**Budget** for the Classroom/Library, Toilet, and Interfaith Peacemaker Team training at

St Margaret School in Uda Pussellewa, Sri Lanka.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Revenue** | In USD |
| Donations on Global Giving | 7,608 |
| Fundraising by teachers and parents of students  | 250 |
| Grant from Valmark Global Gift Fund (already committed) | 7,100 |
| Total | **14,958** |
| **Expense** |  |
| Construction of **classroom** for tutoring students to help them pass the National Scholarship Exam. Classroom will double as a library. Addition of improved **toilet and handwashing** station.  | 11,660 |
| Interfaith Peacemaker Team **training and mentoring** for 4 community members so they can build interfaith collaborations and use community organizing skills to solve future community issues.  | 1,400 |
| Administration expenses to OMNIA for **organizing project, training, and fundraising** (10%) | 1,290 |
| Global Giving hosting and third party donation processing costs | 608 |
| Total | **14,958** |

**How did this project get started?**

Two years ago, Soraya Deen, a trainer with OMNIA Institute for Contextual Leadership, presented a training for women in the village of Nuwara Eliya, a town near Uda Pussallewa. Soraya, a Sri Lankan native, currently living in California, is a lawyer and women’s rights advocate.

Soraya is a facilitator for **OMNIA Institute for Contextual Leadership**, a Chicago-based 501c3 non-profit that trains leaders for Interfaith Peacemaker Teams.

**Interfaith Peacemaker Team** leaders learn techniques for bringing persons of all faiths in their community together. Leaders then use **community organizing skills** to accomplish a local project that is urgent, relevant, and winnable. OMNIA currently has 20 IPTeams in Sri Lanka, 15 in Bangladesh, and 70 in Nigeria. The presence of an IPTeam in a community makes it more **peaceful, resilient to challenges, and prosperous.**

A teacher from St Margaret School, **Ms. Shagary Arumugum**, attended an Interfaith Peacemaker Team training in Sri Lanka and became inspired to invest extra time tutoring her students to help them pass the National Scholarship Exam. This exam is an opportunity for gifted students from villages to attend better schools on a full scholarship from the government.

Like a charter school in the US, national schools are better funded, have more STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) classes, computers, classroom technology, sports, and specialized educational opportunities. According to a 2017 report on schools in Sri Lanka, National Schools educate 19.5% of all students nationwide. In the Central Province, where St Margaret’s School is located, only 5% of students go to a national school.

The exam, while very competitive, offers students from rural **areas a chance for a good education and more opportunities for a career** other than on a plantation. While St Margaret School does a good job educating the 140 students under its care, extra tutoring for the brightest students can help them pass the exams.

**In fact, all of the students Ms. Arumugum’s tutored last year passed the national exam!**

After applying her Interfaith Peacemaker Team training and conferring with the school leadership and parents, she created a concept for **a large classroom** where she could offer tutoring to more students. This classroom would also **double as a library**, so that there would be a place for enrichment materials such as books and worksheets, for all students.

They also identified a need for **a flush toilet** to replace the pit toilet that currently serves the 140 students**. Running water and better sanitation** would keep the students and the whole community healthier and better able to learn, work, and achieve their full potential. **Handwashing stations and sanitary toilet facilities are of critical importance in fighting COVID19** and other diseases such as cholera, food bourne illnesses, the flu, and the common cold. Having trained, local leaders who can identify and solve the most critical issues is now of **life and death importance.**

**Why is this the right time for the project?**

David Rosell, a business owner and financial planner, and his daughter, Sophie, visited the school with Soraya Deen from OMNIA in October of 2019.

They saw first-hand how enthusiastic and sincere the students and teachers were despite the limitations of their environment. David saw a grant opportunity from Valmark, an investment company for which David’s firm, Rosell Wealth Management, is a broker-dealer.

David and OMNIA submitted an application to Valmark’s Global Gift Fund and **Valmark said YES!** The grant will provide seed money in the amount of $7,100.

With almost half the goal raised, David and OMNIA have launched this campaign on Global Giving to raise the balance of the project budget of $14,958, or $7,858. **OMNIA, as a US-based 501c3 non-profit, will receive and oversee the funds.** Bishop Kumara Illangasinghe, the former bishop for the Anglican Church in Sri Lanka and OMNIA’s National Coordinator for Sri Lanka, will help **oversee the distribution of funds.**

**What kinds of projects will Ms. Arumugum and the other IPTeam leaders be able to address?**

We are excited to make it easier for Ms. Arumugum put her interfaith peacemaking sills to work on the next community project. We will host a training for additional parents and community members in the village. Each Interfaith Peacemaker Team identifies the most critical, relevant, and winnable issue in their community. **They set the priorities.** We provide the training that helps them reach success.

Prior to the pandemic, **Interfaith Peacemaker Teams addressed a wide range of community issues**, such as

* installing a deep-well to bring clean water to a village,
* stopping election related violence,
* bringing Muslims and Christians together to start a barbershop that will serve all,
* reintegrating former child soldiers,
* preventing a local bank from failing,
* rebuilding a culvert in the only road into a village and then getting that road paved
* rehabilitating a local school.

As COVID19 approached, IPTeam leaders in Sri Lanka **arranged food delivery to elderly persons** who cannot work or receive food from their adult children because of curfews and lockdowns. In Nigeria, IPTeams organized COVID19 preparedness trainings in 24 villages, with IPTeam leaders who are nurses providing the training.

Interfaith Peacemaker Teams are equipped **to identify the issues and find solutions that will work in their particular setting** – valuable skills in times of peace, conflict, and even pandemic. This grant, in addition to building a classroom and installing running water and toilet facilities at the school, will train additional Interfaith Peacemaker Team leaders who will address future issues and make the community better able to support the students and families as they face the future together. For more information on Interfaith Peacemaker Team successes, visit our blog at <https://www.omnialeadership.com/blog>.