



**(Formerly AFLAC International)
Established in February 1995**

A Government Approved Charity
Incorporated as a Limited Liability Company
In Sri Lanka in April 1998

**TWENTY FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

"It is better by far to light a solitary candle than to curse the darkness"

President's Message

We are almost on the final lap to complete 25 years of operation of CandleAid Lanka which had its humble beginnings as AFLAC International.

What have we achieved during the quarter century that passed?

Yes, we helped so many people in need from all races and all religions, that certainly was an achievement that we announce with pride. But, to me personally, the winning uniqueness of CandleAid has been its total integrity. We handled donations that came from all parts of the world. We accounted for every cent meticulously, we dispersed these monies so gifted to us, diligently and meaningfully to people who were crying for help. We published these with clarity and transparency on our website as annual audited accounts for all to see.

No amount, either big or small went unaccounted.

That is how we cemented CandleAid's integrity.

I am deeply grateful to all the workers and Administrators of CandleAid for this laurel of operational honesty that we wear so proudly.

Let us do our utmost to ensure our unblemished financial records remain steadfastly honest and above board every single day of our operation.

Thank you

Blue skies

Capt Elmo Jayawardena

Founder President

CandleAid Lanka

CANDLEAID LANKA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Founder President
Capt Elmo Jayawardena

Mr Dayantha De Mel	-	Vice President & Director/Finance
Mr Priya Cooray	-	Vice President
Mrs Dil Jayawardena	-	Director/Executive Secretary
Mr Ralph Gunawardena	-	Director/Member
Dr Razeen Sally	-	Director/Member
Mrs Himali Senanayake	-	Director/Member
Mr Mevan Jayawardena	-	Director/Member

Bankers:

Hatton National Bank
Moratuwa Branch
143/1 New Galle Road,
Moratuwa,
Sri Lanka

Nations Trust Bank
Moratuwa Branch
89 Galle Road,
Moratuwa,
Sri Lanka

Auditors:

B.R. De Silva & Co.
Chartered Accountants
22/4 Vijaya Kumaranatunga Mawatha,
Colombo 5, Sri Lanka

Corporate Secretaries:

Corporate Services Ltd
216 De Saram Place,
Colombo 10,
Sri Lanka

Regd. Address : CandleAid Lanka, 45 Cornelius Place, Korlawella, Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

Office Address : 21/4 Dharmaratne Avenue, Rawathawatte, Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

Telephone : (+94) 11 2642526 / 2642415

Fax : (+94) 11 2642139

Email : admin@candleaid.org

Website : www.candleaid.org

CANDLEAID REPRESENTATIVES

The following are CandleAid Representatives overseas. Their primary objective is to spread the cause of CandleAid and source funds for its humanitarian projects in Sri Lanka.

Amsterdam

Mrs Carla Horn, Janter Gouwweg 22, 1412 DB Naarden, Netherlands

Auckland

Mrs. Romy Wimalaratne, 07 Elsetree Avenue, Glen Innes, Auckland, New Zealand

Calgary

Mr & Mrs Kithsiri Perera, 10647 Shillington Crescent SW, Calgary, Alberta T2W 0N8, Canada

California & Other US Cities

Mr Lakshan Fernando, 27110, Fond Du Lac Road, Ranch Palos Verdes, CA 90275, U.S.A.

Devon

Mrs. Tamara Snell, 25 Slewton Crescent, Whimble Nr Exeter, Devon EX5 2EX, U.K.

Eastbourne

Mr. Christopher Perera, 166 Ringwood Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN 22 8UD, U.K.

