

Cycle India raises over £170,000!

This November, 43 participants took part in ICT's latest cycle challenge in India raising over £170,000.



Cycle India participant, Phila Zulu, punches the air as he nears the end of the ride

Cycle India took 43 participants on a challenging 400km five day journey across stunning Kerala, one of the undiscovered jewels of India. Beginning in Kochi on the west coast, surrounded by green

coconut groves and iridescent lagoons, the ride took the group through the scenic countryside of temples, spice gardens, paddy fields and rubber plantations of central Kerala, finishing in the mountains of Kodaikanal in Tamil Nadu. On the final day of the ride the group visited Vilpatti Village Project (VVP) to see for themselves the work that ICT supports. VVP provides education, healthcare, and childcare services to some of the poorest families in the remote Dindigul hills. VVP offers essential support to thousands of families that would otherwise struggle with day-to-day survival.

The cyclists have so far raised over £170,000 for ICT and its work. Among the most creative in their fundraising efforts were Ola Rug who organised a football tournament, Seyi Kolade who organised two pub quizzes and Nick Snoek who organised a horse racing evening at his home. The ride would not have been such a success without the blood, sweat and tears of each and every participant!

ICT is already organising its next cycle challenge, Cycle Tanzania, which will take place in October 2009. If you want to take part in this once in a lifetime experience visit www.cycletanzania.com or contact us! We would love to hear from you - together we can make a difference.

Shilpa awarded national accreditation for vocational training

Located in central Colombo's largest and most impoverished slum, Shilpa Children's Trust, one of ICT's long-term partners in Sri Lanka, provides refuge to children displaced by civil war, natural disaster and abuse.



Young women learning embroidery techniques

As Colombo's largest and poorest slum, the majority of children living in the community leave school before the age of 14 to support their families through informal work. Young women and girls are often confined to their homes caring for parents, younger siblings or their own children, preventing them from earning an income.

Shilpa offers them a lifeline, providing a range of invaluable vocational training courses to unemployed and unskilled young women and mothers living in the slum communities. In June 2008, following lengthy assessments of the vocational training materials and teachers at Shilpa's vocational training centre, Shilpa was awarded official approval from the National Training Commission of Sri Lanka. Shilpa is now able to issue nationally recognised certificates of vocational training; successful trainees are able to obtain business development loans from commercial banks; and Shilpa teachers can access a wider range of training courses.

Following the widespread devastation caused by the 2004 tsunami, many women and girls were left with the responsibility of providing family support. Following a change in government policy, entire communities were relocated from their traditional coastal homes to inland villages, severely affecting their livelihoods (Continued on Page 2)

ICT secures multi-year grant from the BIG Lottery Fund

ICT has just secured a five year grant from the BIG Lottery Fund for its work in Western Province, Kenya.

Western Education, Advocacy and Empowerment Programme (WEAEP) and ICT have been working in partnership since 2006. WEAEP is a local NGO that is dedicated to protecting the rights of vulnerable children and their families in Kenya's Western Province.



A young boy working hard at school

The BIG Lottery Fund has awarded ICT a grant of £500,000 over five years, which will enable WEAEP to improve access to primary education for over 1,600 of the most disadvantaged boys and girls in the Kakamega and Bungoma districts in Western Province each year. 'Opportunities for Children in Western Kenya' will support children who have not enrolled at school and or are at risk of not completing their primary education due to extreme poverty, discrimination, illness, abuse, sexual exploitation or neglect.

Two drop-in centres and two child support centres will offer basic care and support to the children. The project will also offer vocational training and savings and credit schemes to some of the most vulnerable families, which will enable them to meet their most basic needs, increasing the likelihood that children within the family will be able to attend school. The project will also raise community awareness on child protection and influence policy makers to remove the barriers that prevent children from accessing primary education. Ultimately, this project will enable these children to look beyond daily survival to an educated and skilled future.



