










# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

CHARITY NO.1133461





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# 1. Introduction and Executive Summary

## 1.1 CHAIR'S STATEMENT

The Serendip charity was formed 11 years ago (Both in the UK and in Sri Lanka) in response to an urgent need created by a civil war on the island of Sri Lanka. The Serendip Children's Charity is a UK Registered Charity (Number 1133461). A group of us came together after observing a violent conflict which left in its aftermath, around eighty thousand widows, a similar number of orphans and numerous physical disabilities because of military action. We have come a long way from these dark times, but there is still much more to be done.

Our first project was named 'Care in the Community'. It was to help the children who lost both or one of their parents in the war. We decided to sponsor such children by matching them up with appropriate sponsors in the UK. With the money raised we initially supplied food to their families and later helped pay for their educational materials.



We now employ our own field workers to help deliver our projects. We have expanded our activities to support nursing and vocational training for young adults and a variety of fine art's projects. These include learning musical instruments, painting, and handicraft, help to special needs children, and supporting children with terminal illnesses. We are also helping women headed families with livelihood projects e.g seed money for small businesses, yoga for young people at school, supporting students at open university, and digging tube wells. So many different disciplines, so many projects!

Last year we identified that children with special needs are a seriously neglected section of the population. This year, following our earlier sponsorship that sent teachers to undertake specialised training in India, we have begun to see the long-term benefits. The knowledge gained is now being passed to a far wider circle of teaching staff in schools' special needs units. We now also employ therapists to work with such children in those units. They lead speech, art, and music & dance therapy classes. They also run sensory rooms, yoga sessions, and much more, in our existing Fine Arts centres (which we physically run).

Many rural children have to go to school without breakfast. This will impact their ability to learn and develop while at school. To help combat this problem we significantly extended our existing 'Breakfast for Kids' project. After doing so we have seen an increase in school attendance and an improvement in their performance and physical development.

One further overlooked group in society are our elders. Devoid of a regular income, often lonely and abandoned by their families, they struggle to survive their daily life. To make their lives a little easier we have begun supplying dry food, medicine, and some basic clothing on a regular basis.

Finally, as with most of the world, Sri Lanka has struggled with COVID-19 and, inevitably, the poorest and most geographically desolate, have struggled to obtain their basic necessities. In June, we started providing food parcels, that would last for a minimum of two weeks. The situation is still unsettled and there have been multiple regional lock downs, thus we feel we need to maintain this support.

