

# THE IRISH LIFESAVING FOUNDATION

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 4  
January, 2008

Dear Friends,

Last year I set up The Lifeguard Training Fund in memory of my daughter Fiona - donors were asked to donate €50 a year for 4 years. In the first year, through donations and a tax rebate, the fund total exceeded €10,000. The principal aim of the fund is to pay the lifeguard training and examination fees for young unemployed swimmers in Africa and Asia. These recently received photos illustrate some of the projects supported by the fund. The project finances training in India, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Gambia in addition to supporting the national lifesaving organisations in Lesotho and Kenya from our general funds. If you would like to support the lifeguard project just send a donation to the Foundation address and mark it The Lifeguard Training Fund. Our best wishes go to you and your families for 2008.

**John Connolly Hon CEO**

## Gambia - training in lifesaving and life support

Dr Cliff Nelson took a team of six lifeguard trainers from his home club, Whitmore Bay Surf Lifesaving Club, to Gambia in August 2007 where they carried out two weeks of intensive lifesaving training. The Foundation will continue to support the club in 2008 and onwards.



## India continuing to make progress in lifesaving

Lifesaving continues to grow in India thanks to the efforts of the wonderful team of trainers organised by Admiral PD Sharma and his wife Kavita. India has a major drowning problem and we were happy to support the RLSS(I) lifeguard training programme. The aim of our Lifeguard Training Project is to give young unemployed swimmers an employment qualification that will enable them to support themselves and their families.



Saving lives from drowning - worldwide

## “I Can Swim, Can You?” Project

The Foundation is happy to support this project in Sri Lanka. Up to the start of this project by Christina and Michael Fonfe in 2005 females were not taught to swim in Sri Lanka for cultural reasons. Swimming instruction in private pools is provided to women and teenage girls. You can check out their work on their website [www.icanswimcanyou.com](http://www.icanswimcanyou.com).



## Lesotho

The Foundation began its overseas work in Lesotho and continues to support the work of The Royal Lesotho Lifesaving Association. The association recently produced its own water safety leaflet with our financial aid.



## The Lifesaving Association of Sri Lanka

These photos show Foundation-funded, schools-based, lifesaving training provided by The Lifesaving Association of Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka has adopted the Foundation’s Float – Don’t Swim Programme as a part of its Tsunami Awareness Programme and is currently translating our leaflets into the local languages. Our thanks and promise of continued support go to Mr. Piyadasa Silva and his team of lifesaving trainers.



### JOIN THE FOUNDATION

Annual membership of the foundation costs €25 and is open to any person interested in saving lives from drowning. Send the fee, with name/address to 11 Iveragh Close, Lismore Lawn, Waterford City, Ireland.

Visit our website for further information.  
[www.lifesavingfoundation.ie](http://www.lifesavingfoundation.ie)