



Last four months....

Opening ceremony of the Polgollawatte School library...

Commencing of a vocational and technical training program...

Site visit to Singithi Sevana...

Pahansila meeting for scholarship recipients in Eastern Province ...

New Pahansila chapter in Indianapolis...

PAHANTHARU ...

Today Pahansila Scholarship Project Inc. is sponsoring over 112 students. Pahansila is involved in a variety of projects in various parts of Sri Lanka and it has grown to encompass 7 chapters in USA, Canada, and Sri Lanka. This has all been possible because of donors and volunteers, such as you, who have given so generously in both time and money. We believe that you form the foundations of Pahansila and the starting of this news letter will bring us closer to make another leap forward.

This newsletter will also provide means to give you more frequent updates on how your contributions are making a difference in Sri Lanka. It will help you find information about real life success stories of students who benefited from the generosity of donors. We are hoping to publish this newsletter once every four months so that you would be kept up to date on the activities of Pahansila. You may find this newsletter online on our homepage as well. We would also like to hear your comments and advice on this new project. Please send us your comments and suggestions to the editor to the e-mail given, or write to us on the general information contact e mail.

Library at Polgollawatte School

Library at the Polgollawatte was another project funded by the Pahansila-Davis Educational Project. As the first stage over 340 books were donated to the school. A book cabinet, a paper stand, and a notice board were also provided as well as several educational posters. The library was declared open by an assistant director of education of the central province. Pahansila financial administrator Mr. Nandasena Perera and project supervisor Ms. Ruwangani Jayasundara also were present.

Vocational and technical training program

A new project was launched to provide vocational and technical training to the students who attended Math and English classes under Pahansila-Davis Educational Project. As the first stage, we selected 16 students. These were students who had completed G.C.E. (O/L) exams. This project was targeted to provide a career opportunity to these students. The courses are offered by National Youth Council, Polgolla (Kandy) under the Ministry of Youth Affairs. The courses include a variety of fields such as computer related studies, surveying, motor mechanism, beauty culture, bakery & hotelier, landscaping, refrigeration, electrical, and electronic studies.

Selected students are allowed to follow a program of their choice. Course fees range from Rs.3000 to Rs.14,000 and the period of training varies from 3 months to one year. Some of these are diplomas and all those who successfully complete courses will receive recognized certificates. Part of the course fee is paid at the beginning and only after a successful assessment of the student halfway through the course, the balance of the fee is paid. The Principal of Polgollawatte Vidyalaya, Mr. Nishantha Tennakoon supervises the project.

Singithi Sevana English classes

A Pahansila General Coordinating Committee representative visited Singithi Sevana Children's home in January 2008 to assess the progress of the English class conducted under the Pahansila-Davis Educational Project. He met several students and the English teacher, Mrs Vasanthi Meegahawatte. He also met the financial administrator of the project, Prof. Viru Gunawardane. The classes were conducted very satisfactorily and the progress was evident.

Pahansila Eastern Province meeting

The scholarship recipients, most of whom were from the Ampara/Nawa Medagama Maha Vidyalaya got together on January 3, 2008 for the Eastern Province meeting at the school premises. The Vice Principal Mrs. Mangaika Rupasinghe, organized the meeting with the help of the staff. About 25 guests attended the meeting, including 10 scholarship recipients and their parents/guardians. We are grateful to the Principal of the school, Mr. Pushpakumara for giving a wonderful opportunity to resolve any problems these families might have encountered. At the meeting, Pahansila representatives emphasize the importance of maintaining academic and extra-curricular progress for the continuation of the scholarship. Staff of the school provided tea and snacks as breakfast for Pahansila representatives and families attended. Later Pahansila team was invited for sumptuous lunch prepared by the families.

Pahansila Indianapolis chapter

It is our pleasure to announce that the seventh Pahansila chapter was formed in Indianapolis and started providing scholarships from January 2008. At present Indiana Chapter provides 6 scholarships. We are planning to increase the number of projects in 2008.

Pahansila Statistics....

Scholarships - 112

**Disbursements per month
- Rs. 105,150.00**

Donors - 87

Supervisors - 56

**Distribution of recipients
- 17 districts**

**Distribution of donors
- USA, Taiwan, Canada,
Australia, Sri Lanka,
UK**

Special feature.... PAHANTHARU

Rageesh Chaturanga, a former Pahansila recipient, completed the O/L examination extremely well in 2004 obtaining A passes for all ten subjects. Rageesh was one of the very first students helped by the Pahansila. The project was started in 2003 by the Urbana-Champaign chapter. The scholarship was sponsored by the common pool funds and was supervised by Ms. Ruwangani Jayasundara.



The success of Rageesh is a very good example that 'with determination one can overcome any obstacle in life'. His father faced a tragic death during the 1989 riots and the family cultivation suffered. Despite these problems, Rageesh did well in his studies and got through the 5th standard scholarship exam and entered the Ranabima Royal College, Gannoruwa, Peradeniya, a prestigious government school in the Central Province. Unfortunately, tragedy struck Rageesh's young life again. His mother was diagnosed with cancer and she died soon after. Rageesh was left an orphan with only his aunt to care for him. He received the Pahansila scholarship until he started receiving the pensions of his late parents. Despite the many tragic incidents in his young life Rageesh continued to do extremely well in studies which resulted in his outstanding success at the 2004 O/L examination.