



Optima Foundation - Poverty Relief

12 Rose Hill Mews, Farm Hill, DOUGLAS

Isle of Man, IM2 2LZ

Established: 1996 (UK)

November 2005

Beyond the Tsunami (26th December 2004) Disaster in Sri Lanka

Educational Tour of Children

To the ancient Holy City of Kataragama - 15th and 16th July 2005

Until recently, our efforts had been concentrated on the alleviation of physical hunger and poverty among the children in need. However, on the 15th and 16th of July this year, we were able to instigate an educational tour for the children from the Swami Vipulananda Children's Home (SVCH), Akkaraipattu, Ampara District, (Eastern) Sri Lanka.

They were taken on a pilgrimage / educational tour to the ancient city of Kataragama in the South of Sri Lanka. In July and August, Hindus, Buddhists, Christians and Muslims congregate in this ancient holy city as it is said to have 'healing qualities'. This is the first time in the history of this children's home, the children had an opportunity to go on a tour, let alone to an ancient city which has both spiritual and educational value.

This event was largely sponsored by [Rosie and Eddie Christian of Sulby Glen Hotel \(Isle of Man\)](#). According to the Trustee of SVCH, Mr. Kailayapillai, *"I have seen a genuine change among the young children after this educational tour. The children are not only happy within themselves, but also show a newly formed positive mindset in their daily lives. For all these changes to take place, we needed support and I humbly thank the owners, staff and the customers of Sulby Glen Hotel and all the well wishers in Isle of Man. Long may continue our association for the benefit of these children!"*

Children saying 'Thank you' to the benefactors in Isle of Man (Sulby Glen Hotel)



Children saying 'grace' prior to their picnic lunch. The coach was decorated with the Isle of Man flag and a banner depicting the educational tour



For further information and support, contact: Dr. Tom Jeyendran, Hon. Secretary

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No child deserves neglect and starvation – Let us show that we care!

******In service to promote Love, Peace, Truth, Right Conduct and Non Violence******