



Reflections

Lak Saviya Foundation - Australia Incorporated

Our aim is to uplift the economic and social standards of the needy in a sustainable manner

www.laksaviya.org.au

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Newsletter - Issue 6

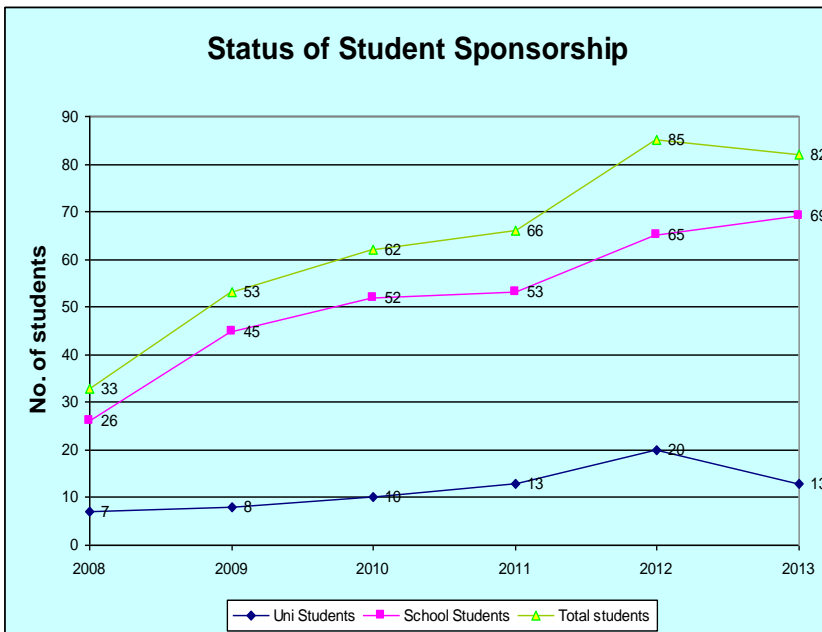
You can make a difference - Together we can make it happen

Lak Saviya Foundation Scholarships

Lak Saviya Foundation's Scholarship Program continues to produce excellent results, with ten students graduating from universities in 2012 - one Medical doctor, three Electrical Engineers, four Mechanical Engineers, one Earth Resources Engineer and one Material Science Engineer.

Since the beginning of the program in 2008, a total of 381 students have been sponsored (310 school students and 71 undergraduates) and so far, a total of 21 students have graduated from universities.

The following graph indicates an increasing trend in the number of scholarship recipients.



Graduates 2012. L to R (Sponsor's name in brackets): Sandakelum Edirimanna (*Wen Ley Ho*); Indika Sanjeewa (*Ranjith Fernando*); Jude Fernando, **LSF Scholarship Coordinator**; Buddika Rupasinghe (*Viru Ginige*); Chamara Edirisuriya; Kumara Kasthuriarachchi; Sampath Senanayaka (*all by Wen Ley Ho*).

Absent Yasith Iranga, Asanka Madhuranga, Tharaka Gamage (*all by Wen Ley Ho*) Sinnathurai Sivakaran (*Sandeep Liyanage*)

Currently there are 8 deserving students (5 school students and 3 university students) waiting for scholarships.

The cost of sponsoring a student is:

School: \$12.75/month or \$153/ year.

University: \$15.25/ month or \$183/ year.

If you wish to sponsor any of the students in the waiting list, please contact our scholarships coordinator, Jude Fernando on 0411 473 478 or email jude_fernando@laksaviya.org.au.

Thank You for Supporting the LSF Charity Dinner

Thanks to the untiring efforts of 112 volunteers, and the support of 678 guests, the LSF Charity Dinner held on 4th May 2013 was a great success. The new venue at Cherrybrook Community Centre provided a relaxed atmosphere for the guests to enjoy various authentic Sri Lankan cuisines at leisure.

The **net proceeds of \$12,069** will be carefully allocated across current projects in progress. LSF extends sincere gratitude for your continuing support on behalf of the beneficiaries of these projects.

Cataract Surgeries

Fifty cataract surgeries with intra ocular implants were completed within a period of three months from July 2012 to October 2012 at Polonnaruwa Teaching Hospital in drought stricken North Central Province of Sri Lanka. The consultant eye surgeon and doctors at the hospital, with the assistance of other hospital staff restored the sight of 50 men and women who are old, poor and had been previously blind. Their services were provided free of charge. LSF, from a generous grant of AU\$ 1500 received from ALCOA Australia Ltd, provided intra ocular lenses through Lions Club 306 B2 of Colombo Somerset, while the hospital provided all other necessary surgical items.

