

BRIGHTER PATH

England & Wales · Charity number 1183507

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2019-05-21

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 193 Woodstock Road
Oxford
OX2 7AB

Phone 01865512487

Email contact@brighterpathfoundation.org

Website www.brighterpathfoundation.org

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE IN LIFE AND RELIEVE THE NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN SRI LANKA, WHO BY REASON OF NATURAL DISASTER, POVERTY, DESTITUTION, BEREAVEMENT, THE ILL HEALTH OF OTHERS, THEIR OWN ILL HEALTH OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON, ARE LIVING IN OR HAVE LIVED IN RESIDENTIAL CARE OR UNDER THE CARE OF OTHERS WHO ARE NOT THEIR PARENTS, BY PROVIDING SUPPORT AND MONETARY GRANTS WITH A VIEW TO ENSURING THESE PEOPLE ARE EQUIPPED WITH THE NECESSARY SKILLS, CAPACITIES AND CAPABILITIES TO ENABLE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN SOCIETY AS MATURE AND RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS.

Activities: Brighter Path raises money to provide grants to care leavers in Sri Lanka. We provide accommodation, pay for training and education, living expenses, clothes, transport, healthcare, and mentoring.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Other Finance, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Sri Lanka
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-30	£53,049	£49,032	-	-
2024-04-30	£22,733	£27,720	-	-
2023-04-30	£22,790	£20,531	-	-
2022-04-30	£15,438	£7,463	-	-
2021-04-30	£10,982	£3,600	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Caroline de Bono	Chair	2019-05-20
ALICE PILCHER		2019-05-20
HENRIETTA WOOLF		2019-05-20
JOHN DE BONO QC		2019-05-20
PATRICK MARSHALL		2019-05-20

BRIGHTER PATH

England & Wales - Charity number 1183507

Accounts



Annual Report 2024 - 2025

**Brighter Path
Foundation**

Introduction

OUR MISSION

To advance in life and relieve the needs of young people in Sri Lanka, who for any reason, are living in or have lived in residential care or in the care of others who are not their parents, by providing support and monetary grants with a view to ensuring they are equipped with the necessary skills and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature, responsible and happy adults.

OUR VISION

A Sri Lanka where every child grows up loved, safe and empowered to reach their full potential.



Brighter Path was registered as a charity in England and Wales in May 2019 and this is our sixth annual report, covering the period 1 May 2024 to 30 April 2025. In the past 12 months we have continued making grants to individual care leavers, provided emergency food aid to struggling families as part of our family strengthening programme, we provided support for a nurse for a very ill child in care, funded teachers for children in care, and provided financial support both for renovation and running costs to a number of institutions supporting the disabled and children in care. We have continued to work with organisations on the ground in Sri Lanka which work with care leavers and have continued to fund transition homes for male and female care leavers in Colombo.



Tustees

The trustees remain Caroline de Bono, John de Bono, Patrick Marshall, Henrietta Woolf and Alice Pilcher.

Banking

In accordance with our banking policy Brighter Path banking remains with CAF Bank who specialise in supporting the charitable sector. Our bank and platform fees (Stripe/ Paypal) were £698.88.

Funds received

In the period of 12 months to 30 April 2025 we received cash donations of £53,023.58. Many of these donations were Gift Aided enabling us to claim an additional 25% (the claim for Gift Aid was submitted after the end of this reporting period so is not shown on the financial report).

Financial report

This report is accompanied by our financial report which has been examined in accordance with the requirement of the Charities Act 2011 by an independent examiner.

Website

Our website and its running costs remain entirely funded by private donation from the trustees.

Funds distribution

We made charitable grants of £48,341.76 which was a significant increase on the previous year (£27,160.28). At all times we have followed our own banking policy and have been aware of the importance of complying with best practice to avoid money laundering.

Ethical image policy

Images play an important role in helping us to raise awareness of the challenges faced by young people in care and care leavers. However the gathering and use of images can also cause harm or offence if they are intrusive, manipulative or used inappropriately. Our images must show a true and accurate account of the ways in which people live. We have introduced an ethical image policy to manage and guide our use of photos in fundraising which is in line with leading NGOs including Unicef and Save the Children.

Safeguarding

We have a safeguarding policy and a code of conduct for Brighter Path staff and volunteers working in Sri Lanka. Brighter Path is committed to working in accordance with the laws of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and to working with the Department of Probation and Child Care Services. Brighter Path is committed to a practice which protects children and young people from harm. The best interests of the child or young person and are paramount and are the primary consideration in our decision-making. Brighter Path accepts and recognises our responsibility to develop awareness of issues relating to child protection.



