, although I think 'Our top students' would be better. Both Harsha and brother appear.

Harsha has now started the 10th Grade and hopes to continue education to university and eventually become a civil engineer. My sponsorship is paying and will continue to pay for two extra maths lessons each week and an English lesson. I have also asked them to arrange an extra Spoken English lesson and this will commence in March.

In summary, a very enjoyable and satisfying visit which has cemented our relationship. I will continue to support Harsha as long as he is in education. I feel I am lucky to have been allocated such a pleasant, intelligent boy.

Mic Comber



## LIBRARY PROJECT

At the request of Ven. Galagama Santhajeewa, the librarian, the Rahula Trust donated books and a computer for the development of Kamala Jayasinghe Memorial Library, Panagoda, Homagama. Also, we have started sponsoring five university students recommended by Sri Sudarshana Benevolent Scholarship Scheme which functions in this library headed by Ven. Santhajeewa. Mr. Tom Kariyawasam co-ordinated this project.

## FUNDRAISING EVENTS

### SCOTTISH RUNNER DONATES VALUABLE FUNDS FOR RAHULA TRUST



Graham Sinclair, a 21-year old trainee architect from Aberdeen in Scotland, took part in the Edinburgh Marathon in June 2006 and managed to raise more than £1400.00 for the Rahula Trust.

Graham presented a cheque for £1,407 (about Rs.300,000) to Venerable Bandula, the secretary of the Rahula Trust and Richard Jones, one of the trustees.

Graham said that the Edinburgh Marathon covers a distance of over

26.2 miles and he completed the run in 3 hours 42 minutes with no stops. As this was his first attempt to run a marathon his time was a commendable one. He is full of enthusiasm and hopes to run more in the future.

Ven. Bandula who accepted the cheque on behalf of the Trust said that The Rahula Trust is extremely grateful to Graham Sinclair for his wonderful generosity.

Photo by Tissa Madawela

## SPONSORED WALK RAISES £4000 FOR THE RAHULA TRUST

While thanking him, we would like to report that Mr. Navindu Katugampola completed a sponsored walk of 50km and raised £4000.00 to support the activities of the Rahula Trust.

As a special project we have dedicated this money to support 50 children in Sri Lanka affected by the Tsunami. These children were being supported by Sahanodaya Foster Parents Children's Fund, but as Sahanodaya were facing financial difficulties we agreed to assume responsibility for 50 of the 650 children in their care. If this project is a success, we plan to increase the number of children we support to 100.

### OBITUARY

#### MR. KALIDASA GOONASENA

Mr. Karl Goonasena was a long-standing supporter and a good friend of the Rahula Trust. He passed away on 27th June 2007 and his funeral was held at Hendon Crematorium on 5th July 07 amidst a large gathering.

He is survived by his loving wife Reneira and five children.

## St John's International School IB, Brussels Visual Arts Final Show 2007 Vernissage and Auction



For the third year running, St John's International School, Brussels held a Visual Arts Show, together with a Vernissage and Auction on 27th April 2007. The aim of the auction was to raise funds for the Rahula Trust. Mr. Alan Mitchel organised this event. The students donated one piece of their original artwork for the auction and brought food to represent their countries and culture.

The event was very successful and they managed to raise £1232.51 this year. We would like to thank the students, teachers and well wishers, and particularly Alan Mitchel the organiser, for their kind contribution towards the activities of the Rahula Trust.

## My visit to children I sponsor in Sri Lanka



In November 2007, I was fortunate to be able to visit Sri Lanka with Ven. Bandula, to see the children I sponsor there. This was my first visit to Sri Lanka and the first time I would see the two children and their families, so I was very excited and a little nervous, especially as they both lived not far from the jungles where the Tamil Tigers were encamped.

We travelled first to see the boy, Mahesh Raja, whose family lives near the sacred city of Anuradhapura, a place which I found to be very special and peaceful when we visited several of the temples there. We eventually tracked down his house: a very tiny two-roomed house with a tin roof, situated near stagnant water, through which the family has to wade, when it floods, to get to the road.

However, they had made attempts to brighten up their home by placing little pots of flowers in front of the house, which looked very colourful. Only the brother and sisters of the boy I had come to see were at home when we called, because Mahesh Raja had managed to get a delivery job after leaving school, to help with the family finances. I was disappointed not to see him but thrilled to meet some of his family and to see where he lived. The tiny rooms were only used for sleeping on the floor and eating; cooking and washing taking place outside. I gave presents to the children there and took photos before leaving. We hoped that Mahesh would come to Kurunegala by bus to see us later.

