

# ViSiONS

G L O B A L

*Education. Empowerment. Entrepreneurship.*

OCTOBER 2011

## Investing in Youth Education:

### *Visions Provides Scholarships to 10 Deserving Youth across Sri Lanka & India*

Earlier this month Visions fully sponsored the education of 6 highly disadvantaged young adults in deeply impoverished, tsunami-affected dalit villages in Tamil Nadu, India. These students (4 female & 2 male) are pursuing such courses as Engineering, Agriculture, Teacher Training, Math, & Chemistry. Visions also partially sponsored the ongoing education of 1 female Sri Lankan refugee student in India currently attending medical college. All of this was made possible by OfERR, one of our dedicated partner organizations in India. As future doctors, teachers, engineers, and more, these young people are the future, and Visions is proud to have played a role in helping to empower them.

In Sri Lanka Visions also arranged through local partner organizations for 3 highly war-affected youth to partake in an intensive 6-month English training course in Jaffna. These 3 students (2 female and 1 male) were selected based off need and their individual career goals. The course was started several weeks ago and will conclude in March 2012. The support Visions provided will cover tuition fees, meals (for 2 students), bicycles (for 2 students), and 6 months of accommodation (for 1 student).



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## Stay Connected with Us!

Keep up to date with Visions and all our efforts, events, upcoming trips, and more...

FACEBOOK

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Top photo: One of the 7 scholarship recipients in India with OfERR staff; Bottom photo: A typical home in the tsunami-affected, dalit villages in India where these scholarship recipients live

## Launch of Tutoring/Mentoring Program for War-Displaced Children in Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka

In an ongoing effort to serve the needs of war-displaced youth recently resettled in Northern Sri Lanka, Visions has formed a partnership with the STITCH Movement, a group of highly motivated young professionals and students whose mission is to educate, advocate, empower & network for social change through youth volunteerism and activism in Sri Lanka. As our first joint effort, we have developed a youth mentoring and tutoring program for O/L students at an overcrowded school in Kilinochchi. A team of STITCH volunteers will make weekend trips to Kilinochchi for a period of 3 months to work with small groups of these O/L youth to do tutoring, engage the youth in a number of social and cultural activities (ie: sports, art, games, dance, etc.), provide a nutritious snack, help lay the foundation for peer tutoring, and otherwise observe and records the needs of the children and possible ideas to assist them moving forward. We are encouraged by this new partnership and look forward to hearing how this project has positively impacted the lives of these vulnerable young people!

### RAZOO

<http://www.razoo.com/story/Visions-Global-Empowerment>

## Visions Chapters

We invite you to get involved with one of our many Visions Chapters today or start your own. Please feel free to contact any of the following individuals if you are interested in joining.

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA:

Venita Sivamani

[venita\\_sivamani@gmail.com](mailto:venita_sivamani@gmail.com)

### LOS ANGELES/ORANGE COUNTY:

Pamela Cheuk

[pamela\\_cheuk@gmail.com](mailto:pamela_cheuk@gmail.com)

### BERKELEY:

Mythili Sivaswarupan

[mythili\\_sivaswarupan@gmail.com](mailto:mythili_sivaswarupan@gmail.com)

### TEXAS:

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### TORONTO:

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### PHILADELPHIA:

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## We need YOUR support!

Please consider making a donation to Visions today or getting involved in our work. There are many ways you can help, including:

\*Organize a fundraiser or event on Visions' behalf (or turning an event or party into a fundraiser for Visions)

\*Organize a school supplies drive (using our Amazon Wishlist) with campus groups, friends, your church/temple, local businesses, etc.

\*Offer your professional services, such as legal, business/accounting, architectural, web, and more

\*Ask your company to make a corporate contribution or matching grant

\*Volunteer with us locally or abroad

This year the new Visions Leadership Education Program will benefit an estimated 1,000 youth & teachers in Sri Lanka and India. Help give them crucial Leadership & Life Skills and Human Rights training by donating **just \$25** today!

# Visions 2012 Summer Volunteer Trip Dates Announced!

As we gear up for another summer of Visions volunteer trips to South Asia, we are eager to share more details with you. If you are interested in joining us abroad for one of these exciting and educational experiences and helping to make a difference in the lives of young people in need, mark your calendars now! Details of each of our 3 planned trips for 2012 (two trips to India and one trip to Sri Lanka) will be released soon. If you are thinking of joining us, please let us know by emailing [visionseducation@gmail.com](mailto:visionseducation@gmail.com). Looking forward to hearing from you!



**2012 VOLUNTEER TRIP #1 (INDIA:**  
*Chennai, Mahabalipuram, Pondicherry, Madurai, Dindigul, & Thiruvannamalai):*  
**Monday, June 18th - Sunday, July 8th**  
*\*This trip will feature one 7-day youth leadership training*

**2012 VOLUNTEER TRIP #2 (INDIA:**  
*Chennai, Madurai, Dindigul, & Bangalore):*  
**Tuesday, July 10th - Monday, July 23rd**  
*\*This trip will feature one 6-day youth leadership training*

**2012 VOLUNTEER TRIP #3**  
**(SRI LANKA: Colombo, Batticaloa, & Kandy):**  
**Saturday, August 4th - Thursday, August 23rd**  
*\*This trip will feature one 7-day youth leadership training in Batticaloa and one 6-day youth leadership training in Colombo. Volunteers are encouraged to participate in both trainings, but also have the option of participating in either training of their choice*

*as well. We will accommodate individual requests.*

## Stepping up Our Sri Lanka Programs

It has been a busy year for us, as we have been working hard to build relationships with local partner organizations and develop thoughtful, long-term educational programs to benefit some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged young people in Sri Lanka. To-date we have had 5 Visions volunteers give their time in Sri Lanka, the most recent of whom spent several weeks teaching computers at St. John's College in Jaffna and helping to push along some of our efforts there. We are always happy to take on volunteers and will work with you to develop a meaningful experience.