Frankfurt

Mrs. Claudia Frey, Normannenweg 18, D63128 Dietzenbach, Germany

Hong Kong

Mr. Jaliya Pilimatalawwe, Flat A, Floor 11, Block 5, Caribbean Coast, 2 Kin Tung Road, Tung Chung, NT, Hong Kong

Melbourne

Mrs. Asha de Silva, 76 Monbrae Circuit, Narrewarren North, Victoria 3804, Australia

Perth

Mrs. Yolande de Silva, 318 Fish Street, 269 Hardy Road, Cloverdale, WA 6105, Australia

Singapore

Mrs. Heshani Nesfield, 99 Meyer Road, # 02-01 The Sovereign, Singapore 437920

Sweden

Mr & Mrs Harald Wessman, Sigurdvagen 9A, SE-182 54 Djursholm, Sweden

Sydney

Mrs. Betty Miranda, 04 Doulton Drive, Cherrybrook NSW 2126, Australia

Toronto

Mr. Godwin Fernandez, 551 Shipka Court, Mississauga, Ontario L5B 3T4, Canada

Vancouver

Capt. Wayne Dannhauer, 2038 Garibaldi Way, Whistler, BC V0N 1B2, Canada

Vienna

Mrs. Aloma Macho, Schwaigergasse 19/3/66, 1210 Vienna, Austria

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**Australasia**

Mr. Mevan Jayawardena, 1/18 Kennedy Street, Bentleigh East, VIC 3165, Australia

Europe Representative

Dr. Razeen Sally, 111 Clementi Road, Block C, 07-05, Kent Val, Singapore 129792

Middle Eastern Representative

Mr. Hareem Stembo, c/o HSBC Bank Middle East, Regional Software Delivery, P.O. Box 66, Dubai, U.A.E.

North American Representative

Mr. Gerard Wijeyaratne, 927 S. 2nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147, U.S.A.

ANNUAL REPORT

We are privileged to present the Twenty Fourth Annual Report of CandleAid Lanka which includes the Audited Accounts and a Review of activities and projects for the year ended 31 March 2019.

INTRODUCTION

CandleAid Lanka (formerly AFLAC International) is a non-profit charity that commenced operations on 6 February 1995 with the objective of alleviating poverty in Sri Lanka by providing much needed assistance in the areas of education, food, shelter, health and community development.

REGISTRATIONS

CandleAid Lanka was incorporated as a limited liability company in Sri Lanka on 02 April 1998 bearing Registration No. N (A) 671A under the Companies Act No. 17 of 1982.

CandleAid Lanka was also registered on 21 February 2000 as a Non-Governmental Organization, bearing Registration No. FL 03701 under Voluntary Social Services Organizations (Registration & Supervision) Act No. 31 of 1980 as amended by Act No. 8 of 1998 under the Ministry of Social Services in Sri Lanka.

CandleAid Lanka (formerly AFLAC International) was declared as an Approved Charity in Sri Lanka on 12 November 2001 under the Inland Revenue Act No. 38 of 2000.

The Companies Act No. 7 of 2007 required that all existing companies be re-registered and therefore CandleAid was re-registered on 21 January 2009 obtaining new Registration No. GA 201.

OUR MISSION

CandleAid Lanka (hereinafter referred to as CandleAid) functions on the premise that most people, irrespective of their circumstances, are capable of helping another person in some way or other. In that context, CandleAid functions as the link between someone's basic need and another's generosity.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CandleAid's Board of Directors comprises its Founder President and 7 other Directors. The entire Board functions on a voluntary and honorary basis.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

CandleAid office is located at 21/4 Dharmaratne Avenue, Rawathawatte, Moratuwa. As at 31 March 2019 there were 12 staff members, consisting of 3 senior employees on contract and 9 permanent employees.

OVERSEAS REPRESENTATION

16 individuals have been appointed by CandleAid in cities around the world to represent it in sourcing sponsors and donors for its projects and programmes, all of which are carried out in Sri Lanka.

BANK ACCOUNTS

All funds are channelled through the following Sri Lanka Rupee Current Accounts established in the name of "CandleAid Lanka".

- 🏦 Hatton National Bank, Moratuwa Branch - Account No. 022010223682
- 🏦 Nations Trust Bank, Moratuwa Branch - Account No. 014100008377

AUDITED ACCOUNTS

CandleAid adheres to high standards of transparency and accountability and as such its accounts are audited by B.R. de Silva & Co. and displayed in CandleAid's website www.candleaid.org

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

During the year under review, total receipts mainly in the form of donations aggregated to Rs. 45,612,189 as compared to Rs. 36,655,004 in the previous year. This included donations for the three on-going sponsorship programmes: Education, Cancer Patients and Gift-A-Meal, donations/contributions for other projects, recoveries and interest earned on investments.

