

UNITED KINGDOM FRIENDS OF GALLE



## UKFG PROFILE

### WHO ARE UKFG

UKFG was set up by Devsiri (Siri) Hewavidana and his family immediately after the Tsunami in December 2004. Siri is a Sri Lankan who was born in Galle, he received higher education in the UK and graduated as a Lean Manufacturing Engineer. He has lived and worked in the UK ever since. He now has a wife and 3 children and they are located in Ashford Kent. Devsiri is also an active writer and journalist with a regular column in Sri Lanka's biggest Sunday paper LAKBIMA.

Every Summer Devsiri and his family return to Srilanka to visit very poor schools in rural areas of Galle and distribute much needed stationery and gifts that have been donated by British friends and companies.

Devsiri's wife Ruvini fully supports his tireless work and efforts. Mick and Val Chittenden from Essex have also been involved from the beginning as they donated the money for UKFG's first house and then funded the second house Casco. Mick is now the website manager and Val looks after some of the presentations to gain more funds/donations.



Ruvini's father Sirisena Gamage is our project manager, Devsiri's brother Laksiri is our Scholarship manager, and Ruvini's sister is our architect. 5 doctors in the family look after the scholarship children's health.

We are a small group of friends whose interest is to support the children (approx 150 now); we do not use any of the donation/scholarship money to fund expenses. We all give our time freely and NO expenses are ever expected.

The only salary awarded is for our scholarship supervisor Lal Jayawardena and that has been donated/funded by Sky TV.

UKFG get web hosting for free kindly sponsored by Site Street.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES - SHOES

### Shoes

UKFG have donated shoes for every child in 3 schools. Most of these children walk miles to school and were lucky if they previously owned a pair of flip flops. UKFG arrange to have every child's feet measured then have the shoes made at a local factory. The shoes are presented to the children with new socks, to complete their gifts from UKFG, at a school assembly

**Massmulle children received shoes, a computer and a complete library with new books**



## SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

### Computer

CASCO Computer Services have donated a laptop, camera and printer for the child co-ordinator to use to keep our sponsors in touch and up to date with the children they sponsor. CASCO also donated a new desk top computer to Ullalla School for the students to use. This was awarded at a school assembly and was very much required as it is the only one the school owns.

The Learning Curve has donated a computer to Massmulle School and Ruckinge Rainbow children are currently raising funds to buy a computer for Howpe School. Nicky Pharoah Tunbridge Wells has donated a brand new library to Massmulle school



**HOUSES**

**UKFG have now completely rebuilt 7 houses**

Unfortunately many people are still living in temporary wooden huts that really need to be demolished for more permanent housing. Depending on how much you wish to donate, (as this could be a part donation or fully funded build), the cost could be anything up to £8000 for a fully built and furnished home.

UKFG would choose a family who already own land but whose home was demolished by the Tsunami, so at the end of the build they will be the sole owners. As sponsors you would be kept up to date with the family and the build. At the final stage of build when UKFG hand over the keys UKFG would encourage you to attend the handing over ceremony and meet your family.



**FRICROFT & SMITHS HOUSES**



**BROOKSON HOUSE**



**CASCO HOUSE**



**PHARORA HOUSE**



**HUCHISON HOUSE**



**DE BEERS HOUSE**



**BOB DABBS HOUSE**



**LILIAN'S LIBRARY**

## OTHER Activities - Books & bicycles

### Bicycles

Some of our sponsors have donated bicycles for children who can now ride to school instead of walking for many miles.

### BOOKS

UKFG have been able to supply several schools with desperately needed books, pens, rulers, rubbers etc. UKFG fund this with donations from banks, colleagues and small cash donations from friends and Devsiri's employer Cummins and its workforce.

### CHARITY DONATIONS

UKFG work closely with Harrow school Development Trust and Yala Fund both are very active in Sri Lanka. Both charities process large donation given to UKFG as the tax is refunded through this system and creates more donation money. Harrow School and a Governor, Mrs Harriet Crawley, are sponsoring 15 children between them through UKFG. It was Jon Ashworth's Yala charity that secured the donation from De Beers London which enabled us to complete our final Tsunami house De Beers

### SUMMARY

Four years after the Tsunami disaster there are still many children who are in desperate need of help. They cannot attend school lessons because they have lost parents and there is nobody in Sri Lanka to support them long term. Also, although not affected by the 2004 tsunami, there are 100s of children who live in abject poverty in rural areas that need help.

After a few years of education the children have no option but to drop out of school as their parents cannot afford to purchase the necessary school uniform or books. This means that finishing school or any higher education or university is totally beyond their means. This is a main concern as there are many very bright children who wish to study to become doctors, lawyers and follow other professional careers.

By sponsoring just one of these children you will be helping not only their families but also the whole villages and communities and giving them hope of a future



Devsiri and Ruvini Hewavidana with their children Deshan (13), Shynie(11) & Little Dinum (4). For more information please see [www.ukfg.net](http://www.ukfg.net)

Or Email : Devsiri Hewavidana: [devsiri@ntlworld.com](mailto:devsiri@ntlworld.com) or [devsiri@hotmail.com](mailto:devsiri@hotmail.com)