



BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN SRI LANKA

(Inaugurated in June 1993)

“BPW is Helping Change Sri Lanka One Child at a Time ...”

Newsletter Issue 01 – 2012

Dear Members and well wishers

We have not communicated with you since the launch of the project “Change” at the Speaker’s official residence as we have been extremely busy with trying to get ourselves organized.

Sponsoring 900 rural children for “Change”

It was not an easy task to obtain the names, addresses of the students and the details of their parents, occupation and to get a photograph of each student.

We have now obtained details of 900 students from 08 schools in the Hanwella Area. The schools are:

Akarawita M.Villukowita Junior School

Kalatuwawa West Vidyalaya

Lahirugama Buddhist Junior School

Siriniwasa Tamil Junior School

Sri Siddhartha Junior School

Welikanna Roman Catholic Junior School

Illukuwita Junior School

Wagawatte Tamil School

Christmas party organized by Elizabeth Moir Senior School

Since we visited Elizabeth Moir Senior School and presented the CD of the project “Change” and spoke to the teachers and students they were keen to support the project. The senior school students on their own collected funds and they organized a Christmas party for 45 children in the Lahirugama Buddhist Junior School. 45 children travelled from Hanwalla in a coach with teachers accompanying them on Friday 9 December 2011. The senior school had organized refreshments from their own funds. Each child was accompanied by 4 senior school children who took them round the school to show their surroundings. They were entertained with a variety show including the senior choir singing Christmas carols and a magic show. Finally there was Santa Claus who appeared and gave each student a beautifully wrapped school bag which consisted of the entire book list and a pair of shoes. The 45 children were spellbound with the affection and care given to them. Some of the children had never visited Colombo and it was an opportunity for them to be driven through by coach round the Galle Face Green and the Old Parliament. They were given a drink of Milo and a bag of “goodies” on their return journey. We had reports from the Lahirugama Buddhist Junior School that the children were overwhelmed and had enjoyed the day.

Donation from the Elizabeth Moir Junior School

After our presentation of the CD and talking to the children they were in full support of the project “Change”. The school children donated school bags with stationery inside the bags to the children of Kaluaggala Sri Siddhartha Junior School. They also donated 03 large cases of biscuits to be distributed among the students. We had reports thereto from the school to confirm that they were overjoyed and were looking forward to returning to school in the New Year. We are pleased indeed to confirm that a donation of Rs36,000 was presented to sponsor three children from the “Change” project.

Elizabeth Moir Senior School

We are pleased to report that Elizabeth Moir Senior School donated 30 desks to Kalatuwawa West Vidyalaya and 20 desks to Wagawatte Tamil School. We are indebted to and would like to extend our humblest gratitude to Elizabeth Moir Senior School.

Asian International School

Since presenting the CD and talking to the children AIS had made a donation of 180 pairs of shoes to students of Illukowita Junior School. We are totally indebted to the students of Asian International School. The students have volunteered to teach children English and help in home gardens.

Wycherley International School

Since presenting the CD and speaking to the children the Principal made a personal cash donation to sponsor 03 children. The students of Wycherley also donated exercise books to the students of Illukowita & Kalatuwawa Schools and lots of toys and new and nearly new clothes.

Colombo International School

We are pleased to report that CIS gave a cheque for twenty five thousand rupees to sponsor two children and this was presented at their end of year Christmas concert.

Individual Donors to support the children of “Change”

We have received donations from individual donors and a total of Rs. 500,000.00 has been received. 40 individual donors have undertaken the responsibility to provide the children to get all the necessary items such as the school book list, a school bag, a pair of shoes, school uniform, glass of milk. Some have pledged rupees 12,000/- per year for the whole of 5 years and others have donated rupees 12,000/- for one year.

Building a house for a parent of a “Change” child

A donation of 150,000/- was received from Ms. Delani De Alwis to build a house for a parent of a “change” child. The house was on the verge of collapse and Delani came forward and volunteered to help the family and the house is now being constructed.

Aitken Spence Group of Companies

We had the opportunity to visit Aitken Spence PLC after been introduced by the Advisor to BPWSL, Ms. Stasshani Jayawardena where the Directors and staff were shown the CD and briefed on the project. The Company expressed their keenness to support the project. They are planning a '**Spence Charity Week**' starting from the 27th of February 2012 to the 2nd of March 2012 in the hope of encouraging employee volunteerism in Group-wide initiatives on social responsibility of which the selected charity is BPWSL and any items collected during this week will be donated to BPWSL. Further, the Company is also looking at various avenues to collaborate with BPWSL.

Liaison with Ministers and MPs

A group of us visited Parliament and met up with important MPs and Ministers. The Ministers were keen to support the project "Change" and directed us to Temple Trees where we had a meeting with important officials who are designing a programme for us to be able to work together. We have been proactive in promoting and furthering the aims of the project "Change".

Project in distributing Dry Rations, School Books, Used Clothes etc.

It was indeed a humanitarian and fulfilling day on Sunday 22 January 2012 when 150 tokens were issued to women to receive dry rations which included rice, sprats, coconuts, packets of milk powder, soaps etc at the Harry Gunawardena Estate in Boralugoda. Approximately 300 school children received toys, books, pencils, story books, balloons. In a separate room new and nearly new clothes, sarees were distributed to women. All these were donations received from well wishers and the International schools. A scrumptious meal of rice and curry was served to 500 women, men and children all cooked in the gardens of the estate. Everyone enjoyed ice cream in cones, this again was a donation. Some took away fruits from the gardens. 300 coconut plants were also donated to be planted in their home gardens. It was remarkable to notice that there was no litter left behind once this awesome day ended.





Colombo Plan

We are pleased to announce that Colombo Plan Sri Lanka donated 5 executive tables for use in school principals' offices and these were donated to 5 rural schools by Colombo Plan. We are most grateful to them for their generosity.

Please support the continued work of "Change":

On behalf of BPWSL and all the beneficiaries we would like to express our gratitude for your kind generosity and warmth for bringing about a Change to nurture a promising future for rural underprivileged children.

HOW CAN YOU CONTINUE TO HELP?

If you know of friends and relatives who would like to sponsor a child with the school book list, school bag, a pair of shoes, and school clothes, please contact us to donate Rs. 12000/- per year which will enable them to further their education. Each donation will be acknowledged with a letter and receipt. Your contribution will only be Rs. 12,000/= per year and Rs. 1,000/= per month.

