



Child Development Initiative

I am a human right activist. At present I am running CDI (Child Development Initiative) through which try to help the war widows, orphan children, and families of prisoners and the disappeared.

I have been working with displaced people since 1977 and continued to assist them very closely since 2009 during the crux of the war. I have visited them in the IDP camps, hospitals, jungles and in their resettled areas to provide for their immediate needs and rehabilitation. The so-called resettlement ended with more than a lack of people resettled in the jungle of Puthukudiruppu (PTK) in September 2012.

Many have crossed my way to help these people. One of them is a volunteer from Australia who helped me a lot through his Vanni Rehabilitation organization known as "Tears of Vanni" since 2010 to this date.

The Female headed household (FHH) and others have been assisted by him since they were in the IDP camps. He visited and assisted 50 FHH families financially with relief while they were in the camp and helped them with travelling allowance when they had to leave the IDP camp. As soon as they were resettled he made arrangements to send money for immediate relief. He came in latter part of March 2013, met 20 FHH and other severely disabled and displaced families and gave them financial aid for livelihood and rehabilitation. About 100 families were assisted during the floods. Over a 100 FHH were given livelihood assistance for poultry, small business, digging wells, sewing machines, water pump and when they were stuck unable to complete the houses they were helped. Their children were given bicycles and allowance to continue their education. Vanni Rehabilitation volunteer visits Sri Lanka every year and continues to assist the war affected women and children, the disabled and others in need.

Last year Vanni Rehabilitation helped to construct a building for tuition class for 375 children in Valaippadu. Five teachers are paid, and arrangement is made to provide snacks to these children. Valaippadu is a very backward area with no development for a long time. Now the place is brightening, and the children are doing well in their studies.

Many severely disabled and displaced persons have been assisted for livelihood and they are on their own feet today. They have come out of their depressed and hopeless state and today they look forward for a bright future with hope. Some disabled persons have been educated and awarded with certificates.

There many more needy and destitute people. Your assistance will lighten their burden and open a new environment for them to walk with strength. They will be able to stand on their own feet one day and walk with dignity as human being and children of God. The children will have a better and bright future. Let us do what we can to give them a new dawn to live with dignity.

I wish to say sincere thanks for all those who have contributed to make a haven for our people. May God reward all of you and I hope you will continue your help for our people.

God bless you

Thanking you

Sr. Nichola