

Ceylon Fellowship of Service

Prithipura Home

*Over 60 Years of
Lifelong Care*

January to June 2022



Since 1960, the Ceylon Fellowship of Service Prithipura Home has flourished in tranquil surroundings on four acres of land in the coastal town of Wattala.

The Ceylon Fellowship of Service Prithipura Home was inaugurated in 1962. Under the guidance and dedication of Bikkhu Sumana, the Home initially began as a boys' home. There were three huts with cemented floors, wooden walls and thatch roofs. It had four residents with a few house mothers to care for them.

Today there are 60 residents housed in six cottages on the premises, giving the feeling of an extended family unit. Four cottages - Norad, Canada, Jayewardene and Rosy - house male residents while the females live in Bates and Prithi. Our staff numbers nine house mothers, two kitchen staff, a matron, an office manager, an administration officer, a gate keeper, a gardener and a driver.

Our mission is to care for the residents in a community environment that enables them to live life to the fullest. We offer a safe place for the well-being and rehabilitation of the residents who need special care and attention due to mental, physical, social or economic reasons. At the Home, residents are encouraged to develop their own personalities and identities.

VISION: A home for people with mental and physical disabilities

MISSION: To care for our residents in a community environment that enables our residents to live life to the fullest

Rising Prices and Fuel Shortages Impact Home

The CFS Prithipura Home is facing trying times as Sri Lanka's dire economic situation continues to worsen. Donations in cash and kind have dropped dramatically just as costs of food and other goods have risen to alarming levels while many people struggle just to manage their day to day lives.

We have had some generous donations for food and medicines that have helped to tide us over but as costs keep rising, with some basic goods even tripling in price, the strain on our resources is considerable. The residents and staff are doing their bit by growing vegetables, fruits and medicinal plants as well as making bags, cards, pot holders and dusters for sale. However, due to Covid previously and now shortages of fuel, visitors are not coming to the home.

In addition to costs of meals, maintenance and repairs, most residents need regular medicines to keep them healthy; these too have shot up in price. The ones in poor health need frequent visits to the clinic or the hospital and sometimes require carers to stay with them.

We charge Rs. 33,000 for a day's meals – breakfast, lunch, tea and dinner – for our residents and staff. The individual rates are as follows: breakfast Rs 7,000, lunch Rs. 15,000, tea Rs. 5,000 and dinner Rs. 10,000.

Our six cottages need urgent upgrading and refurbishment. The toilets are in disrepair. Renovating one toilet will cost around Rs. 900,000. Annual maintenance of one cottage is about Rs. 120,000 while upgrading one cottage dormitory is about Rs. 500,000.

If you can help, please contact the Home on +94 112930447.



January to June at the Home

- January:** Residents and staff began preparing vegetable gardens on the premises. Renovation began on bathrooms in Bates Cottage.
- February:** Students from Cinec Campus cleaned and painted the outside parapet wall. They brought dry rations, stationary, sweets and toys.
Owner of Tashma International visited the home bringing dry rations, pampers, sweets and fruit.
The booster vaccine was given to staff and residents over the age of 18.
- March:** The drainage pits around the home were cleaned.
Vegetables and yams such as green chilles, manioc, ladies fingers and long beans were planted in prepared beds.
- April:** Sinhala and Tamil New Year was celebrated with the generous help of Inner Wheel Club of Wattala, which provided food, drink and gifts for staff and residents. It was an enjoyable day for all who participated with songs and dances performed by residents and staff.
A wood burning oven was constructed for cooking due to the scarcity of gas.
Bags, dusters, oven gloves, pickles and chutney made by residents and cupcakes, sheets, towels and T shirts donated to the Home were sold at the Good Market before the New Year holidays.
- May:** Upon the advice of Agriculture Professor Jayasekera, the ground was prepared with raised beds and natural drains to plant vegetables in waterlogged parts of the garden.
- June:** There were no special activities in June.

Upgrading and Maintenance

The bathrooms at Bates Cottage were completely renovated with news tiles and fittings with generous donations from Sarinda Unamboowe, Cherine Chandrasoma, Rohitha Peiris, Georgina and Margaret from Australia, Duncan Watts from the US, K. Srikantha, Arundathi Kurukulasuriya, Ruwani Jayewardene, Anoja Karunaratne, Ramani Joshua, Renuka Yoganathan and Lieneke from Holland. The drainage pits around the home were repaired and cleaned with help from the Wattala Municipal Council, which sent three labourers and a backhoe.



Events in Pictures



Management

The Annual General Meeting of the home was held on April 24 via zoom. The following people were elected as office bearers and to the executive committee:

President: Joan Jayemanne

Vice President: Arundathi Kurukulasuriya

Treasurer: Devika Anthonisz

Secretary: Minoli de Soysa

Executive Committee: Swun Kou Fernando, T. Someswaran, Tashya Joshua, Anoja Karunaratne, Nirodha Cooray, Enaksha Perera and Sunethra Fernando.

Samantha de Soysa resigned from the committee.

Fundraising and Donations

Despite the trying conditions facing the country, we were fortunate to have generous international and local donors to cover the bathroom renovations in two cottages, supplement meals and pay for medicines. Among these donors were Sarinda Unamboowe, Cherine Chandrasoma, K. Srikantha, Arundathi Kurukulasuriya, Ramani Joshua, Renuka Yoganathan, Indrani de Silva, Georgina Spinaz, Duncan Watts, Ruwani Jayewardene, Anoja Karunaratne and Lieneke. The organisations that assisted us include Sri Lanka UK Society for medicines, Sri Lanka UK Women Association, the Sri Lanka Australia Friendship Association and Ideas Ltd for food. We also went on line and initiated Tribe Fund, which raised Rs. 716,000.



Would you like to contribute your time and effort towards making a difference in the lives of the differently abled? We are looking for new members. If you feel you can help us with fundraising and organizing events, please contact Minoli on 0775352584 or at minoli.desoysa@gmail.com.

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Direct Donations

Ceylon Fellowship of Service

Account No.000-163-0360

Bank of Ceylon (Code-7010), Kollupitiya Branch (Code 034)

Address: 28, St. Michael's Road, Kollupitiya, Sri Lanka

Swift Code-BCEYLK LX

Please forward a copy of the deposit slip by email.

Please draw cheques in favour of "Ceylon Fellowship of Service". All monetary donations are acknowledged by the issuance of an official receipt.

LEND A HAND

As a charitable organization, CFS Prithipura Home looks to the community for annual support. State funding offsets only a small part of the cost of caring for residents, so private donations are essential. The Home receives contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations. There are many ways in which you can support the Home.

MEALS

Donate a meal for the entire home (residents and staff) for the day. You have a choice of Breakfast/Lunch/Tea or Dinner with a selection of menus. We would like as many donations as possible towards food because giving them a proper meal is difficult with the minimal funding we receive.

**For more information, contact +94 112930447
or by email: cfs269prithipura@gmail.com
Website: [www. http://cfsprithipurahome.com](http://cfsprithipurahome.com)**