Kowsalya's story

Since June 2008, Kalki Welfare Society, ICT's newest partner, has been establishing a daily drop-in centre and extensive outreach programme for street children in Puducherry, South India. The centre values the specific needs of each child and offers a range of services including health checks, basic education, psycho-social care and family reunification services. This is a very new initiative but the Kalki team is already having a profound effect upon the lives of children who live and work on the streets. One such child is Kowsalya.

Kowsalya is ten years old. Her mother died when she was young and she no longer sees her father. She currently lives with her grandmother who insists that she pays Rps100 a day to stay there. Kowsalya must therefore earn money by working as a prostitute in Puducherry's Old Town, the main tourist strip of the French colonial city. At home Kowsalya receives very little care and protection; on the streets, she is vulnerable to harassment, violence and exploitation. Like so many other street children, she is severely malnourished and addicted to glue.

She recently met the Kalki outreach workers for the first time who encouraged her to visit the nearby drop-in centre. Kowsalya is now staying at the centre, where she can sleep safely and think about her options while talking to one of the counsellors. She draws pictures to help express her feelings. She has started interacting with other children, attending basic literacy classes and has significantly reduced her use of solvents. The Kalki outreach team is also working with her grandmother to help her start a new life so that she can provide proper care and protection for Kowsalya. This is not a short process and involves a great deal of commitment from both Kowsalya and her grandmother and a lot of time and hard work from the Kalki team.

Shilpa vocational training

(cont. from Page 1) Shilpa has expanded its vocational training courses to cover these areas, so that women, young mothers and girls affected by the tsunami can develop alternative ways of earning a family income. The vocational training team now provides basic sewing and cookery courses, as well as English lessons to 110 women and girls in coastal communities and resettlement villages. Once trained, many of these women are given micro-loans to start their own businesses, offering them a chance of a better future.

Opera evening at the Foundling Museum



Jo Appleby captivates the audience in one of the magnificent rooms of the Foundling Museum

On 8th October, ICT hosted an evening of opera at the Foundling Museum, one of London's most fascinating and engaging venues. A select group of guests were entertained by a stunning array of classics sung by Jo Appleby and Shaun Dixon. A great time was had by all. One person had this to say: "It was a truly fantastic night. All the great classics were sung even if my ears are still ringing!" The event, which featured a lively auction, raised over £12,000 for ICT. The evening was sponsored by IGS Group and Risk & Portfolio Management.

Wemathon 2008

Kenya's coast is one of its most popular tourist destinations. A recent study by UNICEF indicates that there are some ten to fifteen thousand girls throughout the Kenyan coastal region involved in sex tourism.



Wema's Director, Lucy Yinda, and the Prime Minister's wife join local school children in Mombasa

Many child sex workers migrate to the coast from other parts of the country and end up living on the streets in extreme poverty. Wema Centre Trust (Wema), one of ICT's newest partners, represents a safe haven for sexually abused and exploited girls living and working on the streets of Mombasa, the largest city along the coast. Wema runs a 24-hour Rescue Centre providing essential care and support to over 400 girls each year.

Wemathon is an inspirational event run by Wema that raises awareness of the plight of street children in Kenya and also raises vital funds towards its work within the community. This year, more than 500 people took part in the 10km fun run through the streets of Mombasa joined by Mama Ida Odinga, the Kenyan Prime Minister's wife. The event, which took place on 21st September, raised over £4,000 towards Wema's important work.

ICT Team

The ICT Team continues to work extremely hard to ensure that vulnerable children have a future through empowering local organisations in Africa and Asia. We would not be able to accomplish as much as we do without the voluntary input from our trustees, interns and other volunteers. ICT would like to give special thanks to our interns, Tanya Allen, Chris Duffy, Mary Kunnenkeril, Mira Saidi and Amiera Sawas; our two loyal IT volunteers, Mike Clayton and Tom Donnelly; and Julia Connolly for her help with ICT's recent appeal.

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