

Siphala Foundation

Sponsor a needy child in Sri Lanka

Background of Siphala Foundation

Most of us have migrated to New Zealand to provide our children with a better education. Due to the peaceful environment prevailing and ample opportunities available in New Zealand, we believe that we have a very good chance of achieving our objectives.

Although we live a relatively comfortable life here in NZ, all of us are mindful of Mother Lanka. We have not forgotten her people who offered a free education to us when we were students. We are thankful to the people in Sri Lanka for the opportunities offered to us to have a sound education. As true Sri Lankans, we do not hesitate to help the people back at home as a mark of gratitude.

While reading the news coming from Sri Lanka, some of you may have considered to sponsor a needy child with financial difficulties in continuing with his/her education. However, there are few practical difficulties that are to be cleared before making such a sponsorship a reality. It is difficult to find genuine needy cases. Also, it is difficult and costly to transfer funds regularly to a child in Sri Lanka from New Zealand.

“Siphala Foundation” (SF) has come forward to assist you to overcome above difficulties.

Due to the awareness of the above need and the increased interest of the public to assist needy children in Sri Lanka, a group of like minded friends have decided to form a small working committee which has eventually lead to the formation of the “Siphala Foundation Committee”. All members of the “Siphala Foundation” are volunteers and their activities are with zero operation cost. The main feature of the operations of the “Siphala Foundation” is that the donors are assured that 100% of their donations will reach the children in Sri Lanka.

Committee Members of the “Siphala Foundation”:

Bandu Udalamatta
Mahinda Attanayake
Nihal Gunatilaka
Niranjan Patabandige
Nissanka Kumarawansa
Prasad Elangasinghe
Ruwan Fernando
Samarasinghe Nandasena
Sam Gamage
Sunil Arewgoda

Honorary Auditor: Mr. Asiri Rodrigo

By adopting an appropriate selection criteria for needy school children in Sri Lanka followed by establishment of a suitable regional infrastructure in Sri Lanka for disbursement of funds “Siphala Foundation” commenced providing few children with Rs. 1000.00 per month from January 2007. With the generous support from well wishers, SF has managed to increase the number of sponsored children to 42 during last few months. Children from different schools from several parts of the Island have become beneficiaries.

Basis for Selection Criteria

Main features of the selection criteria adopted by the “Siphala Foundation” are:

- Destitute children who command an academic excellence
- The academically capable children who confront financial difficulties due to a large family with low income OR due to a family with a single parent.
- Confirmation of above from the Principal of the school OR from the clergy of the area to which the beneficiary belongs
- Preferred age group of beneficiaries is set between 5 and 19 years

At this stage SF is operating only in four regions in Sri Lanka. We have appointed Area Representatives (AR) who are familiar with the area. At present there are four Area Representatives. Two of them are coordinating the activities of all four regions with “Siphala Committee Members” in New Zealand. These Coordinators are called “Joint Prime Contacts”, (JPC). All these people are operating on voluntary basis without seeking any payment.

Selection Process

One of the responsibilities of an Area Representative is to find potential candidates for sponsorships according to the above criteria. They scrutinize the available details of such candidates with JPC and submit the details of suitable candidates to the Siphala Committee. The Committee scrutinize all available details and finalise the selections.

Confirmation of Sponsorship

After selecting suitable children for sponsorships, potential sponsors are provided with details.

- The Committee ratification of the sponsorship is communicated to the potential sponsors for re-confirmation.

- The Sponsor's preferred method to initiate monthly/ annual payment is sought.
- The Sponsor is officially acknowledged for his/ her contribution.
- The selection of beneficiaries are conveyed to the JPCs and additional funding will be transferred to Sri Lanka to meet extra cost.

Monitoring the payments and the academic progress of the children

Area Representatives monitor the payments and the academic progress of the selected children and report back to "Siphala Foundation" committee. Additionally, SF encourages the individual donors to be in touch with their respective beneficiaries and establish a suitable mode of communication to assess their academic progress. We trust that by communicating directly with these children, the sponsors can get an enormous amount of satisfaction.

Transactions & Banking System

Each beneficiary has a bank account. Area Representatives disburse the funds to the account of the beneficiary each month and keep records. SF(NZ) transfers funds to the central account in Sri Lanka as and when necessary.

Strategies For Fund Raising

In addition to the children who receive assistance directly from individual sponsors, there are several more children who receive assistance from the "Siphala Fund". We have adopted several strategies to raise necessary funds.

- Look for potential individual sponsors.
- Strengthen the Central Funds through musical shows or similar events.
- Participate in public oriented outdoor activities (Meal on Wheels, Sausage Sizzles and Barbecues)
- Print and sell Vesak and Christmas cards

The Way Forward

- Sponsors are encouraged to contact their beneficiary directly as a measure of parallel assessment of recipient's needs and the academic progress.
- Discuss this concept with your family and friends and persuade them to contribute to Siphala Central Fund as an alternative way of participation.
- Visit our Web Site www.siphala.org to retrieve the latest developments or write to us on siphala@dn@gmail.com to obtain further information
- The objective of "Siphala Foundation" is to assist you to support needy children in Sri Lanka according to your wishes. Therefore, we highly value an honest feed back from you on our activities. That will assist us immensely to adjust our way forward.

Our Gratitude

We are grateful for your donations, sponsorship and encouragement. On behalf of the children who receive education assistance, we wish you all the best in your future endeavours.



These are the pictures of few children who receive education assistance from Siphala Foundation.

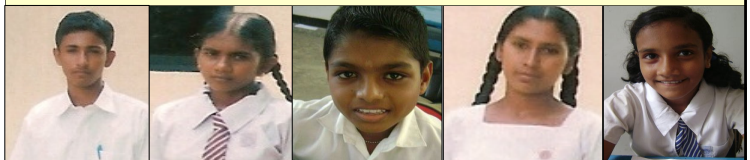
How can you contribute

You can contribute to the Central Fund maintained by the "Siphala Foundation". It could be a one off payment or at an interval convenient to you. Your contribution will go to any of the kids already supported by the Foundation.

OR

You can sponsor a child and help him or her as long as you wish. Your monthly contribution of \$15 could be sent through the "Siphala Foundation." It is possible for you to transfer funds monthly or at a longer interval. Your funds will be recorded and sent to the child of your choice by "Siphala Foundation". You are free to establish contacts with the child and the family and support them in any other additional way you wish. Siphala Foundation encourages the children to write their sponsors regularly.

Siphala Foundation will provide you with the details of the children available to be sponsored. Also, if you have identified a child by yourself you can introduce him or her to "Siphala Foundation" and continue to fund him through the "Siphala Foundation" process as shown. However, the child should fit in to the selection criteria of the "Siphala Foundation".



Highlights of Siphala Service

- There are no overhead costs involved. All members of the "Siphala Foundation" provide their services voluntarily. Every cent of your donation will reach the needy children.
- Every effort is made to select children with genuine need by highly reliable sources in Sri Lanka.
- The details of the children who are available for sponsorships at present could be obtained from sending an email to siphala@dn@gmail.com.
- Your valuable support for this noble endeavour to help the lifeline of the future generation of Sri Lanka is highly appreciated.

Siphala Foundation
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Auckland.