

# Celebrating the New Year with Medicine and Dry Rations



On one of his tours in the South, Jagath was able to distribute medicine and dry rations to the Sangha and needy families near Yala National Park. Jagath purchases the supplies at a local shop with funds from Buddhist Relief Mission.

Ramesh, our local pharmacist introduced us to the representative of a pharmaceutical company which had a New Year's promotion, and we were able to purchase, at a huge discount, large quantities of Vitamin B complex, which we will donate, as needed, in the coming weeks.

We are grateful to have the help and cooperation of such compassionate friends in carrying out our charity work.



May this merit we have achieved be for our relatives who have passed away. May they be happy. May all gods share our merit. Long may they protect the Buddha Sasana for the welfare of the world.



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Your donations will help Buddhist Relief Mission provide food, medicine, and other essentials to individuals, families, students, monastics, and institutions in Sri Lanka during the continuing economic crisis. Thank you for your generous support! **Sadhu! Sadhu!! Sadhu!!!**



According to a World Bank report in early April, due to high inflation, losses in wages, income and employment, and a drop in remittances, almost three-fourths of all households have been forced to reduce their meals and almost one-fourth are facing severe food insecurity. 17.5 percent have limited their education expenses (including on stationery and uniforms), and most have reduced their health treatment.

One day last week, a man came to our gate and asked for a food parcel for a friend who had injured his leg and was unable to work. We were happy to provide the food and to wish his friend a speedy recovery.

At the request of the resident monk, Lily and her family distributed fifteen parcels of dry rations to needy families at a New Year's celebration at a village temple in Kadugannawa.

BRM also participated in the New Year's celebration of the Kandy Community Group and the weekly distribution of lunch packets on the streets of Kandy by the Miracle Church.



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On April 8, Buddhist Relief Mission joined Indrajith's mother, Premavathi, in celebrating her 80th birthday by donating dry rations, medicine, stuffed animals, and nearly new clothes from Green Life Boutique, to the children at Tikiri Sevana Orphanage in Kandy. Happy Birthday to her!

## Happy New Year All Over Asia!



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# Offering Support to Senior Citizens



At the end of April, Buddhist Relief Mission carried donations to the historic Home for the Elders of Kandy Friend in Need Society in Ampitiya. (See below) This facility, which we have helped in the past, now provides shelter for 20 women, as well as 20 men. Struggling with rampant inflation and reduced government funding, many institutions are finding it increasingly difficult to operate within their established budgets. The staff are dependent on such special donations to continue to provide services and nutritious meals. For BRM members, it was a joy to experience the pleasant atmosphere of the Home and to interact with the grateful residents.

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**SUNDAY OBSERVER** KFINS Home for the Elders Sunday, 4 November 2012  
<https://archives.sundayobserver.lk/2012/11/04/spe03.asp>

**Caring for the Needy for 175 Years**  
 By Ganga Ratnayake

A few kilometres from the heart of Kandy town rests a special home boasting a long history. It is a home for the elders who have become homeless or lost bonds of family due to unfortunate circumstances. It is a home where they find love and care and support in every way to spend the rest of their lives. It is the Home for the Elders of Kandy Friend in Need Society – a home where the elders in need begin life anew.

The tale of the society dates back to colonial times, when the Governor of Kandy used to offer a dole to the low waged Indian labourers and beggars every month. To continue this practice he initiated a society called Kandy Friend in Need Society (KFINS) in 1837. The society was registered as an approved charity in 1973 and today it has become one of the leading societies in Central Province devotedly caring for the elders in need. **READ MORE**



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Buddhist Relief Mission continues to support Ven. Nanda in her remote hermitage and other members of the Sangha with regular donations of food and medicine. We are grateful to all in our network who help us locate the most needy individuals and families. We could not carry out this work by ourselves. Sadhu! Sadhu!! Sadhu!!!



