










# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

CHARITY NO.1133461





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# 1. Introduction and Executive Summary

## 1.1 CHAIR'S STATEMENT FOR THE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT OF SERENDIP CHILDREN'S HOME

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Partners of Serendip,

As we reflect on another year of dedicated service and compassionate outreach, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the continued efforts and achievements of Serendip Children's Home. Founded 14 years ago amidst the aftermath of a devastating civil war in Sri Lanka, our charity has grown not only in size but also in impact, touching the lives of thousands who needed our support the most.

2023 was a year marked by resilience and adaptation. We not only sustained but also expanded our initiatives, reaching further into the heart of communities in need. Our ongoing projects, such as vocational training, fine arts education, support for special needs children, and livelihood projects for women, have seen remarkable success and growth. We've continued to nourish young minds through our 'Breakfast for Kids' program and provided essential support to destitute elders.

A significant milestone last year was the initiation of our project in the hill country of Central Sri Lanka, focusing on helping the up-country Tamil communities. This initiative, involving the replacement of roofs and improving living conditions, has brought new hope and safety to many families.

As we step into 2024, we carry forward the momentum of our successes while embracing new challenges and opportunities. This year, in addition to maintaining our existing programs, we are excited to introduce a new project aimed at providing small living abodes for vulnerable elders and single-parent families. This endeavour aligns with our core mission of creating sustainable, long-term solutions for those in dire need.

Our work could not be possible without the unwavering support of our generous sponsors, donors, trusts, and foundations. Your contributions have been the backbone of our achievements. I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to our Sri Lankan field-workers, volunteers, and well-wishers whose dedication and tireless efforts continue to inspire and drive our mission forward.

In these times of change and challenge, the importance of our work becomes ever clearer. We remain committed to our goal of nurturing and empowering the most marginalised communities, ensuring they have the support and resources to build a brighter, more hopeful future.

Thank you for being a part of this journey. Together, we are making a significant difference in the lives of many.

Trisha Williamson  
Chairperson





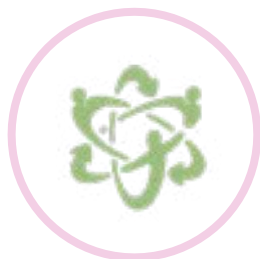
“Supporting Serendip has been an incredibly rewarding experience. Their dedication to making a real difference in communities is evident in every project they undertake. We're proud to be a part of their impactful journey and excited to see what the future holds”.

- Davu. Bennet (Supporter)



## 1.2 OUR OBJECTIVES

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT



Promoting sustainable growth and enhancing the quality of life in underserved communities in Sri Lanka.

### EDUCATION AND TRAINING



Providing essential educational resources and school equipment for underprivileged children.

Offering a diverse range of training programs, including vocational training for practical skill development, as well as specialized fine arts education in dance, Miruthangam, violin, and other musical instruments

### HEALTH AND NUTRITION



Improving children's access to nutritious food through initiatives like the 'Breakfast for Kids' program.

Assisting children with terminal illnesses and those with special needs.

### ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



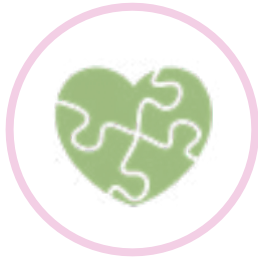
Facilitating economic self-reliance through livelihood projects, particularly for women-led families.

Encouraging self-sufficiency in vulnerable communities with small business seed funding and other support.





### SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT



Providing tailored assistance to individuals with disabilities, which includes therapy classes, sensory room activities, and specialised counselling sessions for their parents.

### ENVIRONMENTAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENT



Implementing infrastructure improvement projects like roof replacement in the hill country.

Actively working on environmental sustainability by enhancing infrastructure in rural areas, with a special focus on providing access to clean water for village communities.

### EMERGENCY RELIEF EFFORTS



Offering immediate and effective relief to communities affected by seasonal monsoon floods and frequent landslides, particularly in the hill country regions. Our efforts focus on providing timely assistance to ensure rapid recovery and support during these recurring natural disasters.



## 2. Look back to Our 2023 Achievements

### 2.1 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

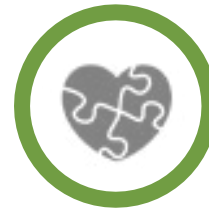


#### Care in the Community

**Elderly Nutritional Support:** Our bi-monthly dry food program successfully reached 245 elders, enhancing their nutrition and overall well-being, particularly for those facing age-related challenges and isolation.

