

Secret Santa Report 2019

CandleAid conducted a programme called Secret Santa during Christmas season. This programme has been ongoing for a number of years where we select families who are living below the poverty line and give them a package of dry rations and other necessities. Earlier times we asked them what they wanted and bought the things and gave it to them through our coordinators. This time we changed the system, selected families and gave them a cash donation of 10,000 rupees to buy what they wanted or do what they wanted with that money. We wanted them to feel free to spend the money. They have to give a report on how they spent the money. This is for our statistical purposes. The recipients came from all races and all religions. The only thing they had in common was their poverty.

Here are the families

1. Mrs. Sriyani Pushpakumari and Family.



She is a widow with three school going children. Her mother also lives with them. Their only income after her husband's death is what she derived by renting half her house. They live in Moratuwa.

2. Mrs.S Walli and Family.



Her husband abandoned her family two months ago. Presently Walli works as a day to day helper whenever she can find work. She has two daughters aged 11 and 6. She is enrolled in the Gift a Meal program of CandleAid. She lives in a small house in Egodaunya.

3. Mr. Sankar and Family.



He is a cancer patient from 2011. He was treated at Maharagama hospital and given twelve cycles of chemotherapy and though he was thought to be in remission he had a relapse in 2017 and was given another six cycles of chemotherapy. Sankar is 27 years old and married; there are four members in his family. He was a casual labourer. He cannot work now and his wife is now a casual labourer earning about 8000 rupees a month. They live in Bulathsinhala.

4 .Mrs.Nilmini Fernando and Family.



Mrs.Nilmini is a mother of four and who has a husband that does not have any regular work. He is a part time cobbler, who repairs shoes under a sheet on the pavement. She goes to work in houses on a daily basis and when she can find work she earns a polity amount to support the family. They are very much in need of assistance. They are now enrolled in the CandleAid gift a meal programme. They live in Moratuwa.

5. Miss. F. Umeshika and family.



She is a cancer patient who underwent chemotherapy. She is 17 years old and is the eldest daughter of their family. Her father is a casual laborer and is unable to work much as he is suffering from ulcer. Altogether there are five in the family and they are struggling to survive with medical bills and a meager income. They live in Waththala.

6. Mast.Tharuka Lakshan and Family.



Tharuka Lakshan was diagnosed with cancer in 2019; he is being treated at the Maharagama hospital and was given eight cycles of chemo. He is the eldest of the family of four siblings. His Father cannot work regularly due to kidney disease. They live in a little village near Monaragala.

7. Indrakanthi Amarasinghe and Family.



Indrakanthi Amarasinghe is a widow. After her husband's sudden death she had no income and she rented part of her small house in Bandaragama. Today that is her total income. She and her family are in the Gift a Meal program. They live in Bandaragama.

8. Mrs. Rohini Malkanthie and Family.



She is a widow, 38 years old. She lives with her two children aged 10 and 5 and her father in law and her mother in law aged 82 and 80. Their sole income is what she earns by sewing which is an ad-hoc occupation. Rarely would she earn 5000 rupees a month. Rohini and family are enrolled in the CandleAid Gift a Meal program. They live in Beruwala.

9. Mr. Ranjan Fernando and family.



Ranjan has been semi-paralysed for the last 10 years and cannot work. His wife Eureka is 49 years old and she cleans houses and cooks meals in the neighborhood earning a meager amount to run the family. Their sons are 17 and 13 and they live in a badly dilapidated house. CandleAid helps them in the education and food program. They live in Moratuwa.

10. Mrs. Danaranjini and Family.



Mrs. Danaranjini's husband has left her recently. She has a 10 year old daughter and a 2 year old son and she delivered her third child very recently. She is from Jaffna. She has no income and is enrolled in CandleAid's assistance for food.

11. Mrs. Jennath Ameen and Family.



Mrs Jennath Ameen is 47 years old. Her husband was killed in 2016 by some people for reasons unknown. She has three children aged 18, 15 10. She lives in Bandarawela. She has no regular income and depends on the charity of people to survive with her family. They live in Bandarawela.

12. Mr. Sumathipala and Family.



Sumathipala is 70 years old. His wife is 71. They live in a very remote village and occupy the house that their daughter her husband used to live in. The daughter and her husband both died, leaving their three children aged 20, 15 and 13 in the care of Sumathipala. Sumathipala is sickly and cannot work. They have no income. The elder boy, who is 20 years, has left home and he works in a distant place, from where he sends Sumathipala 2000 rupees a month. Sumathipala and family are enrolled in the CandleAid Gift a Meal program. They live in a little village of Asmadala near Mawanella.

13. Mr.Karunarathne and Family.



Mr Karunarathne is 60 years old. He is visually impaired. His wife who is a teacher, has abandoned the family. He now lives with his daughter who is 20 years old and his mother who is 84 years old. The daughter just sat for a A Level exam in 2019. Their sole income is a government assisted program that gives them 5000 rupees a month. Mr Karunarathne's daughter is a CandleAid sponsored student. They live in Rambukkana.

14. K Pushparaj and Family.



K. Pushparaj is 40 years old and has been diagnosed with a tumor of the brain. Due to this reason he cannot work. He has two children who are 7 and 3 months. His wife Marie Amma cannot go to work as she has to look after the three month old baby. They are enrolled in the Gift a Meal program of CandleAid. They live in Moratuwa.

15. Miss. Hasitha Lakmali and Family.



Hasitha is a fourth year Uni student. Her father is paralyzed and her mother suffers from arthritis. She has a brother who is studying. They live in a remote village near Deniyaya. They have no income except the support they get from CandleAid. She is really struggling to complete her university education. They live in a little village of Kotapala in Matara District.

16. Mrs. Darshani Wanigasuriya and Family.



Darshani is a widow with two children and she is not employed. The job she previously had she lost because she couldn't go to work as she had to look after her very sick mother during her last days. She is now seeking employment. They live in Rathmalana.