

# A Spirited Journey!



R&R Network Newsletter – January 2011

## Message from the Board of Directors

Dear fellow R&R Volunteers and Well-wishers,

Wish you a Very Happy & Peaceful 2011!

As we reflect on the past year and plan for 2011, we would like to sincerely thank each of you for your genuine interest & commitment to the R&R vision to collaborate and work across ethnic and religious boundaries, fostering mutual respect, trust, and friendship among all communities in Sri Lanka and its Diaspora. Our humble efforts, to the best of our abilities, enabled our young volunteer network to make a small but heartfelt contribution towards reconciliation & development in Sri Lanka.

As we look ahead to the New Year, we will continue to keep you posted on larger strategic efforts the R&R volunteer network will be pursuing. Please visit the Projects and Media Center tabs of the R&R web site for periodic updates.

We urge fellow volunteers to actively participate in R&R initiatives by leading projects and participating in our Network monthly calls held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 10 p.m. US Eastern Time (7.30 a.m. Friday Sri Lankan time). For additional details, please contact [secretary@reconcileandrebuilt.org](mailto:secretary@reconcileandrebuilt.org).

On behalf of the beneficiaries in Sri Lanka, we sincerely thank you again for your generosity and commitment to a peaceful & prosperous Sri Lanka, and wishing you productive and contentful New Year!

Yours in Reconciling & Rebuilding Sri Lanka,

Signed:

*R&R Volunteer Board of Directors*

## Recap of Volunteer Activities in 2010

During the past year, R&R volunteers around the globe collaborated with fellow volunteers on activities to facilitate inter-ethnic understanding & development in Sri Lanka. Outlined below are examples of activities that volunteers in the United States had the privilege of leading or supporting:

- ❖ participated in inter-faith prayers for peace
- ❖ provided mentorship to orphan children
- ❖ conducted a seminar on the role of the Sri Lankan Diaspora in rural development & reconciliation
- ❖ contributed to providing 2011 new year school supplies to children in rural communities
- ❖ provided artificial limbs & wheel chairs to victims of the conflict
- ❖ teach holistic self-care techniques to volunteers who provide counseling to victims of the conflict
- ❖ conduct inter-ethnic panel discussion on professional development of youth displaced during the conflict
- ❖ children in California shared pencils and erasers with children in Sri Lanka (see pix below)



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Our ability to identify, plan, execute, and measure the effectiveness of projects was made possible thanks to guidance and generous support of many stakeholders around Sri Lanka and in the US including (in alphabetical order):

- ❖ American University School of International Services
- ❖ Colombo Sathya Sai Center
- ❖ Educate Lanka
- ❖ Foundation for Advancing Rural Opportunities
- ❖ Foundation of Goodness
- ❖ OmniPro Systems
- ❖ Sarvodaya Sansadaya Movement
- ❖ The VF Foundation

Thank you for your support and generosity to make a difference in Sri Lanka!

## Planned R&R Initiatives for 2011

- a) Uduvil Girls' College Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) Services initiative in collaboration with the Foundation for the Advancement of Rural Opportunities (FARO)

- b) Establishment of a Learning and Empowerment Institute and Housing Project in Mankulam, support the efforts by the Foundation of Goodness.

For further information on these projects or other R&R activities, please visit our website or email [secretary@reconcileand rebuild.org](mailto:secretary@reconcileand rebuild.org).

## How to Initiate and Implement R&R Projects

The R&R approach is to collaborate with established and reputed organizations in Sri Lanka to undertake joint projects with the R&R spirit built into them. If you wish to contribute to the above-mentioned projects or have ideas to initiate and lead such collaborative efforts, please let us know. Remember, the R&R spirit is to support all of us to do what each of us can do best.

If you have any ideas, please contact R&R volunteers or e-mail us at [info@reconcileand rebuild.org](mailto:info@reconcileand rebuild.org). You may also reach us at +1 650-440-1736 in the US or 94 11-2573895 in Sri Lanka.

## Donations and Funding

If you wish to contribute to R&R projects, please send checks payable to: Reconcile and Rebuild, P.O. Box 784, Palo Alto, CA 94302, USA. R&R is a California based U.S. Government approved nonprofit public benefit corporation and recognized by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a tax-exempt public charity under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All your donations to R&R are tax-deductible.

## How to Contribute to the Newsletter

If you have thoughts or articles to share, please email: [editor@reconcileand rebuild.org](mailto:editor@reconcileand rebuild.org)