

SWISS LADIES' CHARITY GROUP

2009 - 2010

BREAKING THE HALF MILLION MARK FOR THE FIRST TIME!

This year with the great efforts of many Swiss ladies in Sri Lanka and in Switzerland, we have managed to raise a stunning 515,866 rupees – more than ever before and at last breaking the half a million mark!



The first part of the sale for us was the cookie baking day, held again at the Swiss Ambassadors residence. A group of ladies met up to mix, roll, cut, bake and decorate kilos and kilos of cookies for sale on the day of the bazaar. At the same time, we counted and priced all the items that had been brought over from Switzerland by various compatriots wanting to help out with the effort by adding a



few extra kilos to their luggage. The Ambassador kindly agreed to let us store our delicacies in her fridge – which is the only fridge we know of big enough to hold them all!

The bazaar this year seemed even busier and more hectic than ever. People crowded round the

Swiss stall to buy the ever-popular items such as cheese and chocolate, so that we again sold out of cheese very quickly and only had a few small items left at the end of the night! Our volunteers worked hard stuffing money into our specially made swiss flag aprons before transferring them for counting and safe keeping. Outside at the entrance to the bazaar, two ladies did an excellent job of selling raffle tickets and this brought in 80,900 rupees this year as a result of their friendly approach and the excellent prizes donated to us from Swiss businesses in Sri Lanka.



We could not have done as well as we did without the vital support of Madeleine Fernando and her friends in Switzerland who were so generous in donating money and Swiss items to sell on the stall. Madeleine again brought her friend and both travelled from Switzerland by plane to personally bring the stock to Sri Lanka for the sale. To her and all of her friends and colleagues a great thank you.



The Swiss Ladies would like to thank all of you who have contributed to this 515,866 rupee effort. To those of you who carried food from Switzerland, those who baked for the stall, those who donated raffle prizes and those who bought raffle tickets and products.

After the bazaar, our donations were split among 9 organisations working in Sri Lanka to improve the lives of children, people with disabilities, orphans, and the elderly.

IDE School received 150,000 rupees to help keep its skilled teachers at the organization that educates disabled children. ECSAT received 149,000 to run preschool teacher training courses on how to work with different levels of children in the same classroom. 50,000 rupees was donated to SHARE which provides a meals on wheels service for vulnerable elderly people in Kalutara. Further donations went to: Nailander (30,000), Daya Mina (30,000), St Francis Boys Home (40,000), St Stefan Preschool (20,000), Home-Start Sri Lanka (31,800) and Cheshire Home (15,000).

All money was donated in early January and the ladies continue to keep in contact with these organizations to ensure the funds are spent efficiently and correctly, so that we can ensure progress is made and we can give the most effective support in years to come.

How can you make a difference this year? Help us to reach even more people in need by carrying back food items when you return from Switzerland, donating a prize for the raffle, joining the Swiss Ladies Charity Group and offering your time and contacts, or attending the Bazaar and spending all your money! However you can contribute we look forward to reaching our goal in 2010 with your help.

This years International Christmas Charity Bazaar will be held at the Hilton Hotel on 5th December. In charge of the Swiss Stall will be Sabine Wittachy (0773020106, sabinecarrard@yahoo.fr) and Cath Liyanage (0773409707, cathmole@gmail.com), either of whom you can contact if you would like more information or would like to help. For postal enquiries please send to Rosemary Samarasinghe at 53/2 Torrington Avenue, Colombo 7.