



Report ~ Child Aid Lanka 2004-2005

The Child Aid Lanka Committee, elected on the 22nd of August 2004, has had a full year of activities. Its agenda for the year 2004-2005 was extensive. By December 26th 2004, with the tsunami's destruction to human and coastal areas of the North, East and South of Sri Lanka, the urgency greatly increased the activities of the Association. Below is the progress report for this last year.

The Constitution for presentation to the Charity Commissioners, having been circulated to all the paid-up members, is now ratified and ready for application to the Commission.

The website childaidlanka.org.uk is now publicly available, and is being updated as we go along with our activities and news. It will greatly assist our mission as a functioning charity to aid Children in need in Sri Lanka.

Our first charity effort of the calendar year, working with the Rotary Club of Colombo, was to help the tsunami affected Ulla in Arugam Bay areas. We have fully funded fresh drinking water supply to 1,300 students of Sigiriya Maha Vidyalaya, in Inamaluwa, Dambulla.

We have also supported, through the Zonta Club 1, the Ragama Convalescent and Rehabilitation Home and School. Zonta Club 1 have submitted their project report

to us; they have given a new look to the little desks and chairs and an overall refurbishment to the entire place. This they inform us, “has given immense happiness and exuberance to the inmates of the home, both adults and children”.

The Sri Lanka Educational, Cultural and Welfare Foundation was another recipient of a CAL donation, set up by the Mudita Foundation to help provide educational facilities to the children in their care in Galkande, Munihirigama, Hettipola.

The Canaan Fellowship International Church said our donation made an important impact on their work. They provide shelter, food, clothes, and schooling destitute children. But hundreds of children still knock at their doors for help and succour daily and are turned away due to lack of facilities and insufficient funds to meet their needs.

The fundraising Dinner Dance held at the Grange Holborn Hotel, London, was a great success. These funds will now be distributed to selected charities. An auction at the dance raised funds for the Indian Ocean Disaster Relief Charity, which will go to the Weligama project.

A Sri Lankan cookery demonstration and lunch at St Paul’s Howell Hill in Cheam, Surrey, raised funds for the Medical Mobile Unit set up by them to aid the tsunami-affected areas.

At the famous Cheam Charter Fair, held since the time of Henry VIII in the sixteenth century, a CAL stall selling bric-a-brac raised funds for the tsunami fund.

At the Rotary Fair in Cheam Park a stall selling Sri Lankan take-away, spices, iced coffee, mango juice, dry

groceries, etc., and bric-a-brac was held on a windy summers day publicising our culinary arts.

Our website childaidlanka.org.uk carries all necessary information about CAL in words and pictures. The website keeps supporters and friends of CAL around the globe up to date on progress.

The AGM discussed plans to pursue our future projects. The funds we have raised will be distributed to the most needy according to the applications we receive.

Our planned registration with the Charity Commissioners will help to support those requesting aid. As an independent charity we continue our activities even during times of uncertainty in Sri Lanka.

PROJECTS PROPOSAL FOR THE FUTURE

We will be able to canvas as a registered charity when the registration with the charity commissioners has been completed and registration number assigned.

Child Aid Lanka has funds presently that can be donated to selected charities that are in need. We publicise the charities that have received donations in Sri Lanka. As part of this publicity exercise, we plan to encourage other smaller organisations caring for children, to apply for donations and aid. These smaller organisations in the remotest parts of the Island get very little or no help, and are unable to make themselves heard. We now have the support of the Rotary and Zonta to visit and help with the selection of deserving recipients.

The website will carry information on how to contact us. When selected, the organisations Child Aid Lanka wish to support will be publicised through the website and the press. We can thereby inform our International Membership, which we will promote through members and friends, to help with those specific Charities they wish to support. This will give them the choices where their donations can and must go to.