

NEWSLETTER 2022

# PRITHIPURA COMMUNITIES



Contact us:

 [www.prithipura.org](http://www.prithipura.org)

@ [info@prithipura.org](mailto:info@prithipura.org)

 (00 94)(0)112 930 635

## 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.

## HOW TO DONATE

### Donations in Sri Lankan Rupees:

Hatton National Bank – City Office

Account number: 002010012779

SWIFT Code: HBLILKLX

Beneficiary: Prithipura Infants Home

### Online via Global Giving:

<https://goto.gg/46437>

## THANK YOU FOR BRIGHTENING OUR WORLD!

2021 - another year that wasn't quite as dramatic as 2020, but where we certainly continued to face and overcome many challenges.

Despite the struggles, we have not only survived but flourished and we must thank you all for the part you have played in this. We are yet again aware that we would not be where we are today, if not for your kindness and support.

As we continue to adapt to a changed world, life goes on. Vulnerable little ones have found shelter and a loving home with us. Children continue to blossom, and our farms are thriving with many people contributing in diverse ways. The increase in farming activity has been particularly important given the economic situation in large parts of the world, but which has hit Sri Lanka particularly hard in recent months.

**We learnt an important lesson in 2020 - you never know what is around the corner - we still don't! However, with your support, we can be as prepared as possible for any eventuality. Thank you once again, our amazing friends and supporters, for all that you do!**

**Prithipura Communities - Prithipura Infants Home, Asokapura & Anandapura Farms and Cotagala School**



Like us on [Facebook](#)



Follow us on [Instagram](#)



# NEW ARRIVALS

We hope that one day all children with disabilities will be able to live with their families. In the meantime, Prithipura Communities provides an important safety net for incredibly vulnerable children.

In 2021, five new babies and children have come to live with us at Prithipura – at the Infants Home as well as Cotagala School. They came from precarious and complicated family situations where parents were not able to provide care.

Salaman came to live with us in October 2021 when she was just one month old. Now nearly six months old, she has thrived under the loving care of her carers who work in Usha, the baby room at the Infants Home. She is a curious little girl and enjoys playing with brightly coloured toys. Over the coming months, she will be supported with developing important skills that will allow her to develop to her full potential.



From this...



...to this!

# PROJECTS

**Just like many people and organisations all over the world we adapted to new circumstances and despite restrictions, we managed to achieve some important work at all locations including the improvement of facilities and expanding our agricultural activities.**

Farming has increased at all locations as we realised that we needed to do more to sustain ourselves – particularly important as the price of fruit and vegetables is ever increasing at the moment.

The team at Cotagala School are particularly proud of their work with a disused paddy field that they have rejuvenated – you can see the change in the pictures above! They did their research and are using an indigenous rice seed that is more resistant to disease.

At the Infants Home, the perimeter fence has been renovated – much needed after twenty years and important for security and safety.

The road from Cotagala School to Asokapura Farm is also being resurfaced to improve access to essential services for those living at the farm.

Washing machines have also been purchased for the two residential houses at Asokapura Farm as well as Ambesevena, one of the residential houses at Cotagala School. They certainly make laundry easier for those living there.

Last but not least, throughout the pandemic, the pool at the Infants Home has been used more, as community and external activities have ceased. Therefore, we have upgraded it so that it is salt-water-chlorinated. This means that the water is softer on the skin and is more therapeutic for the children and adults with disabilities who use it.

**Thanks to our generous sponsors and donors who supported these projects and others. We really appreciate your support!**



# INCREASING SUSTAINABILITY

In 2021, we received two large donations via [GlobalGiving, our crowdfunding platform](#). One was from GlobalGiving itself as part of their [Coronavirus Relief Fund](#) and the other from a large international funder.

As these were entirely unexpected and in addition to our usual funding sources we thought long and hard about the best use of these funds.

As many of you will know, our hardworking team of carers, teachers and farm workers have played an essential role in keeping everyone safe, happy and healthy in the last two years. Many have made personal sacrifices to protect the vulnerable children and adults who live with us. We would not be where we are today if it was not for their dedication and commitment.

Unfortunately, the pandemic and other factors means that Sri Lanka is in the midst of a economic crisis. Inflation is at an all-time high and costs of essentials are rising daily. This has a direct impact on many of those who work for us. We have always struggled to maintain competitive salaries but it is very important that we do in order to build staff retention as well as to continue to attract new staff.

As such, we have decided to use these extra funds to support a significant increase in the basic salary of our amazing team. The extra funds received will support the increase for the next 3 years. We'll still need to secure funding for the existing staff budget as we do every year, but this pot of money along with other initiatives will make a substantial contribution to the sustainability of our 'salary fund' and of the organisation as a whole.

## SPONSORSHIP - HELPING PROVIDE A BRIGHT FUTURE

“When I first met Neranjala, she had a special place in my heart in an instant. The months I spent volunteering flew by and soon I had to leave. I was glad that there was a chance to care for Neranjala in another way. It’s a small amount for me but to Neranjala it means clothes, food and medication. It also means I maintain a personal connection with her – I enjoy reading about what she is up to along with the other children at the Infants Home in the regular updates I receive. I am looking forward to when I can visit her again!”

*Maria Bixl, volunteer in 2017*

Full sponsorship is **Rs 6,000** a month or you can part-sponsor for **Rs 2,000** a month. Everyone who sponsors a child or adult who lives with us receives an introductory report on the person they are sponsoring and annual updates with photos.

**Drop us an email if you would like to find out more!**



# VOLUNTEERS

Volunteering at Prithipura Communities is a life-changing experience for many and we have fond memories of volunteers who have made an impact and stayed in touch long after they return to their home countries.

As Sri Lanka has relaxed its restrictions for international visitors in the last 6 months, we are currently planning to accommodate volunteers once again.

Please do email us at [info@prithipura.org](mailto:info@prithipura.org) if you are interested in volunteering. We will keep you updated on our revised volunteer programme once it has been agreed.

Find out more - [www.prithipura.org/volunteer](http://www.prithipura.org/volunteer)



“

**“It was one of the happiest times of my life. My outlook changed. I was shaped into a different person and my mental and physical health was stimulated.”**

”



## RALPH'S STORY

**Our dear friend Ralph visited us in 2019 and writes fondly of his time with us:**

My recent visit to Prithipura, where I had been a volunteer in the 1980s, brought home to me the saying that 'the more an organisation changes, the more it remains the same'.

I was delighted to find that the vision of Bryan de Kretser and the implementing skills of his wife, Thillaka, are still the mainstay of Prithipura, which continues to provide wonderful care for its residents, who are drawn from all societal groups. At the same time, the organisation has adapted to the changing needs of the times and especially to the technology that enhances the care and provides many more opportunities for the range of disabilities which the residents have.

The most outstanding feature of Prithipura is its staff: Pieter, Katherine, members of the Ramanayake family and other staff continue to deliver the care, rehabilitation, education, training and community integration as envisioned by Bryan and Thillaka. However, even more outstanding in this respect, is the presence amongst the staff of many former residents. These young men and women, through their lived experiences, are now themselves contributing to the vision that is Prithipura.

In 1983, in the field of disability care and rehabilitation, I thought Prithipura was a model that could be used globally. Today, I still think that to be so.

**You don't have to be perfect to help people.  
All you have to be is real.**

