

A Farm Project for Young Men at a Rehab Center



Buddhist Relief Mission is planning to support the reestablishment of an agricultural training program at a youth drug rehabilitation center near Kandy. This program was discontinued due to the pandemic. The center would like to restart the program, but, with the economic crisis, funding is necessary to purchase new tools and supplies. Under the supervision of a trained instructor, the forty-two residents will learn the fundamentals of gardening—preparing the soil, planting seeds, caring for the plants, and harvesting the fruit and vegetables. The exercise will enhance their rehab



program, and the skills they learn will be useful in their reentry into society. The produce will improve their diet, as well as provide a source of income for the center.

Please join us in sponsoring this worthwhile project. Your donation will help provide the tools, seeds, and seedlings for these young men to grow nutritious food and to develop their skills.



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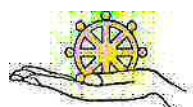
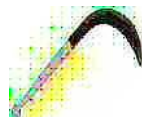
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THINK GREEN!

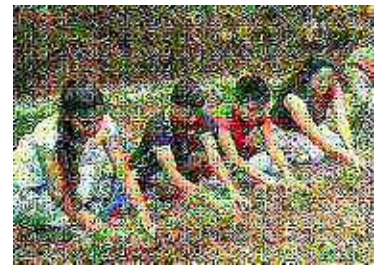
Supporting Agricultural Projects



On April 1, 2023, Menusha attended the opening ceremony of the cultivation project, funded by Buddhist Relief Mission (with support from many donors, including the Godwin Memorial Fund) at the Methasevana Drug Rehabilitation Center in Peradeniya. Menusha officially presented the tools, equipment, seeds, and plants the Center requested for the resuming project which had been suspended by the pandemic. The Center has ample grounds for cultivating fruit and vegetables to supplement the residents' diet. Through this project, which is part of their therapy, the residents will learn useful skills that will stand them in good stead in the future, when they leave the Center. The gardening work will not only improve their diets, but will also give them exercise, an opportunity to work together, and a sense of accomplishment.



Last year, Buddhist Relief Mission supported a similar project at Senkadagala School for the Deaf and Blind in Dodanwala. We will be delighted if these projects serve as models for many institutions, such as special schools, elders' homes, orphanages, and women's shelters, in the Kandy area and, indeed, throughout Sri Lanka. During the current economic crisis, with skyrocketing inflation, it is becoming increasingly difficult to secure nutritious food. Gardening projects offer a practical solution, as well as a teaching opportunity. We welcome donations toward the funding of many more such projects.



Donation for Sri Lankan relief—food, medicine, and agricultural projects
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Also in April, Buddhist Relief Mission contributed to the Boy Scout Jamboree's campaign to plant 110 fruit trees, including rambutan, mandarin orange, Sri Lankan olive, pommelo, mango, guava, namnam, and starfruit, on the campus of Wickramabahu College in Gampola. The trees will be planted by students.



Several months ago, we joined Green Team Kandy in their donation of 100 jak trees to needy families. Jakfruit is extremely nutritious, cooked in many different ways, and a source of protein.



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Offering More Relief During the Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka Over Sinhala and Tamil New Year, April 2023



During the New Year's holidays, we were able to distribute more parcels of dry rations. Donations included some to Ven. Nanda and residents of her village and a village in Halloluwa. We also provided snacks to children in Sunday school at Lighthouse Church. In celebration of Ramadan, we made donations to one mosque serving Iftar to worshipers and to another for dry rations to needy families. Our monthly donation for April at the Kandy Cancer Home coincided with New Year's, and we were happy to provide High Tea to the 30 residents who were unable to be with their families for the holidays.



Further donations will continue as long as our funds permit.



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The Buddha said, "There are three kinds of people in the world. What three? One who is like a rainless cloud, one who rains locally, and one who rains everywhere.
 "What kind of person is like a rainless cloud? A certain person never gives to anyone. He does not give food, drink, clothing, garlands, incense, medicine, lodging, or lamps to ascetics, to the poor, or to the needy. This kind of person is like a rainless cloud.
 "What kind of person rains locally? A certain person gives to some but not to others. He gives food, drink, clothing, garlands, incense, medicine, lodging, and lamps only to some ascetics and to some of the poor and the needy, but not to others. This kind of person rains locally.
 "What kind of person rains everywhere? A certain person gives to all. He gives food, drink, clothing, garlands, incense, medicine, lodging, and lamps to all ascetics and to the poor and the needy. This kind of person rains everywhere.
 "These are the three kinds of people in the world." — Itivuttaka 75



The Boy Scouts' tree-planting project in Gampola was successfully carried out. The saplings are thriving.



