



# Sri Lanka Care

2008 Annual Report



## Message from the President

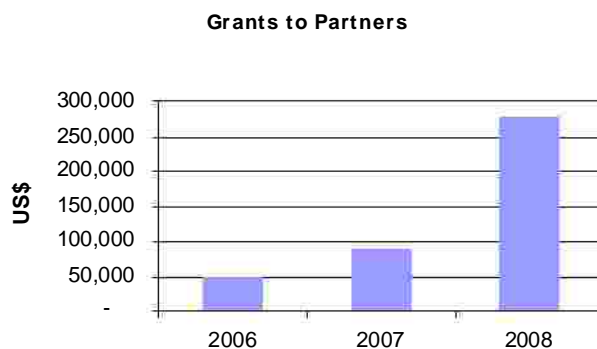
Dear Friend,

Looking back over the past year, it is easy to focus on the economic crisis and to miss all the positive changes in the people's lives because of our work in southwestern Sri Lanka. With the public support we received, we were able to further our work of poverty reduction through access to education, home building and economic development. Take time to look at the 2008 results and to reflect on the unbelievable changes in lives that we have made together.

As I look ahead to 2009, I see a very tough economic forecast. I also see increased suffering among the poor, and especially the children, because of the global economy. One investment I continue to believe in is the investment in the lives of the poor in Sri Lanka. A new home for a Tsunami survivor who continues to suffer without a proper home, an opportunity for tutoring and computer classes for poverty stricken children, a new business enterprise for women in the coir (coconut husk processing) industry, and the construction of a new kitchen for Sri Lanka's largest orphanage are all ways that I plan to invest in 2009. The return on these investments is more than we will ever know. I encourage you to join me in these worthwhile pursuits.



S. P. Wijegoonaratna, President  
Sri Lanka Care  
New York, NY



In 2008, SLC's direct grants to partners increased substantially, providing funds needed to build over 65 homes, build a new school classroom wing, begin construction on a kitchen complex, sponsor students, offer computer literacy classes to orphans, and provide social assistance where needed.

## Our Work – 2008 Results

The **mission** of Sri Lanka Care (SLC) is to rebuild, restore, and revitalize southwestern Sri Lankan communities recovering from the Tsunami by providing on long-term, sustainable solutions to reduce poverty through education, home building and economic development. Sri Lanka Care partners with Hathbodi Housing Project (HHP) and the Vajira Sri Children’s Home (Vajira), two registered and highly respected Sri Lankan charities, to carry out the in-country work.

### Access to Education

SLC’s access to education programs flourished in 2008. With the assistance of our donors, we helped increase access to education on many fronts. The Ampe College school wing was almost totally completed during the year. Much more than just the concrete and bricks, this school will bring increased educational opportunity to the students by offering them a place to have a computer laboratory, library, and additional classroom space for a much improved learning environment. In the words of Mrs. H. Asoka de Silva, Ampe College Principal,

*“It was extremely difficult to teach the children with no proper facilities and poor classroom accommodation. The children who attend this*

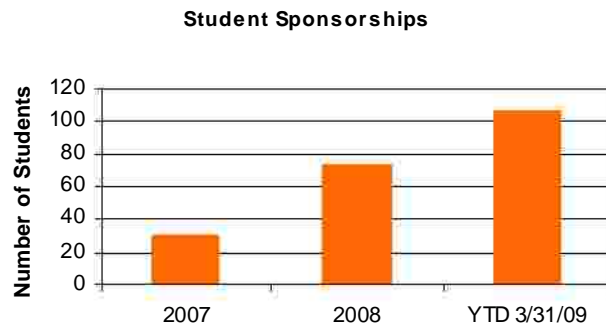


*school are the poorest of the poor and our hearts bleed when we cannot carry out our duties. When the new classrooms are completed and the computer lab is established, these children can learn computer technology and can join the new world. For them it is a complete transformation. We thank you very much. You are doing a great service in the field of education.”*



Ampe College, Balapitiya  
New Classroom Wing

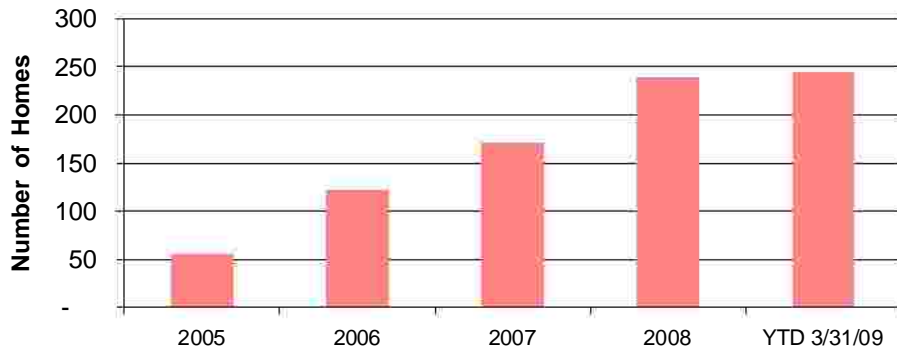
SLC has also helped over 100 students increase their access to education through **sponsorships for tuition classes**. In tuition classes, teachers provide far better instruction to students than they receive in the government-sponsored school due to smaller group size and additional time with the materials. Attending tuition classes is just about the only way these school children will learn the material needed for passing their exams and moving up to the next educational level.



## Home Construction

In 2008 SLC completed construction on the 240th home. Families are so thankful when they can finally move into their own home that has a concrete floor and sturdy walls. As long-term housing needs are met, children return to their community school, medical and health concerns decrease, parents can concentrate on finding or creating stable work, and a firm foundation is set for a future filled with hope. Communities that were promised government or international aid but never received it are revitalized as homes are rebuilt by SLC and families return.

**Cummulative Number of Homes Built and Rehabilitated Since Inception**  
(includes homes funded by donations sent through Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors from 2005- mid 2007)



The de Zoyza family's life will be transformed now that they have their own home, one that provides a firm foundation from which they can build their future.

## Vajira Sri Children's Rehabilitation Home – New Kitchen

The country's largest orphanage, Vajira Sri Children's Rehabilitation Home (Vajira), was compelled to stretch its resources further than ever before when over 80 Tsunami orphans came to live at the Home shortly after the devastating 4 Tsunami. Sri Lanka Care partnered with Vajira to build a new administrative, classroom and dormitory wing in 2006-2007 to handle the overcrowding problem. The next urgent need was for a new kitchen, as the kitchen periodically flooded during the rainy season. Construction on the new kitchen began in mid-2008 and is scheduled to be completed in late 2009.



Clockwise from top left – Mealtime in the old kitchen; demolition of the old kitchen; the new foundation is laid; solid and sturdy with proper drainage, the new kitchen will be a healthy and vibrant meeting and eating facility.

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For more information, please see: [www.srilankacare.org](http://www.srilankacare.org)