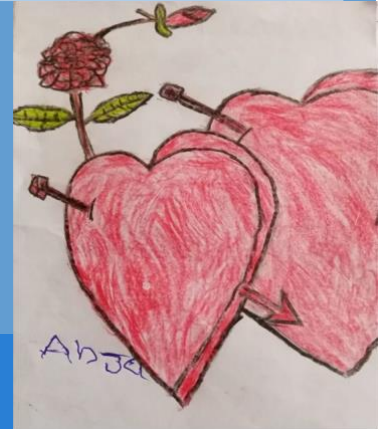


Ceylon Fellowship of Service

Prithipura Home

*Over 60 Years of
Lifelong Care*

January to June 2023



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, assistant matron, 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

Looking Towards a Brighter Future

While the ongoing economic downturn continued to impact the Home in terms of donations, there were some bright prospects on the horizon in terms of a generous donor who has come forward to carry out renovations and maintenance at his own expense, and to build a new cottage for the women, since they are crowded into two cottages at present.

We continued to receive donations from abroad and from Sri Lankans who want to support us in cash and kind.

As Covid fears receded, more people were coming in to give donations as well as donations of dry rations and supplies directly to the Home. There were more visitors to entertain and support the residents as well as a resumption of other activities such as visits to Kelaniya Temple, Thewatte basilica and other van rides. The two teachers are keeping the residents occupied at the activity centre with hand work, cookery, singing and dancing.

However, the financial situation remains challenging as ever increasing costs had to be met with dwindling donations. To this end, we are looking at fundraising activities such as taking stall at sales events and resurrecting our usual November sale, which could not be held due to the conditions in the country. The short term high interest rates on our investments helped to mitigate the operational loss.

If you can help in the way of donations or your time, please contact the Home on +94 112930447.



January to June at the Home

Despite the continuing adverse economic situation, the Home managed to keep the residents busy and occupied. In January, there was a trip to the beach and also the students of OKI school in Wattala visited and entertained the residents.

In February three teams of 20 parents in each team from the Village Children's Committee of Palliyawatta cleaned the garden and prepared vegetable plots. They gave Rs.10,000 for the purchase of detergent, soap and washing powder, treated residents to a hopper meal and gave dry rations on these occasions. The residents were also provided with entertainment.

In March, the Year 6 students of the Moir School paid their annual visit to the Home bringing with them gifts for the residents. They played games and gave the residents an enjoyable time.

In April, the Lions Club of Kolonnawa held an avurudu celebration with gifts to the residents. Sumithayo Negombo branch visited the Home to plan a monthly visit to befriend staff and residents. This is a much needed respite for our staff who are giving round the clock attention to the residents while coping with personal problems. The staff made kavum and kokis for Sinhala Avurudu.

In May, Vesak was celebrated at the home with making of kavum and kokis and lanterns.

In June, members of Sumithrayo Negombo branch visited the Home and conducted a whole morning session which included an hour long workshop attended by all the house mothers, the theme being 'Amma'. The staff participated enthusiastically. They then spent a further two hours meeting with the house mothers separately to help them with their personal problems.



Management

A new assistant matron, Ms. Gayani Gunawardene, has been recruited. We welcome her into the Prithipura family.

The AGM of the Home was held in April. The following were elected as office bearers and committee members for 2023/2024:

President: Devika Anthonisz

Vice President: There were no nominations for VP and therefore it was postponed to a future date

Secretary: Swun Kou Fernando

Treasurer: Enaksha Perera

Committee Members: Minoli de Soysa, Joan Jayamanne, Arundathi Kurukulasuriya, Sunethra Fernando and Luvi Seimon.

In May, Sunethra Fernando and Joan Jayamanne resigned from the committee due to personal reasons. Badra Jayaweera and Major General Lohan Goonawardene joined the committee.

Upgrading and Maintenance

A generous and philanthropic new member offered to undertake the maintenance and upgrading of the buildings at his cost. The Exco decided to accept his generous offer. The initial plan is to first renovate the Canada and Rosy cottage toilets. He also intends building a new cottage for the female residents and upgrading the activity building. More details will be given in the next newsletter.

Fundraising and Donations

We will be having the Prithipura Fundraising Sale on Wednesday, November 14, at the Lionel Wendt. If you can assist us with planning the sale, sourcing vendors and finding donations for the raffle, please get in touch.

The main donors during January to June were Georgina and Margaret and friends from Australia, Priyanthi Seneviratne and sisters, Neil Umagiliya, DH Potema from Singapore, Department of Public Trustee, Ideas Ltd, Ananda Silva, Roshani Ainkaran from Australia, Van den Bos & Partners Holland and Samurdhi Fund.

A crowd funding was initiated in April for the second time. Unfortunately this did not attract many donors this time. If you can donate even a small amount please log into <https://www.tribefunds.lk/projects/ceylonfellowshipprithipura>.

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 the Secretary, Swun Kou Fernando, on 0776242511 or at swunkou@gmail.com.

July to December 2023

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-BCEYLKXLX

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. 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)**