



Optima Foundation - Poverty Relief

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

Established: 1996 (Web: www.optimafoundation.org)

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

News Letter – Issue 20

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Seasons Greetings

We are very pleased to release the 20th Issue of our News Letter with our **Seasonal Greetings** and **Best Wishes for 2008**.

For those who have undertaken the holy Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca, let us wish you **Eid Mubarak** and for all those who are celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, **Holy Christmas**.

Let us also take this opportunity to pray for those individuals who feel isolated, in poor health or lonely.

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Isaiah – 9:2)

Our prayers are also extended to those nations that are in conflict.

"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it" (John – 1:5)

We have also decided to include one of the **Divali Wishes** we received from Hari Boys' Home, even though **Divali**, the Festival of Light celebrated by

Hindus has already come and gone.



This card was created by a young boy called C. Vijitharan at Hari Boys' Home addressed to all those who are associated with Optima Foundation. What a gesture!

Our thanks go to all the supporters, volunteers and

benefactors; who make our operations possible.

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.....

- ❖ **Annual celebratory Feeding - 2007:** Our annual feeding initiative took place between the 7th and 10th of December, covering around 1200 children in Sri Lanka. Like the Christmas day celebration in the western countries, our annual celebratory feeding included prayers for **world peace and harmony**, contemplation and a hearty meal for the children in children's homes and orphanages. The photographs below show some of the children who participated in the annual celebration. Once again our thanks go to the financial contributors. 100% of your contributions have been spent on children.

T S Kurukulam Boys' Home



Yoga Swamy Girls' Home



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

- ❖ **Milk Protein Project - 2007:** 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**.

Planned Projects for 2008 in Sri Lanka (subject to the availability of funds)

1. **School Uniforms for the boys at TS Kurukulam Boys' Home, Kaluthavalai, Batticaloa.**
Young boys at TS Kurukulam need school uniforms as the current uniforms have reached the end of their lifespan. Hence, it is envisaged that Optima Foundation will fund the cost of the uniforms. The total cost estimate is between **£200 and £225**. This will cover one set of uniforms for 35 children.
2. **Dairy cattle Project at Hari Boys Home, Kallady, Batticaloa.**
At Hari Boys' Home, the children are suffering from malnutrition, partly due to their vegetarian diet that includes very little protein. Hence Optima Foundation is planning to purchase two hybrid cattle (Jersey cross breed) to start the project. The cost of each dairy cow will be in the region of **£275 to £300**. In addition to purchasing the cattle, Optima Foundation is planning to pay for the cattle feed for the first six months at a cost of **£300**. This time (unlike the previous project at Swami Vipulananda Children's Home), the dairy cattle barn will be made with local materials to save both money and time. This project is expected provide milk protein for 73 children.
3. **Clean Water Project at Hari Boys Home, Kallady, Batticaloa**
Hari Boys Home currently receives water from the makeshift tube well / pipes. The estimated cost of creating the permanent water well is **£400**. This will not only benefit the children for their clean water requirements, but also support the dairy cattle and the vegetable garden.
4. **Boundary wall at Yoga Swamy Girls' Home**
After completing the water well and the water tank in 2006 and 2007, the next phase of the project is to build a boundary wall. This is to create a safe environment for the girls to grow vegetables and to play games within the compound. Optima Foundation is yet to receive the quotation for this project. This project is expected benefit 45 girls at the Yoga Swamy Girl's Home.
5. **Electricity connection from the National Grid to the Model Farm**
As part of the Model Farm Project, Swami Vipulananda Children's Home is in need of electricity for watering the plants within the 7 acre land, purchased by ICMA/ Optima Foundation in 2006. The cost of electricity connection to the farm is between **£800 and £900**. While the electricity generation from the solar panel is conducive for the environment, the implementation costs are very high. Hence the connection to the national grid is proposed. This project will benefit 65 children in the SVCH to develop skills related to farming and sustainability.
6. **Dairy cattle Project at TS Kurukulam Boys' Home, Kaluthavalai, Batticaloa**
At T S Kurukulam Boys' Home Optima Foundation is planning to purchase two hybrid cattle (Jersey cross breed) to start the project. The cost of each dairy cow will be in the region of **£275 to £300**. In addition to purchasing the cattle, Optima Foundation is planning to pay for the cattle feed for the first six months at a cost of **£300**. This project is expected provide milk protein to 45 children.

Can you help to fund our projects!

If you can fund one of the 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.

For further information –

Please write to: Miss Valli Luschwitz (Hon. Chairperson)
At Optima Foundation – Poverty Relief
25 Oxford Avenue, St. Albans, Herts,
AL1 5NS, UK

Or: **email:** tom_jeyendran@yahoo.co.uk
Telephone: Tom on 01727 841468
(Web: www.optimafoundation.org)

Bankers:

National Westminster Bank
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