

Ranaviru Family Counselling & Support Service

(Annual Report April 2008 –March 2009)

Major General Dr Dudley Perera USP

Chairman, RFCSS

The year 2008 had been a very productive and a successful year for the Ranaviru Family Counselling & Support Services (RFCSS). Three major awareness programmes were conducted with the assistance and support of donors and well-wishers. RFCSS website: www.rfcss.org was launched in December 2008, with Design Studio International (PVT) Ltd, designing the website and thereby contributing to the total cost. A new project of awarding scholarships for war widows' children's', Primary and Secondary education, was established in February 2009, with the contributions from the management and staff of Analytical Instruments (PVT) Ltd.

The **first**, two day resident programme for the year, was held at Anuradhapura, Central College in April 2008. Nearly, 275 war widows and their children participated. An Agriculture officer on home garden cultivation, Nursing Tutor from Military Nursing School Anuradhapura on Practical First Aid demonstration, followed by visit to religious worshiping areas and archaeological sites of the historical capital of ancient kings of Anuradhapura, were arranged in the afternoon. After dinner war widows and their children participated in an entertaining session of singing and dancing expressing their talents and abilities. The war widows Salaries, Allowances. Pension and welfare matters were discussed in the next day morning and the session was concluded after a colourful concert by the children. They departed in the afternoon having enjoyed special meal with dessert.



Sustagen Milk Van - Welcome Drink



Presentations at Central College, Anuradhapura



Knowledge on Anti-personal Mines



Founder Chairman of RFCSS at Anuradhapura

The **second** programme was in Kandy District, held at Milapitiya Monument Reception hall, a day workshop, on 31st August, 2008, attended by about 200 war widows and children. The programme commenced with a Buddhist sermon, meeting and concert with dancing and singing arranged from talented children of war widows. In the evening all visited the monument garden and lit candles in memory of their loved ones and departed with sweet memories. This programme was arranged by Kandy branch of RFCSS.



Painting competition class for children

The **third** all island workshop, conducted at the Galle District, two day programme, on 27th & 28th December, 2008, had 275 participants. The entire project sponsored by the Marti Wickramasinghe Foundation. The two day programme includes visit to Martin Wickramasinghe Museum on the first day. After lunch they were taken on an excursion tour of the Galle Harbour, majority had the opportunity of visiting and seeing the facilities of a Naval Gun Ship. A Buddhist sermon in the evening at the museum complex concluded the days programme. The second day in the presence of representatives from Army Navy & Air Force, war widows pay, pension and welfare matters were discussed followed by counselling session conducted by a Galle District Counsellor. A concert followed with children and mothers joining in the dance.



Workshop in progress M W M Complex



Naval Officer about Galle harbour



War widows & Children on board Naval Gun Ship



All the participants receive gifts

Viru Kakulu, Pre-school, at Panagoda built on 25th January 2002 from ARFRO funds was handed over after six years of management to the Army Seva Vanitha Unit to function with other schools under their care



Viru Kakulu Pre-school ARFRO project handing over ceremony to Army Seva Vanitha members

On 28th February 2009, Analytical Instruments (PVT) Ltd kindly have consented to award **five scholarships** for deserving children of war widows from different districts. The scholarship plan includes a deposit of Rs 4000 per month in a savings bank for the education of the child and will continue to receive till they enter the university. Their educational progress will be access by the company at the end of every term and remedial measures will be taken to improve their performance. Three girls and two boys' one from each district of Anuradhapura, Kandy Kurunegala, Colombo and Galle were selected and the scholarships awarding ceremony was held on 28th February 2009 at their head quarters' in the presence of their management and staff members.



Three Girls & Two boys received the scholarships



Children with their mothers



Managing Director, Analytical Instruments (PVT) addressing the audience at their HQ auditorium



RFCCS are looking forward to expand this scholarship scheme with the support of ARFRO and well-wishers. An office space is another essential requirement to coordinate the activities, frequent meeting and smooth functioning of RFCCS.

Our Vision is to communicate to war widows their worth and potential until they see it in themselves