



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: 8/05/06

British School volunteers and London Red Bus to help school children in Sri Lanka

Eighteen months on the work to rebuild lives continues

Helplanka, a UK charity helping children after the Tsunami in Sri Lanka working with partner charity Teardrop Relief have teamed up with 30 Sixth Formers from the UK to provide a special programme for Tsunami survivors in Southern Sri Lanka in July 2006. Teardrop Relief have provided a playbus for children sent from London back in December 2005 and equipped with soft toys and play equipment will be visiting all of Helplanka's projects on the South coast.

Commenting on the initiative Sam Goonetillake Chief Executive of Helplanka said " We have been sending UK volunteers to Sri Lanka in the past year to help teach English and sports but this project is hugely exciting as it gives us an opportunity of using play as an important trauma therapy and having so many volunteers allows us to reach more children in Sri Lanka ."

Rob Setchell from Richard Huish College Taunton who will be leading the volunteers said " We have experience of working in India and most of the students have participated in The Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme and have a great commitment to helping children. They are looking forward to assisting the work of Helplanka in the long term on the ground and we will concentrate on English and sports coaching at a number of schools in the Hikkaduwa area."

Press Enquiries

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ABOUT HELPLANKA

HelpLanka is a UK Registered charity no 1110306 which was formed in January 2005 to specifically help children affected by the tsunami in Sri Lanka. Set up by 7 second generation Sri Lankans the charity has sent aid to affected areas and have started a programme of educational assistance and rebuilding. Working with several partners they have also been able to send counsellors, volunteers and trauma specialists across projects island wide.

For further information, please visit: www.helplanka.co.uk

ABOUT TEARDROP RELIEF

Teardrop was set up by a group of UK Sri Lankans with the aim of bringing back the smile of Sri Lankan children affected by the Tsunami. Teardrop have been very successful in improving the well being of thousands of children across the island. Working with Impakt Aid in Sri Lanka, Teardrop conducts 3 visits per week to Tsunami Camps, orphanages and children's centres. Manned by local and foreign volunteers the playbus has been a hugely successful resource in the long term Tsunami relief effort.

For further information, please visit : www.teardroprelief.com