



# THE RĀHULA TRUST

(Child Sponsorship Programme)

Registered Charity No. 1075742

## 25th Anniversary of The Rahula Trust

### PROGRESS REPORT FOR 2022-2023

#### Sponsorship in Sri Lanka

In 2022, we selected 22 new students and in 2023 42 new children for sponsorship. In 2022-23, 30 Students completed their studies at university and other institutes. 2022 GCE O Level examination and 2023 A Level examination results were encouraging. 14 children passed with high grades at O Level to proceed to A Level class. Every year we ask student to submit to us their school or university reports. But this year, due to the current situation of political and economic instability, some students did not do so.

Due to the economic situation in Sri Lanka inflation has gone up and as a result, we have increased the monthly amount for students in 2022 and 2023. Now we are paying monthly Rs. 5400.00 for students at school and Rs. 7500.00 for university students.

#### Other Projects

The Rahula Trust continues to support the Samyak Youth group in Nepal through sponsoring children for their education. £2400.00 was given to this sponsorship. We have continued our support for Viharamahadevi Girls Home by arranging extra tuition classes. In 2022 we donated £3675.00 and in 2023 £3552.00. For the Pre-school in Tawalama, we have provided support for teachers' salaries, as well as school accessories for the year ending prize giving ceremony, to the value of £1500.00.

#### Paleng Project

In 2022 the Rahula Trust funded two Story Festival projects in Paleng, Lesotho. One at Easter time, a time when all children are in the valley, another in Lithabaneng village. The Rahula Trust helped to 'top

up' the funding for the first and extremely successful July Story Week. £2693.48 was donated for this project. (We attach a report from Paleng on page 7.)

#### School Donation Projects

In 2023, the Rahula Trust donated school equipment for 481 students in 4 schools in Hambanthota, Matara and Kurunegala districts. Individual packages were made up of items of school bags, water bottles, lunch boxes, books, pens, maps and pencils. At the request of Manel Pre-School in Aliwanguwa, Padavi Sri Pura, the Rahula Trust arranged to distribute school accessories to the children who are leaving the pre-school for regular schooling. A total of £7214.16 was spent to complete these school donation projects. These projects were organised by local representatives of the trust in Sri Lanka.

#### Fund raising

Mr Navindu Katugampola, Miss Minali Ranasinghe and Ven. Bandula raised funds for the Rahula Trust in celebration of their birthdays and donated over £5000.00. The Rafiki Golf Society donated £2854.00 as Captain's chosen charity headed by Mr Charith Gunawardena.

#### How can you be sure where your donation goes?

When you give to Rahula Trust, you can be assured that your donation will be well spent in order to have the greatest possible impact on the children and communities who need it most. Our accounts are independently audited every year and we are regulated by the Charities Commission.

You can be sure we spend your donations as we say we will, to reach the

most vulnerable children and communities.

#### Why choose The Rahula Trust?

With 25 years of experience, we have learned how to bring hope to children and communities in some of the world's poorest places.

#### Thanks

Our special thanks to Mrs Pat Smith, a Trustee for over 15 years who has recently decided to step down. As a Trustee Pat helped with fundraising as well as with developing the charitable activities of the Trust. We wish her well for the future, with much happiness.

Our thanks to Bank of Ceylon UK Limited and Metro Bank in the UK and National Savings Bank, Sri Lanka for supporting our activities. We would also like to thank Dr Kariyawasam for paying for the Rahula Trust website. We would also like to thank all our supporters who have made kind-hearted donations to support the activities of the Trust. Without help it would have been impossible to keep working for the last 25 years.



*Minali Ranasinghe donated her 21st birthday presents to the Rahula Trust.*

# Rahula Trust – the first 25 years

It was 25 years ago that the late Venerable Dr M Vajiragnana Nayka Thera, when he was Head of the London Buddhist Vihara, initiated the formation of an educational sponsorship scheme for poor children, primarily in Sri Lanka. He invited Ven. T Bandula to join as Secretary, Martin Evans as Treasurer and Dr Rohan Kariyawasam and Bob Parsons MBE as founding Trustees. The Trust was registered with the Charity Commission on 13 September 1998. Richard Jones joined as Trustee shortly after the formation of the Trust. We regret the loss of Ven. Dr Vajiragnana, Richard Jones and Bob Parsons over the intervening years. Pat Smith served as a Trustee from 2008 until this year. Ven. Bandula, Martin Evans and Rohan Kariyawasam continue to serve along with Deborah Bruce who joined in 2017 and David Foll in 2020.

