

## A Philanthropic Adventure in Sri Lanka An Incredible Story of Serendipity, Synchronicity and Love

Last November, just before my daughter Sophie left to begin her college career, we traveled into the lush mountains of Sri Lanka. We had no idea that this trip would make such a profound impact on our lives and consequently, the lives of 148 children and their families. This story is one of serendipity, synchronicity, and love.



David & Sophie with students of St. Margaret's, Nov 2019

The beautiful yet very impoverished village of Uda Pussallewa is located amongst tea plantations where women labor in the fields and men process the tea in factories from sunrise till sunset. Their children attend St. Margaret's Elementary School where all the students crowd into 2 small classrooms and have only 2 bathrooms which are just holes in the ground.

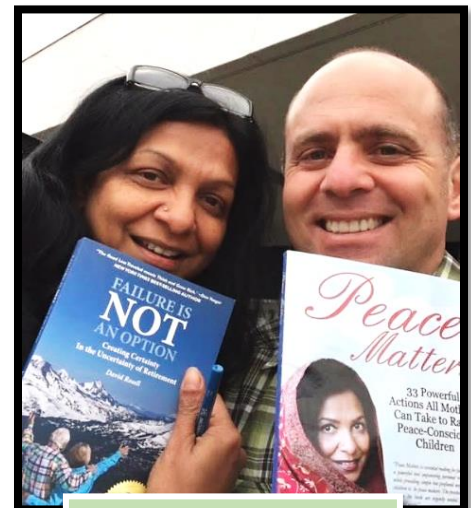
Like many children across Sri Lanka, many dream of excelling on the scholarship examination which can enable them to transfer to a national school and have a chance for a good education and the opportunity to build a life of work other than on a plantation. This is very difficult with their limited resources in the poor, rural areas.



Current Bathroom

I'm still amazed to this day how this story began when I (by chance) met Soraya

Deen in a shared Uber ride in 2015 heading to LAX in Los Angeles - years before my trip to Sri Lanka. By the time we arrived at the airport, we realized we were both authors, professional speakers, and world travelers. We had no idea at that moment that this serendipitous encounter would not only lead to a meaningful friendship, it take us speaking together in front of televised audiences to share the message of tolerance and understanding and most importantly, we would together change the village of Uda Pussallewa.

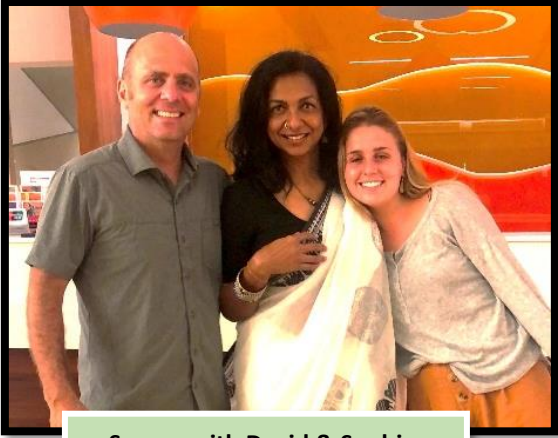


David & Soraya, LAX 2015

Soraya is Sri Lankan native, living in California. She's a mother of two children, a talented lawyer, acclaimed author, an international women's rights advocate and a facilitator for OMNIA Institute for Contextual Leadership, a Chicago-based 501c3 non-profit that trains leaders for Interfaith Peacemaker Teams. She has traveled and spoken extensively around the globe.



David & Soraya, City Club, 2017



**Soraya with David & Sophie,  
Columbo Sri Lanka, Nov 2019**

When Sophie and I visited Sri Lanka, Soraya graciously introduced us to the students and teachers at St. Margaret's. She mentioned that she was leading the charge to raise the \$14,400 needed to build 2 new classrooms and their first toilets with running water. It was at that moment that I had an epiphany that I would help with her goal to raise the funds needed for the project.

Just last month, I received amazing news from Valmark that we received a grant that I applied for through their the Valmark Global Gift Fund. As a member office we were able to apply, and we received ½ of the amount to make our vision come true! Thank you Valmark! Now it is my quest to raise the other ½ which equates to \$7,200. we are excited to raise the next half! This amount may seem small however to the people of this village, it is an enormous amount and will make a positive impact on their lives.

It is with compassion and humility that I ask you for your help in raising these funds.

With thanks,

David Rosell



**David & Sophie with students of  
St. Margaret's, Nov 2019**