



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

## FRIENDS OF LANKA INCORPORATED

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Registration No. A01074350

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Melbourne, Australia



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# ABOUT US

## An Overview

Friends of Lanka Incorporated has come a long way since its inception in 2019. What began in August of that year, with a group of Sri Lankans in Melbourne aiming to undertake humanitarian and community initiatives in Sri Lanka and Australia, has steadily grown in impact. Officially registered as an incorporated association, FOL was able to streamline its operations, enhancing both transparency and efficiency. Our flagship initiative, Help Learn, was launched in 2020, to provide essential school supplies to 210 underprivileged students from rural areas in Sri Lanka. Over the years, we've expanded this project, reaching more students by adding recipients to existing schools and extending our reach into new districts. It is truly rewarding to see that 1,722 students across six districts have now benefited from this program.

Friends of Lanka Inc. is committed to responsible stewardship of donor funds, ensuring transparency in all our operations.

Last year, FOL launched a project to provide laptops to three undergraduates who were in urgent need but lacked the financial means to acquire them. Building on its success, this year we expanded the project, providing laptops to five more undergraduates and a young person with a disability for helping him to pursue his studies and for securing an employment.

Additionally, to raise awareness about the Help Learn project and other FOL activities among people in outer suburbs, we organized our main fundraising event on a different model as a Koththu Drive. The event was a tremendous success, attracting strong community participation.

## Objectives

The overarching aim of FOL is to carry out diverse programs focused on socio-cultural, economic, and environmental welfare to uplift communities in need and protect our planet. FOL undertakes various projects aligned with this mission, ensuring that donations are used effectively to support impactful initiatives and provide direct benefits to the communities most in need.

## Program Structure

The FOL implements different projects under three main program areas



Help Enterprise is an initiative aimed at promoting the establishment of new small businesses in rural communities and providing ongoing support to help these enterprises grow and thrive.

Help Education is a project dedicated to supporting schoolchildren by facilitating access to education, enhancing facilities and resources, offering aid during critical situations, and fostering opportunities for vocational training and higher education.

Help Community & Environment is a multifaceted initiative encompassing various areas of focus, including environmental and wildlife conservation, disaster relief efforts, social transformation initiatives, as well as public welfare and civil rights awareness campaigns. This comprehensive project is committed to making a positive impact across these diverse domains.

# OUR PEOPLE

## In Melbourne

The team in Melbourne comprises of ten Executive committee members:

Shantha Nanayakkara	President
Nandalal Kasthuriarachchi	Secretary
Gamini Walisinghe	Treasurer
Dimuth Thotawatta	Vice President
Jayathu Tennakoon	Asst Secretary
Bimla Marcus	Assistant Treasurer
Dinusha Nanayakkara	Committee Member
Lal Samarasekara	Committee Member
Saliya Mudannayaka	Committee Member
Supin Bandara	Committee Member
Upul Sathurusinghe	Committee Member

## In Sri Lanka

We are fortunate to have met these dedicated volunteers in Sri Lanka who work hard and have the best interest of others in the heart. We are very thankful to each one of them for the work they do to ensure the smooth implementation of our projects.

Ven P. Pagnnaratne Thero	Vice Principal, A/Kallanchiya Vidyalaya
Asiri Gunawardana	Volunteer, Logistics
Seetha Kumari A/Principal	Sirikanduyaya Vidyalaya, Polonnaruwa
Ranjith Senevirathna	Volunteer, Vavuniya District
Udayaseelan Vinojni	Volunteer, Vavuniya
Prasad Nanayakkara	Vice Principal ,Saralankara Maha Vidyalaya, Galle
Sudath Ranjan	Volunteer, Monaragala District
Kumari Menike	Coordinator, Ranliya Kulagana Society, Padaviya



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Supporters of Friends of Lanka,

As we reflect on the past year, it's clear that the challenges we face in serving those in need remain significant. Economic uncertainties continue to put pressure on charitable giving, yet we've been fortunate to witness the resilience and generosity of our supporters. Despite these hardships, our dedicated donors and volunteers rose to the occasion, reaffirming their commitment to our mission.



This year, our Koththu Drive served as a remarkable testament to the power of community support. Our volunteers rallied in large numbers, implementing this complex fundraiser with tremendous success. Even with a small member base, we've come this far thanks to the generosity and dedication of our big-hearted volunteers.