In 1998, the Trust started with a £100 donation by Dr Kariyawasam and this supported two child beneficiaries. By the end of our first year the Trust's income was £5,000 and after five years our income had grown to £30,000.

Currently, we support over 437 beneficiaries. Of these, 29 students have passed into university with sponsorship from the Trust and 98 have graduated to become teachers, scientists, lawyers, accountants, engineers and a range of other professions.

Our income is now over £90,000 a year, all of which is going towards helping poor children through their education. In the last 20 years the Trust has received a total of £1,482,928 in income (including gift aid) and has provided a total of £1,265,060 in child sponsorship and grants to projects (libraries, internet connections and donations of school stationery) in Sri Lanka, and £48,029 in child sponsorship and grants in Nepal, Tanzania and South Africa, giving a total of £1,313,089.

This has only been possible through the wonderful generosity of our donors and because, although we have grown so much, we have continued to run the Trust entirely through the voluntary efforts of our Trustees and in particular Ven. Bandula, plus the support of volunteers such as the late Thompson Kariyawasam, and Norman Perera. We should feel justly proud of this incredible achievement as we celebrate our first 25 years. Martin Evans (Treasurer)

It was a great privilege to be asked to become a trustee about 5 years ago. The Rahula Trust is something I have always supported as I believe in the help that is provided to the children is invaluable; enabling children to have an education is key to help them, and possibly their family, get out of poverty. It is also fantastic that pretty much all the money raised goes to the children as everyone working for the charity does so on a voluntary basis. Deborah (Trustee)

I was honoured to be asked to become the newest Trustee and am pleased to have been able to help in the Trust's good work on behalf of children with far fewer chances in life than I had. David Foll (Trustee)

## DONATIONS & FUND RAISING 2022-2023

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

£200.00	Mr & Mrs Kishan De Silva
£150.00	Mr & Mrs M B Ratnayake
£100.00	Dr K W Ranatunga
£100.00	Mrs Padma Dias
£100.00	Mrs T Thuraisingham
£100.00	Mr Sarath Dissanayake
£100.00	Dr C Piyasena
£200.00	Mrs Keerthi Rajarathna
£250.00	Mrs I Kirinde
£100.00	Mr Aruna Ranatunga
£200.00	Dr H P Jasen-Thuliyana
£100.00	Mrs Visakha Botejue
£360.00	Dr H C & M K Wijewardena
£1200.00	Arena Pharmaceuticals
£100.00	Dr Mrs C Nimalasena
£2000.00	Lelanie Ltd
£170.00	Dr Mihiri Coxhead
£100.00	Mrs A L Leback
£1500.00	Mr & Dr Mrs D M Makalanda
£250.00	Mr & Mrs N G & S De Silva
£740.00	Ms. S Thuraisingham
£4000.00	Mr Saman D Silva
£2000.00	Mrs Ranjani Mendis
£700.00	Mrs Dishni Payagala
£200.00	Mrs S Perera
£100.00	Mr Randula Haththotuwa
£1500.00	Legacy of Dr Rob Parsons
£1000.00	Dr Mrs D M Makalanda
£15515.13	HMRC Gift Aid (2021-22)
£16109.88	HMRC Gift Aid (2022-23)

### Fund raising

£500.00	Miss Minali Ranasinghe's birthday fund raising
£1000.00	Mr Navindu Katugampola's birthday fund raising
£2854.00	Rafiki Golf Society, Captain's chosen charity, Mr Charith Gunawardena
£3500.00	Ven. Bandula's birthday fund raising

### Other donations

	Mr & Mrs Priyantha Botejue
	SL Rs. 500,000.00
	Mr Reshan De Alwis SL Rs.200,000.00

## 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.uk/causes/rahulatrust/>*



## The Rahula Trust children meetings



*Over forty sponsored children and their family members in Anuradhapura and Trincomalee districts organised a food distribution day for the inpatients in Base Hospital in Padaviya to promote charity and voluntary service among children. This is organised by Mr Ananda Gunatilaka in Padavi-Sri Pura.*

