



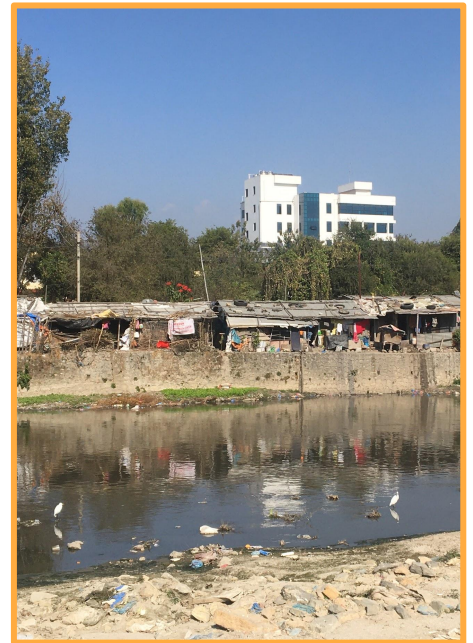
Our dear Star Action Supporters,

We are writing to thank you for your support throughout this past year. It means a lot to us personally, and enables us to continue the work of our little charity. We have received heart warming feedback on your reasons for continuing to so generously donate, especially in these difficult times. (See quotations from your lovely letters on the back page.)

So we say a big Christmas THANK YOU and this is offered on behalf of all our amazing Star Action workers – Keshav and Sujata in Nepal, Fred and Hamida and our new helper Samuel in Ghana, Rohan in Sri Lanka and Richard and Sasees in South India.

With love from

and



The rich and the poor in Nepal



A cultural event at our Asiakwa school



'LOVING' - 'HAPPY' - 'HOME'

Jenny writes:

Here in the UK a major report this Autumn by Dame Rachel de Souza confirmed what many of us have long known: family isn't always a 2.4 cardboard cut-out of a smiling mother, father and two freckled children, like a holiday card from the 1950's. Instead family is finally being recognised – and celebrated – for how it makes people feel, not how it looks on the census record.

According to the Commissioner's new Independent Family Review, family is about 'strong and lasting relationships, relying on each other, and spending time together', and that 'the research shows it's more about the quality of family relationships than the composition or relative position of the family in society.

Our Star Action supports families in the best ways we can, giving material needs of food, clothes and shelter, but the words LOVING, HAPPY and HOME are central to our work. We have reported many times that these three words describe our Brighter Life Children's home in South India.

Our new project in South India aims to support more children to live in their own homes, but to also receive the necessary help to continue their education to as high a standard as possible.



Our photo shows Bibisha who is living in her family home, but our support will enable her to go to school, study to a high level, and make sure she has healthy nutritious food and the uniforms, books and equipment she needs. This is particularly important for girls, in societies where girls' opportunities have always been limited. We are especially proud of our support of Muslim Girls.

OUR MUSLIM GIRLS !

Our support of further education for gifted Muslim girls is very important to us as in their society, it is particularly difficult for girls. In our Summer Newsflash we wrote about:



SHAKEENAH from Bangladesh now gaining experience in Sri Lanka in gynaecology before returning home to help the poor women in her country.

ZAHRA from Indonesia has now qualified as a Vet (was top student) and now has started postgraduate research at Aceh and Muduru.



FATIMA RUSHDA comes from Sri Lanka; Star Action is helping her with fees, and living costs, so she has been able to continue her studies at Albukhary University in Malaysia for her degree in Business Administration.

SHARING CREATIVITY

Having fun together is also an important part of happy family life. Our children did well in a recent painting competition. The photo shows one of our little boy's winning picture.



DIWALI DELIGHTS

Diwali is always a special highlight of the year in India, and we make sure we can send an additional amount (usually donated by one of our kind supporters) for the traditional new set of clothes, 'party food' and fireworks. The photo shows one of our boys getting the fireworks ready.



