

The Village

A gift of shelter from the people of Minnesota to the people of Sri Lanka

Volume 2, Issue 3
December 2006

Shimek Learning Center Construction work is in progress

MnSLFF director board unanimously agreed to name the Community Center the "Shimek Learning Center". in appreciation of Dan and Kay's commitment to the project. The Shimek family through their "Wave of Hope" fundraising efforts and also their own funds contributed over \$300,000. With the help of Shimek family and all our donors MnSLFF built 50 houses and handed over the houses to the tsunami survivors in January 2006.

The Shimek learning center will include a preschool, a library and a computer learning center. Becky Guneratne is spearheading the preschool project and Nevanka Goonewardena the library and technology center project. Becky is currently raising funds to furnish the preschool. MnSLFF is planning to include about 15 computers in the Library computer center. The Learning center project is aimed to meet the communication infrastructure requirement of the village. Monrovia Housing development project will house about 800 tsunami survivor families. The MnSLFF believes that everyone, regardless of their age, religious beliefs, ethnicity or income level should have the opportunity to access the benefits of the digital age.



Minnesota-Sri Lanka Friendship Foundation **wishes you a very happy and a prosperous new year.** Without your support of our vision none of our projects would have been accomplished. The tsunami survivors and all Sri Lankans are very appreciative of your kindness and generosity in helping during their time of



Most of the home recipients are **young families** with 2 or 3 children.

Library Volunteers

Ama and Uma Kithulgoda

are sisters volunteering to set up the Library. After working for many days they've compiled the book list and met many book store managers to negotiate the prices. Immediately after the furnishing of the library they will start purchasing books. Ama and Uma are very happy with the project that they have in hand. Both are currently studying at the University of Sri Lanka. Dr. G. Samarasinghe and his wife Kathy (USA) have raised all funds allocated toward the purchasing the books. In addition to books they want to help the families with sewing machines.



Architecture for Humanity

Architecture for Humanity (AFH) pledge a \$30,000 donation to complete some of the learning center construction and landscape work. AFH - Minnesota Chapter developed the architectural conceptual model for the learning center and landscape work. AFH members from Minnesota are planning to visit the site in Sri Lanka during the dedication ceremony.

Landscape

Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau, the building contractor, began landscape work in the Learning center complex. Native plants such as Tamarind, Nelli (*Phyllanthus emblica*), Kohomba (*Azadirachta indica*) Goraka (*Garcenia Cambogia*) Na (iron-wood) will be planted in the garden to encourage its natural habitat. Sri Lanka is known as a global biodiversity hotspot for its high number of species in a relatively limited area. It has 3210 flowering species of which 916 species are endemic.



Visit: www.mnslff.org

Learning Center

Library Volunteers

Architect For Humanity

Landscape

To remove your name from our mailing list or if you have any questions please send us an email to admin@mnslff.org.

Donations

We rely on the generous donations of people like you to accomplish our work. You can contribute to MnSLFF by making a donation online via Paypal, by hosting a fund raiser, or by mailing a check to

MnSLFF

**8235 Marsh Creek Rd
Woodbury MN 55125**

We greatly appreciate and Thank You for your generosity

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