It brings me great satisfaction to see how our organization has expanded steadily over the years, reaching a broader range of people and addressing multiple areas of need. This growth reaffirms our mission and the impact we strive to make within the communities we serve.

With changes in the political environment, the needs of disadvantaged communities in our motherland are bound to evolve. As an organization, we recognize the importance of adapting our approach to continue serving effectively. Looking ahead, we invite others to join us on this journey—together, we can reach even more people in need and extend our support to those who deserve it most. I am committed to dedicating another year to the association's community work and look forward to all we can accomplish together.

Shantha Nanayakkara  
President



# MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY



Dear Friends and Supporters of Friends of Lanka,

As we reflect on another year of service, I am both proud and humbled by what we have accomplished together. This year, our efforts focused on our flagship project, HELP Learn, which remains central to our mission of supporting the education of children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Through HELP Learn, we aim to empower young minds with the tools they need to build a brighter future, recognizing education as the key to breaking cycles of poverty.

This year, we launched our first-ever Koththu Drive—the major fundraising event, which required careful planning and dedicated manpower. This fundraiser was a great success, showcasing the unwavering support of our big-hearted volunteers. It was truly heartening to see so many volunteers come forward, offering their time, energy, and resources for a noble cause. Additionally, through our Help Education program, we provided six laptops, including five to undergraduates from disadvantaged families.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you—our members, donors, and supporters. Your dedication enables us to keep striving for positive change in the lives of those who need it most. It is your ongoing support that fuels our mission, and we are deeply grateful for your trust in our work.

As we look ahead, I encourage each of you to spread the word about Friends of Lanka and our projects. Expanding our member base will allow us to amplify our impact and reach even more communities in need. Together, we can continue this journey, creating opportunities and uplifting lives along the way.

With sincere appreciation and warm regards,

Nandalal Kasthuriarachchi  
Secretary

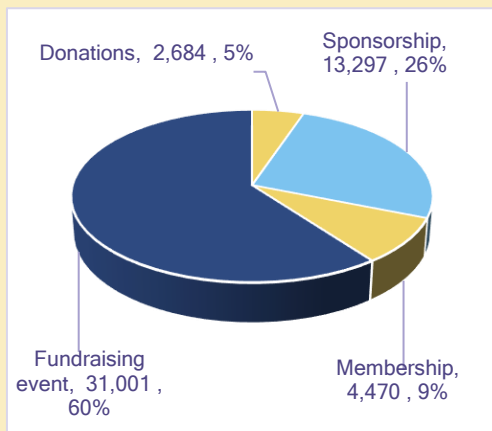
# OUR FINANCIALS

## Treasurer's Report

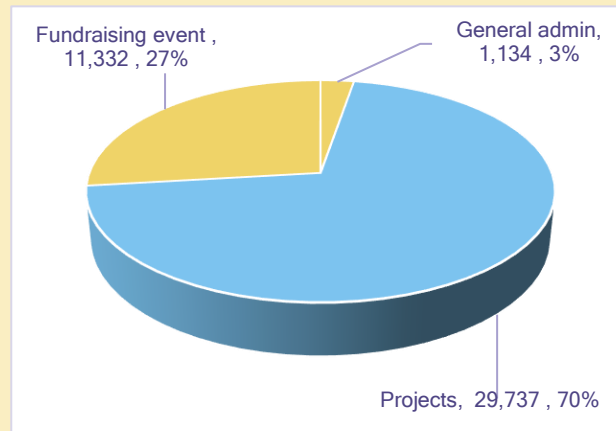
I am pleased to present Friends of Lanka Inc.'s financial statements for 2024, marking the fifth year since its inception. These statements outline our income, expenditures, and financial position at the close of the financial year. The graphs below illustrate FOL's financial performance over the past year.



Source of funds:



Spending:



I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to reaching this level of performance, which provides the association with the necessary strength to assist those in need. It is also encouraging to note the growing support from community members whose generosity has enabled us to expand our welfare work, engaging more broadly with the communities that deserve our help.