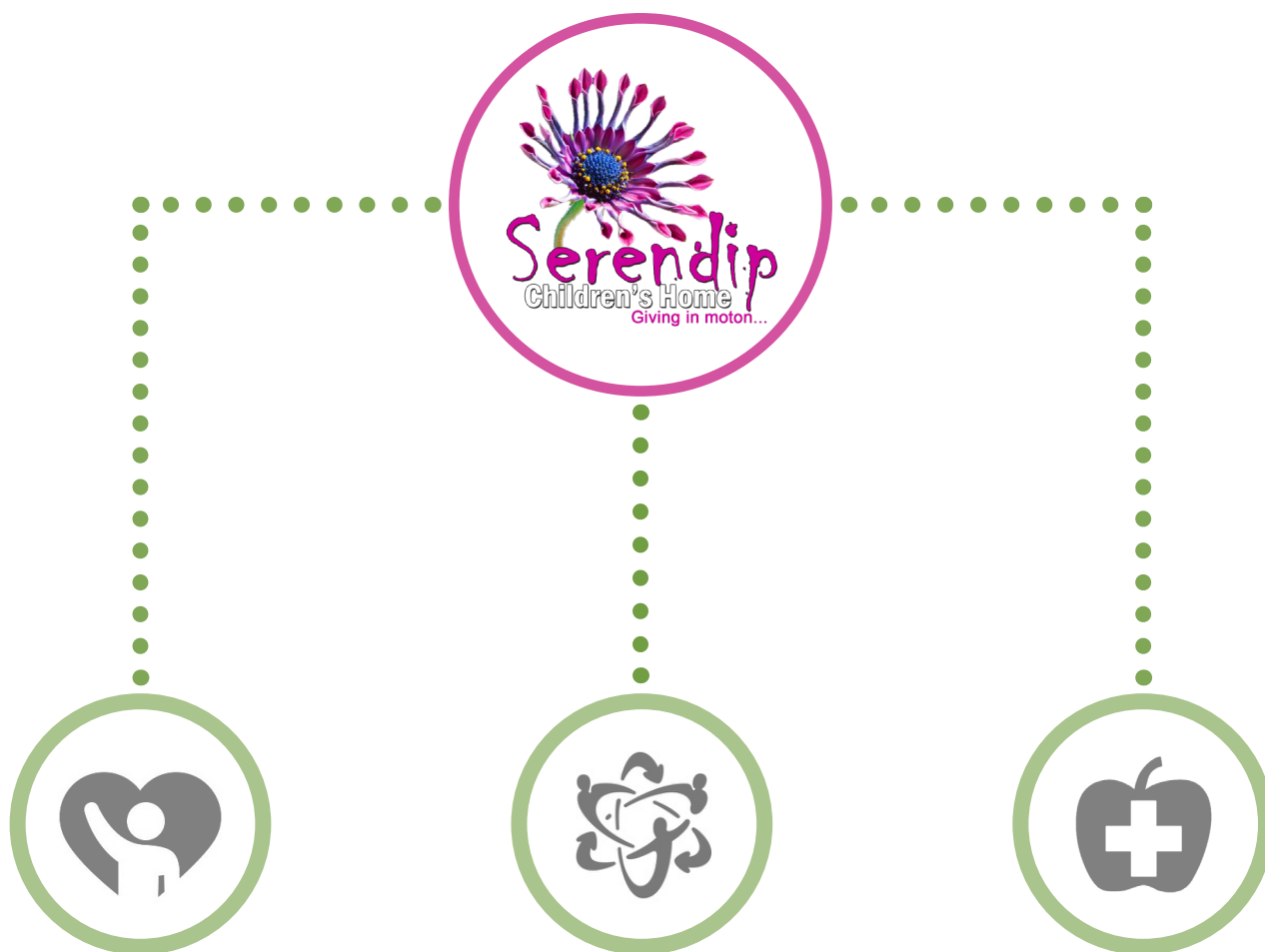
For the forthcoming year, for obvious reasons, our current projects will need to be maintained. Whilst rolling out food parcels to rural villagers, as part of our COVID-19 relief program, we became aware that families with special needs children are facing a systemic problem. Namely, given the 24-hour care, now required for their children, it is not possible for these families to earn a living. Thus, next year we are expanding our livelihood program i.e. start-up small businesses, to help such families generate their own income.

While we can call ourselves fortunate living in a country with all the wealth and freedom it offers, we must not forget that there are many areas of the world, including in the north & east of Sri Lanka, that are struggling to meet their basic necessities of life. I believe we have a moral duty to think of those less fortunate individuals and how we can help them.

**Trisha Williamson** - Chairperson



## 1.2 OUR OBJECTIVES



Assistance to orphaned and vulnerable children in Sri Lanka by supporting them in a loving and nurturing home, addressing their immediate needs of food and shelter and their progressive needs for education, social support and eventually, work and independence.

Help widows with families become self-sufficient. This largely consists of funding through loans or grants to set them up as self-employed workers or small businesses.

Essential Food & Medicine for the most vulnerable and elderly in society who have no other means of support.



# 2. Look back to Our 2020 Achievements

## 2.1 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



### Employment

- Vocational courses for 120 vulnerable women
- Small business Seed funding for 75 widows
- Providing start up tools for self-sufficiency
- Employed 11 teachers



### Empowering Special Needs

- 8 schools uplifted with specialist equipment
- Providing therapies (art, dance and speech and language therapy)
- Training parents and teachers



### Care in the Community

- Breakfast for 200 pre-school children
- Daily meals for 128 elders
- COVID-19 support for 200 families
- Travel to essential medical appointments





### Culture & Mindfulness

- 3 Fine Arts centre for 243 children
- Yoga sessions for 400 children



### Education

- Scholarships for 103 students
- Education supplies for 21 pre-schools and 500 students
- Laptops for 3 schools
- Commuter bicycles for 114 students



### Infrastructure

- Created 13 tube wells and 2 wells
- Installed 11 industrial water filters
- Provided 120 solar lanterns





