

# ViSiONS

G L O B A L

*Education. Empowerment. Entrepreneurship.*

JUNE 2012

## New Visions Short Film: "From Dream to Reality-- the Kalagam Visions Learning Centre"



Check out our latest Visions short film about the learning center we built in partnership with Hindu Ladies College in Colombo, Sri Lanka to promote academic excellence, leadership, and personal development amongst deserving youth!

In 2010, construction on the five-story Kalagam Visions Learning Centre (KVLC) at the Saiva Mangaiyar Kalagam girls school in Colombo, Sri Lanka was completed, benefiting over 2,200 girls, including several hundred internally displaced children and orphans from Northeast Sri Lanka. This new facility includes 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.

June '12 Edition

Issue #16

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## Stay Connected with Us!

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## Bridging the Education Gap for War-Affected Students in Sri Lanka



In partnership with the Church of the American Ceylon Mission (CACM), Visions is working to provide accelerated learning programs for war-affected youth in Sri Lanka to help them catch up in core subjects. With disruptions to their education and overall life during recurring bouts of conflict over the years, many bright and deserving youth have fallen behind in school. The goal of this training program is to provide enhanced and intensive educational support for students from rural communities to prepare for their O/L exams in December. These students' schools are poorly staffed, and as a result their education has been extremely uneven. The first Visions-sponsored accelerated training was held for two weeks in April 2012 for the benefit of 28 youth from selected communities where CACM is working in partnership with Visions in the Batticaloa District.

The students were split into three groups, receiving instruction in different subjects throughout the day from 8:00am-4:00pm, ensuring that students were taught in small groups and received more individual attention. The five core subjects included Tamil, English, Math, Science, and Social Science. Following classes, the students enjoyed sports time until 5.30 p.m. and then computer classes from 6:00-8:00pm. Most of the students had no knowledge about computers and had never before used one. During these two weeks they were given a basic introduction to computers and learned how to type and save files.

At the conclusion of the program there were an open evaluation session where students expressed their ideas and opinions. All students stated emphatically that these sessions were extremely helpful and that they were looking forward to the next session scheduled for August. Many more students could benefit from this program if the funding were to become available. If you'd like to make a contribution, we would be most grateful:

[DONATE HERE](#)

### 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.

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## Volunteers Gear up for our Annual Summer Volunteer Trips

Excitement is building for the 20 international volunteers who will be participating in our annual summer volunteer trips this June-August. We will be conducting 4 youth leadership trainings across India and Sri Lanka this summer, benefiting an estimated 180 youth & teachers. This year almost marks our 10th year in a row running this volunteer program! If you are interested in joining us, we are willing to accommodate a few last-minute additions for either of the two trips listed below. Let us know ASAP if you are interested by sending an email to [visionseducation@gmail.com](mailto:visionseducation@gmail.com)!

**INDIA Volunteer Trip 2012:** *Chennai, Madurai, Dindigul, & Bangalore-Tamil Nadu & Karnataka, India*

**Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>-Monday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>**

14 days/13 nights

Program fee: \$1,250/person

*\*This trip will feature one 7-day youth leadership training.*

**SRI LANKA Volunteer Trip 2012:** *Colombo, Batticaloa, & Kandy, Sri Lanka*

**Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>-Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

20 days/19 nights

Program fee: \$1,595/person

*\*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 can choose to participate in either training of their choice as well. In that case, the program fee will be adjusted accordingly.*





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## 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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