



PRESS RELEASE

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Helplanka wins BT Community Champions Grant

Carshalton based charity Helplanka has been awarded £250 by the BT Community Champions award scheme for the outstanding voluntary work of Shehan Goonetillake, a BT employee. Run by BT's charity programme, BT Community Champions awards BT people with funding on behalf of local community groups, charities and organizations where they work on a voluntary basis.

Following the third review in 2006-7, funding has been allocated to a variety of groups who demonstrated how the award would make a difference to their group. Helplanka is one of hundreds that applied for an award during Review one of the scheme and impressed judges with how they would use their grant.

The group has already used its £250 award to fund an educational programme for children affected by the Tsunami in Sri Lanka. Shehan Goonetillake an account director for BT who applied for the award on behalf of the charity commented "I have been a trustee for Helplanka for 2 years now, and funding is hard to come by. The BT Community Champions award scheme provided a great opportunity for us to offer a group of vulnerable Sri Lankan children the benefits of an educational trip in December 2006. It is very positive that BT recognizes the voluntary work of its people and supports the charity sector in this way."

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For further information please visit www.helplanka.co.uk or contact the BT Press Office tel 0207 299 4163 or visit www.btcommunitychampions.com

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ABOUT HELPLANKA

HelpLanka is a charity (Reg no 1110306) which was formed in January 2005 to specifically help children affected by the tsunami. Chief Executive, Sam Goonetillake and 6 other Trustees, all Sri Lankan living in the UK, have sent aid to affected areas and have started a programme of educational assistance and rebuilding.

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