



# THE RĀHULA TRUST

(Child Sponsorship Programme)

Registered Charity No. 1075742

PROGRESS REPORT FOR 2019 - 2021

## Child sponsorship during coronavirus

Despite very challenging circumstances, we are extremely grateful to our generous supporters and funders who continued to support our work. In 2021 the Rahula Trust's income was £101,077, which is significantly higher than 2020 although lower than 2019.

Millions of children are facing an uncertain future as Covid-19 becomes a global pandemic. So, our child sponsorship programme is even more vital. We urgently need more sponsors to help us reach more children.

### Sponsorship in Sri Lanka

In general, the Trust has had another successful year. During 2020, 27 students and 2021, 27 students completed their studies, and 48 new students were accepted for sponsorship. The total number of students in Sri Lanka being sponsored by the Rahula Trust currently is 414.

Every year we ask students sponsored by the Rahula Trust to submit to us their school or college reports. You may be wondering why you have not received any information about your sponsored student for the years 2020 & 2021.

The reason for this is the pandemic, which has been having adverse effects all over the world. As in the UK, in Sri Lanka too all educational establishments have been closed and their examinations cancelled, although most have transferred their teaching online.

As a result, this year also the students have been unable to submit their usual reports. We have asked them to write to their sponsors explaining

the situation, thanking them for their continuing support and describing their progress, without providing the usual reports.

We hope you will understand this exceptional situation and that you will be happy to continue your support for students in need during this difficult period. Many adults have also lost their livelihoods, especially those parents who work as labourers.

We have increased the monthly amount for school students from Rs. 3,200.00 to Rs. 3,600.00 and for university students from Rs. 4,000.00 to Rs. 5,000.00 per month.

We are also in the process of selecting more students for sponsorship in 2022.

### Nepal Sponsorship

Due to Covid-19 in Nepal, the schools were closed for long time, but in the middle of 2021, they reopened and the Rahula Trust was able to resume supporting its sponsored students.

### Other Projects

In 2019, the Rahula Trust donated school equipment for 293 students in 4 schools in Polonnaruwa, Kurunegala and Puttalam districts. In-

dividual packages were made with items of school bags, water bottles, lunch boxes, books, pens, maps and pencils. The Secretary of the Rahula Trust, Ven. Bandula, attended in person to donate these packages to the students.

The Rahula Trust donated two photocopying machines to Pothanegama Primary school in Kurunegala District and Munamalgaswewa Primary school in Puttalam district.

Due to Covid-19, the Rahula Trust could not continue to support special projects in Sri Lanka during 2020 and 2021. However, we continued to support projects in Lesotho and Nepal. Also we continued to support Viharamahadevi Child Development Centre and Pre-school in Tawalama.

None of this would be possible without the generous and unfailing support we continue to receive from supporters such as yourself. We are indeed most grateful for this, and we hope you can feel proud of the difference you are making to the lives of young people in other parts of the world. The students in receipt of sponsorship often write to us to express their appreciation of the support they receive.

*Continued on Page 2*



*At the request of the librarian, the Rahula Trust donated useful books to A/Aliwanguwa Maha Vidyala library, Padavi-Sri Pura in 2019.*

**How we fundraise**

We aim to inspire people to give or raise money to support our work - our dedicated child sponsors offer long-term support and a personal connection to the communities in which we work. Other contributors to our Individual Giving programme make one-off and regular gifts.

Every child deserves a chance in life. The impact of the global coronavirus crisis is still unfolding and, now more than ever, we urgently need sponsors to help children and their communities. Become a dream maker and start your sponsorship journey.

You can transform a child's life for good when you become a sponsor with the Rahula Trust.

The Rahula Trust believes that all children should have an equal chance to thrive. Your sponsorship will make a huge difference to a girl or boy in need – ensuring they have enough to eat, an education and hope for the future.

**PROVISION OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT TO NEEDY CHILDREN - 2019**

**Dimbu/Maitrigama Primary School, Polonnaruwa District**

On 27th November 2019, the representatives of the Rahula Trust visited Maitrigama Primary school in Polonnaruwa district to distribute accessories to the students at this school. It is a primary school up to 5th grade with over 100 students and 6 teachers. Most of the children are from low-income families. Their main revenue comes from paddy cultivation and other farming activities. As this is in a dry zone area, there is not a great deal of rain, which means that their income is very limited. This part of Sri Lanka was badly affected by the civil war. It is now recovering due to the support of government but there are many needs for the school.



