



[www.VisionsForTheFuture.org](http://www.VisionsForTheFuture.org)

## It has been an exciting year for our growing nonprofit...

Now in our 8<sup>th</sup> year, we are making significant strides in better serving youth in need through education.

2010 has been an electrifying year for Visions...we have further developed our programming and our repertoire of reputable local partner organizations; we unveiled our new website; we opened 9 chapters and welcomed a whole team of new Chapter Coordinators; we held our annual leadership trainings in India for the third year running; and construction of our Kalagam Visions Learning Centre (*a project which has been in the works for over 3 years*) is nearly complete. Through all of these efforts and more we have been able to directly help hundreds of disadvantaged young people, teachers, & others in South Asia this year and indirectly help thousands. We are pleased to be able to share our accomplishments here with you in this annual report. Through the support and generosity of our donors & volunteers, we have been able to spark change and hope in schools and communities where it is needed most. As former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan once said, "Education is a human right with immense power to transform. On its foundation rest the cornerstones of freedom, democracy and sustainable human development." Thank you for your belief in our organization as we seek to change patterns of inequality by supporting educational initiatives for youth affected by poverty and conflict.



Youth IDP Relief .02



Leadership Program .03



Teacher Training .04



## Support for war-displaced and orphaned youth in Sri Lanka

With the culmination of war in 2009, hundreds of thousands were left displaced and lost everything. Now, as efforts to rebuild lives continue, Visions has striven to provide basic educational support & relief to youth IDPs.

### Visions Partners in 2010

#### **SRI LANKA:**

**Chinmaya Organisation for Rural Development (CORD)**

**Sri Lanka**

[www.cordsrilanka.org](http://www.cordsrilanka.org)

**Saiva Mangaiyar Kalagam**

[www.mangaiyarkalagam.lk](http://www.mangaiyarkalagam.lk)

**St. John's College Jaffna**

[www.jaffnastjohnscollege.com](http://www.jaffnastjohnscollege.com)

**Chundikuli Girls' College**

[www.chundikuligirlscollege.com](http://www.chundikuligirlscollege.com)

**Magasakthy & Yougasakthy Women's Federation**

#### **INDIA:**

**Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan College of Arts & Science for Women**

[www.dscollege.ac.in](http://www.dscollege.ac.in)

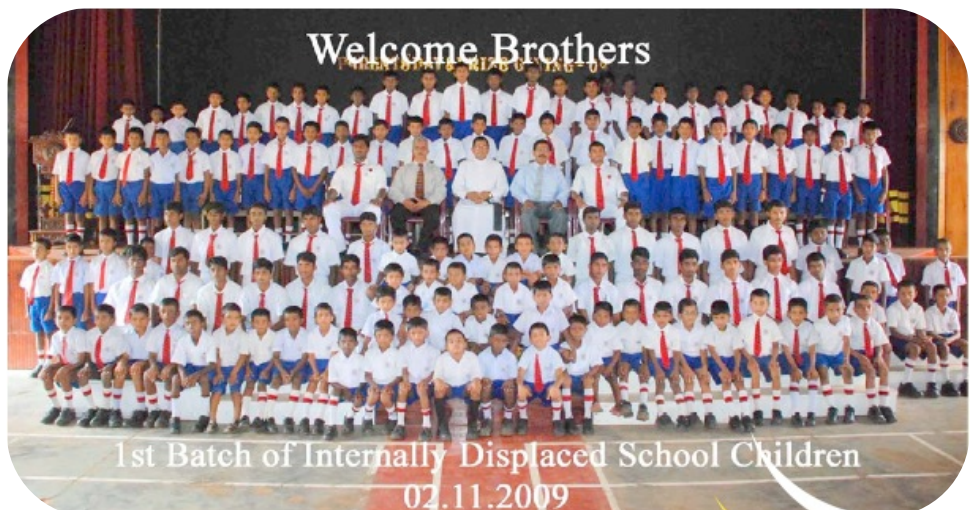
**SAWED Trust**

[www.sawedtrust.org](http://www.sawedtrust.org)

**Thozhamai (Solidarity)**

For decades, the conflict in Sri Lanka has taken a heavy toll on educational institutions and the students and teachers that attend these schools. But like the light that shines through the darkness, some schools that have endured great hardship have continued to uphold the belief that education enlightens and invigorates the mind. Two such schools are St. John's Boys College and Chundikuli's Girls College in Jaffna. Responding to the crisis, St. John's provided free admission to 545 Internally Displaced (IDP) students, among which 222 are being given free hostel accommodations. Similarly, Chundikuli Girls' College has admitted 150 displaced children. Through generous contributions from our online fundraising campaign on Razoo.com, we were able to raise \$4,640 in less than 2 weeks to help cover the costs of these displaced students' education under our Scholarship Program. Visions divided the funds raised proportionally, giving St. John's \$3,640 and \$1,000 to Chundikuli. School activity expenses, hostel fees, medical support, extra classes, basic essential items, pocket money, laundry, hairdressing, & administration charges will be covered for each recipient.

