

# Oru Paanai

Feeding hungry children in Sri Lanka

News from Oru Paanai  
Issue 1: February 2012



## WHY A NEWSLETTER?

The Oru Paanai committee has decided to send out a regular newsletter from February 2012 to all its regular supporters who donate to OP through monthly / annual / occasional donations.

The aim is to keep you informed of all the OP activities and the progress we are making in achieving our aim of ensuring that the most needy children in the North and East of Sri Lanka are provided a daily nutritious lunch time meal.

It is thanks to your generosity that we are able to sustain this programme, and it is only right that you are kept in the loop and provided a regular update.

We hope to include details of recent

OP events, as well as make you aware of forthcoming events so that you could keep those dates free for participating in them. Many of these items are already on the OP website - [www.orupaanaai.org.uk](http://www.orupaanaai.org.uk) - , but not everyone can find the time to regularly visit the website. It is our sincere hope that you will spend a few minutes in reading this newsletter.

We would welcome any feedback in the form of comments on the newsletter so that we can make improvements and deliver the type of information / news that you would like us to share with you.

**We would also welcome suggestions from all of you on how we can do even more to help the less privileged children living in our country.**

### Children at school



## WHERE WE ARE NOW

From the modest beginning of subsidising the lunchtime meals of the children in 8 schools in the Jaffna district, OP has now grown to the stage where we are helping over **24, 000 children in 170 schools** in most of the northern province, including many schools in the Wannai.

In all these schools, the World Food Programme provides funds for rice and dhal, while OP funds the purchase of vegetables, spices and fuel for cooking. Our efforts are greatly appreciated by all the heads in these schools, some of whom have told us that 'some children come to school because of the free lunch being provided', which is a reflection of the poverty and deprivation prevailing in several parts of the northeast today.

We are constantly receiving more and more appeals from heads of other schools to include their schools in our programme. Financial constraints prevent us from accommodating all their requests, but we will re-double our efforts to raise more funds so that we will be able to not turn down any deserving request we receive.

We hope to increase the number of children we feed to 30, 000 from February 2012. We had been involved with a small number of schools in the eastern province as well, but now the World Food Programme has pulled out of the east and the government has taken on the task of providing meals for all children up to standard 5 in all



schools in the province, our involvement has ended.

We will continue to seek out ways of spreading our programme to the eastern province and elsewhere.

## HOW DO WE FINANCE THE ORU PAANAI PROGRAMME?

The main source of income for Oru Paanai is the regular donations made by standing order. We raise about £1,000 per month from these donations.

The cost of providing the lunch time meals for 24,000 children amounts to about £25,000 per year, which leaves us with a shortfall of £ 12,000 per annum.

The many fund-raising activities

undertaken by a number of enthusiastic and generous people, enable us to bridge this gap - this year's fund raising efforts raised about £10,000 in total.

Occasional one off contributions from friends and family in other countries like Australia, Canada and the US also have made our task so much easier.

At present, Oru Paanai has about £26,000 in it's UK account, which would be just enough to balance the books, if this year's fund raising events also raise a similar amount to last year. We would greatly welcome more regular contributors, as this would ensure a guaranteed income.

A detailed financial statement, showing the income and expenditure for 2011 is being prepared at the moment and will be sent to all donors in the next few weeks. A summary appears on the back page of this newsletter. However, it is worth mentioning at this point that **OP does not incur any administrative costs at all, and with the exception of the salary paid to our representative in Jaffna, Ms. Anusha Devi, every penny donated to OP goes to feeding the children, as all the admin work is done by our committee on a voluntary basis.**

Visit

[www.orupaanaai.org.uk](http://www.orupaanaai.org.uk)

for the latest news and event information

## RECENT EVENTS

### ◆ Tamil Union of Herts 'BIG WEEKEND' for Oru Paanai

Queens School in Bushey was the venue for the BIG WEEKEND function laid on by the Tamil Union of Herts to raise funds for Oru Paanai. A rich variety show, crowned by a delightful play 'Horoscope' produced by Mano Master, was hugely enjoyed by the large audience present.

The show was ably compered in both Tamil and English, by Logan Rasiah, who was one of the main organisers of the event. The next day a barbecue accompanied by delicious kool rounded off the weekend.