A few days later, Mahesh, his mother and a school friend made the long journey by bus to meet me for the first time. It was wonderful to see them and to speak to them, with the help of Ven. Bandula translating. Mahesh was nervous because he had left school and wondered what I would say, but I reassured him that I was pleased that he had some work and could contribute to the family finances.

Mahesh's mother explained that the family were gathering stones so that they could build a new house where they lived. They were only intending to build a house with two rooms, as at present, and to use the same tin roof. When I heard this, I told them that if they could tell me how much a tiled roof would cost, I would pay for this, as I couldn't bear the thought of the family sweltering under the heat of the old tin roof. We agreed that I would stop sponsoring Mahesh Raja's education and give them some further support in this way. It is clear that this family is very poor and living in bad conditions. Before they left, I gave Mahesh some clothes, and his mother a sari and a little money to help with the expense of the journey and time lost at work that day.



The road to Moneragala and beyond, to see, Geetangali, the girl I sponsor, was very long and very rough, with

her house only 8km from the jungle, where fighting was taking place. Fortunately, I only discovered this afterwards but I feel quite worried for Geetangali and her family. Her first reaction on seeing me arrive at her house was to run away. It turned out that she had rushed to fetch her mother from the paddy field where she was working. When Geetangali's father was alive, this was his job. We were greeted warmly by her family and invited into the new house that they had managed to build slowly over the last 10 years, since her father had laid the foundations. Their old house at the back was very different: made only of mud walls and a straw roof. I was glad that they had been able to improve their living conditions. Geetangali is now 14 years old and quite shy but we discovered that she is musical and has the opportunity to learn the violin at school. The family is saving up to buy her a violin and I will also contribute towards this to help them. I was pleased and surprised that the school was able to offer violin classes in such a remote area. Before our brief visit came to an end, I gave Geetangali school books and equipment and some new clothes, which miraculously fitted.

I am pleased to have seen the children I sponsor and to learn something about the challenges they face in their daily lives. It is a great privilege to be able to contribute to the work of the Rahula Trust, confident in the knowledge that the children's school progress is carefully monitored.

I am extremely grateful to Ven. Bandula and his family for making my trip possible and for accompanying me to visit the children. I would not have been able to do this without their help and guidance.

*Gloria Langridge*



## METTA CENTRE AND CHILD SPONSORSHIP IN NEPAL



### SAMYAK YOUTH GROUP, NEPAL

We are now supporting 33 children Nepal through the Samyak Youth Group. On his visit to Nepal we requested Mr. Amrith Stapit to visit and meet those children. This picture shows his meeting with the children and Venerable monk who oversees this project. According to their school reports they are progressing and we are planning to increase their sponsorship in the future.



### METTA CENTRE, NEPAL

This year we continued to give financial support to the Metta Centre in Nepal. This is a children's orphanage and we are supporting their education. Rahula Trust is supporting their educational needs. The Trust is planning to increase the number of children whom we are sponsoring. To accommodate more children the Centre is a new building.

### PRE-SCHOOL PROJECT

To promote children's education the Rahula Trust is supporting a Pre-school in the remote village Tawalama in Galle District. This year we have started sponsoring the salary of 2 teachers, donated money to develop the premises and an annual prize-giving. This pre-school has now become a very popular institution in this area.



*Some of the sponsored children from Galle District. They are being monitored by Ven. Millawa Samiddhi Nayake Thera*



*A sponsored family in Pallededa, Ratnapura District. The eldest child is being sponsored.*

## The Rahula Trust Summarised Accounts Year ending 30th September 2007

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2007 £	Total 2006 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
Donations, Sponsorship, Gift aid	12,917	34,597	47,514	61,793
Investment income	3,321	814	4,135	2,988
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>16,238</b>	<b>35,411</b>	<b>51,649</b>	<b>64,781</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
Costs of generating funds	237	253	490	414
Charitable expenditure	10,774	38,473	49,247	51,025
Management and administration	289	-	289	289
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>11,300</b>	<b>38,726</b>	<b>50,026</b>	<b>51,728</b>
<b>Net incoming resources</b>	<b>4,938</b>	<b>(3,315)</b>	<b>1,623</b>	<b>13,053</b>

*The financial information has been extracted from the annual accounts. For further information please ask the Secretary for the full annual report and accounts and examiners report.*

## PRITHIPURA INFANT HOME



This year we have paid for the employment of a physiotherapist to work at the Prithipura Infants Home to help the children overcome their disabilities. The children in the home suffer from a variety of physical and mental disabilities, often as a result of cerebral palsy. Our sponsorship is a continuation of the support which we offered last year to employ staff to teach music and dancing.

