

PRITHIPURA COMMUNITIES

Contact us:



www.prithipura.org



prithi@sltnet.lk



(00 94)(0)112 930 635

WHO WE ARE

Established for over 50 years, Prithipura Communities is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation that offers a home to some of the most vulnerable in Sri Lanka; those with disabilities who have little or no family contact. We offer support regardless of ethnicity, religion or financial means and expect no payment from those we support. We currently support 240 children and adults with disabilities.

WHAT WE DO

Prithipura works from 4 locations in Sri Lanka and endeavours to provide a stimulating environment at each of its branches. We offer care, rehabilitation, education and work opportunities for those who live with us.



Welcome to our 2018 newsletter! Get a taste of events in 2017, meet a returning resident who is now a full time member of staff at Prithipura and find out how you can help Prithipura in 2018.

I take this opportunity to say grateful thanks to those that have supported our work – both in Sri Lanka and abroad. 2017 was a year full of challenges for the Prithipura Communities team – from staffing issues to financial ones – both interlocked in some ways. With your support the organisation has met these challenges of the past year and looks forward to 2018 with renewed courage.

Special thanks go out to those who supported the Global Giving campaign which was organised in December 2017 – supporting our staff salaries at Cotagala School. We are very grateful to the administrative staff who helped organise this.

With best wishes for the year 2018 and hoping that we can depend upon your support into the future.

Pieter de Kretser, Secretary

You can keep up to date with news and activities at Prithipura by liking our Facebook page - www.facebook.com/PrithiCom



Prithipura Communities
Prithipura Infants Home, Asokapura & Anandapura Farms
and Cotagala School
Registered No's: GM/5/82, MSS/NSPD/R/23, L-52811 &
WP/SSD/G/DH/2010/01
Approved Registered Charity: 7/1638

Office address:
Director/Secretary
Prithipura Infants Home,
Beach Road,
Hendala, Wattala,
11300, Sri Lanka

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017

ARUNA

One of our volunteers ran a crowdfunding campaign with her friends and family to raise funds for an electric wheelchair for Aruna who lives at Anandapura Farm. The wheelchair arrived in August and Aruna is now confident at using it and particularly enjoys an early morning ramble around the farm. Thanks to all those who supported Aruna in further developing his independence!



IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE

Kind supporters helped with funding for a fence around the playgroup at Ambasevena, one of the residential buildings at Cotagala, and an improved clothes rinsing area for the Infants Home. There is further building work going on at the moment to build a ramp for the new Cotagala School building and also to repair the roof of the main residential building at Cotagala, which is over 100 years old. Thanks to those who supported us with these projects.



COFFEE CULTIVATION

The Siloam Centre in Korea gave some funding this year to expand coffee cultivation at Asokapura Farm. Due to the continued low price of rubber across Sri Lanka, which has continued for a number of years, we are currently considering the long-term sustainability of Asokapura Farm and looking at other farming options that will continue to generate much needed income for us and increase our sustainability.



TRAVELS ABROAD

As well as visits and travel around Sri Lanka, those who live with us have also had the opportunity to travel abroad this year. Priyanka, Suba, Kusuma, Chandani and Deepika travelled to Bangladesh this year for the AFID conference. This year's theme was acceptance, accessibility and inclusion. Anushka, Chamilika, Mary, Rehara, Maria and Surangika performed in India at SAMBHAV, an inclusive arts event, and Rasanjalee went to Dubai to participate in the Asian Youth Para games.



PREETHI'S STORY

Preethi can often be seen entertaining those she cares for with songs and music. At other times, she is in the garden - tidying, planting and watering. She has endless energy and enthusiasm in these tasks, but beneath her smile are the memories of the difficult times she has faced in her life.

Preethi was abandoned and brought to Prithipura as a small child. She remembers trips to the beach, attending school with her friends and learning how to tap rubber, cultivate vegetables and grow pepper, cocoa and coffee at Asokapura Farm.