Gamini Walisinghe  
Treasurer



## Financial Statements

### FRIENDS OF LANKA INC.

Melbourne, Australia

e: [members@friendsoflanka.org](mailto:members@friendsoflanka.org)

t: +61 401 017 328



#### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

		2024	2023
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash at bank	Note 2	\$ 51,793	\$ 42,544
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>\$ 51,793</b>	<b>\$ 42,544</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
General Reserve	Note 3	\$ 42,544	\$ 22,247
Current year surplus / (deficit)	Note 4	\$ 9,249	\$ 20,297
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>\$ 51,793</b>	<b>\$ 42,544</b>

We declare that the above financial report of the Friends of Lanka Incorporated has been prepared as required under the rules of the Association and it presents fairly the financial position of the Association as at 30 June 2024 and the results of its activities for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Shantha Nanayakkara  
President

Gamini Walisinghe  
Treasurer

**FRIENDS OF LANKA INC.**

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**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

	2024	2023
<b>INCOME</b>		
Memberships Received	\$ 4,470	\$ 4,260
Sponsorships Received-HELP LEARN	\$ 13,297	\$ 3,698
Medi Aid - Hospital Support	\$ -	\$ 3,758
Sanitary Project	\$ 2,684	
Fund Raising Event - HLEPLEARN	\$ 30,758	\$ 38,590
	<b>\$ 51,209</b>	<b>\$ 50,306</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>		
Interest Income	\$ 243	\$ -
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Admin & Establishment Expenses	\$ 1,092	\$ 1,118
Bank Charges & PayPal Commission	\$ 42	\$ 152
Distribution Event Expenses - HELPLEARN	\$ 371	\$ 215
Donation		\$ 250
Fund Raising Event - HELPLEARN	\$ 11,332	\$ 8,487
Medical Aids - Supplies		\$ 8,428
Other Projects-HELP LEARN	\$ 253	\$ 697
Purchase of Materials - HELP ENTERPRISE		\$ 405
Purchase of School Bags - HELPLEARN	\$ 5,596	\$ 1,274
Purchase of School stationery - HELPLEARN	\$ 23,117	\$ 8,957
Sanitary Project	\$ 400	\$ -
Social Transformation Advertising Expenses		\$ 27
	<b>\$ 42,203</b>	<b>\$ 30,009</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 9,249</b>	<b>\$ 20,297</b>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 30 JUNE 2024****Note 1 - Statement of significant accounting policies****1.1 Statement of compliance**

The committee has determined that the incorporated association is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. The financial report is a special purpose financial report which has been prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

**1.2 Income tax**

The organisation is a not-for-profit community service association and is exempted from income tax under section 50-10 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997

**1.3 Revenue**

Donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt

**1.4 Goods and Services Tax**

The organisation is a not-for-profit community association; the turnover of which is less than the threshold of \$150,000, therefore not registered for GST.

**Note 2 - Cash at Bank and PayPal**

	2024	2023
Bank Account - CBA 063 182 - 1153 9014	\$ 9,929	\$ 15,479
Bank Account - NAB 083 004 - 717737077	\$ 4,879	\$ 3,560
Bank Account - NAB 083 004 - 717812073	\$ 35,242	\$ 21,000
FOL PayPal Acct	\$ 1,743	\$ 2,504
	<u>\$ 51,793</u>	<u>\$ 42,544</u>

**Note 3 - General Reserves**

Membership Fund	\$ 11,592	\$ 8,602
Project Fund	\$ 30,952	\$ 13,645
	<u>\$ 42,544</u>	<u>\$ 22,247</u>

Memberships Fund: Accumulated, unutilised membership income

Project Fund: Accumulated, unutilised project related income mainly from Sponsorships for HELPLEARN and other project related income.

**Note 4 - Current Year Surplus**

Surplus from the membership income	\$ 3,336	\$ 2,990
Surplus from the project related income	\$ 5,914	\$ 17,307
	<u>\$ 9,249</u>	<u>\$ 20,297</u>

# OUR PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

The economic pressures felt globally made it increasingly challenging for everyone to contribute to charitable causes. Rising living costs, housing affordability issues, and higher interest rates meant our donors had to prioritize essential expenses, impacting their capacity to donate. Despite this, Friends of Lanka Inc. succeeded in supporting a larger community mainly through its flagship project Help Learn. FOL continued with another trial run of its Sanitary Pad project for addressing the issue of high absenteeism amongst schoolgirls during their menstruation. Friends of Lanka inc. was capable to support a larger community thanks to the generosity of donors, well-wishers, and friends.

## HELP LEARN

FOL strongly believes that children are our future, and every child, regardless of their economic background, should have fair and equal access to education. The HELP LEARN project was launched under the HELP EDUCATION program, aiming to prevent school dropouts in disadvantaged communities due to financial challenges. Through HELP LEARN, children from low-income families receive school stationery and other essentials required for each year to support with their continued education. Through the Help Learn program, FOL successfully supported 590 schoolchildren this year, including Muslim students from a primary school in the newly added district of Mannar.