*The Rahula Trust selected 14 more children for sponsorship from Padavi-Sri Pura, Anuradhapura and Trincomalee districts - 2023. They have been given letters of selection and instructions to continue the sponsorship.*



GALLE



PADAVI, SRI -PURA

*Over the last 4 years Trustees could not visit to monitor the progress of the students, but arranged to meet them online to discuss their educational progress*



*On 5th & 11th April 2023 two programmes were held in Ratmalana and Hakmana to give letters of selection, as well as instructions relating to the conditions of sponsorship, to the newly sponsored students for 2023 by The Rahula Trust from Matara, Hambanathota, Galle and Colombo districts in Sri Lanka. Other children sponsored by the Rahula Trust in these districts also participated, in order to report on their progress in their studies. These events were organised by Ven. Pahalaobada Suneetha Thero, headed by Most Ven. Mapalagama Buddhasiri Nayaka Thera of Samadhi Buddhist Centre, Kotalawalapura, Ratmalana.*



## SUPPORTING SCHOOL CHILDREN IN RURAL SRI LANKA - 2023

*On 23 June and 26 June, the Rahula Trust donated school accessories for 317 school children in 2 schools, Ranjanagama & Ehatuwewa in Kurunegala district. Our local representative, Mr Norman Perera, and volunteers organised this event. Our thanks to all of them.*



**Sri Sumanasara Vidyalaya** - This school is located at Kadurugahamadiththa, Ranjanagama. It is in the Kurunegala district under North Western province. Its education zone is Kurunegala under Polgahawela Educational division.



**Eriyawa Primary School** - Established in 1931, Eriyawa Primary School is located in the remote village of Ehetuwewa in the Kurunegala district under North Western Province. It offers classes from grade 1 -5. Currently 149 students are enrolled in this school. This School has top Grade 5 Results in the area.



**SUPPORTING SCHOOL CHILDREN IN RURAL SRI LANKA - 2023**



*The Rahula Trust donated school accessories for 108 children at Raluwa Primary School on 28th February 2023. This school is situated in a remote part of Walasmulla Education zone in Hambantota district in the South of Sri Lanka. This programme was organised and implemented by Ven. Mapalagama Buddhāsiri Nayaka Thera, the Chief Monk of Samadhi Buddhist Centre, and Ven. Pahalaobada Suneetha Thero, the Principal of Siri Sandaruwan Dhamma School, Ratmalana. We would like to thank the Venerables and volunteers who make this event possible.*



*The Rahula Trust donated school accessories for 56 children at MIDewalegama Kanishta Vidyalaya on 28th February 2023. This school is situated in a remote part of Mulatiyana Education zone in Matara district in the South of Sri Lanka. This programme was organised and implemented by Ven. Mapalagama Buddhāsiri Nayaka Thera, the Chief Monk of Samadhi Buddhist Centre, Kothalawalapura, Ratmalana and Ven. Pahalaobada Suneetha Thero, the Principal of Siri Sandaruwan Dhamma School, Ratmalana. We would like to thank the Venerables and volunteers who make this event possible.*



## Rahula Trust's Support for Pre-Schools



*At the request of Manel Pre-School in Aliwanguwa, Padavi Sri Pura, the Rahula Trust arranged to distribute school accessories to the children who are leaving the pre-school for regular schooling. Mr Anada Gunatilaka, our volunteer in this area, and local representative of the Rahula Trust, Mr Norman Perera and volunteers conducted this distribution of school accessories.*

## SUPPORTING PRE-SCHOOL



*Annual prize giving and some activities of the Gemunu Pre-school which is supported by the Rahula Trust. This Pre-School project is now in its sixteenth year. The Rahula Trust contributes to the teachers salaries and school accessories for children at the annual prize giving ceremony. This is one of the popular Pre-Schools in this remote part of Galle district in Sri Lanka.*

## SPONSORSHIP IN NEPAL



*Samyak Yourth Group: They have increased the number of children they are supporting and the Rahula Trust contributed £2400.00 for those children they are sponsoring.*



## Rahula Trust's partnership with Paleng, Lesotho, 2022/2023

2022 was a good year for our Story Festivals. The Rahula Trust funded two of them, one at Easter time, a time when all children are in the valley, another in Lithabaneng village, and they helped to 'top up' the funding for our first and extremely successful July Story Week.

