



A New Donation of Food to Blue Rose Special School and Training Centre



Several months ago, Buddhist Relief Mission donated a parcel of dry rations to the family of each student of Blue Rose School in Kandy. Recently, we contacted the Principal, and she informed us that the school had begun serving lunches to the students. After receiving the list, we were able to provide two three-wheelers full of provisions. Here is an excerpt from the letter of appreciation we received:

Due to the Covid pandemic and the economic situation in Sri Lanka, in which parents began to find it difficult to provide lunch packets for students to bring to school, attendance dropped from 60 students per day to an average of only 20. One of our donors suggested providing a mid-day meal. Initially, this was a very big challenge as the food prices were skyrocketing and labour fees were high. We wondered whether the cooking could be handled by the Vocational Training Unit (VTU), and this has been successful. Since August, the VTU (2 staff members and 15 students) have been preparing simple but nutritious and healthy meals 3 days a week—Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. (Due to the high cost of transport we keep the school closed on Wednesdays.)

As a result of this mid-day meal program, we have seen very interesting changes in the school. Student attendance improved to an average of 40 students a day. Some parents got together and offered not only to provide food for Friday, but also to cook. The VTU students have received a little pocket money for their input into the program. Adult students feel valued and enjoy being part of everyone's meal preparation. Autistic students, who depended on specially prepared meals from home, enjoy the meals provided by the school. The VTU Students have increased their skills in preparing snacks and are encouraged to prepare their own snacks. Finally, many well-wishers have decided to celebrate their birthdays or special days by contributing to the midday meal.

When the program began the cost per day for a simple meal for all the students was Rs. 5000, but it has increased to Rs.12,500.



The hunger crisis in Sri Lanka is worsening every day. Buddhist Relief Mission is working through a growing network of volunteers to provide much-needed food and medicine to as many communities and institutions as our funds allow. Donations, large and small, are greatly appreciated. 100% of every donation goes to charity. There is no overhead. BRM is a 501(c)3 organization, and all USA donations are IRS tax-deductible.



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