

TRANSFORMING LIVES

CAL IN ACTION



"A future of well-being, value and equality for every child, everywhere."

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*This newsletter consists of updates
on CAL activities for the months of
October, November and December 2024*

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CHRISTMAS AT CAL

The Christmas season at CAL was abuzz with excitement, joy and hope as various communities rallied around to bring smiles on the faces of our children.

Children from CAL's Colombo CDC were invited to take part in a festive Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration at Jetwing Colombo Seven. The children, who had also decorated the tree with their handmade Christmas ornaments for the occasion, were also treated to a scrumptious meal, specially prepared by the Chefs at Jetwing Colombo Seven.

Christmas was also made extra special through the generous donations and kind contributions of gifts from students various universities and schools, including APIIT Colombo, APIIT Kandy, Ladies' College and Methodist College. Members of Youngship Sri Lanka spread holiday cheer by donating Christmas gifts and visiting our Mullaitivu Centre, where they spent time getting to know the children, the community we support, and our dedicated staff. Additionally, the team at Oceans in Sri Lanka provided incredible support for CAL's Christmas efforts by generously donating gifts to our children.

The members of Interact District 3220 made Christmas extra special for the children at the Colombo Centre by hosting a joyful Christmas party. They brightened the day by bringing treats and spending quality time with the children, creating unforgettable memories.



The heartfelt support extended to CAL during the Christmas season has truly strengthened our mission to brighten the lives of vulnerable children in Sri Lanka. We are immensely grateful to our supporters, whose generosity brought radiant smiles, joyful laughter, and renewed hope to our little ones. As we step into 2025, we look forward to strengthening these partnerships even further and transforming lives together.



CAL VOLUNTEER ALUMNI

CAL's ongoing impact would not be possible without the invaluable contribution of dedicated volunteers. This group of passionate individuals, from various parts of the world, commit their time, resources, skills and finances to partner with CAL on its mission to transform the lives of children in Sri Lanka.

The CAL Volunteer Alumni Network, launched from a desire to honour the contributions of its volunteers, seeks to create a community where past volunteers can interact & network with one another, stay updated on CAL's initiatives and continue supporting CAL's mission through various means.

The CAL Volunteer Alumni Network is set to expand CAL's reach to needy communities in Sri Lanka through a growing base of inspirational volunteers and partners, "Transforming Lives" together.

Scan the QR code to
join our Alumni
Network by
following our
Volunteer Alumni
page



ART EXHIBITIONS

CAL is committed to recognising, developing and promoting the innate talents and skills of the young ones in our care. As part of this commitment, over the last quarter of 2024, Art Exhibitions were held at many CAL centres, including the Nuwara Eliya, Colombo, Kandy, Kilinochchi and Galle CDCs.

From the youngest to the oldest, every child poured their heart and soul into their passionate art and craft exhibits, producing colourful, fun, intricate and even thought-provoking exhibits. Centering around various themes, the exhibits displayed the immense creativity, depth of thought and incredible talent of our young ones.

This impressive display of talent has also brought a renewed sense of self-confidence and hope in many of our children, who beamed with pride as their art exhibits were admired and appreciated by parents, guests and well-wishers.

The impressive display of skill and talent has also further inspired the CAL team to create more opportunities and platforms for children to explore, discover, hone and showcase the immense potential that they carry.

The Art Exhibitions have unearthed many hidden talents and potential that every child carries within them – this is, indeed, part of CAL’s ongoing mission to “Transform Lives”.





VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

CAL volunteers are at the heart of our mission, playing a vital role in our ongoing efforts. We proudly celebrate their dedication and meaningful contributions. Here are some of their recent inspiring stories.

Eshyanthi has volunteered at CAL's Safe Home every weekend, facilitating craft and handwork activities with the children at the home. Her visits have offered our children an avenue of relaxation and equipped them with new craft skills.



Volunteers from the British School (Colombo)

H.R. Vinsadi, Mewansa, Ayela, Amanda, Senarath, Lehansa, Minagi, Cosmakorale, Patabandige, Vinsade, Ayela and Lehansa volunteered their time and support at the Colombo CDC. They conducted special programmes and assisted with activities at the centre.

Rubina Rajaratnam volunteered regularly at the Colombo CDC for a period of 6 months. She was an active contributor towards the initiatives at the centre and also formed close bonds with both the children and staff at the centre.



Madhushika was a former beneficiary of the Galle CDC and returned to volunteer at the centre for a period of 6 months. Madhushika contributed in both administrative and teaching capacities at the centre. Her invaluable contributions have left a lasting impression on the children at the centre.

Ines Prokoph

CAL sincerely honours Ines Prokoph, who has volunteered with us for more than 5 years! Ines, a German who is, by profession, an Occupational Therapist, arrived on Sri Lanka's sandy shores in 2014, passionate about making a positive impact on the island. Falling in love with the country, she discovered her desire to volunteer long-term in Sri Lanka and began her service with CAL in 2019.

Ines' skills as an Occupational Therapist have benefited children at many of our centres. Ines also served in the capacities of educator and facilitator at many of our centres.