When she was older, she decided to leave Asokapura Farm and live independently. She married and had two children. She farmed in two areas of Sri Lanka, growing enough to sustain her and her family. She also worked in Saudi Arabia for 4 years and speaks fondly of this time where she was well looked after by the family she worked for.

While in Saudi Arabia, she was informed that one of her sons had died on active service in the army at the age of just 19. Preethi talks about how the events nearly broke her and how she still misses her son greatly. When further tragedy struck and her husband died, Preethi still somehow found it in herself to go on. It became difficult to stay on the land she owned. She decided to sell up, move to Columbo with her other son and start again. While looking for work, she came back to visit Prithipura and agreed to work with us.

And so she is back, and Prithipura and those who live with us are all the better for it. She says being at Prithipura feels like the right thing to do. She says she feels those she cares for are like her own children and after some extremely difficult years is enjoying the life she leads.

Preethi attributes her remarkable resilience and courage to her upbringing at Prithipura. Despite the tragedies in her life, her story is also rare considering her childhood circumstances. It is a story of independence and the freedom and ability to make choices.



"I REMEMBER HOW WELL CARED FOR I WAS AS A CHILD AND ENSURE I SUPPORT THOSE I WORK WITH IN THE SAME WAY."

MEDICAL SUPPORT AT THE INFANTS HOME

The team at the Infants home have strengthened links with the Paediatric Department at Ragama Hospital and we will be receiving ongoing targeted support in 2018. This will mean that the medical support the children receive will more consistent and involve better planning so that support is given on a regular basis as well as better support when children become unwell. Links are also being established with adult services and we look forward to a continued and sustained partnership. Special thanks to Professor Aswini and her team, who have been a pleasure to work with.



VOLUNTEERS

52 volunteers came to help us with our work this year from a variety of backgrounds including physiotherapy, speech and language therapy and nursing. If you are interested in volunteering and are able to commit for at least a month, please get in touch. We are particularly interested in volunteers that have specialist skills that they can share with our committed staff team. We offer free board and lodging to all volunteers.



WANT TO HELP? HERE ARE SOME IDEAS!

Take a look at our **current wish lists** for all locations - <https://goo.gl/j1QxaX>

We have a number of **infrastructure projects** in need of funding such as an access road to Asokapura Farm, access paths at Anandapura Farm and building renovations at Cotagala School.

Sponsor a child or adult who lives with us - Monthly sponsorship is Rs6,000/month, shared sponsorship is Rs2,000/month. Further information available here - <https://goo.gl/7GGu7M>

Support our hard-working staff team and give a donation to our **Salary Fund**. More information available here - <https://goo.gl/tdhwqM>

For all queries related to the above, please contact us on prithi@sltnet.lk



"THERE IS NO GREATER DISABILITY IN SOCIETY THAN THE INABILITY TO SEE A PERSON AS MORE."

ROBERT M. HENSEL

CROWDFUNDING FOR SALARIES

In December, we ran an on-line crowdfunding campaign through Global Giving to raise funds for the staff team at Cotagala School. As many of you know, payment of staff salaries is one of the areas that we struggle to fund but is an essential element of our running costs. Our target was \$5,000 which would enable us to become a permanent partner with Global Giving and enjoy the long-term benefits of this. We are thrilled that we succeeded in raising over \$10,000 which will fund two-thirds of the salary budget at Cotagala School for 2018. Thanks to all those who donated and shared campaign information, in particular our team of fundraising advocates who spread the word among friends and family. More information is available here: <http://goto.gg/30687>.



HOW TO DONATE

Donations in Sri Lankan Rupees:

Hatton National Bank – City Office
Account number: 002010012779
SWIFT Code: HBLILKLX
Beneficiary: The Treasurer,
Prithipura Infants Home

Donations in Euros:

Commercial Bank of Ceylon Ltd.,
Pita Kotte Branch
Account Number: 1110010061
SWIFT Code: CCEYLKLX
Beneficiary: The Treasurer,
Prithipura Infants Home

In the UK

Account name: Prithi UK
Account number: 91869434
Sort Code: 40-01-13

Online:

<https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/prithiuk>

Prithi UK can be contacted at prithiuk@gmail.com

