



**Lak Saviya Foundation**

Helping the needy help themselves

# Reflections

*Lak Saviya Foundation Newsletter*

Our aim is to uplift the economic and social standards of the needy.

[www.laksaviya.org.au](http://www.laksaviya.org.au)

enquiries – [info@laksaviya.org.au](mailto:info@laksaviya.org.au)

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*You can make a difference – Together we can make it happen*

## Ongoing Projects

### Helping Disadvantaged Women at Dummalasooriya

Lak Saviya Foundation (LSF) facilitates the funds raised by Peninsula Motor Group of Bankstown to provide social services to women who have suffered gender based abuse residing at the Centre for Disadvantaged Women at Dummalasooriya, which assists females in crisis to overcome their difficulties, and to enhance their educational and social skills.

### Scholarships for needy students

Scholarships are continuing for over 60 needy students in various schools and universities, and more sponsors are required to assist this program. LSF currently has a list of children awaiting sponsorships. Please write to us at [scholarships@laksaviya.org.au](mailto:scholarships@laksaviya.org.au) if you would like to sponsor a needy student.

## Recently Completed

### Cataract Surgeries and Donation of Slit Lamp

(LSF) in partnership with RegainSight managed to give sight to 100 elderly people in Hambanthota area. LSF donated a slit lamp to Hambanthota Hospital's Eye Clinic for cataract screening. Funds raised through *Charity Dinner 2009*, the generosity of ALCOA, and individual donations received, helped us to finance this worthy project.

### 100 Folding Beds for Lady Ridgeway Children's Hospital

Proceeds from LSF's 2010 CD desktop calendar sales were used for providing 100 folding beds to Lady Ridgeway Children's Hospital. The beds are being used by parents to be with their sick children from remote areas while undergoing treatment at the hospital.

### Text Books to Kalutara Bodhi Gnana Library

LSF facilitated the collection and shipping of over 25,000 used quality text books from Australia to a community library – the Bodhi Gnana Library, Kalutara. LSF would not have completed this mammoth task if not for the tremendous support given by various individuals and organisations. As evident from the photograph, the books are being put to good use.



Books catalogued and used at Bodhi Gnana Library, Kalutara

*There is no use whatever trying to help people who do not help themselves. You cannot push anyone up a ladder unless a person is willing to climb himself.*

~Andrew Carnegie



A cataract patient receiving post-care

## Our Journey Together

With its inception in 2003 LSF, together with its friends and well wishers, embarked on the journey of **Helping the Needy Help Themselves**. The total cost of projects completed to date under this theme in Sri Lanka and elsewhere exceeds AU\$ 300,000.

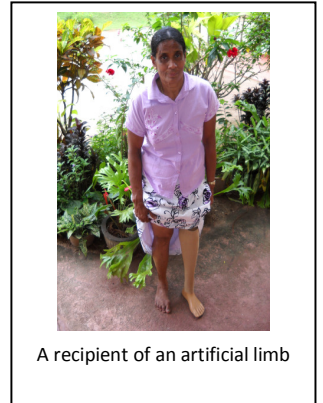
LSF takes this opportunity to say **Thank You** to all our sponsors, volunteers and well-wishers, and we all can be collectively content of the recent services in following areas:

- **IT Education** –striving to bridge the “Digital Divide” – the increasing gap between rich and poor due to inability to access Information Technology.
- **Education for Young and Old** “Knowledge is Power” – assisting to empower rural populace to uplift economic and social wellbeing.
- **Health** – “Health is Wealth” – efforts to create this wealth for needy by providing healthcare facilities.
- **Enabling the Disabled** – assisting in self dependency to lead a productive, meaningful and dignified life.

## *Enabling the Disabled*

### **Providing Artificial Limbs for the Needy**

With the assistance of 2009 Tharuna Youth Group (TYG) of Sinhalese Cultural Forum of NSW and funds raised from the Charity Dinner 2009, artificial limbs were provided for 10 needy people through the Centre for Handicapped – [www.cfhsrilanka.org](http://www.cfhsrilanka.org). This has enabled the recipients to be mobile and self dependent, thereby relieving their relatives of the additional burden of care taking.



A recipient of an artificial limb

### **Vocational Training through "Saviya Development Foundation"**

Establishing and providing financial assistance for a vocational training centre for differently-abled school leavers at Saviya Development Foundation at Matara. The assistance was mainly for providing IT equipment and tool kits for the students in order to further their development in vocations such as electrical motor winding, thereby enabling them to be meaningfully employed.



Students at Saviya Development Foundation

### **Funding the Training for Disabled Servicemen**

LSF funded a handicapped police officer to conduct IT workshops for disabled servicemen. The objective of the project was to assist disabled servicemen to attain skills in IT so that they can seek employment conducive with their physical condition.



Equipment for disabled

## *Charity Dinners 2009 & 2010*

For the third time, the 'All You Can Eat Charity Dinner 2010' held at Roselea Community Centre on 13th March was a huge success. It would not have been so successful without your generosity, commitment and participation. The event belonged to you, collectively, and not to anyone else.

Net earnings from 2010 Charity Dinner were about \$12,000, including about \$2,500 received in donations and advertising. These earnings will be wisely used for helping the needy in Sri Lanka and elsewhere, with every dollar used for its intended purpose with minimal administration costs.

About \$11,000 raised from 2009 Charity Dinner was used to provide:

- ❖ Vision to 35 needy people through cataract surgeries with the assistance of RegainSight.
- ❖ A slit lamp to an eye-surgery unit of a rural hospital for screening cataract patients. To date about 1000 patients have been screened.
- ❖ Artificial limbs for 10 differently-abled people through Centre for Handicapped.
- ❖ Equipment for differently-abled people.
- ❖ Collecting and shipping about 7000 books for Kalutara Bodhi Gnana Library - to be distributed to High Schools in Kalutara District.
- ❖ Collecting and shipping beds for Cardiothoracic Unit of Lady Ridgeway Children's Hospital and other rural hospitals.
- ❖ \$1000 for displaced children from Haiti Disaster through Save the Children Australia.



Folding Beds for Lady Ridgeway Children's Hospital (For carers of sick children from remote areas)

## *Thank You for Contributing*

LSF wishes to **Thank You** for your dedication and participation on behalf of many deserving needy people who benefited from your generosity.

LSF is confident that **Together We Can Make a Difference** in years to come.