

SWISS LADIES' CHARITY GROUP **2007-2008**

A fantastic year for the Swiss Ladies Bazaar effort saw our profit leap to a new all-time high of 468,000 rupees – enabling us to make an even more meaningful contribution to the excellent work of our chosen Sri Lankan charitable organisations! This year we would like to begin our report slightly differently by thanking those who work hard to ensure success.

Firstly we would like to thank Madeleine Fernando, who has worked tirelessly in Switzerland to find sponsors and donations in order to bring as many Swiss specialities to Sri Lanka for sale in December. Her contribution is a major reason why this year's profit was the best ever and we thank her and all of those who donated to her most sincerely.

We also had an impressive raffle during the Bazaar, that included hotel stays at The Fortress, Hotel Blue Oceanic, Amaya Hilla, Club Villa, and Secret Garden, a painting by Swiss artist Anne-Marie Lankatilleke, dinners at The Galadari, Chesa Suisse, Mount Lavinia Hotel, and Bayleaf, a treatment at the Coconut Spa and an Il Gelato ice cream voucher – something for everyone! Special thanks to Brigitte at 'Lets Travel' for her support.

Also we must thank the many people who helped us by bringing items from Switzerland when they travelled to Sri Lanka – especially Thomas Riess, who bought and delivered a large amount of goods for the sale.



Our activities were the same as previous years with the annual cookie bake and pricing session taking place at the Swiss Ambassador's residence in Colombo. Thank you so much to Mr & Mrs Flint for opening their home to a large group of cookie-baking ladies, with their box-decorating children in tow!

This year on the stall there was an amazing amount of Swiss chocolate, including chilli chocolate, which proved that Sri Lankans love for chilli can be satisfied by more than curry! We also had some beautiful caquelons on sale this year, homemade Swiss honey, Swiss mustard and mayonnaise, and some cocktail gherkins and onions courtesy of Hugo Reitzel company.



The post-bazaar meeting took place in February 2008 and all donations were made to deserving causes before the end of the month. This year, we chose to retain support for the best of our previous partners, and also added some new organisations according to ladies' requests.

Our biggest donation went to supporting the work of **I.D.E School** for disabled children and young people, in Nugegoda, Colombo. Rs.110,000 will be used to ensure the 20 children with high level needs currently studying at the small independent school will be able to continue their studies, and that staff who work with them will be able to get a small increase in their salaries.

Daya Mina received a donation of 45,000 in order to further support their work with young people with intellectual disabilities. The work is very important, providing support and life skills training for the people who go there daily. (pictured right)



ECSAT in Galle received Rs.108,000 to maintain support for children with disabilities who are currently attending community-based classes alongside non-disabled children. Some are leaving their houses to mix with their peers for the first time in their lives, while others are improving their educational level in order to enter Inclusive Schooling. This money will maintain the inclusive classes for a further three months.



Nylander Polio Home were given Rs.50,000 in order to purchase and install a water pump. One of their members welcomed the ladies when they arrived for a visit (pictured left).

Cheshire Home received Rs.10,000 in order to pay for a meal for all residents on the anniversary of the death of Joanna - a Swiss lady who lived in Sri Lanka for many years. **St Francis Boys Home** were given Rs.40,000 in order to purchase a deep freeze for the home to keep food for the boys fresh for longer periods.

The **Mother Theresa Home** was provided with 30,000 rupees to cover basic running costs as well as donated milk powder and t-shirts. **SHARE** runs an old people's support centre and was also given 30,000, and a further 30,000 and mosquito nets went to a Colombo-based orphanage the '**Sanhinda Children's Home**' for 26 boys. Finally, Rs.15,000 was given to **St Stephens Preschool** in Negombo to develop their services for young children.

In total, Rs.468,000 was donated to 10 local organizations working with the disabled, elderly, poor, and orphaned of Sri Lanka. We thank all of you who have contributed to this effort both from ourselves and also from those who will be supported through these 10 organisations. Every donation given, spare kilogram of excess luggage provided, time taken to attend the Bazaar, raffle ticket bought, cookie baked and word of encouragement spoken makes a difference – and we thank you for whatever you were able to contribute.

Our sincere thanks for your generosity and support.

This year's International Christmas Charity Bazaar will be held at the BMICH on 28th November. In charge of the Swiss Stall will be Sabine Wittachy (0773020106, sabinecarrard@yahoo.fr) and supporting will be 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.