

Pahansila is constantly trying to find new ways it can help the children in Sri Lanka in their educational activities. Recently, as a possible new venture under the Pahansila-Davis Educational Project, the Davis brothers and the Pahansila volunteers in Sri Lanka visited the Weerodara School, Watapuluwa (Kandy, Sri Lanka). They met with the Principal Capt. Dharmasiri and toured the school premises. The team was impressed with the accomplishments the school had made with the limited resources available. They noted that the physical facilities were better than in Polgollawatte School and it was heartening to see the efforts of the staff to brighten the school atmosphere by hand painted murals etc.

There were two main areas the team identified as needing immediate attention. The first was the school library. The library lacked cupboards and most of the books were very old editions. But the potential to update them was there and that was probably the first thing the team was planning to tackle. Everybody agreed that new books and racks or cupboards would be the best way to start off the project at Weerodara School.

As a result we bought approximately 250-300 English and Sinhala books worth approximately \$440. Additionally, we bought two steel cupboards for the library at the cost of \$190. These will be used to store new books we bought and the old books they already had. Therefore, for the first stage we spent approximately \$630.

The second area the visiting evaluating team identified was the vocational competency of the children finishing school. Since the vocational training program at Polgollawatte became so successful, they were confident that it would be the ideal program for the students leaving the Watapuluwa school as well.



### *Last four months....*

**Site visit to projects conducted under Pahansila-Davis Educational Program...**

**New Scholarships for A/L students...**

**New project at Weerodara School, Watapuluwa...**

**PAHANTHARU...**

### ***New Scholarships for Advanced Level class students***

Seven years ago the Pahansila concept was born at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign by helping two needy students. It was there that the first Pahansila chapter was formed. This first chapter grew fast due to the enthusiasm of the volunteers involved. Within 3 years they were sponsoring over 70 students with generous donations from about 50 donors. As Pahansila grew, it spilled into several other cities resulting in many other chapters. The Urbana-Champaign volunteers had to cope with an increasing number of students each year. In 2007 several of the volunteers were compelled to downplay their roles due to personal commitments and as a result, many scholarship projects were transferred to other chapters while some others unfortunately being suspended in December 2007. In 2009 the Pahansila General Coordinating Committee launched a program to re-instate the scholarships of some of the selected students, especially the ones in their Advanced Level classes. Therefore we are looking for sponsorships for 6 such students with a commitment of two years. Our committee has already obtained necessary reports and documents from these students and is able to start the scholarships with immediate effect. You will be touched by the stories of these students.



### **Music classes at Sarana Sevana children's home**

As we brought to you in one of our previous issues of our newsletter, a new project was started at the Sarana Sevana Boys' Home to teach music to the children from October 2008. Under this project, we spent over Rs.30,000 to buy musical instruments including a key board, flutes, and a traditional drum. Along with the music class, we also started teaching traditional dancing. In January 2009 the children staged their first performance in front of the delegation which visited the orphanage to oversee the progress.

The music classes are conducted by Ms. Kumari Mullegama, who is a music instructor at Teachers' Training College, Polgolla, Sri Lanka while traditional dancing classes are conducted by Mr. Vijaya Bandara, free of charge.

You can see below some of the photos taken at this event.



### **Pahansila Statistics....**

**Scholarships - 121**

**Disbursements per month  
- Rs. 117,450.00**

**Donors - 80**

**Volunteers - 61**

**Distribution of recipients  
- 8 provinces 14 districts**

### **Special feature.... PAHANTHARU - Stars of Pahansila**

**Mohamed Rohan Ahamed Gunawardane**, studying in grade 12 at Siddhartha College, Thalapathpitiya, Nugegoda, was selected as a beneficiary of the Pahansila Scholarship Project in August 2008. He comes from a poor family where his single mother is the only breadwinner who works at a garment factory struggling to give the bare necessities and a good education to her two children.

Despite the problems in his young life Rohan had the courage and determination to do well in school. He passed the grade 5 scholarship examination in 2003 obtaining 124 marks. Continuing to do well in his studies he got through the G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) examination (grade 11) in 2008 with outstanding results of 6As, 1B, and 2Cs. Not only does he excel in his studies, he also shines in extra curricular activities at his school. He is a school prefect and takes part in sports as well. He represented his school in regional track and field meet in 2008. He was placed 4th in throwing the discus at All-Island track and field meet in 2008. He was awarded national school colors for this performance where he beat the national colors standard of 45 meters in the under 17 years category. He represents his school in the debating team as well. In recognition of his recent achievements, his donor Dr. Suranjaya Dharmadasa (Noble Park, Australia) sent him a gift of Rs.5000 recently through Pahansila Scholarship project in addition to the regular scholarship payments.

Currently Rohan is studying in the Management and Accounting stream. He will be sitting for G.C.E. (Advanced Level) examination in 2011 in the subjects Accounts, Business Management, and Economics. Out of these three subjects he gets free extra coaching for one subject and has to pay Rs.1,200 per month for the other two. Additionally he has to spend a considerable sum of money on traveling as he needs to attend sports practices after school hours at the Torrington Sports facility. Therefore the donor agreed to increase his scholarship payment to Rs.2,000 per month.

Rohan is supervised by Mr. R.D.G. Seneviratne, the Principal of Siddhartha College, Thalapathpitiya. The committee is very pleased with the progress of Rohan and wishes him continuing success!