

## FAMILIES ASSISTED

**Biyanka (Wadduwa)** works in a fruit stall as a labourer five half days per week. Her husband is suffering from a mental disorder for more than 15 years and is unemployed. They have a daughter, who is studying in grade 8. Unfortunately, she is a slow learner also suffering a heart ailment needing surgery. Biyanka's mother-in-law too lives with them. Her usual income was hardly sufficient to feed the family. The family receives a Gift A Meal sponsorship.

But now without even that, they are flat broke!



**Sadeepa (Moratuwa)**, a Gift A Meal beneficiary, is a widow. Her husband succumbed to a liver ailment in January this year. She has two sons who are studying in grades 13 & 06. The eldest son is due to write the G.C.E. A'Level examination in 2021. Sadeepa earns a nominal salary making tea at an office in Colombo. As the salary there is not enough to make ends meet, she goes to another little cafe and works there till 10 pm. They share the house with her husband's parents, who are not on friendly terms with Sadeepa's family.

Due to coronavirus she is rendered helpless without any income whatsoever.



**S. Walli (Katukurunda)** is a single parent. Her husband abandoned the family about a year ago. She works as a housemaid and earns around LKR 13,000. She has two children studying in Grades 07 & 02. These days she is unable to pay her electricity bill and other small loan instalments too. Walli's income on a good month was hardly sufficient to meet all the living expenses of the family, as well as the children's education related expenses. Walli's family is a Gift A Meal recipient.

Presently she does not have any gainful work due to coronavirus.



**Tharushi (Molkawa)** is a bright student under sponsorship who is in grade 8. Her father is a cancer patient and mother is a casual worker earning a meager income. She has an elder brother who wrote the GC.E. A'Level examination held in October/November. Since he had to leave school in order to take care of his father, he had to enroll for the exam privately. The mother's income of LKR 5,000 per month is insufficient to meet even the basic living expenses of the family let alone the children's education related expenses. Her grandparents also live with them.



The current situation hampers even that avenue of income.

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**Sandya's (Moratuwa)** husband had succumbed to a heart attack in 2008. Sandya is self-employed selling pepper and earns LKR 4,000 p.m. To supplement her income, she also works as a domestic helper when such work is available. She is unable to seek permanent employment as she needs to take care of her two daughters, 17 and 16 years of age and schooling. The elder girl is writing the GCE O'Level exam this year while the younger one is doing so next year. Her family is assisted under our Gift A Meal programme.

With the current restrictions, her income is almost non-existent.

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**K. V. Indula Udayangani (Matugama)** is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year undergraduate at the faculty of Arts, University of Colombo. Her father is a casual worker suffering a heart ailment. The mother is unemployed. There are four children in her family. Her elder sister, a graduate, was employed for a while but lost her job due to the recent calamities. Her second sister is also an undergraduate at the Kelaniya Jayawardenapura University. Her younger sister is studying in grade 11. They are in receipt of the Government grant 'Samurdhi' as they are classified as a low-income family.



They are in dire straits now to feed a family of six.

**P. G. Wasana Dilmini (Beruwala)** is a CandleAid sponsored 1st year undergraduate at the faculty of Management and Finance, University of Ruhuna. Her parents are self-employed. They sell Kola Kanda (Herbal Porridge). Her elder brother is married and lives separately. He cannot afford to support his parents. She has a younger sister who is studying in grade 03. Dulmini met with an accident in 2016 which has left her with fractures in both legs. Due to this reason, she cannot stand for a long time or do any hard work. She is still under treatment as she suffers constant pain in the legs. The family income is around LKR 6,000 per month hardly sufficient to meet the living expenses of the family.



In the current situation, the parents are unable to carry out their small business.

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**S. Nethmi Navodya Silva (Panadura)** is a sponsored student in Grade 7. Her widowed mother is a daily paid casual worker. She has a younger sister, who is studying in grade 4. They have no permanent income and are living with her father's parents.



Due to current situation they are rendered totally destitute.

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**H. Bagya Sewwandi Jayawardhana (Moratuwa)** is a sponsored student in Grade 8. Her father is a carpenter, and the mother is unemployed. She is a heart patient who has undergone surgery a couple of times for a stomach ailment needing expensive regular medication. Bhagya has two elder brothers and an elder sister. The eldest brother is awaiting employment while the other brother and sister are studying. He father's monthly income is insufficient to meet all the living expenses of the family as well as the children's education related expenses and her mother's medical bills.

**B.K.J.D. Dilshan Priyasha Rodrigo (Negombo)** is a sponsored student who wrote the G.C.E. O'Level examination in December 2019. He obtained eight A grades and one B grade. He is now doing his G.C.E. A'Level in Commerce. His father had succumbed to a heart attack in 2017. Sadly he lost his mother in the Easter Sunday bomb blast in 2019. He has one brother who is studying in grade 4. They are living with the grandparents. His grandfather is a retired teacher whose pension is insufficient to meet all their living expenses as well as the children's education related expenses.

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