Total payments amounted to Rs. 38,548,422 as compared to Rs. 35,430,579 in the previous year. This included disbursements to sponsored beneficiaries in the three sponsorship programmes and other projects, administrative expenses, taxation, and bank charges.

The detailed Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019 are in Annex II.

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

A review of CandleAid's operations and a detailed description of on-going projects carried out by the organization during the year under review are in Annex I.

1.0 EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The student sponsorships, library project, book project and other education related projects come within the purview of the education programme. Total donations received for the education programme during the year under review amounted to Rs. 17,716,276.

1.1 Student Sponsorships

This is CandleAid's flagship programme where financial assistance is extended to students from low income families. Under the education sponsorship programme, pre-university students receive Rs. 1,000 per month and university students Rs. 1,800 per month. Monthly disbursements are directly credited to students' bank accounts.

The total number of students sponsored under this programme as at 31 March 2019 was 3435. The active number of sponsorships during the period under review was 935. Out of this total 329 were university students. Local and foreign sponsors numbering 353, and 745 coordinators supported this programme.

CandleAid received sponsorship donations aggregating to Rs. 16,808,776. Disbursements to students amounted to Rs. 14,120,900. The excess of donations received over disbursements represent donations received during the financial year but due for disbursement in the following year.

1.2 Library Project

CandleAid launched this programme in 1998 to supply books and other items required in setting up libraries in schools and community centres, mostly in backward regions. A number of individuals and corporate entities have funded these libraries.

During the year under review, CandleAid opened three libraries at a cost of Rs. 184,202. The library programme has set up a total of 197 libraries as at 31 March 2019. Out of this 124 have been General libraries, 38 are libraries in the North and East, 21 are Maths laboratories and 14 are English Books Only (EBO) libraries.

1.3 Book Project

This project is held annually to provide exercise books and other items of stationery to students for their ensuing academic year. . This year's project was conducted in Moratuwa and also in five more locations around the island. The project served a total of 385 children at a cost of Rs 150,000. 50 students were served in Kalutara, 54 in Panadura, 70 in Matugama, 104 in Moratuwa and 107 in Ipologama.

1.4 English & Personality Enhancement Programme

Many programmes towards the above purpose were conducted by CandleAid to provide undergraduates, graduates, advanced level students and others an opportunity to acquire English communication skills and secure jobs. Ten courses have been organised and more than 900 students have been assisted as at 31 March 2019.

In 2019 January CandleAid received a special donation of Rs. 1,287,574 from the LBW Trust, Australia, for the above programme. Utilizing part of the funds CandleAid organized its first five-day residential course in March 2019, where 28 participants received English communication skills, career guidance, coaching in personal grooming and preparation to face job interviews confidently. One of CandleAid's directors, Professor Razeen Sally was in charge of the programme content and curriculum, two other CandleAid volunteers, Mr Dhananath Fernando and Ms Dishani Seneviratne worked as chief coordinators, free of any remuneration. The participants were mostly undergraduates receiving sponsorships from the LBW Trust. The programme was conducted at the Subodhi Institute of Integral Study at Piliyandala.

The total cost of the first course was Rs. 550,203. The second such programme was planned to be held in April 2019.

2.0 HEALTH PROGRAMME

CandleAid conducts its health related initiatives covering mainly four different areas of need. These relate to the Cancer Patient Assistance Programme, Mr & Mrs Mendis Special Fund, Sigiri Trust Fund and the Lunawa Hospital Project. There are a few other health related disbursements made using general project funds but all of the above come under the purview of the Health Programme. Details of the different initiatives are given below.

Total donations received for the health programme during the year under review amounted to Rs. 11,890,855.

2.1 Cancer Patient Assistance

This programme identifies and assists poor cancer patients to procure at least some of their essentials through a monthly donation of Rs. 2,000. The scale of this programme has expanded rapidly and from inception to 31 March 2019, a total of 1342 cancer patients have been assisted.

During the period under review 381 patients received assistance. 92 local and foreign donors and 385 coordinators supported CandleAid to carry out the cancer patient assistance programme successfully.