### Kenya Sponsorship Programme and Nyumbani Project.

Joan Mutuku, the elder of the two Kenyan sisters being sponsored by the Rahula Trust, has completed her hotel training course. She is now working as a trainee at the Nairobi Serena Hotel, a 4-star property near the centre of Nairobi. She is hoping that she will be offered permanent employment in a managerial/supervisory role, once her 6-month training period comes to an end. Her younger sister, Mary, continues her studies at Makerere University in Uganda.

The Rahula Trust continues to support the Nyumbani orphanage for HIV+ children. Their new village now has its first residents and the Trust has provided 75 desks for the village school.



**Trustees of the Rahula Trust:**

Ven. Tawalama Bandula  
Mr. Martin Evans  
Mr. Rohan Kariyawasam  
Dr. Robert Parsons, M. B. E.  
Mr. Richard Jones

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**Sri Lanka Office:**

Ven. Prof. B. Wimalaratana  
Mr. W. B. A. Jayasekera

Designed and typeset by Ven. T. Bandula

# You can help a child in need. Become a sponsor today...

## How to give:

- **STANDING ORDER** *(this is easiest way to give)*
  - Paying by standing order is easy to set up and means you don't have to keep remembering to send off cheques.
  - It is also beneficial for the Rahula Trust because it reduces administration costs.

***A standing order is the preferred method of payment for child sponsorship. Please complete the form.***

### ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO PAY -

If you are not able to pay by Standing Order:

- **CHEQUE/POSTAL ORDER (Please make payable to the Rahula Trust)**

### New Gift Aid scheme

On 6<sup>th</sup> April 2000 a new and much simplified Gift Aid scheme came into operation. If you are a taxpayer, all you have to do is complete the declaration and return it to us. This will enable us to recover nearly 30p in tax for every £1 you give, on any payments you make to The Rahula Trust in the future.

### Charitable Bequests:

Gifts made to the Rahula Trust in your Will are free from inheritance tax. This is a wonderful way to give and generate *metta* at a time when material possessions are no longer necessary.

### In Sri Lanka:

If you would like to give donations in Sri Lankan Rupees to the Rahula Trust please send your cheque/postal order or money payable to **Rahula Trust A/C No. 1-0001-01-02601 to:- The Chief Manager, National Savings Bank, Head Office Branch, Colombo 3, Sri Lanka.**

If you have recently donated please accept our thanks and hopes for your continued support in the future.

## **Sponsorship costs just £10 a month but all donations are welcome!**

A small regular donation of £10 per month can make the world of difference to the quality of education a child receives thousands of miles away. Every child should have the opportunity to receive an education, but without assistance, many children will remain uneducated and, as adults, be unable to rise above poverty.

Each child sponsored through The Rahula Trust is assigned to one sponsor. If a sponsor ceases his/her support, we seek a new sponsor for the child.

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## **SINGLE DONATIONS**

For a single donation, please make a cheque payable to THE RAHULA TRUST. Please tick one of the following boxes.

£ 10 Only       £ 20 Only       £ 50 Only       Any other amount.....

Name of donor:.....

Address:.....

..... Post Code..... Tel:.....

*Please sign the Gift Aid Declaration.*



# THE RAHULA TRUST

(Child Sponsorship Programme)

Registered Charity No: 1075742

## STANDING ORDER

The Manager (Name of your bank).....

Address: (Address of your bank).....

.....Post Code.....

Please credit **THE RAHULA TRUST** Account No: **80006000** Sort Code: **40-50-56**  
**BANK OF CEYLON,** 1, Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4UJ

The amount of: £..... (£.....) monthly/ quarterly/annually\*.

[The suggested sponsorship for one child is £10/month. Please enter the amount you want to give in words and figures.]

Please debit my Account No. ....Sort code.....

starting on ..... (insert date) or immediately on receipt of this order whichever is the later date.

Signature ..... Date.....

Name of Account to be debited:.....

Home Address.....

.....Post Code..... Tel.....

\* Please delete as appropriate.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE RAHULA TRUST, NOT TO YOUR BANK. THANK YOU.

### New Gift Aid scheme

On 6<sup>th</sup> April 2000 a new and much simplified Gift Aid scheme came into operation. If you are a taxpayer, all you have to do is complete the declaration below and return it to me. This will enable us to recover nearly 30p in tax for every £1 you give, on any payments you make to The Rahula Trust in the future

#### GIFT AID DECLARATION

Full name .....

Address .....

.....

This declaration confirms my wish to make donations to The Rahula Trust under the new Gift Aid scheme and applies to all donations made by me from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2000. I am under no obligation to make any further donations and I may cancel this declaration at any time.

I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer, resident in the UK for tax purposes and that I will advise The Rahula Trust if this situation changes.

Signature ..... Date .....

Please return the form to: The Treasurer, Rahula Trust, 22 Ridge Lea, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP1 2AZ