**DONATIONS & FUND RAISING 2019-2021**

*Apart from our sponsors, there are some generous donations we received which we would like to acknowledge with thanks.*

- £300.00 Dr. Glen Karunanayake
- £1000.00 IMP College Union
- £500.00 Dr H C & M K Wijewardena
- £1200.00 Arena Pharmaceuticals
- £100.00 Dr Mrs C Nimalasena
- £200.00 Mrs L A Keys
- £100.00 Mrs Minali T Piyasena
- £250.00 Dr Mihiri Coxhead
- £222.22 Mr Redwood Fryxell
- £2000.00 Mr & Dr Mrs D M Makalanda
- £450.00 Mr & Mrs N G & S De Silva
- £1200.00 Mr & Mrs Sujith Wijesena
- £100.00 Mrs. Keerthi Rajarathna
- £200.00 Mrs G Kodituwakku
- £100.00 Mrs Pat Smith
- £200.00 Mr Jonathan Francis Cope
- £1825.00 Ms. S Thuraisingham
- £100.00 Mr D Jayakody-Arachchi
- £500.00 Mr & Mrs Wasanthe Pathiranga
- £1000.00 Mr Saman D Silva
- £1000.00 From the estate of Mrs Chandrani Karunadasa
- £5000.00 Anonymous Donor
- £150.00 Mr Joseph R Buehler
- £250.00 Mr & Mrs Athula Abeysekera
- £14,541 HMRC GIFT AID (2019-20)
- £14,281 HMRC GIFT AID (2020-21)

**Fund raising**

- Mrs Madara Sathyendra Kumar's birthday fund raising - £355.00
- Mrs Pavitra Ratnapala's birthday fund raising - £263.00
- Ven. Bandula's birthday fund raising - £4000.00

**Other donations**

Mr Reshan De Alwis SL Rs.100,000.00

**EASYFUNDRAISING**

*We are registered with easyfundraising and we need your help!*

*Easyfundraising is a great website where you can help the Rahula Trust raise funds simply by doing your everyday online shopping with over 3,300 big name retailers like Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com, eBay, Boden, and M&S.*

*Every time you shop, we could receive a small donation to say 'thank you' and it's completely free too! We want to raise as much as possible so please sign up and help us at <https://www.easyfundraising.org>.*

## The Rahula Trust in Action: Two Decades of Work

“Work for the welfare of others.” (The Sutta Nipata)

Prof. Rohan Kariyawasam

The Rahula Trust was set up 23 years ago in 1998. A draft plan for creating such a trust was taken to the head monk of the London Buddhist Vihara at the time, the Ven Dr M Vajiragnana. Dr Vajiragnana and the Venerable Tawalama Bandula (the current Chairman of the Rahula Trust) were very pleased to receive the plan: Dr Vajiragnana had long thought that the Vihara needed to do more work with children and he saw that there was a good opportunity for the LBV’s supporters to help with such work. The Rahula Trust started with only two children and a donation of £100. Since its formation, the trust has gone on to make £1,184,494.00 in donations and currently supports over 450 children.

(We have added some appreciation letters from few students who got support from the Rahula Trust.)

*“The Rahula Trust was the giant shadow for me from when I studied at grade 6 to University Education and my parents guided me directed that donation only for my education...In today, I successfully completed first year of MSSC degree as a subject library science of university of Kelaniya. Now I am working as a Public Librarian in Sri Lankan provincial Government service to share my knowledge very well.” (Chathurani)*

The trust is supported by five trustees, inspired by the hard work of its Chairman, Ven Tawalama Bandula. Many of the trustees have served from the commencement of the trust in early 2000. We lost two trustees through death and illness. Mr Richard Jones, who had been a tower of support over many years, passed away on the 2nd of April 2018. Mr Robert (‘Bob’) Parsons MBE, who had substantial experience in running charities, had to retire recently for health reasons.



The trustees have put in many hours of work over many years in building the reputation of the trust, working without any form of remuneration, to develop the trust’s projects and to help support the trust’s many beneficiaries, young children from the age of five to students at university and beyond. It is one of the trust’s greatest achievements that children who started on sponsorships from as young as five years old are now at university. Some of these university students have themselves grad-

uated with degrees to become teachers and to teach in schools where children are also supported by the trust.

