

## HelpKids Sri Lanka

### New HelpKids Centre Building Project

#### HelpKids Program is Moving Forward

***Since 2006, Narel and Alison Atkinson, along with the Helpkids team, have provided a secure and nurturing educational environment where children can grow into successful, responsible, and contributing members of their community.*** Life on the streets and in the slums of Colombo is fraught with danger, struggle, and heartache. When every day is a struggle, it isn't easy to have dreams. That's why the Helpkids Centre is so important to children and families in Sri Lanka. Helpkids Centre provides the building blocks for children to dream, and better still - the foundation they need to achieve their dreams.

For the children who attend the centre, Helpkids is nothing short of a sanctuary. The centre provides a safe environment where the children can freely express how they feel about the frequent physical and emotional danger they face in their community. Through the centre they also have access to counsellors, medical and dental checks, and education on how to protect themselves from abuse. In the ten years that Helpkids has operated, it has become more than an education provider and resource, it has become a partner in building a bright future for a vulnerable community.

***The Helpkids Centre is looking forward to the next 10 years of even greater impact in the lives of children and their communities.*** We have secured a long-term lease on a piece of land and are now raising funds to purchase pre-fabricated buildings to place on it. This new multipurpose centre will expand the capacity of the Helpkids program exponentially. It will provide space to grow and impact the lives of many more children. The facilities will house our early childhood program and tuition classes, provide a hall for parents and community meetings, and much needed office space.

This project will be carried out in two stages and ***Stage 1 of this new facility will include preschool classrooms, tuition classrooms, offices, kitchen, toilets, a covered eating area, a play area at a cost of \$71,000.***

***We are inviting you to partner with us on stage 1*** to see the new Helpkids Centre built, but the reality is that you are not just building a facility, you are building a child, you are building a family, you are building a community. You are building a place where it safe for kids to dream.

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### Project Accreditation

HelpKids is an activity of Ozaid, which is a charitable organisation registered in Sri Lanka incorporated under the Companies Act, No 7 of 2007 since 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2005. HelpKids is registered as an NGO under the Voluntary Social Services Organizations Act, No. 31 of 1980 as amended by Act, No. 8 of 1998 since 2007.

Narel and Alison Atkinson are Career Field Workers with ACC International Missions Ltd and Ozaid is an approved strategic partner of ACC International Relief Inc (ACCIR) and HelpKids Colombo has been approved through ACCIR as a tax-deductible community development project since 2006 (Project Code: WR023).

The Helpkids Centre Building Project will be carried out underneath the existing approved WR023 project and will be eligible for tax-deductible donations. ACCIR has been involved with Narel and Alison throughout the development of this building project and fully endorse this new development.

### Project Details and Budget

Renting buildings is expensive and purchasing land in the community where the HelpKids centre needs to be located is also difficult. However, we have been able to secure a low-cost, long-term lease on a suitably located block of land on which we can build our own structures. It is a 5-year lease with an option to extend this lease.

So what happens if the lease is not renewed or there are problems with the landlord? There would be a relocation cost, however, the whole building could be taken down and relocated to another site. Even the toilets are built in a container structure so they can be relocated too! In the future, HelpKids would like to be in a position to purchase a suitable property and relocate these buildings there.

A Pre-fabricated steel building has many advantages over conventional construction besides being easy to relocate. Pre-fabricated steel buildings are resistant to fire, wind, water, and seismic activity as well as most pests such as termites. They are also cost effective and beautiful buildings.

This project will be carried out in two stages:

- **Stage 1** of this new facility will include preschool classrooms, tuition classrooms, offices, kitchen, toilets, a covered eating area, a play area at a cost of **\$71,000**
- **Stage 2** will include additional covered areas, updating our furniture, teaching equipment and security at a cost of **\$69,000**

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