ICT News

Summer 2006

international childcare trust

Brothers Reunited By Art Competition

Abakatir and Hakkim after their amazing reunion

A remarkable coincidence occurred at the SPEDY shelter in Dindigul, India: two brothers, both runaways, met by chance. The occasion was a painting competition organised by the Consortium for Street Children (CSC) to raise awareness of street children's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS.

Twenty street children from Dindigul and Palani assembled at the Dindigul shelter, where paper and paints were ready for them to express themselves. When the Palani children arrived, there was great commotion and two boys ran towards each other shouting each other's name, hugging each other with tears of joy running down their cheeks. They were two runaway brothers who had not seen each other for years. (Continued on Page 2)

Cycle Cambodia: Siem Reap - Sihanoukville

There are just two weeks left to sign up for the Cycle Cambodia Challenge, taking place from 27th October till 5th November 2006!

Over 50 people have already signed up to Cycle Cambodia. If interested, visit the Cycle Cambodia website at: www.cyclecambodia.org.uk

There are two rides taking place: 27th October - 5th November and 3rd-12th November and we only have a few places left on each. (Continued on Page 2)

Paticipants will have the chance to visit ICT supported children at the end of the Cycle Challenge

As part of the ICT Tsunami Response project, children who lost parents or experienced trauma as a result of the tsunami play on the beach, with their peers and clowns, to overcome their fear of the ocean and build hope for the future.

Sport Plays a Role in Rehabilitation

Njia Panda Ya Tumaini (NPYT), Kenya, has for many years run informal sports functions for street children.

Every other weekend, children from Kitale town climb onto a Nissan pick-up and ride to Birunda or Liyavo Village Projects. Bottles of glue, razorblades, knives and other weapons, are handed over: the children know they are going to be safe today.

As the pick-up crawls along the dirt road to the project gates, excitement rises with whistles and shouts from both truck and field. For children in the projects, it is a welcome reunion of old friends from the street community. After initial welcomes, the town children are given an opportunity to clean up and offered a late breakfast of tea and bread, a treat in this part of the world.

During the morning, most of the children have been playing in small groups while others sought advice and/or care. (continued on Page 3)

Brothers Reunited

(Continued from Page 1) Hakkim (14), the eldest, ran away from home three years ago. He has spent time in a juvenile prison and a special school from which he escaped. He was eventually found wandering alone in Dindigul by SEEDS staff and after staying a short while decided that welding trainng would offer him a future with promise.

His younger brother, Abtakir (11), ran away last year and was brought to the Palani shelter by the Railway Police. Abtakir settled in quickly and soon enrolled in school. He is good at art and was keen on the competition, but nothing could compete with the joy he felt when he met his brother.

Cycle Cambodia

(continued from Page 1) This cycle challenge is different because participants visit an ICT supported project at the end of the ride.

If you cannot partake in the cycle, but would like to help the team to reach its joint fundraising target of £175,000, you could sponsor one of our fundraisers by making a donation via the Just Giving website: www.justgiving.com/intchildcaretrust/raisemoney.

If you have any queries, please contact us on local rate phone: **0845 3300 5333**. Ride On!

Join Our Child Sponsorship Internet Campaign

ICT has launched an internet campaign to increase the numbers of ICT's child sponsors. We are very excited about this opportunity to take our Child Sponsorship Programme to the next level. ICT would like you to participate in our campaign to help build sustainability into ICT's partner organisations.

If everyone who receives this newsletter either sponsors a child or identifies a friend, family member or colleague who will sponsor a child, all of our partner organisations in India, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Kenya will be free from grant dependency for running costs that cover very basic things like clothing and educational support.

How can you identify a new child sponsor for ICT: Is it you? Do you want to give it to a child, grandchild, spouse, parent or grandparent as a birthday or Christmas present? Do your children want their classes to sponsor a child (each pupil donating £1 a month)? You, or someone you know, can sign up now with your credit or debit card online at:www.ict-uk.org/sponsorship_online.html.

Please take the time to change a child's life today!

Mahela's Story

Mahela is 11 years old and lives in Kotuwella, Sri Lanka.

Mahela 's father worked as a labourer drying coconut. He was a very heavy drinker and was violent with Mahela's mother, all of his income being spent on drink. Mahela''s mother has since gone to Saudi Arabia to work as a housemaid. After his mother left, Mahela ran for shelter to his neighbours. He had very poor health when he arrived at Makandura Village Project (MVP), with wounds and decayed teeth, sleeping all the time

Since coming to MVP, Mahela has proven to be clever and obedient at school, he likes maths and is generally a good listener. Outside of school Dimuthu likes to play board games. Mahela is a calm and clever boy, who is never in trouble and has many friends.

