



# Optima Foundation - Poverty Relief

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Established: 1996 (Web: [www.optimafoundation.org](http://www.optimafoundation.org))

News Letter – Issue 16 (10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue)

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## 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (1996 – 2006)



We have reached a milestone in our history. This is our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ‘**service to the children in need**’. It is hard to describe all the emotions one goes through when serving the underprivileged children around the world where both peace and harmony are at a premium. Yet this form of service is what Optima Foundation set about to do since 1996. In this venture, we thank all those who have supported us during the last 10 years. Without your help and support we could not have achieved this milestone.

### Formation and brief history of Optima Foundation

Optima Foundation was established in August 1996 as a Forum to consolidate the spiritual and voluntary work carried out by Valli Luschwitz, Tom Jeyendran, June Jackson and other like minded people.

Miss Luschwitz has been active since 1950’s and Dr. Jeyendran has been active since late 1970’s in promoting spiritual and social harmony among the under privileged. Although Miss Luschwitz (Hon. Chairperson) and Dr. Jeyendran (Hon. Secretary) have taken the leading roles in this Forum, there are many supporters and service providers, whose dedication and support has enabled the Forum to achieve many of its objectives in its short history.

Optima Foundation has no political or sectarian alliances or affiliation and funded entirely by donations and membership fees only. Currently, every Penny collected (100%) is spent on the underprivileged children in countries such as Bosnia, Romania, Sri Lanka and Ukraine. Administration costs are borne by a few selected benefactors and the committee members.

### Our aims and purpose

Optima Foundation exists to provide **Poverty Relief** on a global basis, thus reducing the physical, intellectual and spiritual hunger. In this mission, Optima Foundation aims to promote the Five Lamps concept in Human Values. They are **Love, Peace, Truth, Right Conduct and Non Violence.**

### Our commitment

Optima Foundation is fully committed to the principles of **Interfaith Harmony and Human Values**. Thus, we carry out our work without any social barriers based on gender, race, class, religious affiliation and physical or mental limitations of individuals.

### Our objectives

In the short and medium term, Optima Foundation shall:

1. Sponsor feeding programmes for children in need
2. Provide books to orphanages and children’s homes to enhance their educational abilities
3. Provide counselling to those children in trauma or distress
4. Promote religious harmony among young children and develop interfaith understanding
5. Provide training and development workshops for the volunteers, members and supporters
6. Help those who endeavour to help themselves

In the long term, Optima Foundation shall:

1. Establish an “adopt a child / adopt an orphanage” programme to provide **‘fatherhood or motherhood support’** to the under privileged children in orphanages and children’s homes all over the world
2. Promote interfaith harmony at a global level
3. Promote the concept of **“Living with Human Values”** among young adults

**Love All Serve All**

**Our achievements during the past 10 years:**

In 1996, we said that every penny we collect will be spent on the children in need and every item donated to us for the benefit of the children will be accounted for. Today in 2006 we can say that we have kept our promise.

- ❖ All your food items, 'shoe box' gifts and the personal care items were distributed to the orphanages and children's homes in Bosnia, Romania and Ukraine
- ❖ Your paraffin heaters, Zimmer frames and crutches etc were distributed to the Children's Homes in Mostar in Bosnia (both Christian and Muslim Homes)
- ❖ All your financial contributions for feeding the children have been utilised (100%) in Bosnia, Romania, Sri Lanka and Ukraine.
- ❖ Your financial contributions for the tsunami relief work have been utilised on purchasing the essential necessities and repairs in children's homes / orphanages.
- ❖ We have also completed our first tsunami relief- capital project at the Swami Vipulananda Children's Home (Sri Lanka). It is a dairy cattle system to provide milk protein to the children (the picture is on page 4).

**Our picture library over the last 10 years**

While it is difficult to do an inventory of all our work during the last 10 years, here are some glimpses.

	
<p><b>1996</b> Children in Chernigov (Ukraine) having a day out to forget their pain of Leukaemia, Asthma and other illnesses from the Chernobyl nuclear fallout</p>	<p><b>1996</b> Little Kenny and many like him with their disabilities in Romania needing continuous care. We were able to provide some personal care items.</p>

	
<p><b>1996</b> We have left this section blank as the volunteers could not take their cameras to the war torn Bosnia to bring back pictures.</p>	<p><b>1996</b> Working with Rev. Dr Hunupalagama Vajira Sri Thero to feed the children in his Children's Home. Picture: Tom, Rev. Vajira Sri Thero, Paul Feldberg and Mr and Mrs Visvakumar</p>

**Thank you:**

Our thanks go to the 'foot-soldiers' who sacrifice their home comforts to be with the children, just to give them a moment in time that puts smile on their faces. Some names are as follows:

<i>(Late) Peter Kingsley-Ducane</i>	<i>Tony Buddell</i>	<i>Anita Bhardwaj</i>	<i>Michael O'Hanlon</i>
<i>Debbi and Jimmy Lingamayagam</i>	<i>Bob Chase</i>	<i>Michelle Robson</i>	<i>Paul Feldberg</i>



**2001** Encouraging the children at T S Kurukulam (Sri Lanka) to grow their own vegetables, bananas etc. Unfortunately these children's efforts were lost during the tsunami (2004). At present, the soil is contaminated with salt from the sea water.