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Combating Food Insecurity During the Economic and Food Crisis in Sri Lanka

Food insecurity in Sri Lanka is increasing. We continue the important work of distributing dry rations to needy and vulnerable communities. In addition we are initiating and promoting gardening projects at schools and other institutions, for education and to produce healthy food. We have already provided tools, plants, and seeds to one school for the deaf and blind and a drug rehabilitation center. In our presentation to a special education school, the director replied that, although they were very interested in a gardening program, there was a problem on the campus with monkeys and other wild animals. We know that situation all too well, since our lot, garden, and adjacent hillside are frequented by troops of monkeys, porcupines, wild pigs, giant squirrels, and the occasional peacock. Sometimes, we hear air guns, firecrackers, and mysterious explosions, so we know that our neighbors are chasing away these visitors. On the other hand, we welcome them to our “jungle,” but we protect our vegetable garden with “monkey cages”—monkeys on the outside and vegetables on the inside. We feel this would be a viable solution for many institutions, and we would like to help install them. They are quickly built, easy to construct, and inexpensive. We invite donors to share in this program and in providing food during this difficult time.



**“Give a man some food, and you feed him for a day.
Teach him to farm, and you feed him for a lifetime.” –Anonymous proverb**

“He who plants a garden plants happiness.” –Chinese proverb

“To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.” –Audrey Hepburn



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Dry Rations to One Hundred Fifty Families in Kithulmulla



On May 13, Buddhist Relief Mission provided parcels of dry rations, and Lily, Ewen, and Chandani distributed them to 150 families in the village of Kithulmulla on a tea estate in Hanthana at the edge of Kandy. Tea-estate workers have been hit particularly hard by the economic crisis, and this food was much needed.

With support from our generous donors, Buddhist Relief Mission will continue to distribute food and medicine to needy families and institutions and to assist agricultural projects wherever we can.

May all beings be safe and happy!



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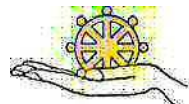


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The Crisis Is Not Over – More Assistance Urgently Needed!



World Socialist Web Site **WSWS.ORG**
Sri Lanka's public health services face breakdown



Twice a month, Buddhist Relief Mission offers dana to Ven. Nanda at her hermitage and dry rations to families in the village.



From the USA, Tracy and Bonnie brought two oxygen tank regulators and some essential medicines, which they donated to the Emergency Treatment Unit of Kandy Hospital. Other tourists might also be able to bring urgently needed supplies. Please contact us by email or WhatsApp.



On May 31, Lighthouse Church held a one-day soup kitchen and served lunch to more than 150 hungry people. Buddhist Relief Mission was delighted to join in the project.



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On the three-month anniversary of his father's death, Jagath offered dana and dry rations to ten monks and served snacks to the children in Sunday school at a temple in Halloluwa.

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BRM regularly assists Kandy Cancer Society in providing lunch packets for out-of-town OPD cancer-treatment patients at Kandy Hospital.



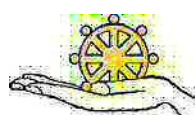
On the 15th of every month BRM offers high tea and essential medicine to the patients at Kandy Cancer Home.

With the support of generous donors, Buddhist Relief Mission will continue, through our local network in Sri Lanka, distributing food and medicine and assisting small agricultural projects as long as we can. BRM is small 501(c)3 organization with no overhead expenses. Donors can be assured that 100% of gifts is used for relief.



On Posen Full-Moon Day, BRM joined Bowalawatta Youth Association and Tourist Police, Kandy for a *dansal* distributing dry rations to poor families.

Before giving, one should be happy, anticipating the opportunity to exercise generosity. While giving, one should be happy to be making another happy. After giving, one should be satisfied that they have performed a good deed.
 –Anguttara Nikaya, 3,336



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Appeal for Assistance to a Drug Rehab Center

For several months Buddhist Relief Mission has been assisting Methasevana, the Youth Treatment and Rehabilitation Center (Central Province) of the National Dangerous Drugs Central Board of Sri Lanka, in Kandy. Yesterday we received notice that the two TV sets at the Center had been damaged by lightning. They were sent to Kandy Radio Engineers, but the cost of repair is beyond the Center's allotted budget.