The Long Road Home Sports Centre, Cambodia

The global information company, Reuters, has granted Sue Thornton six months leave to cycle from Hong Kong to England to raise funds to benefit ICT's Cambodian partner organisation, M'Lop Tapang, Cambodia. Sue plans to raise £23,000 to construct the Long Road Home Sports Centre at the M'Lop Tapang street children's refuge, so 5,000 kids in the Sihanoukville slum areas will have a safe place to play.

Sihanoukville has a terrible problem with sex tourism and M'Lop Tapang works with the local community and local and national governments to raise awareness and funds to protect these vulnerable children. The new sports centre will draw children in off the streets where they are vulnerable. The centre will build the confidence of children who have been abused and exploited and will be used as a vehicle for educating children about their rights, particularly their right to enjoy their childhood. You can support Sue's valiant fundraising effort at: www.justgiving.com/thelongroadhomecambodia.

If you're not convinced that Sue deserves your support, read (and even listen to PodCasts) about Sue's tussles with various illnesses, difficult decisions, near disasters, as well as memorable encounters with lovely people, at: www.thelongroadhome.org. At one point, Sue was chased by a merciless dog. Her initial reaction was to pedal faster, which fuelled the chase. Finally, she realised she would have to face the dog to scare it away! Despite her many difficulties, even in the middle of China, she has been able to nurture her occasional hankering for a bacon and egg breakfast!

Sports Plays a Role in Rehabilitation

(Continued from Page 1) Lunch is served at about 1 pm, bringing the children back into one group. After lunch, kids hang out to digest and introduce different scenarios that may include sexual abuse or activity, glue addiction, petty crime, juvenile justice or any other topic the children themselves may introduce. Peer to peer advice and experiences take centre stage.

Children then divide themselves into groups to play football, volleyball and/or netball. The games are extremely popular and children from the project environs often participate while community members come to watch.

After the games are over, the children have fruit squash and biscuits for 'tea' then wash and back onto the pick-up to return to their street lives. Clean, exhausted and, hopefully, a little wiser.

NPYT has been lucky enough to receive a donation of secondhand sports kits to give out to those street teams that have managed to be more or less cohesive and attend the event regularly.

The recent donation of a Canter lorry to NPYT enables staff to extend the programme to more children. To allow NPYT to formalise this element of its work and to maximise impact, these

type of sessions are offered at least once or twice a week.

If only for a few hours, sport helps the children to spend a day off the streets and exposes them to a semblance of normality and, perhaps, even saves some lives. It instils a sense of pride and self esteem in individual children and in teams.

Sport As Therapy at M'Lop Tapang Drop In Centre

M'Lop Tapang (MT) 24 Hour Drop In Centre for drug users is changing the lives of young people and children. Youth in Sihanoukville often use methamphetamines and inhale glue. The Drop In Centre helps children give up drugs.

MT does not use any replacement therapies or drugs to help the children with withdrawal, mood swings or depression. It uses a combination of counselling, education and sports. Sport is therapeutic in many ways.

Volleyball, football, yoga and circus all provide a release from the children's pain, trauma and shattered minds. These children are often victims of physical and sexual abuse, but by using sport, they can smile and laugh again. Endorphins give natural highs, perspiration draws out the toxins, the children can feel good, clean and healthier again. Sport activities fill their day, banishing boredom and temptation. Positive relationships are devleoped within teams and with trainers, relationships of trust, respect and safety. For many, these relationships are the only positive ones in their lives.

These children and young people are marginalized by society and discriminated against even by other children. Those barriers are knocked down during an interschool football match or when parading through the city performing circus acts. During these times, everyone looks up to them. For many youngsters who use drugs and want to stop, sport allows them to play again, be a child again and make real friends; sport simply gives them a chance to be themselves again.

Avurudu / New Year Festival, Hambantota

Shilpa social workers in Hambantota, organised a festival of traditional sports and fun on the 29th of April. All children in Shilpa's tsunami sponsorship projects as well as children attending its children's clubs, and their families, participated in this event.

The day started with a marathon race at 7.30 in the morning. There were 25 races and competitions, including the popular climbing the greasy pole competition, and traditional competitions like spot the mystery visitor and guess the number of seeds in selected papaya fruit!! Winners of the first three places were given attractive prizes.