A total of Rs. 7,467,079 was received for cancer patient assistance. A sum of Rs. 7,210,000 was disbursed during the year under review. The excess of receipts received

over disbursements represent donations received during the financial year but due for disbursement in the following year.

2.2 Mr & Mrs Mendis Special Fund

In 2015 a special donation was received from a family closely associated with CandleAid. The second donation for the above fund was received in June 2018. The donors wished the funds to be utilised to serve the needs of cancer patients over and above the Cancer Patient Assistance Programme, mentioned above.

The total number of people assisted under this special fund as at 31 March 2019 was 140, while the number of people assisted during the period under review was 22. The total receipts since 2015 amounted to Rs. 4,919,625 out of which a sum of Rs. 1,598,675 was received during the year under review. Disbursements during the year under review amounted to Rs. 396,300. The total utilization from the special fund as at 31 March 2019 is Rs. 3,123,496.

2.3 Sigiri Trust Fund

CandleAid Lanka agreed to work together in partnership with Sigiri Trust, to set up and implement a project aimed at uplifting and assisting patients in need of financial support. The primary objective is to render assistance to disadvantaged patients receiving treatment in government owned/operated medical institutions or needing to obtain medical tests from other institutions due to unavailability of same in the government run hospitals.

Assistance has been given to patients recommended by doctors to undergo lifesaving medical procedures such as Bypass and organ transplant and also to patients who require prostheses and assistive equipment needed to lead a normal quality life.

In June 2018 CandleAid received a donation of Rs. 2,560,658 from Sigiri Trust for the above fund and have disbursed Rs 1,237,896 assisting a total of 19 patients as at 31 March 2019.

2.4 Lunawa Hospital Project

Lunawa Hospital Project was initiated on a proposal made by the consultant family practitioner at Lunawa District Hospital in March 2019. Purpose of the programme is to give financial assistance to needy patients to obtain required tests and X-Rays from private laboratories. According to Dr. Galhena, there are many patients having TB and other chronic syndromes which were neglected for a long time due to non-availability of tests required to do a proper diagnosis and plan future treatment. This assistance is extended to patients certified as hailing from destitute families by the consultant.

During the year under review we assisted the first patient with serious back pain to do an MRI scan of the spine, utilizing Rs 14,930 from Dr & Mrs William Chan Fund.

3.0 FOOD PROGRAMME

3.1 Gift-A-Meal (GAM) Sponsorships

Under this destitute family sponsorship programme, a monthly basic food supplement valued at Rs. 2,000 is given to selected families lacking nutrition. A total of 642 families have been assisted from the inception of the programme up to 31 March 2019.

During the period under review 160 destitute families received assistance from CandleAid. 82 local and foreign donors, and 126 coordinators supported CandleAid to carry out the Gift-A-Meal sponsorship programme successfully.

CandleAid received donations totalling Rs. 3,841,874 for the Food Programme, and disbursed Rs. 3,576,500 towards Gift-A-Meal sponsorships during the year under review. Other Food programme related disbursements amounted to Rs 221,638, these being special donations received for GAM recipients.

4.0 SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAMME

4.1 Blind Colony, Moratuwa

CandleAid continues to assist visually impaired elders at the above colony by providing them meals on days that HelpAge Sri Lanka is unable to do so. CandleAid also met the transport cost of getting the lunch from HelpAge and also provided medications they needed. In addition we provide each elder with a pack of essential items on a monthly basis. A general physician visits them twice a month on a voluntary basis. A sum of Rs. 161,707 has been disbursed for this purpose during the year under review. Donations amounted to Rs. 120,000.

4.2 Mother Charitable Foundation - Pathum Uyana & Niduk Piyasa

The Foundation has established two centres, namely Pathum Uyana and Niduk Piyasa in Kalutara and Matara respectively to educate and develop children with special needs such as learning difficulties, communicating difficulties, sensory/physical/behavioural development delays, intellectual impairments, down syndrome and autism.

