

Ohio Department of Aging



50 West Broad Street/9th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3363
(614)466-5500 TTY (614)466-6191 FAX (614)466-5741

Bob Taft, Governor
Joan W. Lawrence, Director

0105T015

Memorandum

NOTICE

Date: January 27, 2005

To: AAA Directors, Jane Taylor, Jean Dugan– CSS

From: Joan W. Lawrence, Director

Re: NOTICE OF TRANSMITTAL: Tsunami Relief for Elderly in Sri Lanka

Contact: Melanie Ayotte (614-466-7246) or mayotte@age.state.oh.us

Attached is a letter from Jane Taylor and me concerning efforts to assist the elderly in Sri Lanka that were displaced by the December tsunami. We urge you to share this letter with your staff, Senior Centers, other providers and any other individual or group who may be interested. It would be nice to make a difference.

Thank you in advance of your support in this matter.

If you have questions or comments, please notify the contact listed above.

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Dear Friend:

It will take most of us time to recover from the news and images of the December, 2004 tsunami. It will take far longer for those who lost family members, friends, homes and villages in the unspeakable destruction. Our own good friend from the Council of Aging of Southwestern Ohio, Arlene de Silva, lived through the experience visiting her family in Sri Lanka. Some friends and family did not.

Many have wanted to help in the relief effort, but have been unsure of how their donations and gifts would benefit those most in need. Thanks to the efforts of Arlene's family members, a credible and effective American/Sri Lankan relief organization has been identified. HelpAge Sri Lanka is currently setting up 960 camps to assist an estimated 600 elderly who have lost their homes in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington (SLAGW) is a 501(c) 3 non profit group associated with the Helpage Sri Lanka effort. For more information about these organizations, visit www.helpagesrilanka.org and www.slawdc.org.

Arlene's nephew, Nishan de Silva, has worked with the Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington which has agreed to send out tax receipts to donors and keep us updated on all earmarked collections received. The President of the organization, Nihal Goonewardene, can be reached by email nihalq@istiinc.com or by calling 703-807-2080.

Arlene de Silva asks those who send help to write checks to:
Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington (SLAGW). HelpAge should be noted on the bottom of the checks and mailed to:

HelpAge Sri Lanka
c/o SLAGW
1820 N. Fort Myer Drive, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22209

Thank you in advance for your generous contributions.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Joan W. Lawrence in cursive.

Joan W. Lawrence
Director, Ohio Department of Aging

Handwritten signature of Jane Taylor in cursive.

Jane Taylor
Director, Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging