

Report of The Board of Trustees of the Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind 2021

The Board of Trustees of the Ceylon School for the Deaf and Blind is pleased to present its report for the year 2021 in respect of the three schools under their purview; School for the Deaf, School for the Blind at Ratmalana and Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind at Kaithady, Jaffna

Vision

“To maintain the position as the pioneering institution in the country, transforming the lives of the visual and auditory impaired children from being dependent individuals to responsible citizens that contribute to society”.

Mission

“To provide a professionally managed service using quality trained manpower, appropriate technology and methods, to facilitate and enable those lives that have been placed in our care”

 **KINDNESS IS THE LANGUAGE
WHICH THE DEAF CAN HEAR
AND THE BLIND CAN SEE** 

Schools Statistics

The year 2021 had been an equally challenging year as the previous year to all Sri Lankans. However, the three schools governed by the Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind (CSDB) went to great lengths to continue to provide education to the children who sat for the Grade 5 Scholarship exam and the GCE O/L exam battling the challenges.

Student Numbers as at December 31st 2021

School	Male	Female	Total
School for the Deaf	79	52	131
School for the Blind	52	45	97
Nuffield School	53	73	126
Total	184	170	354

Number of Day Scholar Students and Hostellers

School	Day Scholars	Hostellers	Total
School for the Deaf	15	116	131
School for the Blind	25	72	97
Nuffield School	49	77	126
Total	89	264	354

Academic & Non-Academic Staff as at December 31st 2021

Category	School for the Deaf	School for the Blind	Nuffield School	Total
Academic	35	24	27	86
Non - Academic	19	23	27	69
Grand Total	54	47	54	155

The schools continued to receive a grant from the Government to meet the salaries of the teachers in the approved cadre of the Ministry of Education. The salaries of the Board appointed academic staff and all non-academic staff were raised by the Board of Trustees and the Resource Development Committee of the Board.

Activities and Events of the Schools

Education

The students at the Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind follow the same curriculum as the students of other mainstream schools. The schools continue to offer education to the children up to the G.C.E. Ordinary Level examination, in line with the Department of Education requirements. Those who qualified for G.C.E. Advanced Level gained admission to Government schools for which we express our gratitude to the respective Principals. Students, who did not qualify, have the option of remaining for a further period of one year to repeat the GCE O-Level examination or continue vocational training while applying for job placements where possible through the schools.

All three schools have their own computer laboratories and Information Technology is a curriculum subject.

The Ratmalana schools had classes for the 2020 O/L students till the 16th of February 2021, which was also the last day of the third term exams. Hostel students were not sent home and classes were continued as usual discussing term papers. The 2020 O/L exams took place from the 1st to the 10th of March 2021.

Schools commenced on the 15th of March for Grades 5 and O/L 2021 students. The schools reopened for all Grades on the 29th of March as per Education ministry directive.

School for the Blind & School for the Deaf, Ratmalana

Once all students were sent home for the holidays, teachers continued to teach online. Most teachers taught using Zoom platform at least twice a week. They also recorded notes as audio clips and sent to the children on WhatsApp. The children performed commendably well at these classes, though some struggled due to technical difficulties beyond their control. For those who did not own mobile phones, donations were sought. We are thankful to those who donated used as well as brand new mobile phones for the use of the children during lockdown.

The schools reopened in stages during the month of November, and schools closed for the end of the second term on the 23rd of December.

School for the Blind

14 students sat for the G.C.E. O Level examination in March 2021.

The results of the O/L exam of 2020 were received in September of 2021. Mr. Brian Kingston achieved outstanding results by obtaining 9 A passes. This is a



historic achievement and he made his alma mater proud. Mr. Tharindu Lakshan obtained 5 A passes. Altogether 6 children have obtained admission to other schools to pursue Advanced Level education.

Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind

Nuffield School was reopened for the first term on 11th January. The school received instructions from the Provincial Education Department to complete the 3rd term (2020) syllabus in January 2021. The new academic year was started on the 8th of February 2021. The school was closed for the G.C.E (O/L) examination from the 25th of February to 14th of March 2021.

17 students sat for the 2020 G.C.E (O/L) exam and results were released on 23rd September 2021. Three of the 17 students passed 6 subjects. More students have performed better in the 2020 O/L examinations than previous years.

The school reopened for the second phase of the first term on 15th of March 2021 and continued till 08th of April 2021. School functioned throughout this period and all regular educational activities were held.

