

PRITHIPURA COMMUNITIES

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2020 - A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

2020 has been a year like no other and we have certainly felt the impact at Prithipura Communities. As many of you will know, we went into lockdown in March 2020 and to date remain closed to visitors and have protocol in place to keep the children and adults with disabilities that live with us happy, safe and well.

Despite the challenges, we have much to be thankful for. Support from our friends and donors both in Sri Lanka and abroad has kept us going since the start of the pandemic. Your donations and words of encouragement have even more meaning during these challenging times! Our activities have been restricted – those who live with us have always enjoyed outings, sporting events and community events. However, just like everyone all over the world we have adapted our activities.

Highlights include a 'home cinema' at Cotagala School, increased growing of fruits and vegetables at the farms and meticulously planned celebrations at the Infants Home with handmade decorations, lots of fun and of course cake!

With a COVID-19 vaccination programme recently starting in Sri Lanka, we are hoping for better times ahead in 2021.

WHAT WE DO

Building lives and abilities for over 50 years, Prithipura Communities works from 4 locations in Sri Lanka to provide care rehabilitation, education and work opportunities to 240 children and adults with disabilities with little or no family support.



COTAGALA SCHOOL

Like all our branches, Cotagala School has had an unusual year with the school officially closing when lockdown was announced in March 2020 and then reopening in June 2020. Following government regulations, they closed again in October 2020 and reopened for a month in December.

In March 2020, on the advice of the Education Department, those who go to their families during holiday periods, went to stay with them. They were only able to return in January 2021 with safe protocol to ensure COVID-19 was not transmitted. 50 children and young people stayed on site throughout the year as they did not have families to stay with.

During official school closure periods, educational and play activities continued nevertheless. The children and young people also enjoyed outdoor games and sports, using the playground and helping with cooking and gardening.

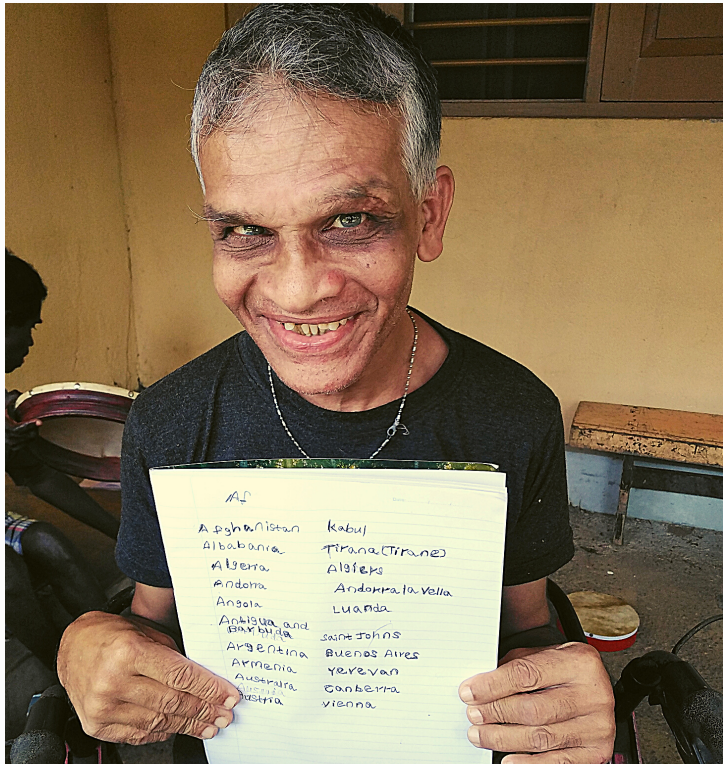


WHAT A MARVELLOUS MEMORY!

Sunil has always had a good memory. He is good at remembering names, dates and specific events. Back in 2019, some people from Korea came to visit Anandapura Farm, where Sunil is a resident. Sunil was interested to know where in the world Korea was. He acquired a world map and became fascinated by all the countries in the world.

