

SWISS LADIES CHARITY GROUP

Activities 2002/2003



The International Christmas Charity Bazaar which took place in December 2002 at Hotel Oberoi Colombo, was a huge success once more for our Swiss Charity Group. The Profit increased again, due to new sponsors, mainly Swiss Companies ready to help us in our effort to make a difference for many children, handicapped, elderly and different abled persons in Sri Lanka. I wish to thank all our donors and sponsors who helped to make this event so successful. **The net profit of Rs 274'500/-** was distributed as follows:

In **January 2003**, Käthi handed over Rs 20'000/- to the Maharagama Hospital Building Project.

We handed over Rs 20'000/- to "Action Gemina" in Negombo. Gemina Siriwardhana is a Swiss Lady, married here and dedicated to help the poor street children. We have been supporting her projects for many years. This year she requested us to help her with some food items, stationary and a bike for her shelter.

We handed over 12 x 4000/- to Elvira, the Directress of the I.D.E. (Individual Development Education School) in Nugegoda. This school provides Day Care for different abled Youth, and helps them improve skills in various fields.

On **February 14th**, Judith, Rosemary, Käthi, Arlette and Ruth traveled to Negombo to celebrate the Birthday of our oldest Swiss Resident here in Sri Lanka, Mrs. Johanna Mendis. We spend time with her talking in three languages (English, Sinhala & Schwyzertüdsch); Mrs. Mendis sang with us and seemed very happy as always. As she spends now most of the day in bed, we immediately decided to donate a hospital bed to her, which was readily given by Baur & Cie



Unfortunately, Mrs. Mendis died a few days after in her sleep. She was 87 years old.

The hospital bed will be donated to the Ceshire Home in memory of Mrs. Yohanna Mendis, who spent nearly 60 years in Negombo.



Page two – Swiss Ladies Charity Group – Activities 2002-2003

In February, Rosemary, Nathalie & Anne went to meet the young people of the Daya Mina Centre for Different Abled Persons in Nugegoda, where we donated milkpowder and sugar for their daily tea. We were impressed with the progress of most of these young persons as well as the caring and dedicated running of the place by the Sisters of Charity.

In **March** Käthi & Danny traveled to Kalutara to distribute milkpowder and an individual gift to all the 50 girls living at the Vishaka Childrens Home. Most of these girls have no relatives or the families are too poor to keep them. They live there and attend school.

In March, Danny handed over Rs 15'000/- to the Sri Lanka Cancer Society for their ongoing projects to help poor Cancer patients.

In **April**, Elvira handed over food items and milkpowder to Mother Theresa Home for Children in Moratuwa.

In April, Ineke and Rosemary handed over Rs 20'000/- to Father Dep in Sandalankawa. This priest started Rotary Boys Town called 'Self Integrated Development Education Process' and helps boys with addictions from poor families to become better and more productive citizens.

In **May**, Elvira, Rosemary and Jackie handed over food items, toilet items and medicine to Mother Theresa Home for Elders in Mathakuliya.

In May, Rosemary handed over 12 x 3000/- to the Seva Vanitha Day Care Centre in Naharenpita. This Centre provides day care for 40 pre-school children of working parents with low income.

In May, Elvira traveled to Vavuniya to hand over Rs 10'000/- to the Seth Sevana Childrens Home, where a Buddhist Priest looks after Sinhala and Tamil war orphans. The money is going to be used for medical equipment.

Report written by Rosemary Samarasinghe who wish to thank you all for the continuous support and extraordinary help with this already legendary Bazaar and subsequent distribution of items to so many needy.

* * * * *

The bazaar 2003 will take place on Friday 5th December

The Swiss stall is organised this year by Myrjam Butscher and Maria-Cristina Regazzoni.

- **we are cordially inviting all our new members** to join our friendly group and to attend our next meeting scheduled on Wednesday 1st October at 9.30 am at the Swiss Embassy Residence.

For more information, please call Myrjam at Tel 075 528130 or H/P 0777 560 058