During the year under review students from United World College of South Asia, Singapore visited Pathum Uyana and interacted with the children. CandleAid also donated Rs. 77,000 for their self-training residential camp and Rs. 40,000 for school uniforms and shoes to be handed over during their Christmas programme.

4.3 Sahaja Special Needy Children's Welfare Foundation

The Foundation has established a centre in Ratmalana to educate and develop children with special needs. The main objective of the centre is to care for and uplift the lives of mentally

and physically challenged children of extremely poor families. The centre therefore provides a meaningful service in the form of education and therapy.

During the year under review, students from United World College of South Asia, Singapore volunteered at Sahaja Special Needy Children's Welfare Foundation. The students helped with making floor mats and greeting cards, and painting pillow cases to raise funds for the centre. CandleAid also donated Rs. 5,000 for their Christmas programme refreshments.

5.0 SELF EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (SEW) PROGRAMME

The SEW programme is a holistic attempt to strengthen and support women who have been entrusted with the responsibility of being the sole breadwinner in the family. Having identified the potential and suitability of such women for micro business success, CandleAid provides the cost of setting up or expanding the small business endeavour along with advice on a business plan and guidance on marketing their products.

CandleAid has empowered 31 such women since inception of the programme. During the year under review 2 women were assisted disbursing a sum of Rs 14,800.

6.0 DISASTER RELIEF

Due to the extremely harsh weather condition that prevailed in the island, there was large scale flooding and landslides that affected the people of Sri Lanka. We received a request from one of our coordinators to assist a Montessori in Pundaluoya, affected by the heavy rains and landslides.

The Montessori situated in the Nuwara Eliya district had been damaged including furniture. The community had assisted in rebuilding the school; however they were not financially stable to assist further. CandleAid assisted them to purchase 20 chairs for the children, disbursing a sum of Rs 9,675.

7.0 NORTH & EAST PROJECTS

Right after the end of the civil war, CandleAid decided to reach out to people in the North and East and immediately initiated short-term projects, mainly targeting needs of children in Ampara, Batticaloa, Jaffna, Killinochchi, Mannar, Mullaithivu, Trincomalee and Vavuniya districts. On completion of these projects, CandleAid established 38 libraries in schools and community centres, gave sponsorships to many students and destitute families, assisted patients, provided school needs of children and also conducted interactive programmes in the North and East, and continue to do so.

8.0 GENERAL/COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Apart from the above programmes CandleAid receives many requests for assistance from both individuals and institutions. For the period under review CandleAid undertook to assist beneficiaries with various needs including medical expenses and also carried out community projects such as constructing/renovating the library ceiling of two schools, providing a 2000 litre water tank to a school in Udatawinna, a water motor to a school in Veyanagoda, a table and 6 chairs to a school in Yatawara, bicycles and stationery for 11 children of missing people from Mannar, and part of the cost of a water purification plant for the Mullivaikkal villagers. During the year under review individuals and the community were assisted under General Projects disbursing a sum of Rs 1,270,803.

9.0 INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY

CandleAid Representatives continued to support and sustain the projects carried out during the period under review. CandleAid is represented in 16 cities worldwide by an individual branch representative, who is expected to engender awareness among the respective communities about the multiple burdens suffered by the poor in Sri Lanka and CandleAid's approach to assist them. Donors from many nations, including Sri Lankans who live abroad, have granted a number of sponsorships under our three main sponsorship programmes and have also assisted our other projects. A summary of activities is given below.

9.1 Singapore

9.1.1 Tanglin Trust School - Primary students of the above school have been actively collecting and donating funds, especially for children's projects undertaken by CandleAid. These children carry out various initiatives to raise the necessary funds for our children projects.

9.1.2 United World College of South Asia (UWC) - Eight students from UWC visited Sri Lanka during the year under review. The students worked with special needs children in institutions connected to CandleAid. They also made significant financial contributions towards our special needs programme and education programme during the year under review.

9.1.3 Dr. & Mrs. William Chan Fund - The fund is set up by a benefactor in memory of her late parents to be used to fulfil needs of the people who seek help from CandleAid, at its own discretion. The fund set up in February 2014 has been used especially to fulfil various needs of CandleAid beneficiaries and other community based projects.