Help Learn Program of FOL has promoted the multicultural inclusivity by extending its beneficiary groups to Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim school children. The reusable sanitary pad project started last year as a pilot for addressing the high absenteeism amongst schoolgirls during their menstruation was trialed out another year. However this year instead of the imported reusable sanitary pads, Ran Liya Kulagana society were given an income generating avenue by making the pads for the school girls this year. The beneficiaries were increased to 100 schoolgirls and were selected from Galle, Anuradapura and Polonaruwa districts.

We conducted a Bunnings sausage sizzle in March 2024 to raise funds for the reusable sanitary pad project.



#### Beneficiaries by Districts

District	No. of schools	Beneficiaries
Anuradhapura	19	166
Pollonnaruwa	10	108
Galle	15	86
Monaragala	1	83
Mannar	1	30
Vavuniya	23	99
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>572</b>

Ranliya Kulagana Society is a small, home-based enterprise led by a skilled group of women in Padaviya, a remote, resource-limited area of Anuradhapura. These hardworking women sustain themselves by producing items such as mosquito nets and school bags for a very limited market.

Through its HELP ENTERPRISE program, FOL continued its support of this local business by sourcing all school bag and pencil case requirements for the HELP LEARN program from them for another year. Additionally, in 2024, Ranliya Kulagana Society was given the opportunity to produce pads for the sanitary pads project under Help Learn.



For the 2024 HELP LEARN initiative, FOL purchased a total of 520 bags and pencil cases, including 230 fabric bags intended for students who had received school bags in previous years.

### **Help Earn**

We are always diligent in selecting recipients for the Help Earn project, which focuses on supporting economically disadvantaged families with income-generating entrepreneurial opportunities. No beneficiary was recommended for this year by our coordinators hence not implemented. However, It was heartening to see last year's recipient make significant progress in her dairy business.



## Koththu Drive

The major fundraising event of FOL the Food Fair was run on another different model as Koththu Drive this year and it was a great success. Through Koththu Drive FOL succeeded in approaching a segment of the community who do not generally come out to participate to our events thus managing to raise a larger public awareness of FOL activities through Koththu Drive.



Even though FOL is an organization with a small member base when an occasion arises it is heartening to see the friends and well-wishers who turn up for the support as volunteers.

Koththu Drive was an event that needed meticulous planning where over 20,000 meals were cooked and delivered to

doorsteps within a few hours. If it were not for the massive support from our big-hearted volunteers, this feat would not have been possible.



## Laptop Donation

Laptops are essential components of university education and most of the undergraduates who get selected from the disadvantaged communities to whom our Help Learn Program cater for struggle to afford them. This year we provided laptops to five such deserving undergraduates and also a laptop to Anju a youth with a severe disability to pursue his studies with the course that he was following. FOL has helped Anju in the year 2021 for treating with his disability and it is heartwarming to see that he is on a path to build a career with a Graphic Design Course.



Anjula Nayanajith  
Graphic design course



Maheshika  
Kelaniya University



Samudh from Jainna Uni)  
(Dad receiving the lpti)



Parami Sathsara,  
J'pura Uni (FOL QBs helped)



Thisara Hithmini,  
Sabaragamuwa, uni



Malithi Shashikala,  
J'pura University

## OTHER INFORMATION

### How you can join

The Association would like to invite more Sri Lankans in Australia to join hands with FoL, so that you can be a proud member help make a difference in the life of someone less fortunate. The membership fee is \$10 per month. The membership fee will go towards a fund that will be used in charitable work.

### Looking into the future

Friends of Lanka Inc. launched its flagship project, Help Learn, to support the parents of disadvantaged communities in securing educational resources for their children. With recent shifts in the country's political environment, the government has also recognized this need and plans to increase its support in this area. In light of these developments, FOL may explore additional ways to assist communities in need. One potential focus could be skill development, empowering individuals with capabilities to enhance their livelihood opportunities.

As we look toward the future, FOL also envisions expanding its charitable efforts within Australia. Exploring initiatives aligned with our mission here will enable us to extend our impact and strengthen the network of support for those we serve.

### Contact us

Email : [info@friendsoflanka.org](mailto:info@friendsoflanka.org)

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