Our Paleng Easter Book Festival was postponed from December 2022, when we had hoped to run a Christmas Book Festival, but unsea-



sonably wet weather and the resulting extreme damage to roads and the bridge into the valleys, made this impossible.

But, undaunted, we held a very successful Festival at Easter time, which gave the added advantage, from the children's point of view, that everyone got Easter eggs!

Our team of 5 assistants, Khothatso and Marion held a 2-day event where the highlight, apart from play-



ing games that they love and enjoying a nice lunch, is always books to take home.

Story Week was a longer affair, but again, the stories we read and responded to with drawings and play-making were eagerly awaited every day. We played even more games, with even more gusto, if that is possible, and drew, made puppets and posters to our hearts' content. Again we had a feast at the end of it, lots of food to satisfy even the hungriest soul, and joy of joys, more books to take home! Between the village Story Festival and Story Week, some 2000+ books-that-are-mine-to-take-home were given to children. So happy to have stories to read with friends and family.

An important activity this year, and one that has helped Paleng in so many ways with planning and decision making, was the survey that we conducted amongst children, parents and teachers about what they think of our Paleng picture storybooks (we have 14 of them now!), if and how they use them, and what their response is to our Story Festivals. We know anecdotally that our books and Story Festivals are loved by our children, but it was very heartening to hear how much parents and teachers appreciate the books that go home (and to school), in fact many parents told us that they read the books themselves for fun! Parents in particular were also very happy about Story



Festivals, since they say that they are keeping the children busy in a constructive way, they learn many things while they are there, and that they help children with reading, and specifically with reading in English (all our books and our work with children is done using English and Sesotho (the local language)). We have used the feedback from the survey to think about small changes and additions to the Story Festivals, and to guide us as to the kind of storybooks which are most appreciated, popular, and more importantly, what kinds of books parents and children in particular would like us to create going forward.

We are immensely grateful to the Rahula Trust for the funding they so generously give us each year, funding that supports our core work of supporting children's literacy learning, helping to nurture a culture of reading, and giving take-home books to children who would otherwise not have access to storybooks.

Thank you!

### OUR THANKS

*We wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the support we receive, both in money and in time, from so many generous people. Without your support the Trust could do nothing and we are deeply grateful for the many forms of support we receive.*

# The Rahula Trust Summarised Accounts

Year ending 30th September 2022

	Total 2022	Total 2021
<b>INCOME</b>		
Sponsorship	63,816	59,926
General Donations	11,315	25,152
Gift Aid	15,769	14,507
Investment income	1,638	1,492
Total Income	92,538	101,077
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Charitable expenditure	89,016	77,590
Total expenditure	89,016	77,590
Net increase in funds	3,522	23,487

*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 - 2022

*The Trust's work is entirely funded from voluntary donations and Gift Aid. Our total income has decreased this year to £92,538 (2021: £101,077). Sponsorship income increased to £63,816 (2021: £59,926) but general donations have reduced to £11,315 (2021: £25,152). It is encouraging that many of our sponsorship donors have increased their donation during these difficult times.*

*The Trust's main activity is providing educational sponsorship to children primarily in Sri Lanka. £82,171 was spent on sponsoring children during this year (2021: £73,795). The amount of sponsorship per child was increased significantly to offset high inflation. The increase was partly mitigated by the 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 £6,845 (2021: £3,795). The pandemic had prevented many activities taking place in the previous 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 - 11 January 2023*



### Trustees of the Rahula Trust:

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

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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.

Dr Cyrille Nissanka Amerasinghe  
Mr Mapa Heenbanda  
Mrs Kusum Ariyasena  
Mrs Mallika Ediriwira  
Dr. Mrs Chandrani Piyasena  
Mrs Maya Ramani Yapa  
Mr Kingsley Fernando  
Mr Karuna Basnayake  
Dr Nalani Dias  
Mr Balasuriya Don Dissanayake

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 a 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.**