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# Urgent Appeal from Sri Lanka Cancer Society Kandy Branch

**QUOTATION**

Customer Name :Sri Lanka Cancer Society  
Address : Kandy  
T.P Number :  
Date :  
**QUOTATION DETAILS**  
Valid From : 16/5/2024  
TO : 23/5/2024  
Q /NO : MG MEDI LQ 0005840  
Dear Sir/ Madam



Quotation for the supply of Medical Equipments					
No	Description	Qty	Delivery	Unit Price (Rs.)	Total (Rs.)
1	ECG Machine (1 Channel) Model No: ECG 1 B Plus Brand : MG Make : Shenzhen Edan Industry Co., Ltd Country : China  <b>Features</b> Standard 12 lead ECG recording 3.8" LCD Color Display Simultaneous 12 Lead Acquisition Resolution: 12Bit/1000Hz(1ms)	2	Ex-Stocks	201,980.00	403,960.00
				<b>TOTAL</b>	403,960.00
				<b>DISCOUNT</b>	38,396.00
				<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	365,564.00

Thank you,  
Yours faithfully,  
MG Medicals (Pvt) Ltd,  
  
Vajira Rohan  
General Manager

**TERMS & CONDITIONS :**  
**ONE YEAR WARRANTY**  
Payment : 100% Payment before delivery  
Acc. No : MG Medicals (Pvt) Ltd.  
**: 72478634 - Bank Of Ceylon**  
Please feel free to contact Mr.Indunil 0712498624 for further details.

**\$1223**

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No.232/9,Kirillawala,  
Weboda,  
Sri Lanka  
Hotline: 071 755 1389



Buddhist Relief Mission has just received a request from the Kandy Branch of the Sri Lanka Cancer Society for two urgently needed ECG (Electrocardiogram) machines. These simple, but efficient and inexpensive, machines, manufactured in China, can be procured locally. As you can see from the quotation, the Society needs US\$1223. We would like to provide as much of this amount as possible. We call upon our donors for assistance. We guarantee that 100% of your donations will be transferred to the Cancer Society. For our US donors, let us remind you that, because BRM is a 501(c) 3 organization, your donations are tax deductible. Your support will save many lives and will promote the health and safety of many cancer patients. Thank you for your generosity!



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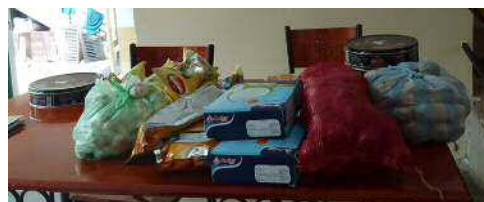
## Continuing Relief Work in Sri Lanka



**Buddhist Relief Mission** continues to provide essential dry rations and medicine to Ven. Nanda in her hermitage in the impoverished tea country above Kandy, as well as to other members of the Sangha in remote locations. As often as possible, we also donate food parcels to needy families around Kandy.

On the fifteenth of every month, we offer a nourishing high tea to the patients staying at the Kandy Cancer Home, along with a supply of basic foods and supplementary medicines for them. Last month, there were 87 residents in the home.

We are heartened to be able to report that our recent appeal for funds for ECG machines for the Sri Lanka Cancer Society, Kandy Branch, raised, in a very short time, more than enough money to purchase one of the two devices requested. A bow of gratitude to our donors!



In May, **BRM** donated dry rations and medicine to the Home for the Handicapped, in Kandy, managed by Missionaries of Charity, a Mother Teresa organization. Currently, there are 97 residents there. Like all institutions in Sri Lanka, the home is struggling to cope with rising costs of essentials.



**BRM** provided funds for the residents of Methasevana Drug Rehabilitation Centre to purchase the supplies to make lanterns to decorate the premises for Vesak. The young men thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to be creative and imaginative in constructing the decorations for the celebration.

These are just some of the institutions to which **BRM** offers regular support.



### Help for Tea Estate Workers

During this economic crisis, tea estate workers are among the most vulnerable. As you can see from the box on the right, their situation is dire. **BRM** regularly provides dry rations to villages on the estates. A village is typically 100 families.

In that most of the workers are Hindu, these donations are coordinated through the Ayappa Society of Kandy.



