

OCEAN STARS TRUST

VELLAIMANAL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

QUESTION & ANSWER SHEET

1. What is the background to the scheme?

Ocean Stars Trust (OST) is currently involved in the rebuilding of a playgroup in the town of Vellaimanal in the east of Sri Lanka. This area is quite remote and the people have suffered very badly as a result of the Tsunami and the civil war. The people are extremely poor (typical income is circa £20 per month) and by sponsoring a child, you can help to give a child a better start in life than would otherwise have been possible.

2. How does the scheme work?

All of the 40 children that we are seeking sponsorship for have an information sheet giving details of the child & family. Once we have allocated you a child to sponsor then each donor should pay £10 per month/£120 per year to Ocean Stars Trust. OST will send the money to Sri Lanka in a single transaction in order to minimise the bank charges.

Ocean Stars Trust will transfer the money to Yasmin Rajapakse from the Diriya Lama group in Sri Lanka who has set up two similar schemes at playgroups in the south of the island. OST has personally met Yasmin & verified her work with the other schemes.

For £10 per month, an individual can sponsor a child. Yasmin's group will set up a bank account in each child's name to be administered by the child's mother. Only 1500 Rupees /£8.50 can be withdrawn per month, the rest (£1.50 or more if the donation is gift aided via OST) is kept in the bank account and will be used to build up a fund for the child which he/she can draw when aged 18. Details on the bank accounts will be given to the donors to verify that the scheme is working, as it should.

3. What will my donation buy for the child?

The money should cloth, feed and provide educational needs for the child.

4. How long does the scheme run for?

We ask that individuals commit for a minimum of one year. However it would be great if donors could commit sponsorship until the child is 18 years old. Individuals can withdraw by giving one month's notice in writing to OST.

5. How do I find out more information?

Should you have any further questions then you can contact either Dilanee Bunter on 01252 692248 .