

Sparkes Home Sri Lanka

Newsletter

AS WE ENTER OUR 8th YEAR WE NOW
FUND 4 HOMES WITH OVER 100 GIRLS

TRUSTEES REPORT

As well as our Sparkes Home in Kallar, we have now taken on three other girls homes, where funding had dried up after 25 years, leaving them with the threat of closure. These Homes are:



Work in progress

Kalmunai

This home is 12 kilometres south of Kallar, with a beautiful compound and old Dutch style buildings. The local school is excellent with good academic records. Our funding is for 3 years running costs of the Home and also certain outstanding maintenance requirements including the dilapidated washing facility, which we have just restored.

The Home sits on a large site and The Methodist Church have commenced construction of 4 shops which have been pre-let to 2 major banks and on completion they will provide income to secure its long term future.

Tummodara

This Home is north of Colombo, in a Sinhalese area close to the International airport. This is one of the oldest Homes under the Methodist administration and needed urgent renovation. The electrics were in a very dangerous condition and the number of girls was reduced due to the leaking roof and the poor fabric of the building. Thanks to a generous private donor, essential works are now in hand.

Once completed the numbers of girls will be increased to the full quota of 40.



Gloria and Girls

Hatton

This Home is situated in the heart of the tea plantation area where the Sparkes family (Claire, Juliet and Jonathan) and David Innes (a trustee) were all born.

On our visit in 2012, the Home was extremely run down and largely due to an extremely generous private donation, we have managed to completely refurbish this Home (new roof, electric wiring, paint work and decoration) It has also been equipped with essential furniture.

The transformation has had a dramatic effect on the general morale of both staff and girls.

The day to day running costs are substantially covered by the Methodist Churches in South Korea.



Hatton



Hatton

Sparkes Home, Kallar

The original Home which we built in 2006 (following the Tsunami) continues to thrive. The Methodist headquarters consider it their flagship Home and we are always delighted to welcome volunteers and visitors. The social services regard it as a safe haven for troubled and vulnerable girls. To cater for them we are organising a counselling service and will extend this to all our Homes.

This year we will repaint the Home, upgrade the washroom facilities, install a bicycle shed as well as an outside cooking area (Sri Lankan custom).

A Request to help working Mothers

At the request of the KALLAR committee and local Methodist churches, we were asked to fund 4 pre schools in extremely remote and impoverished areas on the east coast. The schools are housed in basic huts with a small dedicated staff and limited equipment.

We are delighted to help and see the tremendous response from the communities where wives can now resume their essential work in the fields, whilst their children are cared for and get the basic education needed for primary school.

Visitors

Several Donors have visited the Homes in the last year. A popular treat is a visit to the nearby beach in Kallar, with Ice creams on the way back.

A visit by Leesa Rix, who is a dental surgeon in Sydney, enabled her to give a very necessary talk on dental hygiene to the girls at Kallar and also donate some essential and basic items.



Pre School Class



Penny takes the plunge



Leesa from Sydney

Education is the key to jobs

A very generous US Sponsor has enabled us to continue our educational support for all girls when they leave the Homes after their O or A level exams. Whilst University tuition costs are met by the State, each entrant needs to cover their own board and living costs and we are now able to offer this to all the girls in our Homes.

Dusha and Sulakshana (pictured) are two of our original girls in Kallar starting university this year.

We can also meet training costs for specialist courses for those not going to University. At each Home, we aim to provide extra tuition after school. This includes Maths, English, sewing and IT. At the same time we have encouraged self-sufficiency with the girls assisting with vegetable growing and even raising chickens and pigs.



Extra Tuition



Hatton garden



Volunteers are not only welcome, but have so much to offer

During the year we have had a number of volunteers, most recently 3 gap year students spent a week at Kallar before sightseeing and travelling to India. To gain an idea of what this entails read their email :-

“We have just left Sparkes Home after having had the most amazing week with all the girls there. Tears were shed at the end from both sides and we are now on our way to Arugam Bay for the night. The girls were so lovely to us and we were really made to feel like a part of their big family! We were amazed by their unbelievable work ethics so made sure we used our small slot each day to the max. We played lots of UNO and Donkey with them while they also showed us how to play dog and chicken among other games. Outside of games time we helped them with their reading and writing (which was very impressive) and also their spoken English. So all in all the week was a massive success for everyone we think. Thank you so much for getting us involved and we would all love to try and come back some day!”