A sizeable sum of **£2,000** was raised for Oru Paanai.



### ◆ An evening of Dance and Music in Radlett

Hertfordshire continued to make a significant contribution to the Oru Paanai coffers with an evening of music and dance, organised by the Sw aminathan family.

A large audience of over 200 enjoyed a brilliant performance by two accomplished young artistes, Dr. Geetha Sw aminathan, who gave a virtuoso performance on the veenai, and Suresh Sw aminathan, who gave an exhilarating bharatha natyam performance.

The entire cost of staging the event was borne by the Sw aminathan family, and a princely sum of **over £5,000** was raised for Oru Paanai.

### ◆ Rugby hosts superb dance show in aid of Oru Paanai

Oru Paanai's committee members, Tom Tharmaratnam and Dr. Rajakumaran, with the help of several other enthusiastic fundraisers, laid on an evening of scintillating Bharatha Natyam dances on the 13th of August 2011 at the Indian Community Centre in Rugby.

A large and appreciative audience enjoyed a wonderful show which featured dancers Jyoti, Samyuktha, Aakash and Subash, and was choreographed by the famous artiste, Chitrlekha.

A sum of **nearly £3,000** was raised by the stalwart organisers from Rugby.

### ◆ Southgate supports Oru Paanai

A cultural evening, featuring several talented artistes, including Suresh Sw aminathan, was organised in Southgate, North London on the 16th of July 2011.

A delicious dinner, including the ever popular hoppers, followed the cultural evening. Sam Jeyapalan, who led the organising committee, hopes to stage this event annually.

### ◆ London to Gay Paree – cycling to raise funds for OP

Two young OP supporters from Rugby - Prem and Sabu - undertook a 3 day bicycle ride from London to Paris from the 9th to 12th of September 2011 to raise funds for OP.



The OP committee wishes to thank them for their efforts.

### ◆ OP Sports Club launched

An inaugural cricket match between Oru Paanai Sports Club, ably led by Dr. Deutram Thambapillai, and the Yarl Cricket Club was played in Harrow on 9th September 2011.

A crowd of over 70 OP supporters enjoyed the sight of ageing cricketers wielding the willow with gusto, and the evening was topped by a hopper dinner and the inevitable sing-song.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Prof's latest venture in support of OP – climbing mountains!

Prof. Swaminathan, one of our most ardent supporters and indefatigable fund raisers, undertook another mountainous task – literally – to support OP this year.

Along with five equally enthusiastic family and friends, he climbed Mount Kilimanjaro from the 5th of February 2012 over several days to raise funds for Oru Paanai.

It is not too late to contribute to Swami's fundraiser. Any wellwisher who would like to show their appreciation of the efforts of the intrepid team of mountaineers can do so through the Oru Paanai web site.

Cheques, made out to Oru Paanai, can also be sent to The Treasurer, Oru Paanai, 58 Hungerford Road, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 3AB

### **Your chance to Meet, Dine, Dance (and support Oru Paanai)**



The Clinical Society of Sri Lankan Doctors and Dentists, has chosen to support Oru Paanai from the proceeds of this year's event.

This dinner dance,

which has proved very popular in the past, will be held in The VIP lounge in Edgware this year, on the 21st of April 2012.

As in the past, there will be two clinical lectures, by two speakers, followed by a sumptuous dinner.

Tickets, priced at £37.50 each, to include soft drinks and wine, can be obtained from the following committee members:

Dr. M. Amerasinghe: [mikeamaa@hotmail.com](mailto:mikeamaa@hotmail.com)  
Dr. K.N. Balan: [Nandha.Balan@nhs.net](mailto:Nandha.Balan@nhs.net)  
Dr. N.S. Rajah: [nsr@s@hotmail.com](mailto:nsr@s@hotmail.com)  
Dr. N. Rajakumaran: [nada.raj@nhs.net](mailto:nada.raj@nhs.net)  
Dr. R. Thambyrajah: [thambysr@aol.com](mailto:thambysr@aol.com)

## **BREAKING NEWS ...**

### **Oru Paanai - Sri Lankan branch - launched**

Oru Paanai, which was established as a UK based charity, has now opened a branch in Sri Lanka, with the aim of tapping into the goodwill of generous Sri Lankans from all communities.