In other news, we are looking forward to sharing the second of five short videos we have put together highlighting our efforts to serve youth in South Asia through education. The first video has already been released and is available to watch here: "[Video 1: Educating and Empowering Youth in South Asia](#)". We encourage you to check it out and to support our work by making a donation [HERE](#).

## Past Events

### **New York City, NY: September 21, 2011**

Visions hosted an informational event at Columbia University's Teachers College entitled "Finding a Way back: Rebuilding Lives in Post-War Sri Lanka". Our special visiting guest was Mrs. Gowrie Mahenthiran, Director of the Chinmaya Organisation for Rural Development (CORD) Sri Lanka, who shared her insights of serving those in need in Sri Lanka and the challenges faced by those doing development work in Sri Lanka. Thanks to all who attended this event and contributed to the conversation.

### **New York City, NY: October 18, 2011**

The Visions NYC Chapter hosted a fundraising event at Misha Nichole clothing store in Soho that drew out a great, energetic crowd. The social mixer and event, "Style & Substance", also gave all who attended a chance to shop for a cause. Thanks to all of our wonderful supporters we raised nearly \$1,000!

### **Philadelphia, PA: October 15, 2011**

The Visions UPenn Team was able to present about Visions at the UPenn South Asia Society's Fall Cultural Show and share the work we are doing with a group of motivated students, as they continue to build their chapter and share Visions' message. Good work, team!

## Upcoming Events

### **Toronto, ON: November 13, 2011**

**WHAT:** "Bowl 4 the Arts" charity bowling event

**WHEN:** Sunday, November 13, 2011 at 5:30pm

**WHERE:** Danforth Suite, 2791 Eglinton Ave. East, Scarborough, ON M1J 2E1 Canada

**HOW MUCH:** \$25/ticket for 2 hours of cosmic bowling in a 12-lane private space + shoes + appetizers

**CONTACT:** [toronto@visionsforthefuture.org](mailto:toronto@visionsforthefuture.org)

*Join Visions Toronto for an evening of fun and friendly competition at the 2nd annual charity bowling event. All proceeds will support art programs for war-affected youth in Vanni, Sri Lanka. There will also be prizes to be won at the event, so make sure not to miss out! Check out the event flyer [HERE](#).*

### **Davis, CA: November 19, 2011**

**BOWL 4 The ARTS**

“Join Visions Toronto for an evening of fun and friendly competition at our 2nd annual charity bowling event. Proceeds will go towards supporting art programs for students living in Sri Lanka.”

**5:30pm**  
Sunday November 13, 2011

**\$25**  
2 hours of cosmic bowling in a 12 lane private space  
Shoes included  
Appetizers will also be provided

**Danforth Suite**  
2791 Eglinton Ave. E

**Prizes to be won at the event**  
For ticket sales or more info please contact [toronto@visionsforthefuture.org](mailto:toronto@visionsforthefuture.org)

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more information, please contact [ucdvisions@gmail.com](mailto:ucdvisions@gmail.com)

### **Austin, TX: November 2011**

The Texas Chapter of Visions is holding a social mixer event for University of Texas, Austin students and the Austin community in November 2011. Details are forthcoming. Please email Nitya Kumar at [nityakumar90@gmail.com](mailto:nityakumar90@gmail.com) for more information or to express interest.

### **Edmonton, AB: December 2011**

Our first event in Edmonton! This will be a private home event and dinner. If you are interested in attending, please email [visionseducation@gmail.com](mailto:visionseducation@gmail.com).

### **Dallas, TX: December 26, 2011**

**WHAT:** Special Performance Benefit Event

**WHEN:** Monday, December 26th, 2011

**WHERE:** Location TBD, Dallas, TX

**CONTACT:** Katherine Redington at [katrosered@gmail.com](mailto:katrosered@gmail.com)

*Details of this event will be announced shortly, but please mark your calendars!*

### **Beaumont, TX: January 5, 2012**

The Texas Chapter of Visions will be holding its 2nd Annual Visions Benefit Bowling Event in Beaumont, Texas on Thursday, January 5th. For more information or to get involved in planning or volunteering at this event, please email Nitya at [nityakumar90@gmail.com](mailto:nityakumar90@gmail.com)

1621 Barry Ave. #PH1, Los Angeles, CA, 90025

[visionseducation@gmail.com](mailto:visionseducation@gmail.com)

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

## PLEASE DONATE:

Donations are accepted online through our website OR can be mailed to the above address. Make checks out to 'VISIONS'. All donations are tax-deductible [Tax ID#26-3386678].

*We need your help--there are several projects which need funding, including the Visions Leadership Program, Scholarship Program, and various other educational initiatives. We can only do this important work with your support. Education is key to development & success.*

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