Teachers prepared homework for students to complete for a week. In order to keep the students engaged in the learning process during the Covid-19 school closure period. The school decided to do YouTube lessons from 3rd May 2021 onwards.

School reopened for teaching and learning activities on 21st October 2021 for Grades 01 to 05 and for Grades 10 & 11 on the 8th of November 2021.

With the intention of improving the efficacy of the educational program, lesson plan books, record books and IEP (Individual Educational Plan) booklets were designed to meet specific needs of students. These were used for the academic year.

Activities for mental wellbeing during Covid 19 period

In order to ensure the mental wellbeing of students, teachers recited age appropriate stories to the students to help them get in touch with their feelings. In addition, the librarian posted simple written stories with follow up activities in the WhatsApp class groups every week. Furthermore, teachers supported students to do art and craft work at home and share them on WhatsApp.

Online classes via YouTube, Zoom and WhatsApp

Over 1300 video lessons were uploaded to YouTube from June 2021 which the children are able to access repeatedly. In addition to teaching through YouTube videos the teachers did online teaching via WhatsApp or Zoom. This decision was taken as the schools remained closed and it was felt that direct and regular interaction with the students would help support their learning as well as help maintain their mental well-being.

Smart classrooms

There are 07 smart classrooms with 6 smart boards and 1 interactive white board in the school which are used for regular lessons. These classes provide an opportunity to make lessons more interactive and interesting through the internet. It also encourages staff and students to familiarize themselves with the technological developments in the educational field.

Staff Training and Development

Due to the Pandemic many scheduled training and development sessions were either postponed or cancelled.

School for the Blind & School for the Deaf

Two teachers from the Primary section of each school who have not attended Training college yet followed an online course organized by the Zonal Education Office.

Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind

The school arranged a twenty hour computer training program from January to March 2021 for twenty staff members. This course contained theory and practical classes on PageMaker and CorelDraw. This course greatly helped the staff members in the preparation of textbooks especially for subjects like Mathematics, Science and Geography.

Vocational Training

Vocational training continues in all three schools. The School for the Deaf and the Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind pay special attention to Vocational Training as the hearing impaired students in the two schools find education challenging due to their lack of language skills. They perform remarkably well at Vocational Training which is conducted with the guidance of the National Vocational Training Institute and the German Institute GIZ.

However, not much Vocational training could be carried out in the schools in 2021 as well.

School for the Deaf

The Bakery Unit of the Deaf School received accreditation from Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission (TVEC) to offer National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 3 certification. All the students who obtained training at the Bakery unit are now successfully employed at Pizza Hut outlets.

Lions' Club District 306B1 facilitated the conversion of the former library into a training center for Graphic Designing. The center was declared open on the 23rd of April. The Lions club donated a digital printing machine, two desktop computers and chairs. They also installed an air conditioner to the center.

Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind

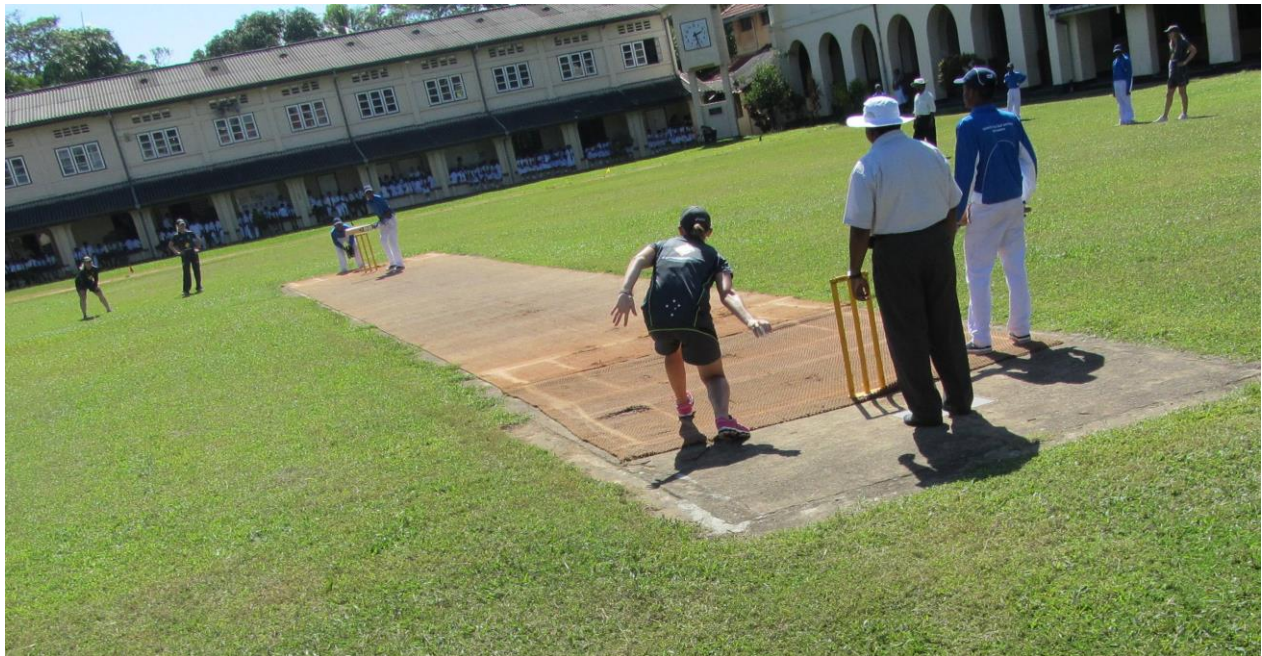
Students from Grades 6 - 9 have been following Vocational training subjects such as Tailoring, IT, Carpentry and Cookery in the afternoons.

The Non-Formal Unit of the Thenmaratchi Zone started an Open School Project of the National Institute of Education on Graphic Design and Art for students above the age of 15 at Nuffield School. Both are certificate courses offered by National Institute of Education (NIE). 25 students are enrolled on the course. Classes were held 2 hours per day and 2 classes per week for 6 months.

Sports

In general, visually and audibly impaired children participate in the same events as the normal school children.

While the Ratmalana schools were not able to have any sports activities in 2021 the Nuffield School had their annual Interhouse Sports Meet in February 2021 with permission of Medical Officer of Health (MOH). Outsiders were not invited for this event. Nuffield School Chaplain was the Chief guest.



Extra-Curricular and Other Activities

School for the Blind & School for the Deaf

- Hope for Children organization has been conducting counselling sessions and after school activities for the children. The children were coached in chess and music. They also play carom and are engaged in other educational activities.
- Chapel services at the Chapel of the Holy Child were held as regularly as health regulations permitted. The weekly services were attended mostly by the staff and the students of the schools. Special services were conducted at the beginning of each school term. A special Holy Communion service was conducted on the 17th of February for Ash Wednesday.

Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind

- Boarders' day was celebrated by the school hostellers with safety measures.
- Nuffield School submitted to various Art competitions including Lockdown-Virtual Art.

Important School Events

School for the Blind & School for the Deaf, Ratmalana

- On the 18th of February a special church service was held at the Chapel of the Holy Child to install the new Principal of the schools Ms. Rosana Kulendran. Due to a spike in new cases of Covid 19, the celebrations were held on low key, without the involvement of the students.



Since the event was streamed live on Facebook and YouTube the students were able to watch the proceedings in the hostels and in their homes. The event was graced by His Lordship the Bishop of Colombo Rt. Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo, the Chaplain Fr. Sagara Perera and staff of both schools as well as other invitees. The church service was followed by a fellowship breakfast, whilst adhering to health

guidelines. A tree planting ceremony was organized by the staff of the Deaf school. Our sincere thanks to the organizing committee for a successful event.

- On the 17th of June, the Founder's Day was celebrated by both schools, to commemorate 109th anniversary of the schools. The ceremony commenced with an online church service followed by announcement of the results of various competitions held online to mark this important event. The children presented a few items which showcased their talent and made the program meaningful. It was attended by nearly 100 participants consisting of members of the Board, parents, staff and students. Our sincere thanks to the teachers who worked hard to organize this event, and to the children who contributed towards this event with their talents.
- International Children's Day was held online on the 1st of October. Essay writing, song and art competitions were held and the winners of the competitions were announced that day. They were given awards at a later assembly. The children entertained the audience with various items of song and dance.
- International Teachers' Day was celebrated online on the 6th of October. The entire program was organized by the students. The students presented various items of entertainment, as tribute to the teachers.
- Investiture ceremony to appoint prefects for the year was held on the 20th of December.
- Annual Christmas Carol service was held online this year. The program was streamed on YouTube and Facebook. The senior and junior choirs of both the Blind and Deaf Schools sang carols. Some carols were interpreted into sign language by the students. The Lord Bishop of Colombo Rt. Rev Dushantha Rodrigo gave an inspiring message of hope to the

children. The staff of both schools also presented an item of song. It was altogether a meaningful Carol service. Many viewers from around the world were blessed.

Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind

- Children's day was celebrated by hostellers on 1st October 2021 with safety measures. Art work by students was shared via WhatsApp class groups with all the students.
- Annual carol service and Christmas party were celebrated by students on 22 December 2021. Three Anglican Ministers participated in the carol service and the children were fully involved in all activities. We took this opportunity to welcome our new Archdeacon Rev. S. D. P. Selvan and bid farewell to Chaplain Rev. S. S. Jebachelvan and Archdeacon, Ven. Samuel J Ponniah.
- Teachers' day was celebrated via Zoom on 5th October 2021. All teachers and staff participated in this celebration. Virtual games and activities were conducted to celebrate the event.

13 years Guaranteed Education

Following the discussion on starting 13 years Guaranteed Education at Nuffield School for hearing impaired students at the Education & Vocational Training Oversight Committee meeting and then subsequently the Executive Committee meeting, the matter was taken up with the Zonal Director of Education and the Additional Provincial Director and Additional Director of Special Education of Northern Province. They all supported this idea. A proposal with a strong justification was forwarded to the line ministry for approval. The teachers will be selected from the government teacher's cadre. The teachers who will conduct the classes would be paid on hourly basis by the school.

Speech and Language Therapy Centre

Speech Therapy was provided by the Speech and Language Therapy Center at Nuffield School for 45 students, 33 external clients and 5 children from the Early Intervention Centre. In addition, 39 hearing tests have been conducted and 51 hearing aids were repaired for the students. The external clients are referrals from other schools. One on one therapy was suspended and Zoom Therapy was carried out for safety during Covid period. More than 60 sessions per week were provided to all internal and external clients. Online therapy materials were sent to the parents.

The Speech Therapy Assistants were trained to conduct hearing tests and troubleshoot hearing aid management.

A workshop for special education teachers from the Tenmaratchchi zone, a workshop for teachers and parents of Thirunavakkarasu Primary school and a workshop on hearing management to Nuffield School teachers and hostel staff were conducted.

V-shesh English project

On the 18th January 2021 Nuffield School started delivering the V-Shesh English project. Module two was chosen as it focused on grammar. Students were split into three groups based on their ability.

Sign Language Training Course for Social Services Department staff and MAS staff
International Labour Organisation (ILO) funded a sign language classes for the Social Services staff and the MAS Holdings staff at in Jaffna. Classes for the Social Services staff started on the 8th of January 2021 and were completed on the 25th of March 2021. The classes for MAS Holdings staff took longer due to Covid-19 restrictions. Both classes were successful as the students were able to conduct conversations with hearing impaired people.

Design of Textbooks for Nuffield School

The textbooks that were designed in 2020 by staff were used at Nuffield School in the 2021 academic year.

Schools Health, Welfare, Infrastructure Development & Maintenance

Health and Welfare

School for the Blind & School for the Deaf

Many renovations were done to the hostels while the students were away. Public health officials visited the schools periodically and conducted health check-ups. Eligible students were given HPA vaccines. For students aged 18 and above, arrangements were made for them to obtain Covid-19 vaccination from Kalubowila Teaching Hospital.

During the Covid-19 lockdown, many families of our students lost their source of income. Due to the generosity of our kind donors to the CSDB, we were able to secure enough funds to purchase Seventy five 'Sathosa' gift vouchers worth Rs. 3000/- each and send them via courier to the homes of the needy. The recipients expressed their gratitude for the help extended to them at such a critical time.

Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind

MOH Chavakachcheri and PHI conducted a general medical checkup on the children of the school.

One staff member attended a seminar conducted by the Zonal Education Office, Thenmaradchchy about students' health and wellbeing and the need to adapt proper food habits. Following this, the teacher made a presentation of the same to the whole school.

G.C.E O/L students attended an ENT clinic in the Jaffna hospital on the 20th and 22nd of January 2021. The regular half yearly ENT visits to the hospital were not done owing to the covid-19 spread.

Other welfare activities

Financial and other assistance for needy children

Nuffield School provided financial assistance to families of students who come from highly impoverished homes through a donation received. 36 families were supported through this donation. We take this opportunity to thank the Donor who wished to stay anonymous.

Through the CSDB, 50 “Sathosa” gift vouchers worth Rs. 3000/- were given to families of needy students. This was a timely help for these families as the continued lockdown had made access to food quite difficult for most of them.