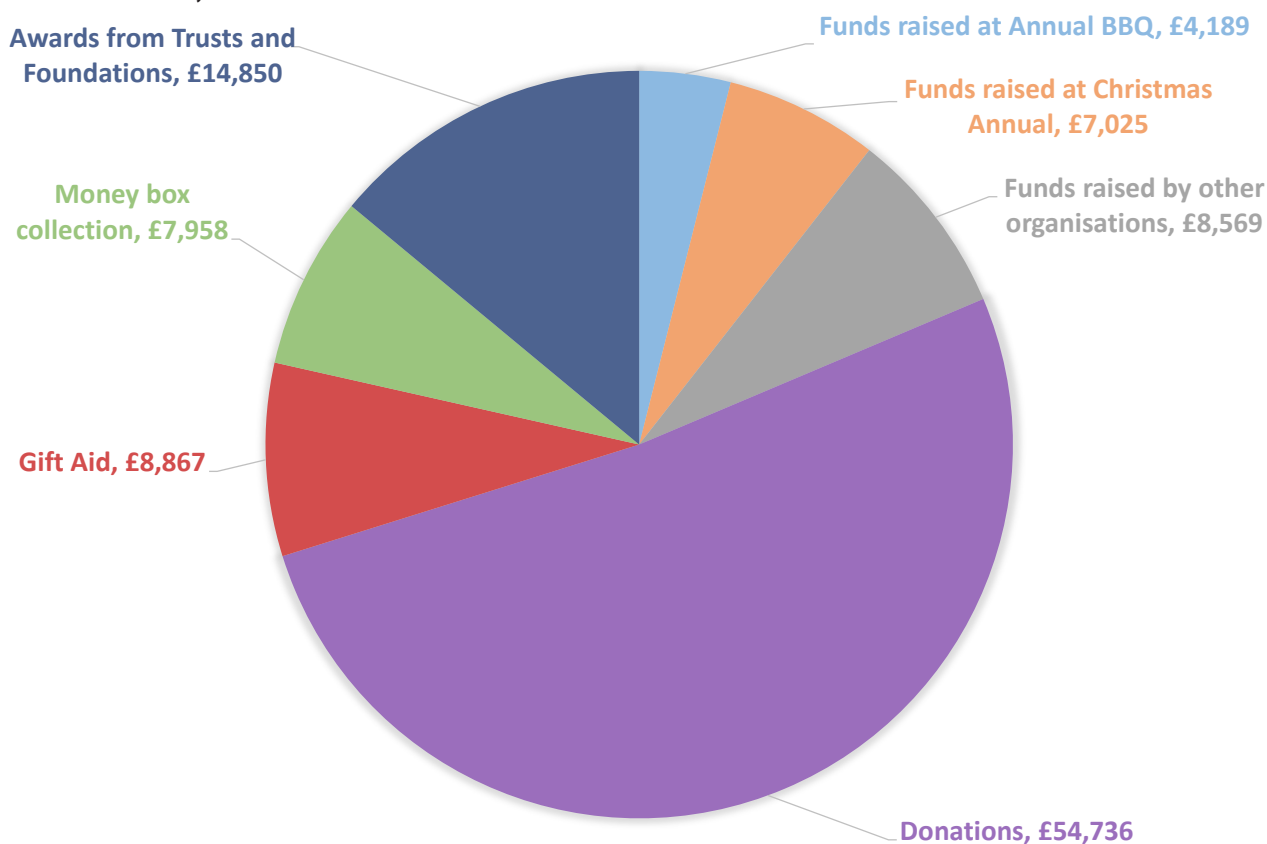




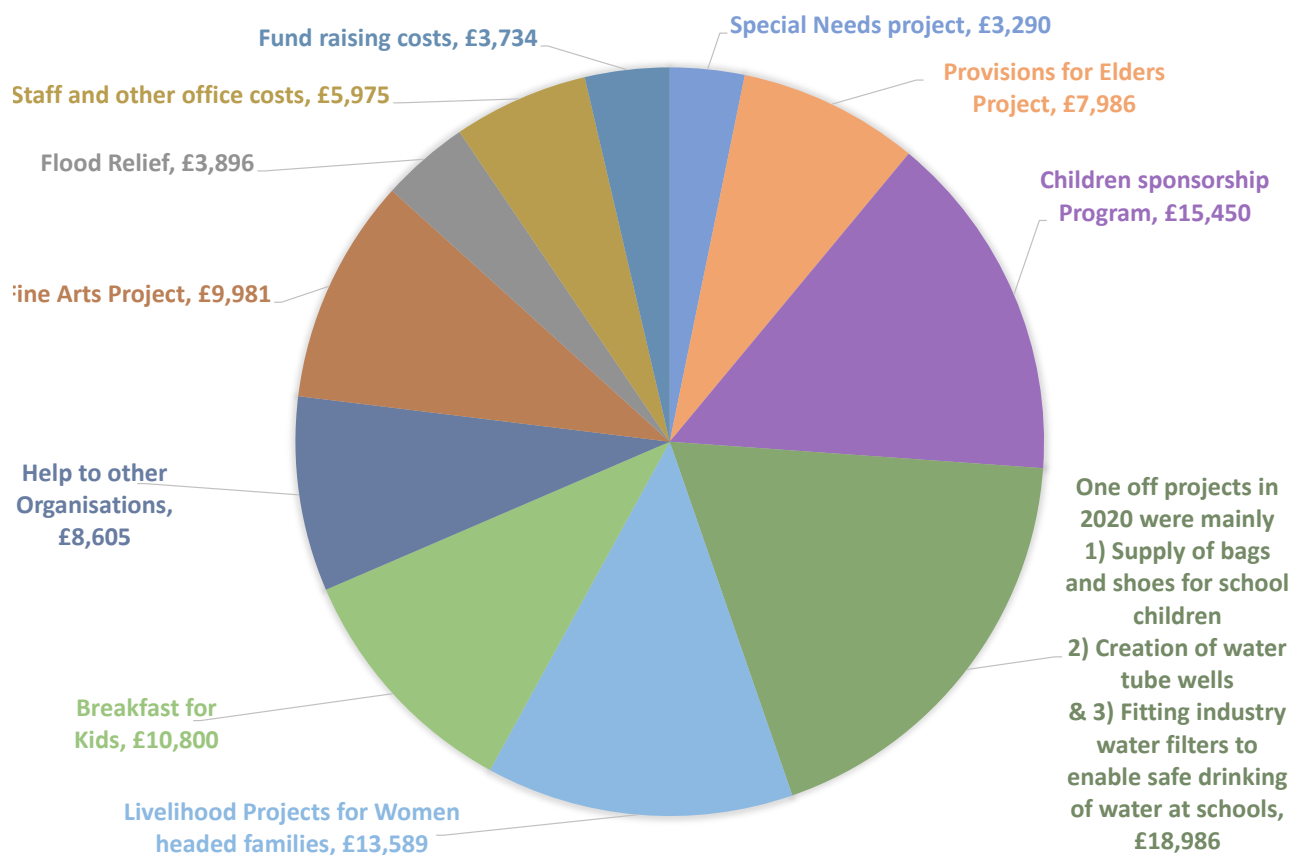
## 2.2 KEY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following Financial Statements are for Financial Year 1st April 2019 to 31th March 2020.

### Total Income - £106,194.00



### Total Expenses - £102,292.00



\*The balance of £3902 raised from 2020 is being carried forward into projects for 2021



# 3. Our 2021 Goals

Our 2021 Objectives are based on continuing and expanding the fantastic work our volunteers and fieldworkers have undertaken, to fulfill our general objectives.



Assistance to orphaned and vulnerable children in Sri Lanka.



Help widows with families become self-sufficient.



Essential Food & Medicine for the most vulnerable and elderly in society.

