



Intrepid Travel challenge – holiday house building. You can make a difference too.

2004's Boxing Day tsunami devastated Sri Lankan coastline dwellings, and left countless thousands without home, work and family.

Australia-based company Intrepid Travel, in conjunction with charity group Habitat for Humanity, is just one of the companies worldwide to have started up holidays to help build houses in affected areas.

A team of Australians took the first trip in October 2005. Mike from Intrepid Travel says, "Our language skills were limited but it's amazing what smiles and hand actions can do.

"With the help of our local guides, our first Sri Lankan words were trowel, cement and hammer," says Mike.

"Sugath, a fisherman, lost his parents aged 45 and 54 – close to the ages of Kathy (Mike's partner) and myself. He's adopted us as his surrogate parents.

"Mrs Sugath was expecting a baby when we were there. Sugath called it 'Tsunami Baby'".

"Our contribution was small in the greater scheme of things, but with more Habitat teams to follow and with their target to build over 750 houses on this part of the coast, we can feel proud of our small achievements. "It's a great adventure that can change more than just your life!"

www.intrepidtravel.com/SCC

Cintana.org focuses on ways to help.

The Rotract Club of Colombo has set up Cintana – Sanskrit for 'to care for or be considerate' to provide nationals and tourists alike with a user-friendly tour of different charities, NGOs and shelters where they can help to spare a couple of minutes, or a few hours to help.

The site is sponsored by Amana Takaful Limited, ACBT and Sampath Bank, who provide secure transfers for donations, and developed by Zeelabs Pvt. Ltd

www.cintana.org 🌿