Donation of a New Van

We take this opportunity to thank Oru Panai Kaithady & Hearing Conservation Council for donating a new van in memory of Dr. Pathman Ratnesar. It makes a big difference to the quality of service we are able to provide to our children.

Infrastructure Development & Maintenance

School for the Blind

The Security Guard’s room at the entrance to the school was renovated with the help of Friedenskinder organization in Germany. The windows were replaced, the roof was repaired and the room painted. Our sincere thanks to Dr. Gayangi von Heimendahl who was instrumental in obtaining the sponsorship and coordinating the renovations.

School for the Deaf

Friedenskinder organization in Germany came forward to assist the school in carrying out major renovations in the school. Our sincere thanks to Dr. Gayangi von Heimendahl who was instrumental in obtaining the sponsorship and coordinating the renovations.

A major roof leak on the Stanley building was fixed by replacing rotten wooden beams. Weather shades and window panes were replaced. A stairway was built out of cement to be used as a fire exit. A new door and frame were installed. Many windows were replaced and secured with a wire mesh where necessary. Toilets were renovated and the drain was repaired.

The balcony of the Maruthappa building was made accessible from the dormitory with a finished wall all around.

The Nippon building was refurbished with the kind assistance of Mrs. Swerine De Mel in memory of her husband Mr. Lal De Mel who served as a member of the Resource Development Committee and was always ready to help the schools in any way possible. The upper floor of the building did not have a ceiling and this too was installed. Many of the windows were repaired and the building has been painted.

Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind Renovation Work to be done

A new Badminton Court was constructed and donated by the students of The Department of Sports Sciences and Physical Education faculty of Applied Sciences Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka.



Societies / Associations

School for the Blind & School for the Deaf

Past Pupils Association (PPA)

The PPA did not meet during the year due to the lockdown imposed due to COVID19 pandemic.

Parents and Teachers Association (PTA)

The PTA did not meet during the year due to the lockdown imposed due to COVID19 pandemic.

Staff Welfare Association

The staff welfare association was active during the year. Though major projects could not be organized due to the pandemic, they rendered support to the staff who lost their loved ones during the year.

Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind

The school Prefects committee carried out their duties and responsibilities with dedication in 2021. They assisted the school administration by guiding and maintaining discipline among students.

Staff Welfare Society

This Society caters to staff welfare and fellowship and holds meetings every term. The society provides an opportunity to discuss staff welfare issues and serves as a forum to give support to any staff member in times of need. It also provides an opportunity for rotational leadership to all staff.

Appointments, Retirements & Resignations

Appointment of Principal to the School for the Deaf & Blind, Ratmalana

Ms. Rosana Kulendran was appointed as the Principal for the Deaf and Blind Schools in Ratmalana in January 2021. She served as the Deputy Principal in the latter part of 2020.

We bade farewell to Ms. Vasuki Rajasingham a fine Principal who brought Nuffield School to greater heights since taking office in 2015. We are deeply appreciative of her tireless efforts through many challenges in improving the education, Sign Language expertise, vocational training and the lives of the students in the School. We are grateful for her hard work in making the school environment conducive for learning, in giving good leadership to the staff and in making Nuffield School a centre for training in Sign Language education that benefits the wider deaf community in the country.

We wish her good health and all the very best in all her future endeavors.

School for the Blind

- Mrs. M. A. A. Surani Fernando retired after serving as a teacher and Vice Principal at the school since the year 1982.
- Mrs. O. Renuka retired having served the school since 1989. She also served as Vice Principal of the school in year 2003.
- Mr. T. L. Jayatissa retired having served the school since 1985. He was the teacher-in-charge of Scouting and in charge of the Buddhist Society.

They rendered yeoman service to the school and were well-respected members of the school community.

School for the Deaf

The following staff members were recruited during the year:

- Ms. G. D. S. S. K. Jayaratne was recruited as the Sick room matron.
- Mr. B. G. N. Pushpa Kumara joined the staff as a Hostel Master.

Staff resignations :

- Mr. E. R. D. A. Epa resigned after two years of dedicated service as hostel master.
- Mr. A. M. H. Abeysinghe resigned after serving the school as security guard for seven years.

Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind

Appointment of Deputy Principal

Ms. Amara Somasundaram was appointed as Deputy Principal in November 2021.

Appointment of Vice Principal

Mr. Paramanathan Papiraj, Government Approved teacher was appointed as Vice Principal from August 2021.

Recruited 10 staff members in 2021.

