

child aid lanka

build their future



Annual Report

2014 – 2015

About Child Aid Lanka

Child Aid Lanka is a UK-based unincorporated voluntary association and a registered charity, charity number 1115204. Child Aid Lanka was established in 1998 as an independent, apolitical, multi-ethnic association; to raise funds for the under-privileged children of Sri Lanka and became a registered charity in May 2006.

The Charity's objectives are:

to relieve financial hardship, sickness and poor health, and advance the education of underprivileged children in Sri Lanka.

The charity is governed by a board of Trustees, elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting, or appointed by the Trustees. All Trustees hold office until the end of the AGM following election / appointment.

Trustees

Elected at the AGM, 15th January 2015:

- Naomi Aruliah, Chair
- Sean McQuaid, Treasurer
- Trevor Perera
- Niru Ratnam
- Philip Robinson
- Lakshman Somanathan, Secretary
- Sugi Somanathan
- Hong Yan

In addition to the commitment of its Trustees, Child Aid Lanka relies upon the efforts of a large number of volunteer supporters – Child Aid Lanka's members, a wider network of friends and supporters and a small team of voluntary advisors.

The charity also benefits from the support of a range of corporate donors, the Sri Lankan society of Imperial College London and increasingly from organisations such as The Rotary club.

All of our members, friends and partner organisations are regularly updated on our work.

Membership rules

To be a member of Child Aid Lanka you must:

- Support the aims and objectives of the Charity;
- Be resident in the UK and be over 18
- Pay the annual membership fee of £10 (£5 unwaged)

Membership runs from 1st December to 30th November:

- Fees received before 1st September will be effective up to the following 30th November;
- Fees received on or after 1st September will be effective from the following 1st December.

All Child Aid Lanka's fundraising activities are carried out by volunteers/friends. With no paid staff the charity ensures that as much as possible of the funds raised benefit those who need it most.

Child Aid Lanka's partners in Sri Lanka

Kaveri Kala manram (KKm)

Paralai Road, Chulipuram, Jaffna

www.thevanni.com

Director: The Revd Dr T.S. Joshua

UK Representative: Dr Preman Jeyaratnam

The Rotary Club of Colombo

22 Macleod Road, Bambalapitiya, Colombo 04

www.rotarycolombo.org

President: Mr Rohan Karunaratne

Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum

41/12 New Parliament Road, Pelawatta,

Western Province

www.lankarainwater.org

Director: Dr Tanuja Ariyananda

Activities

Child Aid Lanka organises fund raising activities in the UK and seeks donations from individuals and organisations both within the UK and internationally, to raise funds which are invested in projects to help underprivileged children in Sri Lanka.

During its history, the charity has supported a wide range of projects, which have benefited a great many children in Sri Lanka. These have included:

- Medical facilities
- Vocational training schemes
- Tsunami relief work
- Solar panels to an orphanage in Thirukkovil, South-Eastern Sri Lanka
- Sewing machines to vulnerable women in Hambantota
- Books
- Computer equipment

Our projects are implemented via carefully selected partners and community-based charitable organisations in Sri Lanka. Using personal contacts and working with organisations that understand local conditions, Child Aid Lanka ensures that all money donated and all effort is totally directed to those in need.

Child Aid Lanka's priority project during 2014-2015 was providing clean water through construction of wells.

Providing clean water

This project, now in its second year, has proved hugely successful. It started as a program where the charity, working with local community organisations in Sri Lanka, constructed wells to give communities a secure supply of clean water.

Child Aid Lanka, provided funding for the construction of water wells around the village of Malayalapuram, set in the Killinochchi district of the Vanni, an arid region (about 100km) South East of Jaffna. This area is home to large numbers of war displaced families, often headed by widows.

Well construction is overseen by our locally-based partner Kaveri Kala manram, a community development organisation, which employs and trains local villagers in the requisite artisanal skills. The end result is a secure supply of clean water for drinking, sanitation and irrigation as well as communities trained with skills which aid in securing employment.

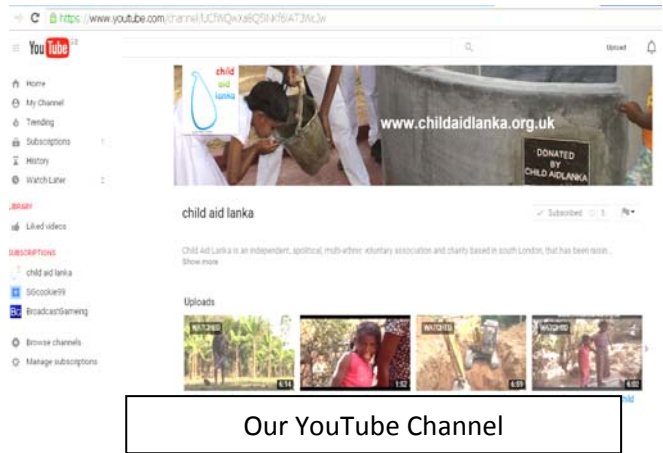
In the past year Child Aid Lanka has funded 3 wells (our total now stands at 16), including one which allowed the creation of a local Papadam factory (bringing employment) and another for a community of (seven) 'war widows'.

Summary of Activity in 2014 - 2015

Last year one of the main areas we addressed was our online presence, including:

- Improvements to our website
- A YouTube channel
- Social Media – email, facebook, twitter etc.

This has been very powerful in making the charity far more visible and transparent to the world enabling individuals and other organisations to keep up to date with our activities and achievements (and to contact us).