Sunil asked how many countries there were in total. He started trying to name them, from memory. He could name 20 or so. Everyone got involved. Others named countries Sunil had not. He learned some more and was able to recite 50 or more. But he wanted to know them all.

A list of all the countries in the world was printed out in large text so that Sunil could clearly see each letter. He began writing out the names of the countries in alphabetical order. He wrote them out many times until he could recite them from memory. He can now name all 200 countries from memory and not only that, he went on to learn all the capital cities. Sunil is now learning the names of oceans and seas.



STILL TIME TO CELEBRATE

All 4 branches of Prithipura Communities have celebrated birthdays and special events this year. Christmas was quieter than usual, as we normally have lots of visitors, but it was a happy celebration nevertheless.

Thanks to those who provided gifts for those who live with us – everyone appreciated their gifts from Santa!





THE FARMS

The residents of Asokapura and Anandapura Farms have been busy as usual with planting, tending and harvesting lots of fruit, vegetable and spices this year. Much of the produce is used by all 4 branches of Prithipura Communities. Most of those who live on the farm are involved in agriculture in some way. Each person has different responsibilities according to what they enjoy doing, their capabilities and what needs to be done!

For example, Arthur at Anandapura Farm is up at 6am every morning, touring the farm with his trusty wheelbarrow picking up the coconuts that have fallen. He piles these in the forecourt ready for collection. At 7am, he cleans the cowshed. Once again, he uses his wheelbarrow to take the manure to the manure heap. The cow dung is used to fertilise the crops. Before a nutritious and hearty breakfast, Arthur ensures the wheelbarrow is clean ready for the following day's coconut collection operation.



THERAPY

Our in-house therapists have not been able to provide therapy in person since March 2020 as they are not able to live on-site and it was too risky for them to visit regularly. Sajini, our speech and language therapist now does online therapy. She is looking forward to when she can return and see everyone in person once again.

Sajini is happy that she can see the difference her therapy makes. Last year, for example, she did a block of therapy with Dilshani and was pleased with the progress she made. Dilshani is now able to verbally comprehend 2-3 words, verbally express more single words and use more gestures. She is also now more independent with eating and needs less assistance with drinking.

VOLUNTEERS

Due to airport restrictions and the need to protect those from COVID-19, we were only able to welcome a few volunteers at the beginning of 2020.

Special thanks to Debi, our long-term volunteer based at Anandapura Farm, who has been able to stay with us throughout the pandemic. The residents and care team at Anandapura Farm have very much appreciated her support at this challenging time.

We don't have a clear plan on when we will be able to welcome volunteers again. Please do contact us if you are interested and we can keep you up to date on developments!



COVID - 19 FUNDRAISING

The response to our appeal for support when we faced a 90% drop in local donations following lockdown was simply amazing. We can't thank you enough for all your contributions, donations and sharing of information. Several funders immediately diverted funds to support our running costs and individuals and groups ran innovative fundraising campaigns!

To date, we have raised over \$30,000 through our Global Giving fundraising page as well as direct donations. Funds raised are contributing directly to our running costs – keeping everyone fed, healthy, safe and stimulated.

Find out more about how the funds are being used here: <https://goto.gg/46437>

HOW TO DONATE

Donations in Sri Lankan Rupees:

Hatton National Bank – City Office
Account number: 002010012779
SWIFT Code: HBLILKLX
Beneficiary: The Treasurer,
Prithipura Infants Home

Donations in Euros:

Commercial Bank of Ceylon Ltd.,
Pita Kotte Branch
Account Number: 1110010061
SWIFT Code: CCEYLKLX
Beneficiary: The Treasurer,
Prithipura Infants Home

Online via Global Giving:

<https://goto.gg/46437>



In the UK

Account name: Prithi UK
Account number: 91869434
Sort Code: 40-01-13

Online via Virgin Money Giving:

<https://tinyurl.com/y9lp5gvz>

Prithi UK can be contacted at
prithiuk@gmail.com