The Sri Lankan branch has been gazetted as a recognised charity in Sri Lanka, a status similar to that of the UK parent body.

Able led by the former Chairman of George Steuarts, S. Skandakumar (President), the Sri Lankan committee, which includes Dr. Nimalisiri Mendis (Secretary), Mrs. Nirmali Mendis, Dr. Sandy Musaffer, Mrs Wiranti Musaffer and Ms Vas Nallathamby, has been very successful in raising funds within Sri Lanka to support Oru Paanai, with

most funds being solicited through friends and contacts.

The parent committee of Oru Paanai wishes to place on record its sincere appreciation of the wonderful efforts of the Sri Lankan branch and express our deep gratitude to the many Sri Lankans who have contributed so willingly and generously to Oru Paanai.

### **Oru Paanai Kaithady Project**

Oru Paanai, which was established in 2008, has recently expanded its scope of activities to include helping to establish audiological facilities in Kaithady.

We have joined hands with a group of dedicated Sri Lankan doctors working in the field of otolaryngology (ENT) and audiology to set up the Oru Paanai Kaithady Nuffield Schools Project, which will function as a subsidiary of Oru Paanai.



This diversification of our activities will not impact adversely on our main aim of providing a lunch time meal, which will remain the focus of our own activities.

The OP Kaithady Project will function as a financially separate entity within Oru Paanai.

We feel privileged to be associated with this very worthy Project, led by Dr. Tony Sirimanne, Mr. Ranjit Thambiraja and Dr. Deutram Thambapillai, amongst others.

The OP Committee is confident that our association with the Project, will help to meet another great unmet need in Northeast Sri Lanka.

### And finally ...

We end this first issue by wishing all of you a very happy and prosperous 2012.

With your continuing support, we are confident that we will attain our stated objective of feeding the underprivileged children in the land of our birth.

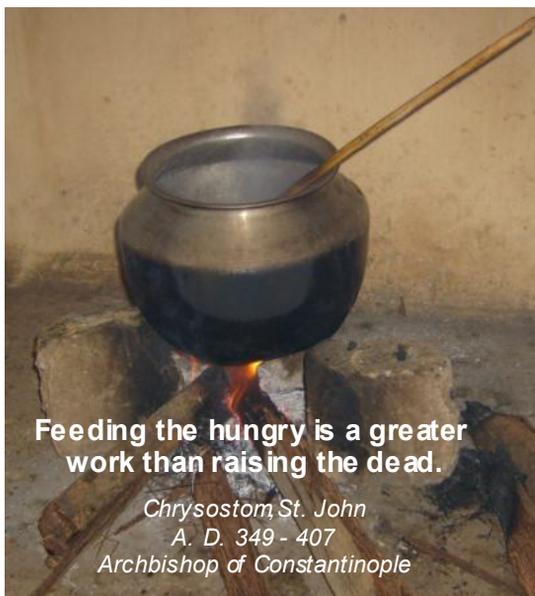


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Email: secretary@orupaanaai.org.uk

## Oru Paanai Finances 2011

<b>Funds sent to schools in Sri Lanka: provision of school meals</b>	<b>£27,441</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>£30,578</b>
<b>Donations received</b>	<b>£16,335</b>
<i>By monthly s/o</i>	£8,435
<i>By annual s/o</i>	£1,385
<i>By ad hoc donations</i>	£6,515
<b>From Fund Raising Events</b>	<b>£14,243</b>
<i>Norton Musical evening &amp; dinner</i>	£1,145
<i>Rugby Indian Dance evening</i>	£3,758
<i>Southgate Church Hall – dance</i>	£1,600
<i>London to Paris cycling – Prem and Sabu</i>	£200
<i>Charity Cricket Match</i>	£305
<i>Swaminathans' Music and Dance, Radlett</i>	£4,785
<i>Tamil Union of Herts Big Weekend</i>	£2,450



**Feeding the hungry is a greater work than raising the dead.**

*Chrysostom, St. John  
A. D. 349 - 407  
Archbishop of Constantinople*