*“I Successfully completed my Degree BSc Engineering (Hons) specialized in Electrical & Electronic Engineering from Faculty of engineering, University of Peradeniya by February 2019. Now I am working in a Telecommunication related Company as a Telecommunication Engineer...Also, I would like to join with you in future as a sponsor to help those who are not good economically.” (Dissanayaka)*

Over the years, I have had the pleasure and the good fortune to read many of the applications for sponsorship. I have been struck often by the hardship and poverty that many of these students have endured. It is very difficult to capture in so many words the types of disadvantage young people endure from the loss of both parents due to illness and conflict, financial deprivation, abuse: the list is endless. Sometimes it has been incredibly difficult to choose between the merits of different applications-. All seem to be deserving. All beneficiaries have the hallmarks of academic prowess and financial need.



*I was selected for this sponsorship programme when I was in Grade 5 at Dambulla Primary School. I could pass the Grade 5 scholarship exam (2002) and enter in to Ibbagamuwa Central College for further studies...After the successful completion of my 4 years full time degree programme at the University of Moratuwa, I joined the industry Hyundai Engineering & Construction Co. Ltd as a Quantity Surveyor. Furthermore, currently I’m reading MSc. In Construction Law & Dispute Resolution at the University of Moratuwa.” (Jayasiri)*

The trust currently supports projects not only in Sri Lanka but also in in Nepal, South Africa, Tanzania. Over the years, several of the trustees have visited Sri Lanka to see the projects and meet some children. They have visited many schools and have had the good fortune to have the administrators of schools and teachers put on many wonderful presentations involving the schoolchildren and their parents. The trust has supported these activities throughout Sri Lanka, including areas that were previously subject to military conflict. It is heartbreaking to see young children having to walk to school without

shoes and to live in environments where there may not be clean drinking water or access to public transport. And yet, despite these difficulties, these children have been able to work hard, do well at school, pass their Grade 5 examinations and get access to better regional schools. Many of the trust's children have passed the Grade 5 examination and show great academic promise: they are the potential leaders of the next generation.

*“Today I'm a doctor worked at District General Hospital Polonnaruwa at Accident and Emergency Unit...In these days I am studying for PG selection exams... The Rahula Trust helped me with financial support as well as giving me Good motivation...I'm really grateful for you all.. Theruwan saranay! Namobuddhaya!” (Peiris)*

Besides individual sponsorship, the trust has maintained an objective that trust money should benefit communities as well as individuals and should reach as many children as possible. In this way, the trust supports a range of educational infrastructure projects. These projects have greatly varied over the two decades the trust has been operational, with a number being described in the



trust's periodic newsletters (<http://www.rahula-trust.org/reports>), from building out internet access at schools, putting in place libraries, providing children with educational packs, providing computers and laptops in schools, building mobile libraries, helping with infrastructure that has an educational element through to helping local communities with community publishing projects' so that



books in fiction are published in a child's own community language rather than just in English.

All this work empowers children, helping to give them a sense that they are important in the world and that they are not forgotten, and that there are facilities that can



help them succeed despite the difficulties they may face, whether it be at an orphanage, a community school or a hut that serves as home.

*“I received this scholarship from 2006 when I was in Grade 6. I did my primary education in my village school, and I was able to obtain higher marks for Grade 5 Examination to attend Dharmaraja College, Kandy. I did a lot of sports in my school life and as well as in university. I obtained University full colours in 2017 for Baseball. My father and mother both are farmers, so our monthly income was not sufficient to manage all the work. Then this scholarship was a great support for my life and without Rahula trust maybe my parents cannot see me as a Civil Engineer.” (Kasun)*

None of this would have been possible without the generous support and help of you, our supporters. Your continued support has bought meaning and purpose to a generation of young children who themselves will give meaning and purpose to all those they come to support. Is this not metta, this loving kindness, that is the foundation that connects us all?

*“I was just nine years when I lost my parents. From that day onward, we were looked after by our grand mom. At that time, we faced lots of financial problems because my father is also a labourer...According to my mind I received this scholarship when I was in grade 6. From 2007 onward you are with me by continuously providing your support to me. I don't have words to thank you for this support, it was priceless to me. With your support I was able to move forward by successfully passing all the exams. I am a final year undergraduate of University of Colombo, Faculty of management and finance, department of accounting. I am a first-class degree holder. I am also a part qualified Chartered accountant with two-year audit training experience. I wish your organizations to continue this priceless service for long future because it will be lighting lots of lives like me.” (Sandun)*

*Late Mr Tom Kariyawasam, former representative of the Rahula Trust in Sri Lanka organised and engaged in many educational and social events of the Rahula Trust.*