In October 2010, Visions raised \$3,708 for further relief efforts for orphaned youth in Kilinochchi, Northern Sri Lanka who have been displaced repeatedly on account of war & natural disaster and now find themselves living deep in poverty with extended family members. The physical, mental, and emotional trauma they have endured over the years is immeasurable...certainly not the way a child should have to spend his or her childhood. Using funds raised at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Visions Charity Fashion Show in San Diego, CA, Visions channeled this support through two local nonprofit organizations (Magasakthy & Yougasakthy Women's Federation) to help provide these young orphans with basic educational resources & other essential items, including shoes, school supplies, backpacks, uniforms, and more.





## Annual Visions Leadership Trainings Held in India for a 3<sup>rd</sup> Year

For the 8th year running, the annual Visions summer leadership & empowerment trainings were held this August at the Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan College of Arts & Science for Women in Perambalur, Tamil Nadu, Southern India. Last year Visions held two 1-day sessions for both undergraduate and postgraduate students at the college. It was with great delight that Visions returned this year to conduct longer, more substantive trainings. Two 5-day trainings were held at the college, directly benefiting a combined 73 students and 7 teachers.

Trainings are held annually at universities, schools and children's homes, where international and local volunteers join hands to work with youth on a variety of skills building activities and projects. The purpose of these trainings is to help youth establish Visions Leadership Councils in their schools and communities. The first training this year was held for 25 undergraduate students—all young, intelligent, enthusiastic women who attend the university. Students were

encouraged to reflect on their own lives and experiences in understanding what leadership means and entails, then taught to broaden their scope by turning attention to their own communities. Of this group, 7 exceptional students were selected to join the team of local & international volunteers for the second training. During this training, these 7 young leaders served as instructors, translators, and small group leaders, putting their new found skills and knowledge into practice.

The second training was held for secondary school students who attend 2 schools also run by the college. These 48 young men & women engaged in lessons pertaining to communication, problem-solving, trust & teamwork, meeting skills, and much more during the 5-day period. Students also worked in small leadership groups to plan and carry out various activities on the last day of the training.



*The 7 university women selected to be Visions leadership advisors.*



*The group of 4 representatives from Sri Lanka who joined us in India.*

## Kalagam Visions Learning Centre (KVLC)

Nearly three years ago we announced the launch of the \$400,000 Kalagam Visions Learning Centre (KVLC) project. It took more than one year to navigate the intricate procedures and bureaucracy required to get permission for undertaking the construction of the center, which was followed by the ground-breaking ceremony in April 2009. In 2010, construction on the five-story learning center at the Saiva Mangaiyar Vidyalayam (*Hindu Ladies College*) girls school in Colombo, Sri Lanka continued. While no official date has yet been set, we are anticipating the opening ceremony will take place sometime in January 2011. Once complete the center will benefit over 2,200 girls, including several hundred internally displaced children and orphans from Northeast Sri Lanka. This new facility will include a multimedia room, computer lab, activity rooms, additional classrooms, lecture halls, and student offices, as well as a sports court on the rooftop. In the long-term, this center will also provide trainings for teachers from other parts of Sri Lanka, as well as for local youth and community members. We are currently in the process of developing a curriculum and plan for usage of the facility in order to maximize its potential impact. We have a vision of building the KVLC into a Center of Excellence for English, IT, and Leadership. Thousands of current and future students of Saiva Mangaiyar Vidyalayam will inspire a new generation of young people in our fast changing global community. Please help us make this vision a reality by contributing your support for the KVLC by visiting our website and making a direct donation through Razoo.

## Teacher Support & Training

Teacher professional development and training is a tremendous need, particularly in areas affected by poverty and conflict. One of Visions main efforts is to coordinate and organize teacher training programs by connecting experts in a particular subject to a group of teachers in need of additional support. Possible training topics include psychosocial support, English, IT, and Leadership & Life Skills. Throughout 2011 we intend to support many such initiatives in both Sri Lanka & India and provide teachers with the basic supplies and other support they need to serve the best interests of their students.



*View of the progress of the KVLC construction from street view—August 2010*



*Interior progress on the KVLC—November 2010*

## 9 Visions Chapters Launched!

As we continue to grow and expand our efforts, we are always seeking new individuals who are passionate about education & service and would like to get involved. We are very pleased to welcome our many new Visions Chapter Coordinators and the teams of volunteers they have mobilized in their respective universities & communities. If you are interested in joining an existing Visions Chapter, we now have groups in **Los Angeles, San Diego, Northern CA, Oregon, Austin, New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, and Toronto**. Please email [visionseducation@gmail.com](mailto:visionseducation@gmail.com) for more information about starting a new chapter or getting involved in one of the chapters listed above.