- Mr. Anton Jeyasekaram Antony Norman – Hostel Master
- Mr. Puvinesarajah Gaarujan – Hostel Master
- Ms. Thushyanthan Salomy – Sick Room Matron
- Mr. Sarvothayam Mirojan – Office Assistant
- Mr. R.D.Visvanathan – Accounts Executive
- Ms. Sangika Selvarasa – Food Matron
- Ms. Mathanky Thevathasan – Accounts Assistant
- Ms. Rasaiya Sabeena – Cook
- Ms. Premathas Mayurika – Senior Accounts Assistant
- Ms. Sothylingam Jeevitha – Speech Therapist

Eight members of staff resigned in 2021.

- Miss. Rajmohan Puvaneswary – Accounts Assistant
- Mr. Thangarajah Pathmapiriyam – Accounts Executive
- Mr. Thirunavukarasu Thavaseelan – Sanitary Labourer
- Ms. Vimalaswaran Thanushika – Speech Therapy Assistant
- Ms. Sinnaiyah Sarosa – Cook
- Mr. R. D. Visvanathan – Accounts Executive
- Ms. Mathanky Thevathasan – Accounts Assistant
- Mr. P. V. Shanmugarajah – Speech Therapist

We take this opportunity to wish all our retired staff all the very best and we thank you for your dedicated service to the sight and hearing impaired children in our schools and communities formed through our schools.

We also welcome all new staff and wish them a rewarding career in our schools.

Finance and Funding

Income & Expenditure

The annual statement of accounts gives a detailed analysis of the financial position. The total income and expenditure are Rs. 114,468,565/- and Rs. 118,348,098/- respectively. The budgeted Income and Expenditure is Rs. 125,093,836/- and Rs. 124,207,144/- respectively.

Fund Raising and Meal Donations

When no large scale fundraisers were possible due to the Pandemic in the country and economies globally were adversely affected with many corporates laying off staff and other small ventures closing down, Schools were not forgotten by our ever supporting donors and well wishers who did not abandon us during hardships but made it possible for the Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind to move forward in 2021. We thank you all and may God bless you and your families abundantly.

Resource Development Committee (RDC)

RDC is the fundraising arm of the Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind. The members of the RDC are committed in helping the Board of Trustees to keep the schools afloat. They hold a few fundraising events every year under the purview of the Board of Trustees, which could not be carried out as planned in 2021 due to the Pandemic situation.

The biggest fundraiser by the RDC is the Sponsor a Child Program run by the Project Coordinator. This is a program where we request the general public, corporates and organizations to sponsor the cost of educating a child in the school with hostel, vocational training facilities and welfare. We are happy to state that there are many donors who sponsor more than one child and support our schools to continue to provide this great service to the Deaf and Blind community.

The total income from the few fundraising activities the RDC was able to do during the year is Rs. 13,502,020/68

Meal Donations Program

A Meal Donations program is run for all three schools. Since the schools are residential schools and we do not levy any fees on the students, meals cost is a huge strain on our finances. Therefore, to source donations from the general public a meals program was created some years ago by Mr. Ranjith Jinasena who was a great guide and benefactor to the schools. Since inception, the Meals Program was supervised efficiently by Mrs. Nilanthi Jinasena Member of the Board of Trustees, until her resignation from the Board in 2020.



There is a Meal Coordinator for the two schools at Ratmalana and one at Jaffna for the Nuffield School. They coordinate with donors and the schools to keep the meal calendars full and running. For the year 2021 donations received for meals amounted to Rs. 5,846,856/- for the two Ratmalana Schools and Rs. 7,521,660/50 for Nuffield School Jaffna.

This year even though the students have been mostly away from the schools due to the Pandemic, our donors continued to donate towards meals to be given to children as and when they came to school. We take this opportunity to thank you all who supported us in spite of the increase in cost of living and livelihoods been affected by the global Pandemic.

Acknowledgements

The Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind wishes to thank all Organizations, Donors and Well Wishers who rallied around to make life more meaningful for our students and also helped by way of donations in cash and in kind, meal donations, grants and other support for us to continue to operate the schools. The Board also expresses its gratitude to the Ministry of Education and the Provincial and Zonal Educational Offices, the Ministry of Social Services, MOH officers, PHI offices and all other Government and non-Government institutions for their financial and other assistance.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I wish to thank the Principals, teachers, office staff, the care givers, cooks, gardeners, watchers, drivers, volunteers etc. and the head office staff for their dedication and hard work.



Subhashini Meegama
Secretary
Board of Trustees
Project Coordinator CSDB