Diwali celebrations
at our Bright Life
home

AFRICA

Our school in Asiakwa, Ghana, is struggling to keep going, giving the opportunity for education to very poor families in this little town where Star Action owns a beautiful piece of land (a gift some years ago). We pay the fees for ten children, and for their uniforms and lunches, making sure they have at least one good meal a day. (Our land is used to grow maize and for chickens.) We would love to be able to help more children.



We now have a kind helper, Samuel Ampong, who will be working under the guidance of Hamida and Fred to be our 'Star Action Representative', visiting the school regularly, talking with the parents and checking that all is well with our sponsored children. There is a special celebration at the school on 20th December when Samuel will represent Star Action at their Christmas Festival.



Headteacher Samuel Darko gives a mother
and her daughter their school uniform

SRI LANKA

In our Summer Newsletter we asked for special help for the people of Sri Lanka who were suffering so much from the mismanagement of their government. 'Our man in Colombo', Rohan, had reported the desperate situation with long power cuts, no diesel for food deliveries, empty shops and rioting. Sadly the situation is still very bad. In his latest report he said: *'Sad to say Miss Jenny it's very bad. People are living a very hard life. Some are going to other countries seeking work. Most shops closed because they cannot pay the rent. I don't know what will happen next year.'*



The daily reality of life in a country declared bankrupt

However, things are a little better in East Sri Lanka where most of our Star Action projects are now centred. Thanks to your help we have been able to slightly increase our Sinhala teachers' salaries and continue our sponsorship of school lunches. No longer having diesel for his motorbike, Sathiraj now rides a pedal bike from village to village, delivering the salaries for our teachers and our aid for the poorest families we continue to help.

NEPAL: NO ROOM AT THE INN

Jenny writes: One of our aims in Star Action is supporting families who are suffering from extreme poverty, malnutrition and lack of adequate shelter on cold winter nights. At this time of year, this is highlighted for me by the traditional Christmas story of 'no room at the Inn'. Keshav tells us of many destitute families living on the banks of the River Bagmati in Kathmandu and the River Seti in Pokhara.



Your gifts for NEPAL are helping Keshav help these desperately poor and destitute families. Keshav has just sent me this message: *'We are glad that we can make a little difference in the lives of our poor fellow Nepalese with the support of Star Action. Star Action's donation of clothes and food always brings smiles to the faces of the people here. Among others, there lives a large community of homeless people on the banks of River Bagmati in Kathmandu and River Seti in Pokhara. Through the help of our generous friends, we'll be able to help them with some winter clothes and rations.'*

We thank all our friends for their kindness.'



MICHAEL DENT - OUR NEW TRUSTEE



Michael has spent over 20 years working in the charity sector, he is passionate about the environment and overseas development. His management and leadership experience ranges from small local grass roots causes to large national organisations such as Macmillan Cancer Support. He is currently Director of Supporter Income & Engagement for the World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF-UK).

A VERY SPECIAL SUPPORTER!

Patricia Fletcher has just celebrated her 90th birthday. She has been one of our most dedicated volunteers, helping us in countless ways since we started Star Action in 2005.

So much appreciation and heartfelt thanks, to a very dear friend and co-worker.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

As a small charity it may be 'only a drop in the ocean of need' in our world today, but we try to ensure that all your gifts really do 'make a difference'.



YOUR 'FEEDBACK' !

- ★ The beauty of such a small charity lies in the fact that we actually see results – thank you for keeping us in the picture. Here is a 'drop in the bucket' with much love and best wishes.
- ★ Your literature is very helpful in getting our lives in this country in proportion with people's lives in other countries.
- ★ Star Action acts!! It's the only way, and it's done so well. Brotherhood in action.
- ★ We had to cut back our charity donations this year, but we have chosen to continue to support Star Action as we know you use everything we give and personally monitor the projects, then tell us what you have done.



JustGiving™

Do remember that our online giving has moved. You can now donate here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/star-action>

See our enclosed support leaflet for more details



*Real Projects—Practical
Solutions—Hands on Help*

