

Fridsro Sri Lanka Update



FRIDSRO

November News



We need your help!

Dear Fridsro Friends,

I hope this letter finds you in good cheer!

Thank you to all who have already jumped on board to help us celebrate Christmas this year. As you can imagine, we did not plan on an increase in our family this year as we saw financial constraints ahead of us. However, there has been a change of plans because of the needs of the children God put in our path. Our family is growing at the home and our protection centers and initiatives for children forced into sex trafficking and labor are growing as well.

We need your support now more than ever! *Not just to get us through this Christmas season as most of the little ones celebrate their first Christmas but also for the long haul as we attempt to bring them the rehabilitation, protection, love, care and justice they deserve. Please consider helping us by spreading the word to your family, friends, and contacts so that we can all make a difference together.*

May God continue to bless each one of you for your support, your partnership, your love, and your prayers in this ministry.

Jake Perera

Fridsro Bokkawala Campus Pre-School



On October 25th, the children exhibited their creativity through arts and crafts during our annual exhibition at Fridsro. Rev. Jacob Perera declared the colorful event open with the cut of the ribbon. Parents, past pupils, and friends were all present to enjoy their artwork.



Empowering Child Protection Committees in the Kandy District



Currently there are about 19 Child Development Centres (Children's Homes) in the Kandy district with approximately 576 children calling them home. Poverty is the number one reason that children are institutionalized. In many cases, children who are abandoned due to extreme poverty end up on the streets and are exposed to crime, theft, drugs, sexual abuse, and child labor. As of now, there are over 3000 such children who are still in need of protection. According to our studies, there is a possibility that many of the institutionalized children could receive alternate care within their own communities and families. Lack of knowledge about alternative care systems result in institutional care being known as the only solution.

Fridsro has been a part of providing institutionalized care for the past 45 years, and these years have proven that institutionalizing children is not the ideal circumstance for a child's growth in freedom, where a certain degree of the child's rights can possibly be violated. Having shared this



experience with other homes and state entities, Fridsro was instrumental in formulating a policy in which institutionalizing children serves as the final option after seeking alternative care.



National Policy for Alternative Care of Children

Fridsro is already working on developing an alternative care policy for children on a national level. This 2 ½ year project is aimed at laying the foundation to change the attitudes and preconceived ideas of those in the community who act as the "Rights Holders" by informing them about alternative care and by empowering the community to take ownership of finding alternative care for "at-risk" children. While the National Policy for Alternative Care of Children is being prepared, the community is empowered and motivated to spread awareness about it amongst 1188 community leaders in about 20 divisions across the island through a number of different programs. Sixteen out of twenty-six of the programs were completed in November.

The research was carried out during the preparation of the national policy through Focus Group Discussions by consultations with mothers' groups, fathers' groups, school children, disabled children and their parents, children who live on the streets and their parents, parents who are in family strengthening programs, war victims, mothers in prison with their children, parents of autistic children, institutionalized children, children in the student parliament, and state officers.

The drafted report of the various groups surveyed was completed and submitted to the National Department of Probation and Child Care Services on November 15, 2017. After the drafted policy is reviewed by a group of 160 national consultants, the document will be submitted for cabinet approval on January 7, 2018.

Christmas is coming and we need your help!



Christmas is just around the corner and we need your help. Our family is growing! For the children at Fridsro, Christmas means a fun time of food, gifts, and special events as we keep the focus on Jesus Christ.

Please click below to help us give our kids (many of whom have never experienced Christmas before) a very special time together in our big happy family!

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)

Fridsro | worldroc125@gmail.com | www.fridsro.org

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Fridsro | Dodangwala Mawatha, Kandy, 20000 Sri Lanka