*A committed group of volunteers in San Diego, CA has successfully held a charity fashion show for 3 years in a row, raising much-needed funds for educational projects in South Asia.*

## 2010 Efforts

Partner (if any)	Country	Description	Amount
St. John's College	Sri Lanka	Scholarships: IDP student relief	\$3,600.00
Chundikuli Girls College	Sri Lanka	Scholarships: IDP student relief	\$1,000.00
Chinmaya Organisation for Rural Development (CORD) Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Scholarships: IDP student relief	\$1,000.00 pledged
Magasakthy Women's Federation	Sri Lanka	Scholarships: IDP student relief	\$1,854.00 pledged
Yougasakthy Women's Federation	Sri Lanka	Scholarships: IDP student relief	\$1,854.00 pledged
Church of the American Ceylon Mission	Sri Lanka	After-school programs for war-affected, impoverished youth in Karadiyanaru & Vaharai	\$3,000.00
Church of the American Ceylon Mission	Sri Lanka	Bicycles for war-displaced youth in Vaharai	\$1,260.00
N/A (directly implemented by Visions)	Sri Lanka	Student scholarship for general English course at the British Council—Colombo	\$280.00
N/A (directly implemented by Visions & SAWED Trust)	India	2 Visions leadership trainings conducted at Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan College of Arts & Science for Women in Perambalur, Tamil Nadu	\$4,170.63
N/A (directly implemented by Visions)	India	Sponsorship of team of 4 NGO workers from the Church of the American Ceylon Mission to attend summer leadership trainings in India	\$442.99
		<b>TOTAL PROGRAMMING</b>	<b>\$18,461.62 with pledges</b>
<i>In-Kind Donations:</i>			
Chinmaya Organisation for Rural Development (CORD) Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Shipment of 2,800 children's books for various schools in Jaffna	\$4,200.00
SAWED Trust	India	Sports equipment for school children in Lower Palani Hills, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, India	\$1,955.00
SAWED Trust	India	Shipment of 1,000 children's books, school supplies, toys, games, sports equipment, and other items for children in Lower Palani Hills, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, India	\$2,720.40
		<b>TOTAL IN-KIND</b>	<b>\$8,875.40</b>
		<b>TOTAL (PROGRAMMING &amp; IN-KIND)</b>	<b>\$27,337.02</b>

## 2010 Full Financial Summary

<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$40,543.38</b>
<i>General Donations</i>	<i>\$12,363.15</i>
<i>Events/Fundraisers</i>	<i>\$16,006.23</i>
<i>Volunteer Program Fees</i>	<i>\$3,840.00</i>
<i>In-Kind Donations</i>	<i>\$8,875.40</i>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$32,669.20</b>
<i>Programming</i>	<i>\$18,461.62</i>
<i>In-Kind Donations</i>	<i>\$8,875.40</i>
<i>Administrative (13.5%)</i>	<i>\$4,417.49</i>
<i>Fundraising &amp; Events (2.8%)</i>	<i>\$914.69</i>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$7,874.18</b>

\*all financial data presented on this page is reflective of the period of January 1–December 20, 2010 only and does not constitute final year-end financial accounting



## Sending Supplies Where They're Needed Most

In-kind donations have become another staple of our organization as we seek to lessen the inequitable distribution of resources in the developing world.



In 2010 Visions sent several shipments to partner organizations overseas, with all supplies valued at \$8,875. Over 3,800 children's books, either new or in good condition, were sent to Sri Lanka and India. The previous year Visions collected over 9,600 books of which 4,100 were sent to schools in Northeast Sri Lanka and the remaining 5,500 were donated to local libraries here in the

U.S. However, Visions also sent school supplies, games, toys, sports equipment, and other resources abroad this year, all of which goes a long way in helping to address issues associated with a shortage or total lack of basic supplies. These in-kind donations help to promote the overall education and well being of the children and schools with which we work. Donations of all kinds are welcome.



## Our Team

### Board of Directors

**Meera Pathmarajah**, PhD candidate, *CEO/Founder*

**Gregory Buie**, MA, *CFO/Co-Founder*

**Jennifer Clare**, PhD, *Secretary*

### Chapter Coordinators

**Pamela Cheuk**, MBA candidate, *Los Angeles/UCLA Coordinator*

**Kari Dietrich**, MA candidate, *New York/NYU Coordinator*

**Vincent Gonzales**, MBA candidate, *Boston/Harvard University Coordinator*

**Nitya Kumar**, BA candidate, *Austin/University of Texas—Austin Coordinator*

**Shannon Quihuiz**, MA candidate, *Oregon/OSU Coordinator*

**Romero Santiago**, BS candidate, *Philadelphia/UPenn Coordinator*

**Venita Sivamani**, BA, *Northern California Coordinator*

**Shivanu Thiagarajah**, BA, *Toronto Coordinator*

### Staff

**Katherine Redington**, MA candidate, *Visions consultant*

**Please support our work and make a donation today!**

- Donate online at [www.VisionsForTheFuture.org](http://www.VisionsForTheFuture.org)
- Send a check made out to "Visions" to Visions Global Empowerment, 1621 Barry Ave. #PH1, Los Angeles, CA 90025

A tax receipt will be issued promptly for your tax-exempt donation (federal tax ID#26-3386678). Thank you for your support and compassion!

**Check out our NEW website!**  
[www.VisionsForTheFuture.org](http://www.VisionsForTheFuture.org)