**SOME OF THE SPONSORED CHILDREN IN SRI LANKA VISITED IN 2019**



**MATARA**



**PADAVI, SRI -PURA**



**KEKIRAWA**



**GALLE**



**MAPAKADAWEWA, MAHIYANGANAYA**



**KEGALLE**



**GALLE**



**COLOMBO**



**KURUNEGALA**



**KURUNEGALA**



**Donation of Photocopy machine  
Pu/Munamalgaswewa Vidyalaya**



**Donation of Photocopy machine  
Gal/Pothanegama Vidyalaya**

**PRE-SCHOOL - TAWALAMA**



*Annual prize giving of the Gemunu Pre-school which is supported by the Rahula Trust was held on 14th December 2019 and the Secretary of Rahula Trust attended that event. This Pre-School project is now in its fourteenth year. The Rahula Trust contributes some of the teachers and school accessories at the annual prize giving ceremony. This is one of the popular Pre-Schools in this remote part of Galle district in Sri Lanka.*

**VIHARAMAHADEVI CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, BIYAGAMA**



*The Rahula Trust contributes to conduct additional tuition classes in Maths, Science, English, Music and Dance at this centre. The management of the centre wrote to us that children have benefited tremendously from this help to progress in their OL & AL examinations.*

# Rahula Trust's partnership with Paleng Lesotho, 2020/2021

Paleng is a small children's library and play centre in a rural village in Lesotho. One of our most consistent and generous supporters over the years has been the Rahula Trust. They are one of what we call our 'Paleng's Angels'. Never has that ongoing, open-handed support and generosity meant more to us than over the past two years during the Covid-19 pandemic.

interesting format to appeal to children as well as to adults in the children's families, and to become a reference at home, as well as for teachers to use when the children returned to school.

The predominant way in which Paleng distributes books free to children is through our Book Festivals, and this is where Rahula's invaluable support came into its own. It was very important that we get this particular book out to as many children and families as fast as possible.

A Book Festival is typically held at a primary school, with children from Grades R to 3, with their teachers as assistants and observers. This was not possible during 2020 and some of 2021 when Lesotho's schools



funded. It meant that around 5000 of these books went into rural children's homes, travelling far beyond the child to whom it was given as it did the rounds of parents and carers, relatives, friends and neighbours. These special Festivals followed Covid safety protocols as far as possible, using school premises with the permission of head teachers and parents. Each child received, with their



Paleng's first response to the pandemic was to create a comic-style children's book, 'Kokoana-hloko ea korona: Kea u sireletsa, u ua nts'ireletsa' (Corona virus: I protect you, you protect me'). During this pandemic, extremely limited information was being given to rural communities, mainly over the radio, and often inaccessible to children. This book was therefore designed to present important child-friendly information in an accessible and in-



were closed for 80% of the time. No rural child in Lesotho has access to any online or other alternative ways of providing education. We therefore designed five mini Book Festivals over 2020 and 2021 in remote rural areas which Rahula



personal book and stationery, a mask made by a local women's sewing group, funded through Paleng, and a large bar of soap. It was through these Festivals that many children and families received information about the Covid-19 virus and how to protect themselves, that they would otherwise not have received.

We thank you Rahula Trust for making all of this possible. We are deeply grateful.

## SPONSORSHIP IN NEPAL

**SAMYAK YOUTH GROUP:**  
*Due to Covid-19 in Nepal, the schools were closed for long time, but in the middle of 2021, they reopened, and the Rahula Trust was able to support sponsored students to continue their studies.*



## PROVISION OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT TO NEEDY CHILDREN - 2019

*Education is a very important factor for the future of children in our present society. Although many children want to go to school, for some of them it is just a dream. Due to lack of uniforms, shoes, books and school bags they are discouraged from going to school. There are many children in rural areas in Sri Lanka who have been marginalised due to poverty. Understanding this situation, the Rahula Trust started a project to donate school accessories to the rural schools, which is very much needed.*

### **PU/Munamalgaswewa & Ihala Puliyankulama Primary schools, Ihala Puliyankulama - Puttalam District**

*On 26th November 2019, 137 school children and their teachers were waiting to welcome the representatives of the Rahula Trust. The Rahula Trust distributed school accessories to 113 children in Munamalgaswewa Primary school, and to 24 children in Pahala Puliyankulama Primary school in Ihala Puliyankulama village in Puttalam District. This is a remote village situated about 175km from Colombo, where most inhabitants are farmers. As this is in a dry zone area parents do not have a regular income. Those families who can afford to send their children to schools in nearby cities. There are some clever children in these schools. Some of them passed the grade 5 examination and some completed their GCE O/L examinations successfully. 85% of the children come from low-income families and 15% from middle income. The Rahula Trust donated teachers' chairs for Pahala Puliyankulama school and a photocopying machine for the Munamalgaswewa Primary school.*



