

The Hope for Life Charity dinner was a resounding success with over 200 Houstonians coming together to show their support for this worthy cause. It was heartening to see the Sri-Lankan American community irrespective of their religion, ethnicity, race and political beliefs gathered together in harmony to lend a hand to “Project Rebuild”. The organizing committee was extremely happy to see the Houston American community’s presence at the event to support this humanitarian project in Sri-Lanka.



Key-note address by Mayor Bill White



Dancing for Danno Budunge Song



Bharat Natyam



String Trio from Bay Area Symphony

The evening commenced with traditional dancers, depicting the Sinhala and Tamil cultures, escorting the Hon. Mayor Bill White and the distinguished guests to the lighting of the traditional oil lamp. The Hon. Mayor Bill White delivered a well thought out key-note speech touching on the history of human conflicts and how we can look beyond our differences and be part of a movement to achieve peace in this world. Some of the dignitaries present were Mr. Kent Friedman, Chairman Houston Sports Authority, Former Congressman Nick Lampson and Dr William Staples, President of University of Houston, Clear Lake.



Silent Auction in full swing



The Kids Band entertaining the crowd

The evening was filled with two classical cultural performances, a silent auction, a visual presentation of the cause and a musical performance by the young Sri-Lankan Americans. All the performances by the children gave added emphasis to the cause of helping the children. The Emcee of the event Ms. Donna McKenzie did a great job in compeering the event.

We were able to raise approximately \$30,000.00 from the Charity Dinner which exceeded our expectations by leaps and bounds. The organizing committee wishes to thank its title sponsor of the Charity Dinner Westmont Hospitality Inc and all the other sponsors/donors for contributing towards this humanitarian cause. "Project Rebuild" has raised a total of \$36,136.00 to date and the first \$ 20,000.00 was transferred to WeCare Sri-Lanka for the purchase and distribution of milk food to the children living in the IDP camps. The distribution of the milk food at the camps is scheduled for September 16, 2009.

Please check back for more details and pictures of the dinner and the distribution of the milk food in Sri-Lanka