#### Tea estate facts and statistics:

- Workers are housed in quarters described as unfit for human habitation.
- 57% of households have no safe drinking water; 21% have no access to sanitary toilet facilities.
- 64.6% of households are among the poorest 40% in the country.
- Wage is 1000 rupees per day, depending on the number of kilograms of tea picked.
- Monthly take-home salary is about 24,000 rupees (US\$80).
- It costs over 100,000 rupees per month for a family of four to have two nutritious meals a day. Even if both parents work, they cannot provide enough food.
- 36% of children are stunted, and 36% are underweight.
- The President announced a daily wage increase to 1700 rupees from May 2024, **but . . .**
- The Planters' Association of Ceylon condemned the hike as arbitrary, reckless, and a unilateral decision.
- The average annual income of an Estate Manager is about US\$200,000!

(Excerpted from "Tea and lack of empathy," the editorial in *Daily Mirror*, 29 May 2024)

<<https://www.dailymirror.lk/opinion/Tea-and-lack-of-empathy/172-283565>>



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# Two Years of Relief in Sri Lanka

Since the economic crisis in Sri Lanka began in 2022, Buddhist Relief Mission, with generous support from donors around the world, has distributed food, medicine, and other essentials to hundreds of needy families, monks, and nuns, and to many educational, social, and religious institutions. In accomplishing this work we have depended on the cooperation of various individuals and organizations. It has been a great joy for us, but we know that what we have done is but a drop in the bucket to relieve the suffering of the population throughout the island as the crisis lingers. At particular risk are the elderly and the children. Most of the retired and disabled are on fixed incomes, which have been severely affected by the high rate of inflation. It is estimated that 40% of the children under 5 are malnourished, and half of all families have been forced to reduce their food intake. The crisis is exacerbated by the climate crisis, which has drastically disrupted rice and vegetable harvests. Another impoverished group is the tea and rubber plantation workers, which we have assisted with several distributions. We also support agricultural projects for schools and other institutions. We are happy that we have been able to assist the vulnerable and often neglected indigenous Vedda community. We hope that, in this time of need, whenever we are asked to help, we never have to say, "No."



Photo: Eranga Jayawardena/AP



  
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Your donations will enable Buddhist Relief Mission to continue providing food, medicine, and other essentials to individuals, families, students, monastics, and institutions in Sri Lanka during this economic crisis. Thank you for your generous support!  
Sadhu! Sadhu!! Sadhu!!!



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"YOU HAVE NOT LIVED TODAY UNTIL YOU HAVE DONE SOMETHING FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN NEVER REPAY YOU."  
— JOHN BUNYAN



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# The Kandy Cancer Home, High Tea and Dry Rations

The Kandy Cancer Home, located near Kandy National Hospital, provides board and lodging for patients from out of town who need extended cancer treatment at the hospital. The Home is dependent on private donations for its operation.

On the fifteenth of each month, Buddhist Relief Mission serves High Tea to the residents and the staff. The number of residents varies each month. Last month, there were 92, the highest we have served, but, in the past, it has been as low as 45. In addition to High Tea—egg salad sandwiches, vegetable cutlets, soup, yoghurt, bananas, tea, and juice—we donate a large supply of dry rations—potatoes, onions, garlic, chick peas, mung beans, coconuts, cooking oil, curry powder, chillie powder, turmeric, and chutney—and various kinds of medicine the matron requests. The average monthly expense for these donations is about 60,000 rupees (US\$200).

For each donation, we submit a list, which is read by the moderator before partaking of High Tea. The list includes the names of departed loved ones with whom merit is shared in making the donation, of those to whom are sent wishes for good health and recovery from illness, of the donors, and of those preparing the food. After the names are read, the patients recite a blessing, each according to their own faith.

We invite all our friends to join in this worthy project, by making donations and by submitting names of those with whom to share merit or to wish for good health.

Thank you very much for your support and cooperation.



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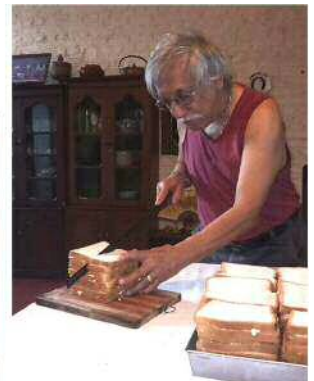
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*"It takes generosity to discover the whole through others. If you realize you are only a violin, you can open yourself up to the world by playing your role in the concert." — Jacques-Yves Cousteau*



You may also make a general donation.

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**Sadhu! Sadhu!! Sadhu!!!**



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