

# **FRIENDS OF LANKA INC.**

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## **FRIENDS OF LANKA INCORPORATED**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 20**

#### **ABOUT FRIENDS OF LANKA INC.**

Friends of Lanka Incorporated (FOL) was formed as an Association in August 2019 by a group of Sri Lankans living in Melbourne, Australia. The group wanted to create a sustainable mechanism that can deliver community welfare activities in Sri Lanka to help less privileged communities making lasting and positive changes on their lives.

It is a known fact that a considerable section of the society living in remote and rural areas in Sri Lanka have to face many challenges to survive in their daily life. Those less privileged families continue to struggle getting access to even for their basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter. This condition not only affects the access of basic needs of those vulnerable groups, but in some cases, also affects their ability to support children to reap the benefit out of the free education available in Sri Lanka; because of their lack of ability to afford some basic requirements for the children to stay in the school and finally entangling the children also into the same vicious cycle.

The association along with its committed members believes that it can rally support from people who are willing to come forward and offer their support for those communities in need. This was clearly demonstrated by the level of support given to us by our new members and donors when implementing community welfare activities initiated by the association during last few months.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF FRIENDS OF LANKA INC.**

The broader objectives of forming this association: to formulate, implement, monitor and follow up various social, cultural, and economic programs supporting the advancement of the communities in need in Sri Lanka.

In order to achieve this key objective, the Association will:

- Mobilise the support from various interested individuals and organisations in Australia and coordinate the programs for such contributions to reach the deserving people in order to benefit Sri Lanka and its socio-cultural, economic and community welfare activities.

- Liaise with Commonwealth or state regulatory authorities as necessary in relation to the administration and management of the society.
- Raise funds or request assistance from any institutional or individual donors/sponsors to implement its purpose

## **PROJECTS**

### **Past Projects**

As a young organisation, commenced its community welfare activities only from early 2020, it is a great pleasure to note that the association was able to successfully complete one project during COVID-19 pandemic.

Under this project the Association funded to distribute dry rations to 236 families affected by the pandemic in Kirulapana area in Colombo. Twenty-five more families were also provided with dry rations in Peramiyankulama area in Anuradhapura District. Altogether the Association was able to provide dry foods for 261 families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Current Project – HELP LEARN**

The HELP LEARN project is the current ongoing activity of the Association to support children in need and encourage them to continue their education towards a brighter future. In this effect every year, the association plans to donate school stationery and other basic items required for the new school year, to selected kids from various districts in Sri Lanka.

In December 2020, the association plans to support 200 such children from remote areas in the districts of Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Vavuniya

The recipients of the benefits under this project are selected carefully using predetermined criteria (e.g.: low income family, single parent/no parents, parents unable to work due to illness etc.) The association expects to continue this project in coming years and expand the number of beneficiaries from rest of the districts in Sri Lanka.

### **Future Projects:**

The Association is looking forward to implementing more projects in the following areas supporting the communities in need in Sri Lanka.

- Provide financial support to identified children with special talents from underprivileged families to pursue their passion uninterrupted.
- Support disadvantaged families to start income-generating activities.

- Provide assistance to destitute families in medical emergencies and / or in similar crisis situations.
- Offer support to communities affected by natural disasters such as droughts and floods

### **THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – 2019-20**

Financial statements for the year 2019-20, certified by the President and the Treasurer of the Association are attached.