Chief guest, Miss Sri Lanka, Jacqueline Fernandez meets some of the children at the Festival. Jacqueline is also a volunteer at Shilpa!

All children who attended the event were given cakes and drinks. At the end of the day, Shilpa were told by many people in the area it was the best event organised for the season.

As New Year of 2005 was not celebrated in Hambantota as people were still struggling to come to terms with the tsunami tragedy, it was a wonderful experience to see people, especially the 250+ children sponsored by Shilpa, enjoying themselves.

New Girls' Centre At Dikkelle

Construction work has been taking place on the new Girls' Centre on Dikkelle Estate. Despite some delays in the wake of the tsunami, the construction of the exterior is almost complete. The completion date remains the 1st of October for International Children's Day. There will be a ceremony and the first 25 girls will be welcomed.

The Department of Childcare and Probation has been inundating Makandura Village Projects (MVP) with inquiries about places for girls. Staff at MVP have advised the department to keep children with their families whenever possible and that only a certain percentage of girls will be drawn from the department. Girls will also be drawn from fisher villages in the north where they have been displaced by the tsunami or the ongoing low-level conflict.

When asked about the political situation in the country, MVP Director, R S Patabandigai said, "Yes, the situation is worsening, but we continue to hope and pray for peace in our country."

Money for Melodies! Votes for Volume! Cash for Classics! This is CLASSICAL IDOL!

You are invited to an event like no other - classical music artists are about to solicit your affections, and your donations.

ICT volunteer, David Lasserson, has played viola for the Royal Philharmonic and London Mozart Players and now works in broadcasting, including as a commentator at the BBC Proms. Along with fellow musician Matthew Sharp, David is gathering a unique selection of artists to perform in a very different kind of classical music event.

This is 'Classical Idol'. This special fundraiser for ICT will bring together Britain's brightest classical musicians to perform for you in one glorious cabaret. But only one act can be crowned Classical Idol, and that decision rests on you, the audience.

To join in you're required to make an initial donation to ICT online. On the night, you can then help ICT raise even more funds by voting for the best among four acts. You will have the opportunity to give a donation in the name of the act that you think should be crowned classical idol(s)! The artists will be shamelessly trying to woo your vote and your generosity.

We recommend that you make a minimum donation £15 online at: www.ict-uk.org/donations_online.html, which will book your place and will cover ICT's costs. Please write in the Comments box of the online form, "This is a donation to attend Classical Idol." We are 'recommending' a minimum donation to attend, if you are a UK tax-payer, we can collect the Gift Aid on that donation so do not forget to tick the Gift Aid box!

The evening is to be held at London's most beautiful venue, **Leighton House in Holland Park, on 8th February 2007, 7.30-9.30PM (www.rbkc.gov.uk/LeightonHouseMuseum)**,

The night is about having fun with classical music and making it accessible to everyone, so even if you do not normally attend classical music concerts, this one's for you and we expect to see a lot of you there! Book soon, as there is only capacity for 130 people and there are already lots of interested people.

ICT FUNDRAISING NIGHTS

FLAMENCO NIGHT - Tuesday 25th July, 7.30pm till late @ Costa Dorada, 47-55 Hanway Street, London W1 (off Oxford Street).

A night of Flamencoand Spanish culture. Tickets include: 3 course Spanish cuisine, Flamenco show and Spanish music, all for £26. To book please call Isobel Ricketts on 0790 548 4812 or email isymiyake@hotmail.com.

LATIN EXTRAVAGANZA! - Friday, October 6th, 2006 at Arundel House, London WC2.

A Latin themed party to raise funds for ICT. Entertainment for the evening provided by leading Latin band, Manteca. Tables of 8 are available, priced at £65 per person, inclusive of reception cocktails, supper, tables wines and live entertainment.

To book a ticket please contact Scott Haughton at scott@envestors.co.uk or on 07734 208 638.

The ICT Team

ICT would like to thank Roger Beanlands and Steven King for the invaluable contributions they have made to ICT. The involvement between the two of them spans over 30 years! We could not have gotten to where we are without you and you will both be missed.

ICT would like to welcome Angela Buckland as our new Administrator and we are currently recruiting for the Asia Programmes Officer post.

ICT is also very grateful for voluntary inputs from our wonderful interns: Nicola White, Sokphal Tun, Emily Joof and Jennifer Farren. Finally, as always, thanks for the ongoing voluntary assistance from Tom Donnelly, our Webmaster, and Mike Clayton, our voluntary IT Consultant. ICT simply would not be where it is today with out this extremely valuable support.

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