CandleAid Lanka

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Gift-A-Meal (GAM) Programme Overview

The above programme is designed to assist destitute families who struggle to place food on the table for their children due to very low-income levels. Most of the beneficiaries are daily wage earners, while others are facing unexpected crises that have impacted their ability to earn a sufficient income to support their families.

Sponsorships are solicited from donors who want to help such a family for a minimum period of one year. The monthly disbursement to the family is LKR 4,000 (approx. USD 13) and with the addition of the administrative fee of 10%, the total commitment for a sponsor is LKR 52,800 to assist one family for one year.

Each beneficiary family is recommended for sponsorship by a person who is familiar with their circumstances. If the family is eligible for sponsorship, the person recommending usually becomes the coordinator, whose primary duty is to ensure that the monthly disbursement made is utilized for the purpose for which it is intended.

CandleAid credits LKR 4,000 to the beneficiary's at the beginning of every month through their designated People's Bank account. On receipt of this money, the beneficiary is required to purchase dry rations such as rice, dhal, cowpea, dry fish etc., to the value of LKR 4,000.

All sponsors are required to complete and return a "Sponsor detail form" together with their donation. Overseas sponsors are able to make their donation in any currency of their choice. All modes of remittance are available on our website www.candleaid.org .

The beneficiaries are required to abide by the laid down procedures of this programme which includes the submission of the Monthly Donation Acknowledgement form (AFS 70) twice a year, and a Letter of Thanks addressed to the sponsor once a year. Failure to submit these on time results in the suspension of the donation from the ensuing month. In the event the beneficiary fails to regularize the lapses despite reminders sent by CandleAid, the sponsorship is then terminated effective from the date of suspension. The sponsorship will then be regretfully transferred to a new family with the consensus of the sponsor.

Details of the sponsored family and a family photograph are shared with the sponsor together with the receipt for funds remitted. A renewal notice is sent to the sponsor two months ahead of the due date, giving the sponsor the option to continue or discontinue the sponsorship. CandleAid gratefully expects to be informed if any sponsor is unable to continue the sponsorship due to any reason whatsoever, so that they could find a new sponsor for the family, without interrupting the sponsorship.

Anyone who wishes to join the above programme could please contact us in order to obtain the necessary forms for completion and for more details.

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"It is better by far to light a solitary candle than to curse the darkness"