In 2021, we will build upon the success of 2020 and will broaden the geographic area and number of beneficiaries of our existing projects. For example, although we are providing group therapy to children with special needs, especially young autistic people, we are planning to expand this to provide a tailored therapies to individual children. In addition, we will be adding one new goal.



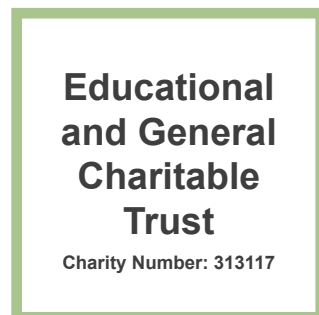
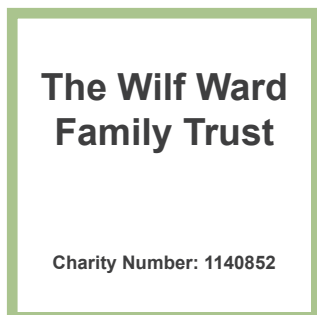
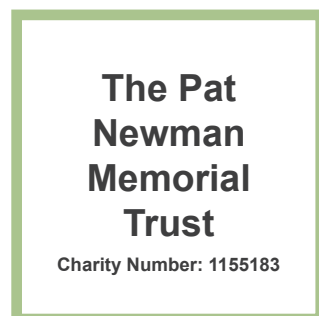
In addition to our three Main Objectives from 2020, we will be adding a fourth objective:- 'Education of Nurses'. We aim to focus on existing societal demands. For example, there are insufficient numbers of qualified nurses in the north of Sri Lanka. Thus, we are planning to support twenty-five young girls from underprivileged background to enrol on Diplomas in Nursing.

