



New Opportunities for Wounded, Widowed, and Orphans of War (NOW-WOW), புதிய சந்தர்ப்பங்கள், July, 2016

Highlights

- NOW-WOW is successfully running an Integrated Farming project with a view of expanding it further to help more people.
- Fundraising events were held in greater Maryland and New Jersey.
- NOW-WOW celebrated 4 years of successful operation in March 2016. Thanks to our volunteers and donors.
- Fiscal year 2015 financial report (IRS 990) is released.
- NOW-WOW needs 2 volunteer Board of Directors. Check Page-3 for details.

Creating Opportunities

Needs Have Changed

Seven years after the end of hostilities, we find the needs of the people in North and East of Sri Lanka to be evolving into a different set of requirements compared to what it was before. Immediately after the end of the war, the people of North and East mostly needed help in finding immediate relief from the hardship. This was mainly to obtain basic every day needs. Numerous organizations and individuals including NOW-WOW were involved in helping our people with these needs. However, these needs have changed over time to a different set of expectations.

Different Set of Requirements: We are Working Hard to Meet Them

While some individuals and families might continue to need very close hand-holding, most of the requirements from our people have evolved. North and East of Sri Lanka currently need large scale assistance in building the broader expertise required to run a society. This set of expertise includes education, health care, management and entrepreneurial skills, finance and accounting expertise, language skills, teaching skills, animal husbandry, farming to name a few. The opportunity should be made available to learn these skills and to test and apply these skills in real world. The best NGO practices ought to be focused on this point. Time has come to move away from a charity based model to a more self sustaining model. Despite the move towards economic sustainability, education and health care would continue to require charitable efforts. However, for adults who are willing to work hard, we need to focus on creating independent, dynamic, entrepreneurial opportunities. Keeping this overarching goal in mind our current initiatives are about teaching skill sets which can be monetized. While the current scale is small, we expect with the help of our generous donors, we can become a force to achieve this change.

Teach Skills and Offer Opportunities

To achieve the above mentioned objective, we are currently offering various training programs. For school children, we are offering leadership seminar with the extensive help from Jaffna Bishop House. Despite our working relationship with Jaffna Bishop House and certain Catholic priests, our organization has no religious affiliation. On the next level, we have run short work-shops to teach war affected women to produce and market high quality food items. In addition, we hold classes to teach women to embroider sarees to get higher prices. Furthermore, we have helped build an integrated farm to offer a number of jobs to war affected people. These initiatives are examples of enabling the people to find the best opportunities to build sustainable businesses. While these efforts are in their infancy, we strongly believe this is the future in developmental aid. We are asking our current and future donors to forge a partnership with us in building an organization which offers the best suited skill sets and opportunities to our people. This self sustaining model reinforces self sustainability and offers high self esteem to individuals.

Future Plans: More Economic Opportunities

Keeping with the self-sustaining motto, we are working to offer classes in recycling of old sarees into bags, holding additional sophisticated saree embroidery training sessions and starting to look into utilizing Eco-friendly raw materials such as banana fiber to make everyday items. As a way of emphasizing our cooperative spirit we are starting to work with similar minded organizations to achieve these common goals as well. In conclusion, we would like to extend our gratitude to all our volunteers and to our very generous donors in helping us achieve these very productive goals and look forward to becoming a worthy organization in offering charitable and developmental aid to the deserving people of North and East of Sri Lanka.

Connect with us
and the people of
the land through
our Facebook
page:

<http://nowwow-us.org>



Get in touch with us at
info@nowwow-us.org.



A Matter of Record

INTEGRATED FARMING PROJECT FOR WAR-AFFECTED FAMILIES OF MULLAITHIVU

The main objective of this project is to offer meaningful employment to the people who have faced the worst effects of the war. There are many people in that area (Devipuram, close to Mullaithivu) who have lost limbs in the war, but now that they have been fitted with prosthesis are willing to work and thusly some have found employment.

NOW-WOW had to restructure this project due to low milk yield from the cows purchased. We also faced cost overrun due to mismanagement of the local implementer, WFN, which has since been terminated by the board. We have appointed a new management body to run the farm going forward. We have augmented the farm with goats, chickens and as well as cash crops to generate more income for the beneficiaries who are working there. Our total investment about USD 70,000 is paying out as projected.

Education - Scholarship Fund

We have setup scholarship funds that would be disbursed to the needy upon meeting our eligibility criteria. This financial help will ease the economic burden and prevent child labor that they are forced to perform instead of going to school or staying at the university. This fund will also motivate them to continue education and thereby ensure the educational and economic future of the Tamil community as a whole is protected.

There are 50 university students and additional 50 grade school students (orphans and single family households) are being benefited by this project.

We are also funding after school tuitions for the Meeravodai School in Batticalo.

Education - Leaders of Tomorrow

This initiative is to help students develop multi discipline/extracurricular skills which would become indispensable in their later lives. This particular initiative, which is designed and implemented by Jaffna Bishop House with our extensive input, deserves serious attention from our supporters/sponsors/partners. This effort would focus on students between class 10 and 12 from Vanni area (the most affected area by war) and would be open to girls and boys and be strictly independent of any religious affiliation. The students would be selected based on poverty level, academic performance, extracurricular activities and degree of war victimization. The main administrator of this initiative would be Fr. Ravichandran Emmanuel and his team. The main objective of this effort is to teach and motivate students to develop self-confidence and self esteem. The work shop would include modules in reading and writing skills, leadership skills, team work, problem solving, collective work ethic, English language training, general knowledge, and use of Internet and library resources and so on. The seminar would be held in Jaffna for two days every four months and it would run for two years. This would amount to a total of 12 days. To this effect, the selected students would be offered transportation to Jaffna and would be boarded at the Jaffna Bishop House residence for the duration of two days.

We have conducted 2 seminars already and we expect this work shop to supplement their academic proficiency with additional expertise/skills which would help them to lead better/richer lives. Thus we would like our supporters to offer financial support for this very worthy cause.

SUYAM Self-Help Income Generation Project for War Widows of Vanni

NOW-WOW have provided training for 120 young widows participating in the Suyam project. This effort consisted of teaching manufacturing, preparing, and packaging of food products to enable these women to compete effectively in the market place. Suyam is a religiously neutral initiative of the Catholic diocese. NOW-WOW' is helping the Catholic diocese in training 7,000 young women to learn critical skills in order to organize themselves into self-help cooperatives. Next targeted area is Mannar region.

We are exploring saree design workshops and bee keeping know-how workshops for interested participants. These skills would certainly help them become more economically independent.



Please check our web site
[for more project pictures](#)

Boston Tamil Association Gala - 2015

NOW-WOW would like to thank all BTA members for their generous support.



Maryland - 2016

NOW-WOW raised \$14,272 at the Maryland fundraising dinner they hosted.



New Jersey - Walk-a-Thon - 2016

NOW-WOW would like to thank the organizers and volunteers who came to support the NOW-WOW Walkathon. A total of \$9,716 was raised that will go towards various NOW-WOW causes.



Volunteers needed to fill our upcoming vacant Board of Directors positions:

We are seeking to fill 2 volunteer Board of Directors positions as two of our current members' term have come to an end. As a Board member you will be providing operational governance and financial oversight to the organization according to USA IRS and Massachusetts Attorney General office guidelines. On average 4 to 6 hours a month and a 2 year term commitment is expected. Higher education and professional credentials preferred. By being part of this experienced Board you will gain valuable experience in charitable industry and NGO recognition. If you are interested please email us at info@nowwow-us.org.