ESTIMATE		KRE
Kandy Radio Engineers No. 32, Galada Veediya, Kandy 0812228550		22/06/2023
DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	
Konka 43" (JBN.9227)	TV System Board Replacement Charges	20,000.00
Samsung 42" (JBN.9226)	TV System Board Replacement Charges	22,000.00
TOTAL		RS. 42,000.00 USD 140

The manager requested assistance in covering the cost of 42,000 rupees (US\$140). The TV sets are essential for instruction and training for the 42 young men residing at the Center. BRM would like to continue assisting the Center in this and other programs.



These photos were taken during a dance-therapy session at the Center. They demonstrate the importance of the TV sets for instruction and rehabilitation



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Relief Aid to a Remote Village Outside Kandy

June 29, 2023




Buddhist Relief Mission sent a truck with supplies for more than one hundred families in a small mountain village. Though it is only 60 kilometers from Kandy, the trip took almost four hours over a rough road. There is no bus service, and villagers must walk four kilometers through the jungle to a bus stop. We learned of the village from a classmate of Lily's grandson at their school in Kandy. He is now staying with Shehan in Kandy, but he told us that, previously, he had to walk for more than one hour to catch a bus. So many villagers have migrated looking for work that most of residents are senior citizens and youth. Many students live with only their grandparents.



In addition to parcels of dry rations, we donated school supplies to each student. The stationery items were in cotton bags, handmade and painted by Lily's daughter. Bonnie, visiting from the USA, took part in the distribution.

Thanks to generous donations, BRM was able to assist these needy villagers, and we will continue our program as long as possible. The need is great throughout the island. We realize that we are a very small organization, and our relief is only a drop in the bucket, but every drop relieves a little suffering, and we are grateful that we can help in this way.




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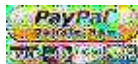
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Continuing Food Distribution to Needy Families in Sri Lanka



In cooperation with other organizations—Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Muslim, and secular—BRM continues distributing parcels of dry rations to destitute families caught in the economic crisis. We also assist with medical costs and support agricultural projects for small institutions. Our work depends on contributions from donors. Thank you for your generous support.

“Hunger is the greatest disease.” –The Buddha



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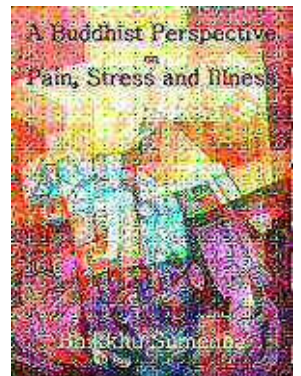
Sharing Merit in Sri Lanka



On July 19, 2023, Jagath held a ceremony to mark the one-year anniversary of his father's death. On that occasion, Buddhist Relief Mission provided food and medicine for the monks and dry ration parcels for needy families in the village of Halloluwa. The dana was fittingly held in Mahapadassana, the ancient cave in which the great Swiss painter/monk, Ven. Sumedha, resided until his death in 2006. Jagath's grandfather, his father, and Jagath himself, all three, served successively as attendants to Ven. Sumedha. The cave sits on a wooded hillside at the top of a stone staircase of about one hundred steps. In offering this dana, Jagath and BRM shared merit with Jagath's father, Ven. Sumedha, and all generous donors.



Ven. Sumedha, who had survived cancer and had once nearly died in Peradeniya Hospital, was keenly aware of the pain and suffering of the critically ill. In his final years, he spent many hours in the ICU, comforting patients, not only with words, but with recordings he had collected of relaxing sounds of nature, as well as sacred texts of Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism. A small book of his teachings with some of his paintings was published after his death. The book is out-of-print, but, thanks to Ven. Anandajoti, it is still available online.



Click this book cover to access a site with more information about Ven. Sumedha and the complete book in both English and Sinhala.

Buddhist Relief Mission continues to distribute food and medicine to needy families during the current economic crisis in Sri Lanka. The program is dependent on the generous donations from our supporters.



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