In addition, we are keen to maintain some flexibility to respond to emergency needs. For example, we have already supported families affected by COVID-19. Sri Lanka often suffers from serious flooding and we wish to provide the necessary support, as and when required. This also means, we will continue to offer one-off support upon request e.g. tube wells, school equipment etc.



# 4. Trusts and Foundations

On behalf of our beneficiaries; we would like to sincerely thank the following Trusts and Foundations for their generous awards amounting to £14,850.



## OTHER ORGANISATIONS





## 5. Partnerships

Serendip believes in working together with other organisations on joint projects, can help achieve more beneficial results. We have previously partnered with other UK and Sri Lanka based charities, Corporate Companies and with individuals on successful projects. We are always looking to partner with organisations in the UK, Sri Lanka and indeed all across the world. Please contact us if you would like to discuss any opportunities to partner.

Partnerships in previous years have included: Fundraising, one-off donations, media coverage, collaborate to deliver a project, share skills and knowledge, provide training, share facilities etc.

### CURRENT PARTNERS

We are currently partnering with Amazon Smile and For Good Causes. Please check our website page below on how you can help Serendip Children's Home through purchasing via Amazon Smile (at no additional cost to you) or donating your unwanted reward points through 'For Good Causes'

<https://serendipchildrenshome.com/get-involved/>



#### SMILE.AMAZON.CO.UK

Did you know that you can support Serendip Children's Home through your everyday purchases? Shopping online at AmazonSmile is a fantastic way to support Serendip Children's Home at no extra cost to you



#### FOR GOOD CAUSES

Did you know that you can now support children by donating your loyalty and reward points? Serendip Children's Home can now receive income in exchange for loyalty and reward points at no extra cost to you

# 6. How We Can All Help

Our ability at Serendip Children's home, to support the most vulnerable, children and elderly in the North and East of Sri Lanka is only possible (1) due to generous donations of our donors, (2) the support of our partner organisations and sponsor businesses, (3) the hard work of our fieldworkers in the North & East of Sri Lanka and (4) the tireless effort of our volunteers.

We would love your help through the following means (1) Donate to help fund vital projects in 2021 and (2) Volunteer your time with the charity.

## 6.1 DONATE TO HELP FUND VITAL PROJECTS IN 2021

Please donate generously to help those in the greatest need in the North and East of Sri Lanka through regular monthly donations, a one-off donation, and many other methods which can be found on our website (Donating Vouchers, Amazon Smile, etc).

### 1. Set up a Monthly Standing Order Donation:

Name : Serendip Children's Home  
Sort code : 60-04-36  
Account no : 11637749

### 2. One-off donation via Justgiving:

<https://www.justgiving.com/serendipchildrenshome/donate>

### 3. Other methods to donate can be found on our website:

<https://serendipchildrenshome.com/>

Every £1 you donate will be put to great use in 2021 to help the most needy and vulnerable. Below are some examples on how every £1 helps.

### 1. Breakfast for Children

Around 2 years ago, Serendip Children's Home, launched the Breakfast Project to ensure that the most vulnerable children in rural areas of North Sri Lanka, receive a breakfast each and every pre-school day. So far, we are providing breakfast for 400 pre-school children in 20 schools.

- Feeding 1 child costs as little as £1 per week.
- Feeding 1 child costs £48 per year.





## 2. Assisting Special Needs Children

Serendip provides specialist facilities, therapy and equipment to schools in the North and East of Sri Lanka to support children with special needs and autistic children. This includes sensory rooms, speech & language therapy, yoga sessions, and also music & dance therapy in our fine arts centres.

- A speech therapist costs £150 per month, totalling £1800 per annum.

