



# Arivu Peace Child India

-empowering young people-

Welcome to your new look Quarterly Newsletter. We will be trying to increase the regularity of these newsletters and will also be aiming to create a little more uniformity in their design, so if we make a few changes in the next couple of months, bear with us it'll settle down soon and indeed please provide us with any feedback you may have.

## Headlines

1. **Friends in Need are Friends Indeed:** our new Friends of Arivu Peace Child India network.
2. **Notes from the Projects:** an update on our Boys Home and Government Schools Projects.
3. **The Game is On:** we host the 2013 United Games India.
4. **Thanks Giving:** our thanks to some stand out supporters at the end of last year.
5. **Jungle to Jungle:** our office move to the country.
6. **Staff Room:** news of our staff.

## Friends in Need are Friends Indeed

We at APCI have been blessed with enthusiastic and supportive interns, staff members and associates for over ten years. In recognition of this overwhelming show of continued support we would like to promote a more formalised network of APCI alumni called the Friends of APCI.

As we want this to be a chance to provide your views and experiences with a voice in the future of APCI we have invited one of our greatest supporters and friends Nina Huso to be the inaugural President of the Friends of APCI network.

Below is a list of benefits that will be made available to those individuals that join:

**Information:** We will send regular up-dates on the projects and general information on volunteering, charity work, facts and figures in South India, previous intern's testimonials and current intern blog.

**Networking:** Events from informal socials, fundraisers and seminars in volunteering and teaching abroad.

**Merchandise:** A downloadable 2014 calendar for desktops; a yearly gift by our project beneficiaries; and the chance to provide of a scholarship for a child's education in the name of your friends or family as a meaningful gift.

**Resources:** Fundraising packs, mentoring opportunities and potential week long remote project trials complete with written evaluation (for an additional fee).

**Sponsorship:** Sponsorship opportunities for your company.

To join please email Sam at [india@peacechild.org](mailto:india@peacechild.org) giving your preferred email address, postal address, phone number and if you have the time your favourite APCI memory.

## Notes from the Projects

We have been committing to a new set of processes in our regular projects at the Boys Home and with the Government Schools to improve assessment of our positive impact on the projects' beneficiaries.



The whole world in his hands

At the Boys Home we have seen a great hunger for specialist education projects and have created and carried out a number of these projects focussing on nature and the environment, using arts, crafts, games and presentations. We have also started to build on the vocational training provided in conjunction with the Home to try and provide the boys with the tools necessary to make a living when released.

At the Government Schools we have continued to see an improvement in examination scores and have been developing new strategies, sometimes enacted outside of the classroom with family visits, to ensure that the level of student engagement increases. Utilising new worksheets, alternative teaching styles and games we continue to ensure that our students' retention of knowledge remains high.

## The Game is On

In November we hosted delegations from Slovenia, the Czech Republic, the UAE, Britain, Japan and India for the "2013 United Games India". This year's theme focussed on "The Indian Woman" and was an exploratory project, discovering case studies and educating the younger generation about the disparities in gender equality affecting many Indian women.

Aside from the learning inherent in cultural exchange we discovered a great amount about the life of rural and urban women in south India, culminating in a small publication, paintings and collages and an informative set of short plays all brought about with the help of school children at the Banjarapalya Primary School.



Some of our UG Delegates, putting the world to rights

## Thanks Giving

We wanted to say another big thank you to a few of our unfailing supporters:

### **Nina Husø**

Nina's continued passion and drive on our behalf when fundraising in her native Norway has inspired and uplifted us at APCI and we are immensely grateful once again for her dedication. We are delighted though not surprised that Nina has accepted the Presidency of the new Friends of Arivu Peace Child India.

### **Stacia Sahi**

Stacia showed superhuman levels of awareness by taking the time to collate and send a huge box full of teaching workbooks and reading materials just when we needed them. We are already seeing the benefits of having the new texts at our disposal for both our School Projects and at the Boy's Home.



A very happy Paramesh

### **Freya Dunthorne**

Freya visited us once again for too brief a time and, whilst visiting the United Games project at Banjarapalya Primary Schools identified the schools need for a new printer and proceeded to buy and donate one. We were honoured to have the chance to present it to Paramesh, the headmaster.

## Jungle to Jungle

In September we moved from our old headquarters in Rajarajeshwarinagar to the Deveraj Farm in Banjarapalya just south of Bangalore.

Nestled now in a beautiful rural setting, we are more embedded within the local communities, schools and those key beneficiaries of our work.



The new office, typically peaceful in the sun.

## News from the Staff

In September we welcomed Sam Bayes as our new International Project Coordinator. Coming from an international legal and human rights organisation and having completed his Masters in Social Sciences, specialising in International Development, Sam has so far gotten stuck in with our regular projects, set-up reporting procedures and is working hard on increasing our online presence.

We also welcomed Nithya Deveraj, who agreed to work on a temporary contract as our Indian Project Coordinator. In the short time we were able to work with Nithya she was able to formalise a great number of APCI procedures and document the various successes our projects have brought about. She had also been helping the team in the field at the Boys home and schools lending her expertise to great impact. We are sorry that she could only work with us briefly but know she will be a great success in her next endeavour.



Sam and Nithya hard at work at the farm



The happy couple.

We were delighted in December to announce the marriage of our Government Schools Coordinator Maruthi to Vimal. They are starting their new lives together comfortably and we continue to wish them both all the best.