



UMT Spotlight

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF UNITY MISSION TRUST

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Our Journey;

- Menik Farm (May-Sept '09)
- Jaffna & Kayts (April '10)
- Kayts (June '10)
- Vidutaltivu & Mannar (Sept '10)
- UC 1 - Colombo (Dec '10)
- UC 2 - Mullaithivu (Jun '11)
- Ray of Hope - Colombo (Oct '11)
- UC 3 - Mannar (Dec '11)
- UC 4 - Tharanikkulam (Jun '12)
- Zoom In 1 - Colombo (Sept '12)
- UC 5 - Kandy (Oct '12)
- Zoom In 2 - Colombo (Dec '12)
- Zoom In 3 - Mullaithivu
- Zoom In - 4 - Kilinochchi (April '13)
- Ray of Hope 2 - Colombo (Sept '13)
- Power ONE Hundred (Sept '13)
- Inaugural Unity & Integration Awards (Sept '13)
- UC 6 - Kilinochchi (Oct '13)
- NYLC - Kandy
- Zoom In 5 - Kandy (Feb '14)
- Zoom In 6 - Mannar (June '14)
- Zoom In 7 - Vavuniya (June '14)
- UC 7 - Mirissa (Oct '15)
- Ray of Hope 3 - Jaffna (Jan '15)
- Power ONE Hundred 2 (Jan '15)
- Inaugural Unity & Integration 2

Memories of Successful Events at Jaffna Ray of Hope-3 & 2nd National Unity & Integration Awards

3rd Ray of Hope and 2nd National Unity & Integration Awards were held on the 24th of January at Chundikuli Girls College. It was the 20th and 21st major events, since our inception in May 2009. A warm reception and very positive response was received from civil society leaders for these events, as best exemplified by the words of the Chief Guest Prof. Vasanthi Arsaratnam at the occasion. She received rapturous applause from the Power ONE Hundred Youth Leaders and civil society invitees who were present, when she said she put aside her speaking notes and then stated that she would join the Unity Mission Trust as a volunteer as soon as she retired! **She also appealed to all Sri Lankans to join UMT and support the grass root work of UMT, as the unity and healing being created was amazing and was what was needed by Sri Lanka today!** Cont on pg 3



Power ONE Hundred

The 2nd Power ONE Hundred Programme, UMT's 19th event, was structured for 100 selected group of youth, comprising of promising Regional Youth Leaders who are recent school-leavers, chosen from amongst UMT's Regional Youth Leaders network. The Power ONE Hundred programme is essentially tailor made to empower and enable the Young Leaders to enhance their skills and assist them in finding their own ground in a world of endless opportunities, career paths and professions leading towards their own self-realisation and self-actualisation.

During this programme, the young participants were given the opportunity to expand their knowledge base on timely and Important topics, via discussions and lectures conducted by specially invited speakers who were experts in their relevant fields, relating to law; pitfalls of social media; drug and alcohol abuse; danger of pornography; sexual health and rights; social etiquette and building up a proper value system for a successful life.



Visits to Regional Councils & Re-Unions

The Colombo Re-Union was held in Girls Guide Headquarters on 17th December 2014. The Re-Union was attended by past unity campers and was successfully held, with mind & team-building games and musical performances

Unity Mission Trust team also visited the Regional Councils of Vavuniya, Killinochchi, Mulativu, Jaffna and Mannar on 20th - 22nd December 2014 conducting leadership programmes + group activities. Regional Youth Leaders presented their regional council logos and staged dramas prepared by them. The programmes were aimed at building bonds and strengthening friendships. (Cont on pg 2)

National Youth Leadership Council 2015

An election was held during the Power One Hundred programme to elect the National Youth Leadership Council 2015.

The following were elected to office for the year 2015;

- | | |
|---|--|
| Co-Chairman - Anfal Nilar (Colombo) | - Suntharalinkam Selvakumar (Kilinochchi) |
| Co-Chairman - Methunshanka Suduweli Kondage (Matara) | - Yasotha Selvarasa (Mullaitivu) |
| Vice President - Mayuran Raj Sadachcharalingam (Mannar) | - Thavasaroopan Purusothma (Jaffna) |
| Secretary - Tania Babu Lakshmanan (Kandy) | - Vijiththa Thangarasa (Jaffna) |
| Assistant Secretary - Elon Newton (Colombo) | - Rushdi Hannan (Kandy) |
| General Committee: | - Yohan Perera (Colombo) |
| - Mariyanesan Leopressley (Mannar) | - K.K. Chamara Anuruddhika (Matara) |
| - Pathmanathan Sinhulan (Vavuniya) | - Mariathas Anne Amalini Figurado (Mannar) |
| - Egodage Wasana Maltharika (Ambalangoda) | - Kodithuwakku Lakmal Madumadawa (Ambalangoda) |
| - Lasitha Ranushke (Mirissa) | - Sushmitha Ramesh (Killinochchi) |



The inaugural Southern Re-Union was held on the 03rd January in Matara at the School hall of St. Mary's Convent. The programme included the election of the first Southern Regional Leadership Council. This event was a follow up on the extremely successful Unity Camp held at Mirissa in October 2014.