These people have now returned to their daily lives and are taking care of their dependents. They express their gratitude to all those who assisted in numerous ways to restore their vision. The Director of Polonnaruwa Teaching Hospital, Dr. Pani Somaratne, consultant surgeon Dr. Ranasiri Dayawanse, and other doctors, nurses and paramedical staff attached to the Eye Unit took a keen interest to complete the surgeries in time. Lak Saviya Foundation would like to take this opportunity to thank the Hospital staff for their untiring efforts.

In addition to this, funds for 250 intra ocular lenses were provided by LSF through RegainSight for the Vision 2020 Program of Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka. These cataract surgeries will be completed in the Dambulla, Kalmunai and Horana areas with the assistance of respective base hospitals. RegainSight Inc Australia coordinated the purchase of lenses and is currently monitoring the progress of surgeries. Tharuna Youth Group of the Sinhalese Cultural Forum of NSW partly funded this worthy project and the balance was provided by LSF.



Handover of 250 intra-ocular eye lenses to the Vision 2020 Program of Ministry of Health

Saviya Development Foundation (SDF)

LSF commenced supporting SDF in 2009 for one of its projects – “Athwela 1” – a vocational training centre for youth with disabilities, at Kamburupitiya, Matara District, in Sri Lanka. This is a residential training facility where youth of various disability levels are trained for one year in electrical motor re-winding, house wiring, IT/computer usage, and are taught English. The levels of training are tailored to suit individual capacities and job placements with suitable businesses are organised for the youth who complete the training successfully, averaging about 15 to 20 each year.

LSF annually provides salaries for electrical and computer instructors; tools and consumables for training, uniforms; and other needs.

LSF also provides toolkits to passing out students which can be used at their job placements. **The cost of a toolkit is \$135.**

If you wish to contribute towards a toolkit please contact our coordinator Roy Abeygoonawardana on 0425 234 390 or roy_abeygoonawardana@laksaviya.org.au



Teaching Electrical Wiring



Computer Room by LSF

Volunteers Assisting Children with Disabilities (VACD)

VACD (<http://www.vacd.org.au/>) is a non-government and non-profit organisation consisting of volunteers with an objective to promote and improve the wellbeing of children with disabilities in Sri Lanka. VACD aims to promote physical, mental and social improvement for children with disabilities in Sri Lanka. In this regard a pilot project has been initiated in Bandarawela. The program seeks to increase community awareness and eliminate social biases and stigma within the community and society towards children with disabilities and their families.

VACD made remarkable progress by conducting health clinics with the assistance of Bandarawela Hospital Staff, and a workshop involving children, parents and school teachers with the assistance of Ms Gabriella Vascotto, Melbourne, Australia. Some of the successes this program achieved during 2012 are:

- ❖ Remarkable increase in the number of children and parents participating in the program. Currently over 150 children with disabilities have been registered.
- ❖ Establishment of "Mothers' Union of Children with Special Needs".
- ❖ Staging a play by the children with disabilities at Bandarawela Town Hall to mark World Children's Day.

LSF formed a partnership with VACD to mutually assist each other, and to draw upon each other's strengths. At a recent fund raising event organized by Kumar Palghat, Managing Director Kapstream Capital (www.kapstream.com) \$22,000 was raised for the VACD project to establish a vocational, health, educational and training center to assist children with disabilities, their parents, teachers and medical personnel in Bandarawela, Sri Lanka.



Workshop by Ms Gabriella Vascotto from Melbourne



Clinics for children with disabilities

Artificial Limbs through Centre for Handicapped

In 2012, LSF funded 10 artificial limbs for 9 under privileged persons - one person being a double amputee - through the Centre for Handicapped, Kandy. These artificial limbs have provided them with the mobility to lead a productive life, without being dependent on their families.

LSF has been funding 10 artificial limbs per year since 2009, with a total of 40 artificial limbs funded to date.

The cost of artificial limbs are:

- ❖ **Below knee \$144**
- ❖ **Above knee \$296**

If you wish to contribute to an artificial limb, please contact our coordinator Tissa Liyanage on 0413 385 937 or tissa_liyanage@laksaviya.org.au.



Before



After

Double amputee Mr. S.Suseimutthu. Age: 34years

Address: Ottuwakal, Mulaithivu

Cause of Amputation: Victim of a landmine explosion

Thank You for Your Continuing Support