



Kathleen Keegel Children's Fund

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the Easter Edition of the 2009 KKCF Newsletter.

It's filled with heaps of exciting news about our latest projects, upcoming

events, travelers' tales to our orphanage in Sri Lanka and pictures of our recent Valentines Dinner Dance in Melbourne.

Unfortunately it's been a sad start to the year and our hearts go out to all

the people affected by the bushfires in Victoria.

We wish all our supporters a safe and happy Easter holiday and hope you enjoy the chocolate eggs that go with it!



Who is KKCF?

The Kathleen Keegel Children's Fund (KKCF) is an Australian-based charitable organisation helping to relieve poverty in Sri Lanka.

Olivia (one of Kathleen Keegel's ten children) and her husband Fred Bartholomeusz have been in Sri Lanka since March 2004 and have faced many challenges during their time there.

For an update on their progress visit our website: www.kkcf.org

Orphanage Update

We now have six children in our care (one 10 yr old girl Gayathri and five boys - 12 yr old Sajee, 10 yr old Paul, 10 yr old Charmara, 7 yr old Siva kumara and 5 yr old Tharaka). Tharaka has a heart condition and is under medical care. The children enjoy being together and have settled in quickly to their new home. They go to the local schools by bus and are learning English well.

Currently up to 60 chil-

dren and mature students visit the orphanage for English classes each week. We are refurbishing the large rooms underneath the dormitory which can be used as a multi-purpose area for dining, teaching and other varied activities.

Another project we are working on is to create a computer facility which will be used to train the local youth in computer skills.

We currently have 25 chickens laying eggs

which we use and sell to the local community. We also have a cow living on the property.

A fence is being constructed to secure the property - see **Buy a Block** on the last page for more details on this.

Please feel free to write letters to the children. They would love to hear from you about your life in Australia or other parts of the world. The address is in the "Contact Us" part of this newsletter.

Ask Olly

Q. Olly, can you tell us about your helpers at the orphanage?

A. We have several paid staff at the orphanage helping with administration, cooking and looking after the children as well other general work on the five acre property. We also have volunteers visiting on occasion. It's

always great to have visitors helping out and seeing what life at an orphanage can be like.

Interested in finding out about Olly's life in Sri Lanka?

Email your questions to kkcf@inbox.com



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Agricultural Project

We currently have 50 citrus trees planted and are planning to expand the project to include a crop of lemongrass. The wet season has started and our water tanks and dams are

filling up quickly. GDG will be conducting their first inspection of our project in late March.

www.globaldevelopment.org.au



KCCF Takes on Sydney

KCCF Director in Melbourne Tracy Warner won a prize from RACV and Hertz which includes 5 days car hire and \$500 accommodation. Tracy has generously donated this so she can travel with Georgie, Peter and her son James to visit Sydney. They will be giving a presentation about KCCF to the Com-

bined Services dinner in Penrith on 12th May.

Combined Services is all the community service clubs in the area including Rotary, Rotaract, Inner



Wheel, Zonta, Quota, Lions Clubs and more.

A group from the Gunargarang Rotaract Club is planning to visit the orphanage and agricultural project in October 2009.

RECENT EVENTS

Valentine's Day Dinner

February 14th, 2009

The dance was held at St Anthony's hall in Noble Park. The theme of red and black was seen through the night as guests danced away to the sounds of Sky Explosion. A lovely Sri Lankan buffet meal

was served by the staff at MD catering.

Thanks to all who supported this fun event.

Click on the following link to see the pictures!

http://www.kkcf.org/mod_past_events/



Slum Dog Millionaire

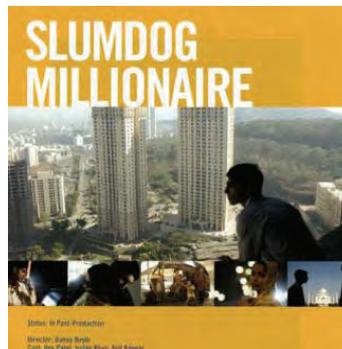
6th February, 2009

Movie Picture

This was a very enjoyable fundraiser as Slum Dog Millionaire is a terrific movie.

It's the story of Jamal Malik, an 18 year-old orphan from the slums of Mumbai, who is about to experience the biggest day of his life. With the whole nation watching, he is just one question away from winning a

staggering 20 million rupees on India's "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?" But when the show breaks for the night, police arrest him on suspicion of cheating; how could a street kid know so much? Rating: * * * * *



About 40 people attended on the evening and we raised \$150.

Watch out for KCCF's next movie fundraiser and if you didn't see

Slum Dog Millionaire, make sure you rent the DVD!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Comedy Festival at the Comedy Club—18th April

Join us for a night of laughs at the Comedy Club on Sat 18th April. Edinburgh Festa Besta - Back by popular demand, direct from USA 2008 sell-out sensation Rich Ceisler plus Chris

Franklin. No. 1 selling single "I'm a bloke" and featured on Fat Pizza and special surprise Comedy Festival guests. Tickets for the show at \$12 each.

Contact Georgie on 0403 023 949 for tickets.

8pm Saturday 18th April
Athenaeum Theatre, 188 Collins St,

Karaoke Night—13th June

Come along to KKCF's Karaoke night on 13th June, at St Anthony's Hall, Noble Park, Melbourne.