**2004** Celebratory meditation and dinner in Memory of (late) Peter Kingsley- Ducane at Sri Gayathri Children's Home in Jaffna (Sri Lanka) 28<sup>th</sup> November 2004. This Children's Home is now closed due to the civil unrest in Jaffna.



**2005** Michelle joining in with the children at Ozanam – the Centre for the children with mental disability to work with stickle bricks



**2005** Debbi, Jimmy and Michelle entertaining the children at Ozanam – the Centre for the children with mental disability (Batticaloa, Sri Lanka)



**2006** As always the main thrust of our 'service' (seva) is feeding the children to alleviate both physiological and spiritual needs



**2006** Our ethos is "**Human Values**" – **Love, Peace, Right Conduct, Truth and Non-Violence**. These principles are always conveyed to the children.

**How do we raise our funds and goods?**

Optima Foundation does not get any government support or grants. The funds generation comes from individuals with some support from business donors. Some of our past funds generation and goods collection activities include:

<b>1996</b> - 'Food for children challenge' - Oaklands College (UK)	<b>2005</b> - Charity Quiz – Sulby Glen Hotel (IOM)
<b>1997</b> - Marconi Staff Social Club – Stevenage (UK)	<b>2005</b> - Isle of Man collection of personal care items
<b>1997</b> - Pot plants sales in Welwyn Garden City for charity (UK)	<b>2005</b> - Charity Christmas Raffle - IOM International Business School
<b>2005</b> - Bedford Small Business Forum collection	<b>2005</b> - IOM Parish Walk for charity
<b>2005</b> - Charity Packing for the shoppers – Douglas Safeway (IOM)	<b>2006</b> - Dressing down for charity – Bibby International Services – Douglas IOM

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



**2006** Michael and Tom extending both their friendship and support to the children at the Manickavasagar Boys' Home (Batticaloa, Sri Lanka)



**2006** Opening of the first dairy cattle system in Sri Lanka by Tom, Anita and Michael at Swami Vipulananda Children's Home to provide milk protein

**Annual Feeding day - 2006:** We are continuing with our practice of feeding the children in homes and orphanages as part of our '**Spirituality in Action**' programme. This year our annual feeding day has been designated on the 11<sup>th</sup> December. Once again a celebratory meal (almost like Christmas celebration with prayers and feast) is planned for around 2000 children in Sri Lanka.

**"The Lord will provide"**

"God is circle whose centre is everywhere and circumference nowhere" **Hermes Trismegistus**

"Start the day with Love;  
Fill the day with Love;  
Spend the day with Love;  
End the day with Love;  
For this is the way to God"  
**(Sai Baba)**

"The Lord is Gracious and full of compassion;  
slow to anger and of great mercy  
The Lord is good to all; and his tender  
mercies are over all his works"  
**(Christianity - Psalms 145: 8-9)**

"Who say, when afflicted with calamity:  
To God we belong and To Him is our return"  
"They are those on whom blessings from  
God, And Mercy and they are the ones that  
receive guidance"  
**(Holy Koran – Sura II 156-157)**

"Sing and praise '**His**' never ending  
attributes; it is, in '**His**' name that '**Love**'  
manifests. Keeping '**Him**' in mind will make  
all the sorrows disappear and happiness will  
take place wherever you may be"  
**(Sikhism - Prayer)**

"Blessed are you, Adonoy, our God and God  
of our fathers, God of Abraham, God of  
Isaac, God of Jacob, Great Mighty, and  
Awesome God, Highest God, Doer of good,  
kind deeds, Master of all, who remembers the  
love of the patriarchs and brings redeemer to  
their children's children for His name's sake,  
with love.

King, Helper, Rescuer and Shield  
Blessed are you, Adonoy, Shield of Abraham"  
**(Judaism – Prayer)**

**"Asotoma Sat gamaya  
Tamasoma Jyotir gamaya  
Mriyorma Amirtam gamaya  
Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti"**

O Lord,  
From the unreal, lead us to reality  
From darkness, lead us to light  
From death, lead us to immortality  
Let Peace be upon your Trinity  
**(Hinduism- Vedic Verse)**

For further information –

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**Or:** **email:** tom\_jeyendran@yahoo.co.uk  
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