

VISIONS GLOBAL EMPOWERMENT 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

*Investing in Tomorrow's Leaders
through Initiatives Focused on
Education, Empowerment, and
Entrepreneurship in South Asia.*



A DECADE OF VISIONS EDUCATION & EMPOWERMENT

Ten years ago a simple idea to conduct a special summer camp for orphaned youth in the war-affected region of Eastern Sri Lanka sparked the creation of what would later become Visions Global Empowerment ("Visions")—an organization committed to educating, empowering, and uplifting disadvantaged youth and communities affected by poverty and conflict. While we are ever mindful of the vast challenges faced by the students, teachers, schools, partner organizations, and communities with whom we work, we celebrate their achievements and renew our commitment to them. We are continually inspired by the remarkable individuals both here and abroad that make our organization what it is today. You are our motivation...

This year we continued to make great strides towards improving academic standards and increasing access to quality education opportunities in communities in need in both Sri Lanka and India. With your support we have increased our programming, enabling us to directly impact more than 1,731 individuals this past year. We have several new major projects and partnerships in the works as well, and look forward to sharing the details of those with you in the very near future!

We thank you for your continued support and belief in the transformative power of education. Please continue to join the Visions mission in 2013 and renew your commitment today!

~The Visions Board of Directors

2012 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

In 2012 Visions supported....

- **830** Jaffna youth with computer and music labs
- **740** youth with tutoring & accelerated learning programs
- **179** youth with leadership and life skills trainings
- **62** teachers with training and employment
- **50** international, domestic & local volunteers to build new skills
- **40** war-affected youth with new bicycles
- **29** first-generation college students with scholarships
- **13** Kiliinochchi youth with sports competition opportunities

...benefitting over 1,700 youth, teachers and volunteers.



29 FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS



K. Edinparo, Jaffna, Sri Lanka

At age twenty-four, Edinparo, who is from Karainagar in war-affected Jaffna, Northern Sri Lanka, is finally on track to pursuing his goal of earning a Diploma in Journalism from the University of Jaffna. With support from Visions, he started the two and a half year course in March 2012, after completing a two-year course in counseling. Edinparo is the top achieving student from his village in Karainagar and dreams of one day working as Chief Editor for a reputable newspaper.

Visions is committed to supporting bright and ambitious leaders like Edinparo who are sure to strengthen and help rebuild civil society in Sri Lanka.

COMPUTER & MUSIC LABS AT ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, JAFFNA

Through the charitable gift of a private alumni donor, Visions facilitated the development of a fully equipped music room and computer lab at St. John's College in Jaffna, Sri Lanka. The new computer lab has greatly enriched the educational experience of 830 primary and middle school class children, who are now being exposed to the world of IT and educational software. After decades of a lost tradition in offering music classes, the music lab now offers students an outlet for creative expression through music. We welcome the opportunity to work with other potential alumni benefactors of these or other institutions to develop focused, effective programs that will make a lasting difference for generations to come.



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR PARTNERS

Dr. Darshan Ambalavanar, Church of the American Ceylon Mission, Sri Lanka

Community leaders like Darshan are exceptionally rare and are often symbols of hope for the communities they serve. In partnership with Visions, Darshan and CACM are now running four after-school tuition centers for hundreds of students in areas affected by war and poverty in Kilinochchi and Batticaloa. In 2012, we also distributed bicycles and coordinated teacher trainings and accelerated learning programs. Visions is thrilled to work with a local leader whose commitment and service is truly outstanding.



Rev. Gnanaponrajah, St. John's College, Sri Lanka

Central to achieving our mission is the targeting of support for war-affected educational institutions in Sri Lanka. In post-war Jaffna, we have had the opportunity to do just that through St. John's Boys College and Chundikuli Girls College. Under the strong and thoughtful leadership of Rev. Gnanaponrajah, great progress has been made even through very difficult times in serving vulnerable youth, including hundreds of Internally Displaced (IDP) youth. Visions commends the sustained community outreach work of Rev. Gnanaponrajah.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VOLUNTEERS

This summer officially marked a decade of Visions leadership and life skills trainings! In 2012 alone, we held 4 trainings for 179 youth, staffed by 39 local and international volunteers. Including our 11 Chapter Coordinators across Canada and the US, Visions is proud to have facilitated a total of 50 volunteers in 2012. In addition, for the first time ever, we had 5 students and 1 faculty from West Virginia University participate in an accredited Visions experience where students volunteered with Visions and earned academic credit over a 3-week life-changing trip in India.