9.2 Sydney

9.2.1 LBW Trust - is made up of a group of people in Sydney who wishes to support university students in developing cricket playing nations. They have assisted 295 university students since 2012. Sydney branch who sourced this benefactor has undertaken to remit a sum of money towards the administration of these sponsorships.

Funded by the LBW Trust, CandleAid conducted the first phase of the English & Personality Enhancement Programme from the 20 to 25 March 2019. 28 undergraduates participated in this programme successfully. A donation of LKR 1,287,574 was received for this purpose and CandleAid planned to execute two such programmes, one in March and the other in April. The cost of the March programme amounted to LKR 550,203.

9.3 Dubai

9.3.1 Lanka Lions Sports Club, Dubai - A group made up of Sri Lankans domiciled in Dubai, continues to be closely associated with CandleAid in serving the poor people of Sri Lanka through various projects from time to time.

9.3.2 Edrington Group - The Company's principal shareholder is The Robertson Trust. The Trust uses its dividends from Edrington to improve the quality of life of people and communities. During the year under review they had awarded a number of sponsorships to less fortunate students, destitute families and cancer patients in Sri Lanka through CandleAid.

9.4 USA

8.4.1 Clarendon Foundation of Los Angeles - Made up of Sri Lankans; they continue to provide sponsorships to cancer patients. Annually they sponsor 100 children diagnosed with cancer.

9.5 Frankfurt

Under the leadership of a committed representative, this branch has immensely assisted mainly the education programme by sponsoring 149 students in all and 36 students during the year under review.

All CandleAid representatives continue to support CandleAid in very meaningful ways. The dedication and commitment of the CandleAid representatives have given much value to the work carried out and has been a tremendous source of encouragement to all at CandleAid, mainly to its Board of Directors. Their voluntary efforts are acknowledged with deep gratitude.

10.0 ADMINISTRATION

As at 31 March 2019, twelve staff members served in CandleAid's office situated at 21/4 Dharmaratne Avenue, Rawathawatte, Moratuwa. They comprised 3 senior employees aged over 55 years serving on contract basis and 9 permanent staff. All employees are paid a monthly salary and contributions are made to E.P.F and E.T.F.

Staff emoluments including E.P.F. and E.T.F. during the financial year amounted to Rs. 5,606,183. Other administration expenses aggregated to Rs. 1,476,953.

As has been the practice since 2014, CandleAid levies a 10% administrative fee on donations received. This plus interest earned on its investments takes care of CandleAid's administrative expenses.

11.0 CONCLUSION

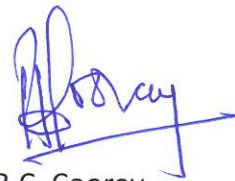
CandleAid attempts to alleviate poverty mainly by focussing on the areas of Education, Health and Food. CandleAid also carries out various other projects to help the underprivileged people in Sri Lanka. A special focus during the year under review was the upliftment of the lives of people with disabilities, mainly children. Towards this end CandleAid works with institutions catering to children with special needs. Apart from these CandleAid gave education scholarships to differently abled university students and also rendered assistance to visually impaired elders.

CandleAid appreciates international and local donors who have supported and made possible the wide range of programmes/projects carried out to ease the burdens of the disadvantaged people of Sri Lankan society. They have been a tremendous source of encouragement to CandleAid and it is their generous contributions that have made it possible for CandleAid to execute all the humanitarian tasks mentioned in this report.

CandleAid acknowledges the invaluable voluntary services rendered by its network of coordinators spread throughout Sri Lanka. They come from all walks of life, all religions and ethnicities. Their common contribution is the time and effort they expend to coordinate CandleAid's many individual beneficiaries as well as community programmes. Their primary duty is to ensure the proper end use of funds disbursed and they are the link that binds CandleAid and the beneficiary, be it a person or a community. CandleAid wishes to acknowledge the services rendered by these coordinators and thanks every single one of them for the support and efforts extended to CandleAid.



V. D. H. Jayawardena
Executive Director
CandleAid Lanka



P.R.C. Cooray
Director / Vice President
CandleAid Lanka

19 November 2019