

# Optima Foundation - Poverty Relief

25 Oxford Avenue, St. Albans, Herts, AL1 5NS, UK

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

Associate Partner: International Children's Medical Aid – UK Charity No: 1072509

## News Letter – Issue 21

August 2008

### Happy Holiday Season!

While we are enjoying the holiday season in the western hemisphere, let us not forget the children around the world who are vulnerable and in need.

For them 2008 is not about the universality of Olympic Games in Beijing (China); nor who the medallions are with gold, silver or bronze. It is about survival, especially when the cost of food has increased, on average by 30% in the less developed countries.

Currently our focus is on Sri Lanka. Here the increase in prices is definitely having an adverse impact on the children's homes and orphanages.

This has meant that we had to accelerate our feeding programmes this year while allowing some of the "self sustaining" projects to be moth balled (frozen).

### Our turbulent world

Excess desire is a storm, Greed is a whirlpool, Pride is a precipice, Attachment is an avalanche and Egoism is a volcano (origin unknown).

### 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.**

### Cost of feeding

On average, we spend around 60 Pence per child for a hearty meal.

### 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 work continues.....

#### ❖ Spreading the message:

Our Dr. Tom Jeyendran has been active in spreading the message on "Poverty Relief work", especially directed at the young vulnerable children. On the 13<sup>th</sup> March he provided an insight into the recent projects in the tsunami stricken Sri Lanka to the Writtle Church House Group. This "informal but informative talk" was organised by Mrs Ann Ward and Mrs Jan Green.

He was also a speaker at the Pre-Conference Conference held at the Writtle College on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2008, prior to the Lambeth Conference for the Anglican Bishops and clergy. The chairman of the Conference, Mr Henry Matthews provided an insight into the work he has carried out in Tajikistan to raise the awareness on a co-operative approach to economic self sufficiency among rural breadwinners (mainly women).

Dr. Jeyendran provided a detailed account of the self sustaining projects in Sri Lanka; he has 'project managed' under the banner of Optima Foundation – Poverty Relief. There were also other speakers, Dr Peter Hobson on rain forest and bio diversity, Dr. Chris Bishop on the handling and transporting of the perishable items such as vegetables in the less developed countries and Lin Blunt on the international knowledge transfer projects and supporting the international students within Writtle College.

Writtle Church - House Group 13th March 2008



Anglican "Pre-Conference Conference" 14<sup>th</sup> July 2008



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

❖ **Feeding Programmes – 2008 – Special sponsorships:**

5<sup>th</sup> January: Sakthi Girls Home (sponsored by Debbi and Jimmy Linganayagam)  
 June – July: 6 Fridays at Swamy Vipulananda Children's Home (sponsored by Rosie and Eddie Christian of Sulby Glen Hotel, IOM)

❖ **Optima Foundation sponsored “special feeding days” - 2008:**

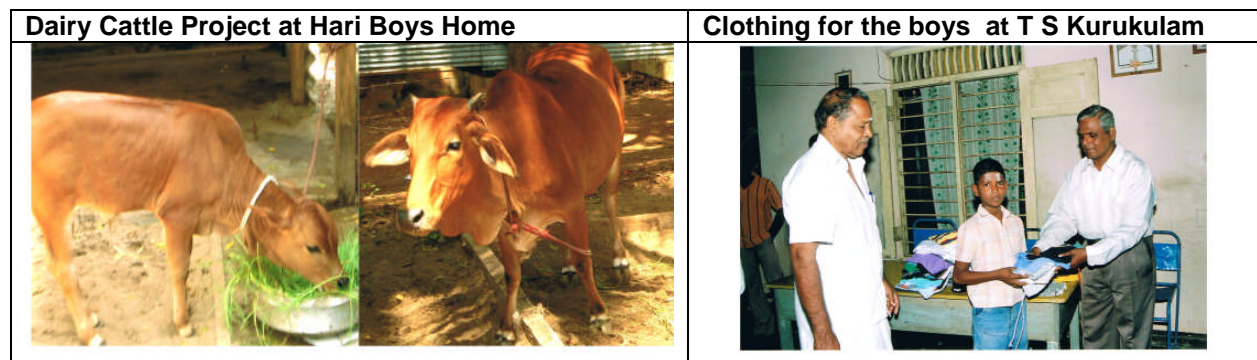
5<sup>th</sup> January: 50 children at Manikkavasagar Boys Home  
 20<sup>th</sup> June 300 children in 4 homes / orphanages  
 16<sup>th</sup> July: 1200 children in 14 homes / orphanages  
 1<sup>st</sup> August: 1200 children in 14 homes / orphanages  
 5<sup>th</sup> September (organised): 200 children in 3 homes / orphanages  
 (Thank you to our funds raisers: Farm Hill Stores (IOM), Writtle College shop, Sri Meenatchi Dance Academy)

❖ **Milk protein Project - 2008:**

The girls at the Om Sakthi Girl's Home (Kaluwanchikudy near Batticaloa) are continuing to receive milk on a daily basis to counteract the malnutrition, sponsored by **International Children's Medical Aid**.

❖ **Dairy cattle Project - 2008:**

Thanks to Annette Corlett of Farmhill Store Ltd (IOM) and June and Peter Jackson (Scotland), Hari Boys home now have two jersey mix dairy cattle with calves.



❖ **Clothing for the boys at TS Kurukulam Boys' Home, Kaluthavalai, Batticaloa – 2008:**

Young boys at TS Kurukulam received shirts, trousers, umbrellas etc. Thank you, Aley-David Kewley from Isle of Man for your sponsorship.

**Project in progress (2008)**

**Clean Water Project at Hari Boys Home, Kallady, Batticaloa.**

The project has started to construct the water well in the plot of land that is half a mile away from the Hari Boys Home. As part of our “self sustaining initiative” this water well is not only expected to provide clean water for the boys, but also support the dairy cattle and the vegetable garden.

**Annual celebration**

Since 1996, we have been consistently supporting the annual celebratory event / day in December. On this day, children are encouraged to celebrate the “**positives**” of what they have achieved and pray for “**Peace and Harmony**” around the world. At Optima, our contribution is to provide a celebratory meal on that day (similar to Christmas dinner with all the trimmings!) to the children. This year the Annual Celebration is on the 15<sup>th</sup> December and we expect to provide the celebratory meal for around 1500 children in Sri Lanka.

**Can you help to fund our projects!**

If you can fund one of our projects or would like to hear more about our work, please get in touch with Dr. Tom Jeyendran (details are shown below). We spend 100% of the funds we receive on the projects for the benefit of the children in need.

<p><i>For further information –</i>  <b><u>Please write to:</u></b> Miss Valli Luschwitz (Hon. Chairperson)                      At Optima Foundation – Poverty Relief                      25 Oxford Avenue, St. Albans, Herts,                      AL1 5NS, UK</p>	<p><b>Bankers:</b>  <b>National Westminster Bank</b>                      10, St. Peter's Street, ST ALBANS, Herts                      AL1 3LY                      Sort code: 60 – 18 – 11                      Account Number: 45319502                       BIC: NWBK GB 2L                      IBAN: GB87 NWBK 6018 1145 3195 02</p>
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