**Breakfast for Kids Initiative:** We provided nutritious breakfasts to 155 young children in pre-schools, significantly contributing to their health and early development, ensuring a strong foundation for their future growth.

**Entrepreneurial Empowerment:** By supporting the startup of 36 businesses led by women and individuals with disabilities, we provided economic independence and self-esteem, underscoring the resilience and potential within our community.



#### Enabling Diverse Abilities

In 2023, we enhanced our special needs program by partnering with local hospitals and expanding therapy options for the 48 children we serve. This tailored approach has visibly boosted their development and well-being, showcasing our dedication to promoting their potential in a nurturing environment.







## Culture, Sports & Mindfulness

In 2023, our two fine arts centres have notably excelled, with performances now captivating public audiences. The teaching quality has significantly improved, leading to our students receiving 6 national awards/medals for their performances. Serving over 130 children, these centres have become pivotal in promoting artistic skills and cultural appreciation.

This year, our yoga and mindfulness sessions, along with our counselling program at local schools, positively impacted over 400 students. These activities have helped create a supportive and nurturing environment, contributing to the overall well-being and development of young minds in the community. The positive outcome highlights the significant role these programs play in promoting holistic wellness.

In 2023, our karate program, running in two centres, saw over 150 students engage in training, yielding very pleasing results. Highlighting our success, two students achieved national recognition by winning gold medals, and another two earned bronze medals in a yearly national competition. This outstanding performance underlines the strength and effectiveness of our karate training, making it a year of notable achievements in martial arts.



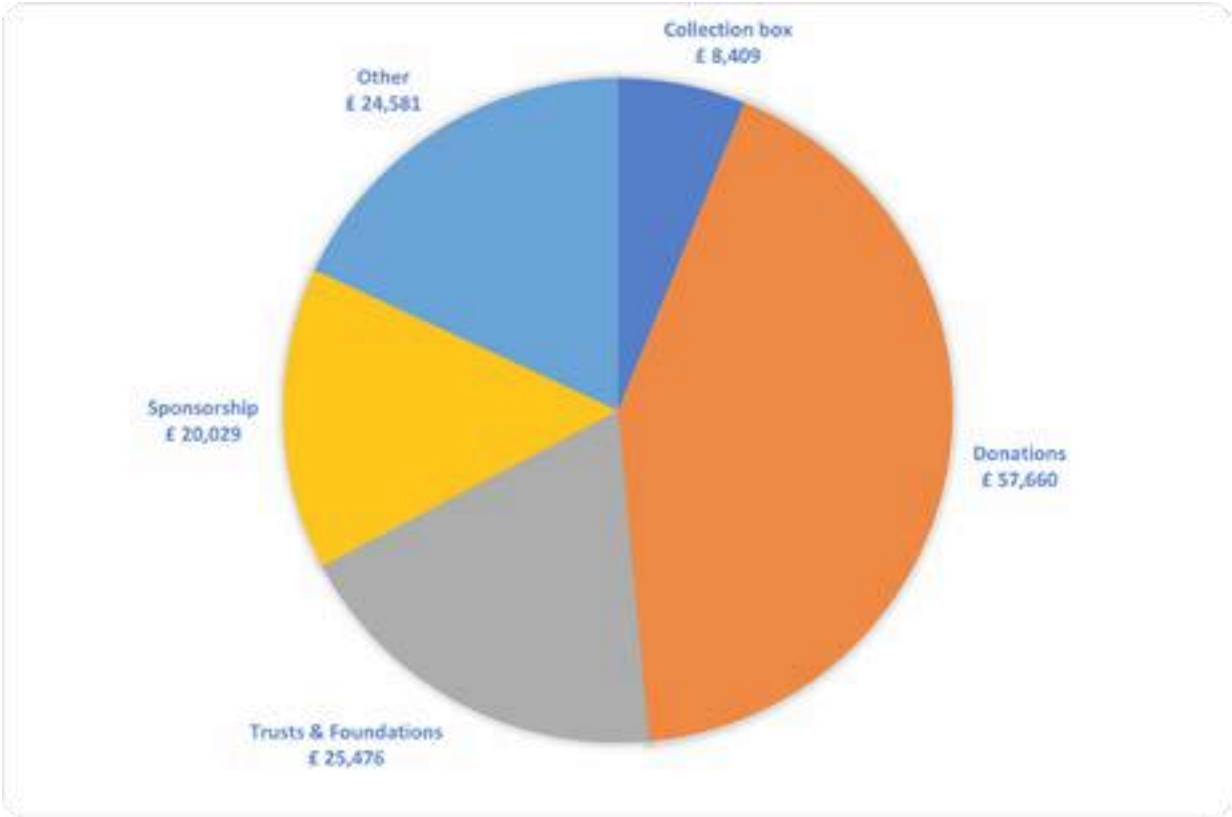
"Finding Serendip was a turning point for us. The support and care they've provided for my child have been life-changing, not just for him but for our whole family. We've seen him grow in ways we never thought possible. I'm forever grateful to Serendip for their kindness and dedication."

