

SWISS LADIES CHARITY GROUP

Activities 2003/2004



The International Christmas Charity Bazaar which took place in December 2003 at the BMICH Colombo, was a huge success once more for our Swiss Charity Group. We again were generously supported by some “famous brands” from Switzerland. It is to mention here that these brands really make a difference to a stall and attract the public tremendously.. I wish to thank all our donors and sponsors who helped to make this event so successful. **The net profit of Rs 256,494/-** was distributed as follows:

In December 2003, Rosemary handed over Rs 2'000/- to the *Nilender Polio Home*.

In January, we handed over Rs 15'000/- 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.

In January, Marie-Christina visited *the Sister of our Lady of S. Heart*. The allocated Rs 20'000 were used towards urgent refurbishment.



In February, Rosemary and a few ladies traveled to Negombo to meet Gemina and visit the *Wester Seaton Chesire Home*.

The group felt that we should continue to support this charity even though Mrs Mendis passed away last year.

The allocated Rs 10'000 were used to help with some food items and kitchen equipment.

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

In March, we handed over Rs 46'000/- to Ms Sabine Carrard, Project Coordinator *Individual Development Education School*.. Sabine replaced Ms Elvira Merz who has moved back to Switzerland. This school provides Day Care for different abled Youth, and helps them improve skills in various fields.

In March, the Kotahena Community Health Care Services received Rs 40'000. Nathalie Gunawardena, a qualified Swiss trained nurse started working with this health care center last year. They attend to old and very poor members of the Kotahena neighbourhood, who are left basically without any family support.

In April, Prithipura Infant Home Hental, Wattala received Rs 50'000. Ms Catherine Mole, who's roots go back to Switzerland, is a project advisor at this home for the differently abled with VSO, UK. The money was partly used to increase the motivation and morale of the carers and also towards vital running costs.

In May, Rosemary handed over Rs 20'000 to **Mother Teresa Home Mathakuliya** for their ongoing projects towards the old and left behind citizens.

In June, Danny followed up her first visit early this year with Rosemary and Kathy to **Serve in Moratuwa** to hand over Rs 25'000. This charity is taking care of children in slum areas along the shore line between Mt. Lavinia and Moratuwa, suburbs of Colombo. Their prime aim is to provide after school activities to unattended children and youngsters.

Report written by Myrjam Butscher (edited by Arlette Palmer) who wishes to thank you all for the continuous support and extraordinary help with this already legendary Bazaar. *We do make a difference to many poor.*

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**The Bazaar 2004 will take place
on Thursday 9th December 4-7pm
at the BMICH new Exhibition Hall**

The Swiss stall is organised this year by Maria Cristina Regazzoni together with Catherine Mole, Arlette Palmer, Edna Priscilla and Rosemary Samarasinghe.

We are cordially inviting all Swiss Circle ladies members to join our friendly group and to attend our next gathering scheduled on Thursday 16th September at 5pm at the Swiss Embassy Residence, 80 Thurstan Road, Colombo 3.

For more information, please contact: Maria Cristina Regazzoni Tel. 011 2586105 or Catherine Mole: E-mail: lankamole@hotmail.com / Mobile 0776 075742