We welcome all volunteers from the age of 18 – 70+ at any of the homes. Accommodation is available on site, or can be arranged locally. Please contact us if you would like to offer your services.—NEVER TOO OLD FOR A GAP YEAR !

How we spend your donations

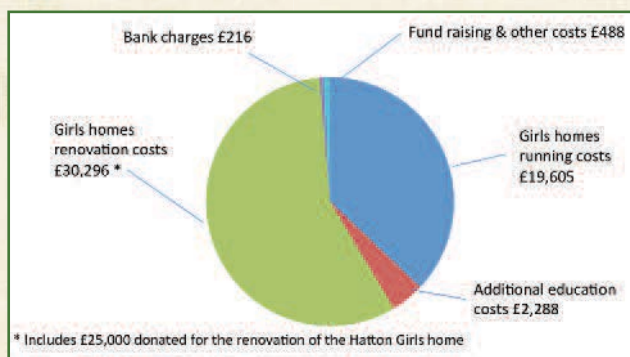
We owe so much to our Donors and Sponsors who maintain regular donations. These enable us to plan ahead and offer security to the girls. Despite difficult times we have increased our annual donations and also received magnificent support for special expenditures on repairs and education.

Our total expenditure in 2012-13 was £52,893 of which 98.6% was directly spent on the homes and girls in Sri Lanka. The running and education costs of the homes amounted to £21,893, the balance was spent on refurbishment and maintenance. The Trustees have full visibility on all expenditure in Sri Lanka.

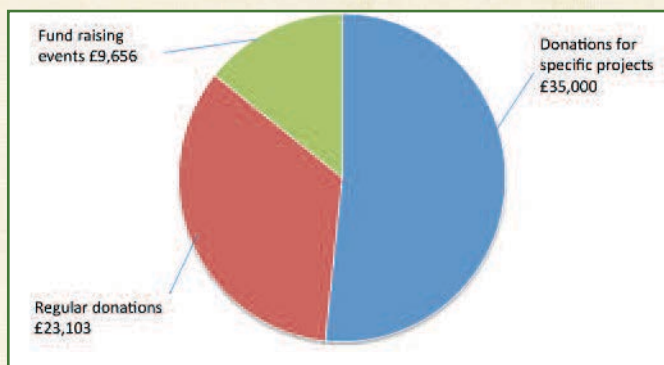
From 1 January 2013 this included the Homes in Kalmunai and Tummodra and from January 2014 we will include the 4 Pre-schools on the East coast.

The core running costs now amount to over £42,000 p.a.

How we spend your donations



How we raise money



The trustees, family and friends have participated in a variety of challenges to raise funds (Pub Quiz, London Marathon, John O'Groats - Lands End bicycle ride, London Treasure hunt, Christmas Decorations, bridge events etc.)

How to increase the value of every gift you make to Sparkes Home Sri Lanka – at no cost to yourself.

We can **increase the value of your donations by 25%** by reclaiming tax from HMRC. If you are a taxpayer, please complete the attached and return to Sparkes Home Sri Lanka, 17 Glendarvon Street, London SW15 1JS

Thank you

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Sparkes Home Sri Lanka Charity No 1128189

Title _____ Forename(s) _____

Surname _____

Address _____

_____ Post Code _____

e-mail _____

I want Sparkes Home Sri Lanka to reclaim tax on all donations I make on or after the date of this declaration and treat them as Gift Aid donations.

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

HMRC have asked us to remind you that you must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the amount to be reclaimed and I expect this situation to continue. If you are not currently a UK tax payer please indicate here _____

Thank you

SPONSORS AND DONORS



SPARKES HOME
SRI LANKA

NEWSLETTER 2014

Registered Charity
No. 1128189

www.sparkeshome.co.uk