## 3. Provisions for Elders Project

The Provisions for Elders Project seeks to help 1186 elders in villages in the districts of Mullithivu, Kilinochchi, Vavuniya and Jaffna. Elderly individuals are provided with at least two meals per day, medicines, medical care, bedding, basic clothing and transport to attend medical appointments.

- Just £8 will feed an elderly person for one month.
- Just £96 per year will feed 1 elderly person for the full year.

## 6.2 VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME TO HELP THE CHARITY

We are a small charity run by friendly volunteers across all ages from university students to retired people. We are always looking for caring, passionate people who can contribute with ideas and time for our fund-raising activities, organising sponsored events as well as helping to communicate with our donors.

We normally meet once a month via video-conference to update each other on the progress of our projects, fund-raising activities and the events we organise.

Please contact us if you wish to join as a volunteer of Serendip Children's Home. Thank you.



### HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

If you would like to HELP us in our charitable work why not JOIN our facebook group on

<https://www.serendipchildrenshome?fref=ts>

VISIT our website on <http://www.serendipchildrenshome.com/>

or why not give us a DONATION via <http://www.justgiving.com/serendipchildrenshome>

## My contact details

Full Name:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Mobile Number:

Email Address:

## My donation

Amount (in figures): £5/ month ☐ £30 /Month ☐ Other Amount ☐

£10 /month ☐ £50/Month ☐ £ /Month

Amount (in words):

Date of first payment:  /  /   
and thereafter every month until further notice and debit my account accordingly

Payee Bank Name:

Payee Account Name:

Payee Account Number:  Sort code:

## My bank details

Account name:

Account number:

Sort code:  -  -

Bank name:

Bank branch address:

Signature:

Date:  /  /

## Gift Aid Declaration

*giftaid it*

I would like tax to be reclaimed on my donation under the Gift Aid Scheme. I am a UK taxpayer and pay an amount of income tax/or capital gain tax at least equal to the tax that can be reclaimed on my donation.

☐ Yes ☐ No

**Please send your completed form to:**  
Serendip Children's Home  
34, Brightling Road,  
Brockley,  
London SE4 1SQ

**For more information:**  
[www.serendipchildrenshome.com](http://www.serendipchildrenshome.com)  
[trisha@serendipchildrenshome.com](mailto:trisha@serendipchildrenshome.com)  
Call: +44(0) 7799756158  
[www.facebook.com/SerendipChildrensHome](http://www.facebook.com/SerendipChildrensHome)

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# 7. Acknowledgements

We would like to thank our volunteers, our field workers in the North and East of Sri Lanka, and the members of our Board for their support throughout the year to achieve our goals. We had some challenges this year, particularly COVID-19, which affected our fund-raising activities. Our determination and hard work helped us to find alternative ways to raise funds and to manage and deliver our projects successfully.

We are grateful for our donors and sponsors for their generosity, their trust and most importantly their commitment to our mission. On behalf of the Charity, We would like to make a promise that we will continue to work hard, always having the best interest of our beneficiaries in our hearts.

Thanking You  
Trustees of Serendip Charity

## List of Trustees (UK)

- Peter Carroll
- Trisha Thevika Williamson
- Yvonne Selvaratnam
- Nireesh Rajah
- Vanathy Niranjana

## List of Trustees (Sri Lanka)

- Ariyakutty Kandasamy
- Trisha Thevika Williamson
- Thampipillai Thangarajah
- Ivon Tharmathas

## List of Tamil field works in the North & East Sri Lanka

- Vijendran Johnsan
- Pranavan Pulanthirarasa
- Varnan Sachithanathan
- Gunabalasingam bharathramanan
- Nivethini Thanabalasingam
- Thamiliniyan Thamilchelvan

## List of key volunteers in 2020

- Indhumathi Vijayaraghavan
- Sujeevan Nandagopal
- Kowarthanan Ganesha
- Edna Cyril
- Kandeepan Nadarajah
- Ahalya Sahadevan
- Raja Thiripuran
- Shovan Sargunam
- Abinaya Vijayakumar
- Giny Kumar
- Melisa Selvaratnam
- Bharathi Prashannah
- Aran Mohan
- Abirami Pararajasingam
- Ravaniya Pararajasingam
- Mathy Menon
- Sanjay Kirubaharan
- Graham Williamson
- Para Selliah
- Easwary Selliah
- Velautham Sivalingam