### **Gal/Pothanegama Primary School, Kurunegal District**

*On 29th November 2019 the Rahula Trust distributed school accessories to 56 children in Pothanegama Primary school. This school is situated in Kurunegala District, a province in the north-west of Sri Lanka 169km away from Colombo. This school falls under the Mahawa education division. It is a very remote school which suffers from many difficulties. It is a primary school up to 5th grade with over 56 students and 6 teachers. The parents of the students are very poor and live from farming. Drought is a problem in this region, and wild elephants also disturb them regularly. It was a great help for them to have educational accessories donated. The Rahula Trust also donated a photocopying machine to this school, as, otherwise, teachers have to travel some distance to get photocopies for the students.*



# The Rahula Trust Summarised Accounts

Year ending 30th September 2021

	Total 2021	Total 2020
<b>INCOME</b>		
Sponsorship	59,926	64,226
General Donations	25,152	9,594
Gift Aid	14,507	14,542
Investment income	1,492	1,009
Total Income	101,077	89,371
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Charitable expenditure	77,590	98,591
Total expenditure	77,590	98,591
Net increase in funds	23,487	(9,220)

*The financial information has been extracted from our financial statements.  
The full financial statements and examiner's report are available from the Charity Commission website.*

## Financial review - 2021

*The Trust's work is entirely funded from voluntary donations and Gift Aid. Our total income has increased this year to £101,077 (2020: £89,371). Sponsorship income decreased to £59,926 (2020: £64,226) but general donations increased significantly to £25,152 (2020: £9,594). It is encouraging to see how generously donors have supported the Trust during these difficult times.*

*The Trust's main activity is providing educational sponsorship to children primarily in Sri Lanka. £73,795 was spent on sponsoring children in the year (2020: £82,690). The reduction was mainly as a result of an improvement in the exchange rate between the GB Pound and the Sri Lankan Rupee.*

*The Trust also provides grants to projects such as providing teachers for after-school tuition, computers and other equipment in schools and books for children. These amounted to £3,795 (2020: £15,901). The pandemic prevented many activities taking place in the current year. Our Trustees continue to demonstrate their commitment to the charity both by providing financial support and donating their time in administering the charity, which keeps support costs to a minimum.*

*We are proud to be able to state that 100% of funds raised from our donors are used for the benefit of the children, as all work for the Trust is done on a voluntary basis. Governance and support costs are kept extremely low and are more than offset by the Gift Aid we receive.*

*Martin Evans - Treasurer - 26 January 2022*



### Trustees of the Rahula Trust:

Ven. Tawalama Bandula  
Mr. Martin Evans  
Professor Rohan Kariyawasam  
Mrs. Pat Smith  
Mrs. Deborah Smith  
Mr. David Foll

Office:- 22 Ridge Lea  
Hemel Hempstead  
Herts  
HP1 2AZ, UK

Mobile: 0044(0)7576032106  
e-mail: rahulatrust@gmail.com  
Web site: www.rahula-trust.org

Representative in Sri Lanka  
Mr. K P N A N Perera

## OBITUARIES

We are sad to report the passing away of some of long-standing supporters of the Rahula Trust.

Ven. Kanugolle Ratanajothi Nayaka thero,  
Rambaken Viharaya, Keselpotha, Mahiyanganaya

Mrs Barbara Pope  
Mr Upul Jayasuriya  
Mr Nanda Saparamadu,  
Mrs. M. B Jayasuriya,  
Mrs Padmini Abeywickrema  
Mr K B Mediwaka  
Mr A D Dias  
Mr Anura Gallage  
Mr Walter Perera  
Mr Ananda Perera  
Mr Vijaya Chandra  
Dr. Daya Perera

We appreciate their support and wish them peace.

## HOW TO GIVE:

### STANDING ORDER (this is easiest way to give)

Paying by standing order is easy to set up and means you don't have to keep remembering to send off cheques. It is also beneficial for the Rahula Trust because it reduces administration costs.

**If you would like a standing order form or to send a bank transfer please email us for details. email: rahulatrust@gmail.com**

### LEAVE A LEGACY GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Gifts made to the Rahula Trust in your Will are free from inheritance tax. This is wonderful way to give and generate Metta at a time when material possessions are no longer necessary.

**IN SRI LANKA:** If you would like to give donations in Sri Lankan Rupees to the Rahula Trust please send your cheque/postal order or money payable to

**Rahula Trust A/C No. 1-0001-01-02601  
to:- The Chief Manager,  
National Savings Bank, Head Office Branch,  
Colombo 3, Sri Lanka.**