- Sinnama. Saktivel (Beneficiary)

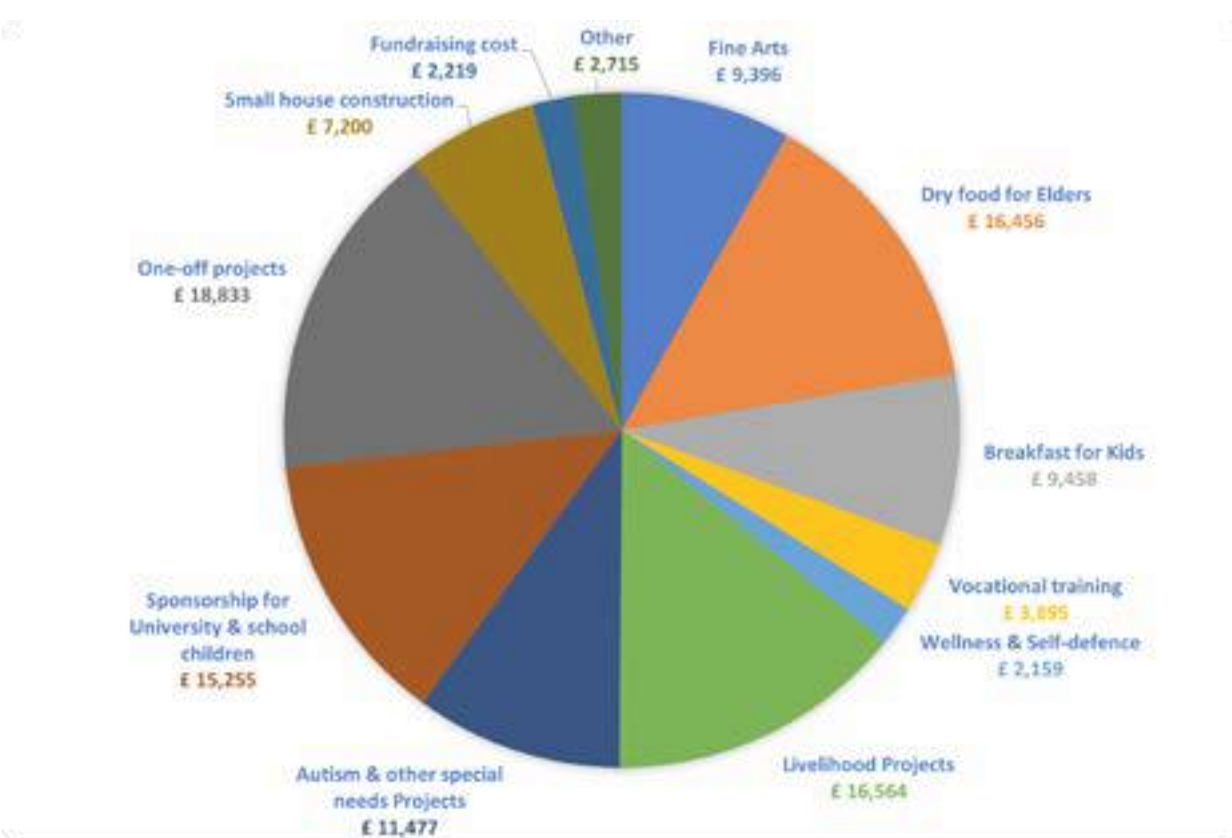
2.1 KEY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following Financial Statements are for Financial Year 1st April 2022 to 31th March 2023.

Total Income - £136,155.00



Total Expenses - £115,627.00



\*The balance of £20,528 raised from 2023 is being carried forward into projects for 2024.



# 3. Our 2024 Goals

Our 2023 Objectives are based on continuing and expanding the fantastic work our volunteers and fieldworkers have undertaken, to fulfill our general objectives.