Have fun singing along to your favourite songs and living out your pop star dreams.



Can't Sing?
Who cares!!

New Year's Eve—31st December 2009

It's the biggest night of the year! On December 31st, 2009, come and

celebrate in style.
Venue is the Preston Town Hall.

More details to follow soon.

TRAVELLER'S TALES

June Rainbow met Olivia Bartholomeusz 30 years ago when they were both pregnant with their sons. They became close friends, as did the boys and June has many happy memories of the many get togethers Olly and Fred used to host, as the lifeblood of the Sri Lankan community in Townsville, North Queensland. June recently visited Olly in Sri Lanka and this is her news...

I was really looking forward to my trip to Sri Lanka and Olivia kept asking me when I would visit. Finally I stopped over on my way back from Mumbai and Olivia very kindly met me at the airport. We spent a hectic day in Colombo visiting disadvantaged children at the beach and suburbs, where she distributed bags of gifts and toys to excited and happy groups of kids. We then left for the orphanage which was a couple of hours away and it certainly was quite a contrast to the hustle and bustle of Colombo. In peaceful and idyllic surroundings - she took me on a

tour of the grounds where I saw all sorts of flora and fauna, not unlike that in India, and I met all her helpers and the children. They were a happy and hardworking group and even though my stay was short, we formed a friendly bond, and my lack of language was no barrier. We all met at mealtimes, (I enjoyed the food immensely) and we sometimes played games in the evening. We visited the local market and Olivia also took me to Kandy and Nuwara Eliya, which was much cooler due to the higher elevation. Whilst there we visited a tea plantation which was a most interesting excursion.

I spent a couple of evenings helping out with the English language classes which are offered to the

local community and workers and after their initial shyness, the students were keen to practice their English.

I had an enjoyable and fulfilling week there and was so impressed by their devotion and hard work. I hope they can continue as long as they are needed and wish them



every success in their endeavours.

June Rainbow

Have you visited Olly and Fred in Sri Lanka? Please email us with your news and photos.

Contact Us

Sri Lanka :

Fred & Olivia Bartholomeusz
+947 7644 0578

Orphanage address :

KKCF St Anthony's Boys' Home
Hewadiwela 71108 Sri Lanka

Brisbane :

Damian Bartholomeusz
07 3267 0159 / 0433 124 818

Melbourne :

Georgiana Godfrey
03 9774 7883 / 0403 023 949

Postal Address :

PO Box 6, Nudgee Qld 4014

Email : kkcf@inbox.com

Website: www.kkcf.org

KKCF is on Facebook

BUY A BLOCK

We have a problem with security at the orphanage. The property is unfenced, so we find that people wander through and take the fruit and veggies and even the water. The solution to this is the completion of the fencing around the property. This is a high priority project for KKCF as it will ensure that we have a secure environment for the children and staff as well as protecting the property and facilities.

We have commenced the project and the plan is to build a 4 foot high brick block fence and then add another two feet of security mesh to the top of the fence.

However, the perimeter of the property is quite large (5 acres), so we are turning to you for help in completing this project. We are asking that you 'donate a block'. Each block is valued at \$5.00 and you can donate as many or as few as you like. At the end of the project a plaque will be struck to commemorate the donations to the wall. Those of you that donate 10 blocks or more will be individually acknowledged on the plaque.

You can donate a block at the following link :

http://www.kkcf.org/ways_to_support/donate-a-block



How You Can Help

VOLUNTEERING

VOLUNTEER for a life changing experience!

If you have holidays coming up, have always wanted to travel to Sri Lanka or just want to do something different please consider becoming a KKCF volunteer. Fred and Olly need all the help they can get and you are guaranteed an amazing, enriching, first-hand experience at making a difference.

Email Fred at kkcf@inbox.com for more information.

DONATIONS

Make KKCF your charity this EASTER.

Before June 30th consider making an end of financial year donation to KKCF. All donations made through GDG www.globaldevelopment.org.au

are tax deductible.

Become a Regular Donor

We would like to thank the Saw-

ford family from Melbourne for their ongoing monthly donations. Malcolm, Tammy, Katie and Johanna are excited to contribute on a regular basis and help the orphanage. They say it's a great feeling to help kids who are less fortunate than themselves. Tammy encourages others to do the same and adds that it's a simple process to set up a periodic payment (which is tax deductible) through the GDG website.

www.globaldevelopment.org.au

It's about the cost of a take away meal for the family and yet it can mean so much more in Sri Lanka.

We ask you to consider a monthly donation of \$30 with our slogan "A dollar a day goes a long way!!"

Global Development Group

GDG is a Non Government Organisation [NGO] carrying out humanitarian projects with ap-

proved partners and providing aid to relieve poverty. Or Support a *Project in Progress* with your donation.

Donations can be made to:

KKCF

BSB-064-139

A/C No-10126847

KKCF is an approved partner of GDG. With this partnership comes the ability to provide our donors with tax deductibility on their donations.

To make a donation to our Agricultural project, visit GDG's website :

www.globaldevelopment.org.au

accepts payment by credit card or direct deposit. In the "my donation to go to" field, enter **J215**. Contact us if you need assistance or further info.

KKCF sincerely thanks Janine Rainbow and Christine Wood for creating this newsletter. Check out Chris' Photography business at her website www.christinewood.com.au