



Australian T.O.S. Links

September 2005

Update on the Tsunami appeal

The generous support of members of the Theosophical Society and T.O.S. groups continues for this long-term project. As a result, a further \$4009 of donations was transferred to Adyar for T.O.S. relief work. In the Chennai area, the T.O.S. supports the maintenance of the reverse osmosis plants providing fresh water. Special thanks go to the Sydney T.O.S. and Hobart T.O.S. groups who have been particularly active in promoting this appeal.

Mapple-Brown Abbott Donation

Once again Mapple-Brown Abbott Limited has donated \$8000 for the work of the Theosophical Order of Service. This company is the investment manager for the Theosophical Society in Australia. We are very grateful that they have been able to make a donation to the International T.O.S. work this year. They requested that their donation be distributed for the following work:

\$2000 for Pakistan's Educational Sponsorship Program

\$2000 for Nairobi's Aids Orphans Support

\$2000 for Adyar's Olcott School and HPB Hostel

\$1000 for the Philippine's Educational Peace Studies Program

\$1000 for Brazil's Orphanage.

Supporting the work of the TOS in developing countries

For groups interested in supporting the orphanage run by the TS in Brazil, the address for cheques made out to Editora Teosofica S/C is:

Zeneida Cereja da Silva

President, Lar da Crianca Nossa Senhora das Gracas

SGAS Quadro 603, Conj. E s/no

Brasilia DF 70200-630

BRAZIL

Pedro Olivera recently visited the orphanage and reported that Mrs Zeneida Cereja da Silva and her team of supporters are doing a marvellous job of taking care of 20 children from very poor backgrounds. The Theosophical Society has run the orphanage for about ten years on its premises on the outskirts of Brasilia. The children come by referral from the Children's Court because they have been abandoned or removed from their parents because of abuse. The orphanage is run by volunteers and paid staff. Donations are very welcome since they enable improvements to be made in the care provided to the children.

The role of the Director and the National TOS

Many thanks to those groups who have provided feedback on the questions I asked in the last newsletter. If your group hasn't sent in its ideas yet, I'd welcome your views in the next few months.

To date, the general consensus is that it is useful to have a National Director and organisation but that the National work should not duplicate the work of local groups. The main benefit of having a National organisation is seen to be its potential for

providing a sense of direction and coordination and helping local groups to keep in touch. A range of ideas was contributed for the role of the National Director and I'll summarise these for the next newsletter.

Service through volunteer work in our communities

Again, thank you to those groups who contributed news about successful service activities. Here are some excellent ideas your group may like to consider and I'll share more in the next newsletter.

- Holding a luncheon with a guest speaker to raise funds for a designated service activity.
- Making a commitment to annually sponsor a student in Pakistan and then collecting donations. It currently costs A\$110 to sponsor the education of a student for a year – a goal that is well within the capacity of most groups that take up this service activity.
- Joining in a community project, *Wrap with Love*, by knitting squares measuring 25cm by 25cm. Every year hundreds of knitted blankets are sent to the world's trouble spots wherever people are suffering from exposure and cold as a result of natural disasters or the trauma of war. These blankets, although simple, are positive life-savers, knitted by volunteers and distributed by aid agencies. They are soft and colourful and provide psychological as well as physical comfort. In their humble way, they make a clear statement that people care.
- Supporting the work of community animal welfare groups such as the Australian Association of Humane Research, by participating in their projects and awareness raising activities.
- Coordinating collection in a suburb for a community charity activity such as the Cancer Fund Doorknock Appeal.
- Conducting a regular healing circle for world peace.

Contributions to the National T.O.S. Report

I am currently putting together the National T.O.S. Report to send to our International Secretary, Diana Dunningham-Chapotin. Diana is eager to have photographs of members engaged in service activities, so if you have any, could you please consider lending them to me to scan electronically, or emailing them to me if you have electronic copies. I need these photographs in the next few weeks.

The Service Link

I am expecting copies of *The Service Link* to arrive from the Philippines this month. They will be mailed to subscribers and T.O.S. Groups on arrival. Please consider subscribing to our excellent annual international magazine at the small cost of \$7.

A thought to share

The only law of living is the law that helps others; to the extent that you forget yourself, you are free to help the world.

From *Thoughts for Aspirants*, N. Sri Ram

Contact

Please contact me by email at cdharrod@bigpond.net.au
or by mail at Ms C Harrod, 26 Lytham Street, Indooroopilly Q4068.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours in service
Carolyn