



Reconstructing a village from such great devastation was a huge task which was achieved only with the support received from worldwide generous and compassionate supporters as well as the hard work of villagers. A key group of trustees consisting of Muthiah Muralidaran, Kumar Sangakkara, Chaminda Vaas, Rohan Iriyagolla and Ashan Malalasekera have also given immeasurable support to the organization and much of its success is owed to them. By 2011 the project now offers 30 empowerment sectors to 25,000+ people from 45 villages, annually, free of charge. These sectors have been designed to help villagers fight poverty through productive activities and include education, children's development, women's empowerment, healthcare, business skills, environmental management and sports – a sector which has recently produced a female cricketer in the U19's Sri Lankan squad. The Foundation of Goodness has also instigated the building of 1000 new homes for those affected by the events of 2004.

The Foundation of Goodness is determined to make a difference and the ending of the 26 year civil war between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan Government in May 2009 has provided an opportunity to replicate the success of Seenigama in post-war northern Sri Lanka. Although in their infancy, the organization has already spearheaded programmes at a community level through a series of essential monthly relief programmes which include school supplies, bicycles, home garden cultivation and sports coaching workshops with local schools. These programmes are leading up to the bigger *Learning & Empowerment Institute*, a holistic project to be developed on a 50 acre site in the northern town of Mankulam, offering all the benefits of Seenigama, plus more. The project provides an even bigger challenge than the South, working in post-conflict areas with community members who have known nothing but fighting and gun-fire for their entire lives. Despite these obstacles, the Foundation of Goodness will undoubtedly contribute to unifying a country and ensure those living in poverty throughout Sri Lanka lead a better life.

FOUNDATION OF GOODNESS

EMPOWERING THE LESS PRIVILEGED RURAL COMMUNITIES WHILST, INCULCATING THE SPIRIT OF GOODNESS, HELPING TO FOSTER EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE TO EXCEL IN LIFE

The Foundation of Goodness, established in 1999 and based in the rural village of Seenigama, southern Sri Lanka has worked relentlessly to improve the lives and livelihoods of many thousands of people for the last eleven years. The organization was set up by Kushil Gunasekera, a man whose family came from Seenigama, to give holistic support to the poor rural community, to bridge the gap between the rural and urban sectors and to empower villagers to fight poverty through productive activities. Initially small-scale livelihood support was the focus of the charity including sports, IT & English teaching and infrastructure programmes, operating from the grounds of Kushil's ancestral home.

On Boxing Day 2004, the Foundation of Goodness and its humanitarian endeavors were dramatically changed when a devastating tsunami struck the coastline of Sri Lanka, an event which tragically altered the lives of thousands of people. When the tsunami waves struck, all hope seemed lost, but somehow Kushil's home remained standing and formed the base for the rebuilding secretariat. During this time Kushil realized the potential to recreate the Foundation of Goodness, albeit on a bigger scale, shifting the focus from developing a remote village to rebuilding it completely and providing better opportunities for the villagers. By 2005 Kushil had gifted his ancestral home to the cause and dedicated his life to leading the Foundation of Goodness.