

# Building a Library to Enhance the Livelihood of Tsunami Survivors

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## Shimek Learning Center



The Tsunami of December 2004 was one of the worst natural disasters in modern day history. Lives and communities were washed away instantly. Immediately, a librarian named Lilliemar Nevanka Goonewardena, along with the Minnesota-Sri Lanka Friendship Foundation (MNSLFF), helped to create a model library/technology center in hopes of enriching the lives of tsunami survivors in a village in Sri Lanka. This poster will discuss the building of the library/technology center in Sri Lanka with the help of donors and librarians in both Minnesota and Sri Lanka and the various uses in digital technology that made it all happen.



## Funding and Collaboration

Building a library in Sri Lanka was a learning experience....

- Built a library in Sri Lanka through donations and funds in Minnesota and Sri Lanka
- Used technology to its advantage via Internet, phone, Instant Messaging and Fax
- Enlisted the help of Librarians, other experts in Minnesota and Sri Lanka

## Architectures for Humanity



## Colombo Municipal Librarian



## Dedication Ceremony

In July of 2007 the Library and Community Center had its dedication ceremony.



## The Library



## Opportunity to Read



## Play Time



## References

Minnesota Sri Lanka Friendship Foundation: [www.mnslff.org](http://www.mnslff.org)