Our YouTube Channel



Our Facebook page



Our web site

The Sapphire Ball

Our website enabled us to secure a magnificent donation of £4,500 from the Sri Lankan society of Imperial College London (this will appear in next year's accounts). They were impressed by our work and donated part of the proceeds from their annual Sapphire Ball hosted at the Troxy Grand Ballroom. We hope to forge a stronger alliance with the society for future fund-raising events and thank them for their generosity and their commitment to donate more next year!



'A Time for Questions'

An event hosted by Child Aid Lanka in South London on 15th January 2015. Chaired by Tom Drake MBE of Water Aid; with representatives from all of the political parties present, this proved very popular. The theme 'Does charity begin at home?' prompted Questions ranging from whether to provide foreign aid to corrupt poor countries to 'Is the EU a racket?' and 'Should foreigners be allowed to buy UK property?'. We hope to repeat this engaging event over similarly contentious issues such as the UK referendum on EU membership. This event was recorded and widely broadcast via our YouTube channel.

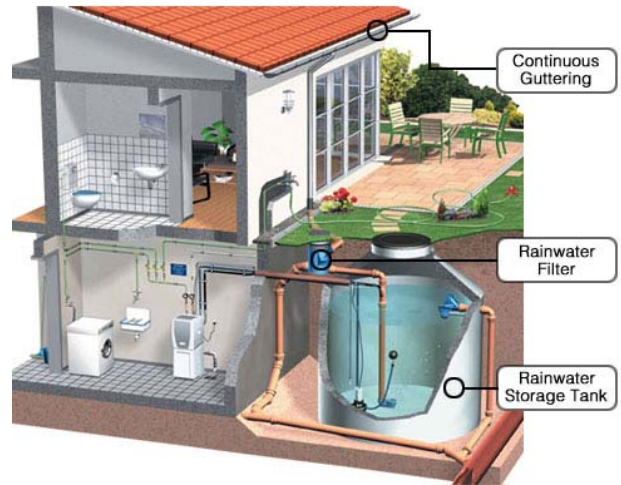


Visits to Sri Lanka:

This is a key component of our strategy of maximising benefit to the people who need it. Our trustees and advisors visit Sri Lanka frequently, resulting in us having a board-level presence there virtually all year round. This enables us to keep up to date with and monitor developments in our projects. It also serves as a reminder to our partners that we are active participants. These visits, at our own expense, also enable us to explore and assess potential new projects and partners.

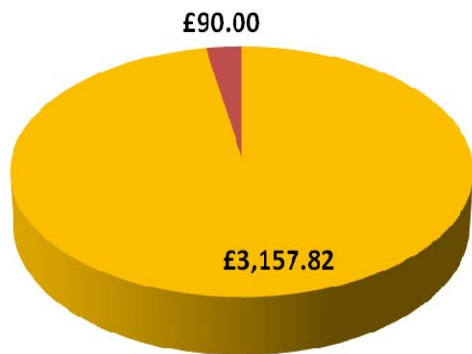
One such is **Rain Water Harvesting**, whereby freely available clean rainwater is used to augment ground water via a simple gutter pipe system. The nominal cost versus the enormous benefit has convinced us that this is a project

worth pursuing, especially when you consider that very few houses in the country have gutters! Our partner organisation the **Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum**, have been invaluable in advising on this and we intend to implement this project very soon in conjunction with future wells.



Income and Expenditure

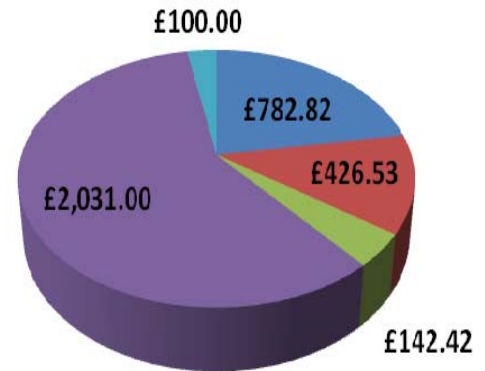
Expenditure



- Project funding: Wells
- Bank charges

Total £3,247.82

Income



- Local fundraising
- Cheques
- Easyfundraising
- Utility company donation
- Other

Total £3,482.77

Future Developments

The current Trustees have suggested the following areas of priority for development of the charity in the years ahead (subject to confirmation by the new board of Trustees):

- Continued development and implementation of credible fundraising strategies via
 - Corporate Sponsorship
 - Forging links with academic institutions (and their societies) such as the Sri Lankan society of Imperial College
 - School and personal sponsorship
 - Online fundraising – eg Easyfundraising

It all begins with water

We suggest the charity focus on water. This would be achieved by:

- Developing stronger relationships with professional organizations and charities who can give us the benefit of their experience:
 - Water Aid – relative merits of wells versus rain water harvesting
 - Jaffna University – advice on water quality in the North of Sri Lanka
 - Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum

We suggest a pilot project be set up on **Rain Water Harvesting**.

- Building partnerships with International organisations such as The Rotary Club.

The main focus by the trustees this year has been to lay the groundwork to apply for a **Rotary 'Global Grant'** which could enable us to build 50 wells! By means of a 'matched funding' system there is the potential to almost triple our funds! This has been a very time consuming process and has detracted from conventional fund raising however we feel it is an investment which will pay large dividends if we commit the time now.

The Trustees wish to thank all members, friends, volunteers and partner organisations for their help in what has been a very formative and productive year and look forward to an even better year next year!