Ines has become an affectionately-recognised member of the CAL family and we greatly appreciate and honour her heartfelt contribution to our children and our communities.



'HELP MY FRIEND' SPONSORSHIPS

The ongoing effects of the economic crisis that hit Sri Lanka in 2021 have deepened over time. Rising living costs have proven to be a major threat, crippling families and dampening their ability to sufficiently provide for the educational needs of their children.

The Help my Friends (HMF) Sponsorship Programme is CAL's determined effort to support needy children in overcoming the challenges of poverty and pursuing a bright future. The programme seeks to highlight the obstacles faced by children in Sri Lanka and gather supporters and sponsors who will partner with CAL on its mission to be a provider of employable education, sustainable health & nutrition and child protection.

The HMF Programme is a sponsorship strategy that resources the initiatives at CAL centres. Children at CAL centres are provided with educational essentials, such as school uniforms, bags, shoes and stationery. Our centres also serve children healthy meals and offer them a safe and secure space in which to spend their time while their parents are at work. CAL also financially assists the families of these children in creating safe living spaces in which children can develop.

Street and street-connected children thrive at CAL centres through the following:

- Routines and well-regulated schedules
- Behavioural enhancement
- Counseling on overcoming the past and facing the future
- Coaching with primary and secondary education
- Access to education in the English subject, IT, Music, Drama & Art
- Sports education
- Life-skills coaching

The initiatives at CAL centres are targeted at "Transforming Lives", and the HMF Sponsorship Programme is now an essential boost to CAL's dedicated efforts.



HOW TO BECOME A SPONSOR

- Donation of \$ 15 (Rs. 4500/-) will cover the educational expenses one child for a month
- Donation of \$ 180 will cover the educational expenses of one child for a year

SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS:

- Make a one-time donation of USD 15 (LKR 4,500) or more
- Sign up as a sponsor for 12 months with monthly donations of USD 15 (total of USD 180 for one year)
- Choose to sponsor one child or more

To sign up as a sponsor, kindly email mihiri@childactionlanka.org with the subject, 'Sponsor for HMF'.

A ONE-YEAR SPONSORSHIP COMMITMENT WILL BE ENTITLED TO:

- A quarterly update from the centre to which your sponsorship has been assigned to
- CAL Newsletter subscription
- A personalized thank you card made by CAL kids



To become a sponsor, scan the QR code and send us your details.



HEAL, EMPOWER, LOVE, PROTECT

BELGIUM VOLUNTEERS FROM UCLL

It was a great privilege to receive student volunteers from Hogeschool UCLL (Belgium) for a period of 3 months in the last quarter. UCLL has partnered with CAL for many years and it has always been an honour to receive volunteers from the school at our centres.

The student volunteers from UCLL served at our Kandy, Galle, Colombo, Gampola, Killinochchi and Batticaloa centres.

The team served in different capacities at each centre. They assisted with daily operations at the centres, engaged in the pre-schools, facilitated in after-school care sessions and assisted in coordinating special events and awareness programmes at the centres.



Over the course of their inspiring service, the volunteers formed cherished friendships and bonds with both the children and staff at the centres. It was moving to witness how these volunteers were so warmly welcomed into each community that they served.



CAL is thankful for its ongoing partnership with Hogeschool UCLL and looks forward to continually **"Transforming Lives"** together in the seasons ahead.



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

"Each tiny effort builds on the next, so that, brick by brick, magnificent things can be created."

~ Robin Sharma

As we reflect on 2024, I am grateful for much – every meal that was served to our children, every stationery set that was distributed to our students, every educator and facilitator who stepped into our centres, every volunteer who invested in our children, every staff member who showed faithful care to our children, every government agency that partnered with our mission, every donor who joyfully contributed towards our initiatives, every organisation that supported our cause – the list is endless!

Every heartfelt contribution – whether in service, in resource, in funding, in skill, or in time – has built on the next, creating a magnificent 2024 of "Transforming Lives".

Thank you for continually trusting in the integrity of CAL's mission, cheering us on and partnering with us to reach the most needy communities in Sri Lanka.

In a swiftly-developing world, CAL is set to tackle the new challenges that plague rural communities with compassion, determination and hope. We are expectant for a productive and impactful 2025.

Journey with us!

Love & Blessings,

Debbie Edirisinghe & the CAL Family

Join us and **SHARE A MEAL**

Scan the QR code to donate





06, Power Station Road, Kandy (20000)

Sri Lanka.

Phone: +94812234144

Email: childaction@sltnet.lk

The Impact of Donations

Your donation gives our children hope for the future and ensures that their nutritional & health requirements are met, and their primary and higher educational journeys are supported. It also enables protection from violence & abuse and the empowerment of girls & women. Children are the starting point in breaking the cycle of poverty and your donation will help make this a reality.

Donate through the CAL charity page by scanning the QR code below.

Scan the QR code to donate.

Help us reach the target of providing 10,000 meals.

Join us and **SHARE A MEAL**



Donate through Star Points



Support us by donating your Star Points directly via the MyDialog app or text #141*6*10# CAL