Venita Sivamani, Northern California/UC Davis Chapter Coordinator

As one of our most energetic and dynamic team members, Venita has built a Visions Chapter at UC Davis, where she received her BA and is currently employed. Motivated by memories of visits to her mother's ancestral land, Sri Lanka, Venita now leads the Davis Chapter in planning an annual cultural talent show fundraiser. "My experiences in Sri Lanka broadened my perspective on the effects of war, and I developed a passion for educational equity", Venita recalls. Her passion led her to volunteer with Visions in the summer of 2009 and thereafter she joined Visions as a Chapter Coordinator. We are thankful to Venita and our other Chapter Coordinators who are making a difference in their cities and communities. We encourage others to explore the possibility of establishing a Visions chapter in your own city or university.



“I am much more aware and inspired to be pro-active towards the cause of education and poverty relief. My life will never be the same, and I could not be more thankful to Visions for all the time, effort, and planning put into this trip.” – 2012 Visions Volunteer

2012 VISIONS VOLUNTEERS

Gregory Buie
 Rose Cole
 Andrew Denny
 Cristina Fiorentino
 Donna Gardner
 Dharsha Jegatheeswaran
 Vinosha Jegatheeswaran
 Kyle Kimerer
 Shyamala Nagendran
 Chelvi Paramanathan
 Anjana Pathmarajah
 Meera Pathmarajah
 Angela Paul
 Navin Paul
 Tanisha Paul
 Milan Saha
 Katelyn Sheehan
 Rupi Sureshkumar
 Krishan Sutharshana*
 Shalini Sutharshana*
 Matangi Thillai
 Valerie White
 Margaret Whittenberger**

* Volunteered in 2 camps

** Volunteered in 3 camps

OUR VISIONS TEAM

Board of Directors

Meera Pathmarajah, EdD candidate, *CEO/Founder*
Gregory Buie, MA, *CFO*
Katherine Redington, MA, *Secretary*
Sonny Thadani, BA
Shyamala Nagendran, PhD

Chapter Coordinators

Kari Dietrich, MA candidate, *New York Co-Coordinator*
Cristina Fiorentino, BA candidate, *West Virginia Coordinator*
Ganya Gajaram, BS, *Montreal Co-Coordinator*
Vincent Gonzales, MBA, *Los Angeles Co-Coordinator*
Branawan Gowrishankar, MSB candidate, *Edmonton Co-Coordinator*
Nitya Kumar, MD candidate, *Texas Coordinator*
Niru Sahadevan, JD, *New York Co-Coordinator*
Romero Santiago, BS candidate, *Philadelphia/UPenn Coordinator*
Venita Sivamani, BA, *Northern California Coordinator*
Leka Sivakumar, BS, *Edmonton Co-Coordinator*
Shivanu Thiyagarajah, BA, *Toronto Coordinator*

Team

Anjana Pathmarajah, MPH, *Visions Global Health Manager*
Margaret Whittenberger, MA candidate

Growth of Visions Budget & Overview of Expenses

| | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 (Jan. 1-Nov. 10) |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Total Revenue | \$16,839 | \$51,375 | \$195,470 | \$55,040 |
| Total Expenses | \$18,860 | \$26,519 | \$120,203 | \$134,725 |
| % Administrative | 16.0% | 10.7% | 3.2% | 6.2% |
| % Fundraising | 0% | 2.7% | 8.6% | 0.6% |
| % Programming | 84.0% | 86.6% | 88.2% | 93.2% |

Help us Invest in Tomorrow's Leaders...Make a Contribution Today!

* Donate online or become a monthly contributor

* Send a check made out to "Visions" to Visions Global Empowerment,
 1621 Barry Ave. #PH1, Los Angeles, CA 90025

A receipt will be issued promptly for your tax-exempt donation [federal tax ID#26-3386678]. Thank you!



www.VisionsGlobalEmpowerment.org