**1** Support for Orphaned and Vulnerable Children in Sri Lanka.



**2** Help Women-led families and Individuals with Disabilities Towards self-sufficiency.



**3** Nourishment for the Most Vulnerable and Elderly in Society.



**4** Educational, health and wellbeing assistance to 'Hill-county' Tamils in Central Sri Lanka.



## 4. Trusts and Foundations

On behalf of our beneficiaries, we would like to sincerely thank the following Trusts and Foundations for their generous awards amounting to £25,476.

The Cumber  
Family Charitable  
Trust

Charity Number  
291009

Christadelphian  
Samaritan Fund

Charity Number  
1004457

Paradigm Norton  
Trust

Charity Number  
1116837

Vijay & Sharma  
Bhardwaj  
Foundation

Charity Number  
1108202

The Cauda Trust

Charity Number  
326558

The Henhurst  
Charitable Trust

Charity Number  
296657

St Peter's Aid for  
the Needy (SPAN)

Charity Number  
1040252

The Farthing Trust

Charity Number  
268066

Spears-Stutz

Charity Number  
225491

Brian Murtagh  
Charitable Trust

Charity Number  
1105099

The Ward Family  
Charitable Trust

Charity Number  
SC039182

The Westwood  
Charitable Trust

Charity Number  
SC038469

The Broyst  
Foundation

Charity Number  
290525

William Howarth  
Charitable Trust

Charity Number  
1167013



## 5. Partnerships

Serendip believes in working together with other organisations on joint projects, can help achieve more beneficial results. We have previously partnered with other UK and Sri Lanka based charities, Corporate Companies and with individuals on successful projects. We are always looking to partner with organisations in the UK, Sri Lanka and indeed all across the world. Please contact us if you would like to discuss any opportunities to partner.

Partnerships in previous years have included: Fundraising, one-off donations, media coverage, collaborate to deliver a project, share skills and knowledge, provide training, share facilities etc.

### CURRENT PARTNERS

We are currently partnering with For Good Causes. Please check our website page below on how you can help Serendip Children's Home through purchasing via Amazon Smile (at no additional cost to you) or donating your unwanted reward points through 'For Good Causes'

<https://serendipchildrenshome.com/get-involved/>



#### FOR GOOD CAUSES

Did you know that you can now support children by donating your loyalty and reward points?

Serendip Children's Home can now receive income in exchange for loyalty and reward points at no extra cost to you



#### BENEVITY CAUSE

<https://causes.benevity.org/user?destination=causesapp/dashboard/826-1133461>

Did you know that your donation to Serendip Children's Home can have double the impact?

By giving through Benevity, a platform used by many companies for corporate giving, your contribution can go even further. If your employer participates in Benevity's matching program, they may match your donation to us, doubling the support for our cause. It's an effortless way to enhance your impact and support our initiatives without additional cost to you.





## 6. How You Can All Help

Serendip's vital programs for vulnerable children and elderly in the North, East and Central ('up-country') Sri Lanka can only take place with the help of our generous donors and beneficiaries.

In addition, the support of generous trusts and foundations, our partner organisations and business sponsors, our hard-working field workers and the tireless effort of our volunteers.

You too can help us by (1) Donating to help vital projects in 2024 and/or (2) Volunteer your time to the charity.

### 6.1 DONATE TO HELP FUND VITAL PROJECTS IN 2024

Please donate generously to help those in the greatest need in the North and East of Sri Lanka through regular monthly donations, a one-off donation, and many other methods which can be found on our website (Donating Vouchers, Amazon Smile, etc).

#### 1. Set up a Monthly Standing Order Donation:

Name : Serendip Children's Home  
Sort code : 60-04-36  
Account no 11637749

#### 2. One-off donation via Justgiving:

<https://www.justgiving.com/serendipchildrenshome/donate>

#### 3. Other methods to donate can be found on our website:

<https://serendipchildrenshome.com/>

Every £1 you donate will be put to great use in 2024 to help the most needy and vulnerable. Below are some examples on how every £1 helps.

#### 1. Breakfast for Children

Five years ago, Serendip Children's Home initiated the Breakfast Project to guarantee daily breakfast for vulnerable children in North Sri Lanka's rural areas. Currently, we're providing this essential morning meal to over 150 pre-schoolers. Remarkably, it costs only £1 per week to feed one child, making your support incredibly impactful.

- Feeding 1 child costs £48 per year.



## 2. Assisting Special Needs Children

In 2023, Serendip Children's Home broadened its impact, offering specialized therapies at our centers and collaborating with local hospitals. Our services now include sensory rooms, speech therapy, yoga, and arts therapies, enhancing the support for children with special needs and autism in our community.