UMT has been strengthened by highly competent young leaders who have now come on board from across the Southern Province.

Regional pictures in clock-wise: Southern Regional Leadership Council; Meeting regional leader of Vavuniya; Group work-Colombo Regional Re-Union.



Ray of Hope cont from pg 01.....

This project in Jaffna took place with three components namely "Power One Hundred", a programme to empower school leavers and build them up as Change Agents to foster unity and integration; "Ray of Hope 3", a unity through cultural fusion event and the "2nd National Unity and Integration Awards", bestowed on 11 outstanding Youth Leaders from across Sri Lanka, for their efforts to foster and build up unity and integration in the past year. In addition an election was held to elect a Team of 18 Youth Leaders to form the National Youth Leadership Council from 2015.

"Ray of Hope" is an annual event on UMT's Calendar, which now hosts the Annual National Unity and Integration Awards. This year, the Ray of Hope was graced by the presence of Prof. Vasanthy Arasaratnam (Vice Chancellor: Jaffna University) as Chief Guest. The event was enriched through cultural performances by the Chundikkuli Girls College, Vembadi Girls College, a southern dance-drama from Unity Mission Trust's own students from Ambalangoda. Agrabodhi Sinhala MV from Vavuniya commenced proceedings with a lively hewisi drum performance.

The highlight of the evening was the Annual National Unity and Integration Awards, which is an Awards Ceremony held exclusively by the Unity Mission Trust. This Award focuses on recognizing outstanding Youth Leaders under 21 years of age, who have made exceptional contributions in their own individual ways towards fostering unity and integration across Sri Lanka. The purpose of these Awards is to recognize, reward and encourage the Award Winners, as well as to incentivize and encourage the entire School System to aspire to produce National Award Winners and make a special Contribution to Sri Lanka's future!

This year the award winners were; **Ashan Sameera (Matara), Rushdie Hannan (Kandy), Sinthulan Padumanaban (Vavuniya), Leo Presley (Mannar), Sundaralingam Selvakumar (Killinochchi), Anne Amalini (Mannar), Sushmitha Ramesh (Killinochchi), Nimhaan Jainudeen (Seeduwa), Urvashi Sekeram (Colombo), Madhavi Sekeram (Colombo) & Lasitha Ranushka (Mirissa).**

The vision of UMT is to contribute to building a strong, self-confident young generation of Sri Lankans who can rise above ethnic, religious and other social divisions to unite and integrate as Sri Lankans to flourish and advance as Individuals of a New Sri Lanka. The Trust's Mission is to foster and facilitate unity, integration, healing and reconciliation between teenagers and young adults of the North and their peers across Sri Lanka through leadership development, personal capacity enhancement and empowerment of self-confidence as well as the building of new bridges of friendship.

'Dawn' - UMT Art Exhibition and Silent Auction

'Dawn' is a special art project uniting outstanding student artists from the North and South of Sri Lanka, in partnership with Colombo Art Biennale and the Shyamala School of Art. In addition, Renowned Sri Lankan Artists are donating their work as a means of raising funds for the Trust's work at grassroots level. The purpose of the Special Art Exhibition and Silent Auction is to raise finances to strengthen the work of the Trust in building bridges of friendship and reconciliation, a task undertaken consistently with considerable success since 2009.



In preparation for this exhibition, The Unity Mission Trust has conducted two art workshops in Jaffna and Matara, with outstanding students from the area who were, nominated by the Provincial Education Ministries, attending the event & producing several high quality works of art. These creative pieces of work will also be exhibited under the theme of 'A New Sri Lanka - Unity through Art' and will also be available for sale.

The exhibition is being held on the 1st and 2nd of April 2015 at Lionel Wendt Art Gallery.

YOU can Partner with our continuing journey!...

- * Would you like to know more about the work of UMT?
- * Are you interested in joining as a volunteer to help with future UMT activities?
- Contact us for more details!

The Unity Mission Trust truly appreciates the partnership and encouragement of caring individuals and 'far thinking' Corporate Houses. **UMT invites YOU to join us in our on-going journey of love and care of strengthening Sri Lanka's youth & our future success as a New Sri Lanka, United by our Youth!**

Donate: Cash/ cheque to: Ekamuthu Oray Makkal Unity Mission Trust
Bank: People's Bank | A/C No: 014100180004373

The Online Payment Gateway is now available for YOU to support us!
Simply click on <http://www.thefinance.lk/donations/donations.php>
and make your contribution today!



Upcoming events...

- NYLC Special training programme - Mid May 2015.
- Zoom In 08 & 09 (Batticalao, Trincomalee) - 31st July, 01st and 02nd August.
- Special Regional programme at Rathnapura - 26th Spetember.
- Unity Camp 08 Bandarawela - 24th - 27th October.
- English Language classes for in the Wann - **Sponsors needed!**
- Education Scorship programme in place and continuing across Sri Lanka - **Individual Donors needed!**



We want YOUR feedback!

Send in your feedback to any of the following team members;

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