- A speech therapist costs £180 per month, totalling £2,100 per annum.

## 3. Provisions for Elders Project

Our Elders Project in Northern Sri Lanka is a heartfelt initiative, bringing essential bi-monthly food rations to the most vulnerable elders across five districts. This effort is more than just providing meals; it's about ensuring our elders feel valued and supported in their community.

### How You Can Help:

- With just £8, you can provide a month's worth of nourishing food for one elderly person.
- A commitment of £96 covers a full year's sustenance for an elder, ensuring they have consistent, reliable access to food.

Your support plays a crucial role in maintaining this lifeline, directly enhancing the quality of life for our respected elders.

## 6.2 VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME TO HELP THE CHARITY

We are a small charity run by friendly volunteers across all ages from university students to retired people. We are always looking for caring, passionate people who can contribute with ideas and time for our fund-raising activities, organising sponsored events as well as helping to communicate with our donors.

We normally meet once a month via video-conference to update each other on the progress of our projects, fund-raising activities and the events we organise.

Please contact us if you wish to join as a volunteer of Serendip Children's Home. Thank you.



## HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

If you would like to HELP us in our charitable work why not JOIN our facebook group on

<https://www.serendipchildrenshome?fref=ts>

VISIT our website on <http://www.serendipchildrenshome.com/>

or why not give us a DONATION via <http://www.justgiving.com/serendipchildrenshome>



## My contact details

Full Name:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Mobile Number:

Email Address:

## My donation

Amount (in figures): £10 Per Month ☐ Other amount: £ Per Month ☐

Amount (in words):

Date of first payment:

 /  / 

and thereafter every month until further notice and debit my account accordingly

Payee Bank Name:

Payee Account Name:

Payee Account Number:

Sort code:

## My bank details

Account name:

Account number:

Sort code:

Bank name:

Bank branch address:

Signature:

Date:

## Gift Aid Declaration



I would like tax to be reclaimed on my donation under the Gift Aid Scheme. I am a UK taxpayer and pay an amount of income tax/or capital gain tax at least equal to the tax that can be reclaimed on my donation.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please send your completed form to:

Serendip Children's Home  
34, Brightling Road,  
Brockley,  
London SE4 1SQ

For more information:

www.serendipchildrenshome.com  
info@serendipchildrenshome.com  
Call: +44(0) 7799756158  
www.facebook.com/SerendipChildrensHome

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# 7. Acknowledgements

A heartfelt thank you to our UK and Sri Lankan volunteers, field staff, Board members, donors, and sponsors for their invaluable support this year. Your commitment inspires our ongoing efforts to positively impact lives.

We are grateful for our donors and sponsors for their generosity, their trust and most importantly their commitment to our mission. On behalf of the Charity, We would like to make a promise that we will continue to work hard, always having the best interest of our beneficiaries in our hearts.

Thanking You  
Trustees of Serendip Charity

## List of Trustees (UK)

- Mr. Peter Carroll
- Mrs. Trisha Thevika Williamson
- Dr. Edwin Selvaratnam
- Mr. Nireesh Rajah
- Mrs. Vanathy Niranjana

## List of Trustees (Sri Lanka)

- Mr. Ariyakutty Kandasamy
- Mrs. Trisha Thevika Williamson
- Mr. Thampipillai Thangarajah
- Mr. Pulenthirarasa Pranavan
- Mr. Rajaratnam Thevakumar

## List of field works in the North & East Sri Lanka

- Mr. Vijendran Johnsan
- Mr. Pranavan Pulanthirarasa
- Mr. Sharan Sharanraj
- Mrs. Kananika Sinnarasa
- Mrs. Gowsiny Somasundaram
- Mr. Varnan Sachithananthan

## List of key volunteers in 2021

- Mr. Sujeewan Nandagopal
- Miss. Edna Cyril
- Mr. Kandeepan Nadarajah
- Ms. Ahalya Sahadevan
- Mr. Raja Thiripuran
- Mr. Kowarthanan Ganesha
- Mr. Shovan Sargunam
- Mrs. Abinaya Vijayakumar
- Mrs. Giny Kumar
- Mrs. Melisa Selvaratnam
- Mrs. Bharathi Prashannah
- Mrs. Abirami Pararajasingam
- Mrs. Ravaniya Pararajasingam
- Mrs. Mathy Menon
- Mr. Sanjay Kirubakaran
- Mr. Graham Williamson
- Mr. Para Selliah
- Mrs. Easwary Selliah
- Mr. Velautham Sivalingam
- Ms. Yvonne Selvaratnam