Activities

Working with other organisations

Brighter Path is keen to work with any reputable organisation in Sri Lanka which offers support to care leavers or children in care. There are very few organisations in Sri Lanka working with care leavers. In the past we have partnered with SOS Villages and Generation Never Give Up. In this reporting period we have collaborated with and provided grants to Emerge, an organisation which works with the victims of sexual abuse. Most of our grants have been made through Brighter Path Sri Lanka which has enabled us to ensure that more of the money received in donations goes directly to children in need and care leavers.

Sri Lanka is a national jurisdiction which operates to high child protection standards and has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. See the website of the Department of Probation and Child Services, http://www.probation.gov.lk/index_e.php

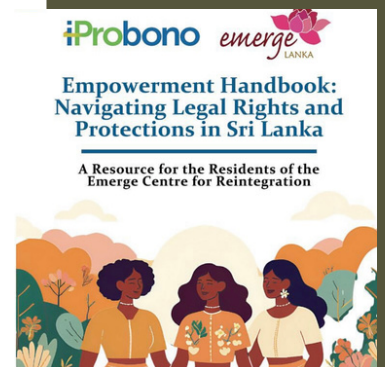


EMERGE

Emerge Lanka is a not for profit organisation in Sri Lanka which is registered also as non-profit in the US. This organisation focusses on providing support for young girls who have suffered sexual violence. We have funded 'reintegration packs'. These packs are intended to provide those items which are essential for starting out in independent life. They include toiletries, sanitary pads, basic first aid supplies, bed sheets and a towel, groceries, cooking utensils, a backpack or handbag for work, office shoes and much more. When girls leave Emerge's home they are helped to find work. However, without support in the transitional period before they receive their first pay packet, they would otherwise have nothing to live on. These packs make a huge difference to the prospects of an individual girl successfully transitioning to independent living.

Brighter Path has also funded the printing of an Emerge Lanka legal toolkit. Designed by lawyers at iProbono, working with Emerge, this toolkit is written in three language – Sinhala, Tamil and English. It sets out basic rights and legal options for young women. The toolkit is intended to be user friendly for vulnerable girls who may not know the law and their rights. Designed for participants in the Emerge Lanka programme we are delighted to support this initiative and we will also be giving them to our own Brighter Path care leavers.

Brighter Path also funded emergency accommodation through Emerge for a care leaver who had completed one of Emerge's courses but was unable to start work or move into her employer's accommodation for a period of 5 days over a public holiday.



Thank you for your thoughtful donation!

1/2

A big thank you to the Brighter Path Foundation for funding 20 Reintegration Packs for the graduates of batch 10 and future graduates of batch 11 at the Emerge Centre!



Your support is making a difference in their journey of independence.

Here's a look at what went into the Reintegration Pack!

- Bedding set
- Bath towel
- Umbrella
- Wallet
- Handbag
- Sanitary pad pack
- Mirror
- Toiletry pack
- Mosquito repellent
- Basic medicine
- Plate
- Mug
- Tea jug
- Strainer
- Cutlery
- Wash basin
- Torch
- Alarm clock
- Grocery vouchers - Rs.5,000
- Cash for travel - Rs. 5,000



**Brighter Path
Foundation**

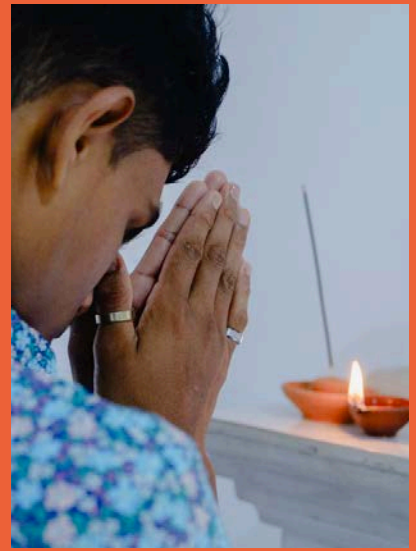
BRIGHTER PATH SRI LANKA

Brighter Path Sri Lanka is a not for profit company registered in Sri Lanka and founded by Caroline de Bono. John de Bono is a director. Brighter Path Sri Lanka operates the two transition homes which we fund but it also provides through its local staff an operation through which we can provide support to care leavers in the community, to children's homes and disabled people's homes and which works closely with local Departments of Probation and Children's Services. In practice the most cost efficient and reliable way of providing support to the children and young people we support in Sri Lanka is often through Brighter Path Sri Lanka. Where grants were made to Brighter Path Sri Lanka a potential conflict of interest was declared, these grants were approved by the other trustees and John and Caroline did not vote.



Brighter Path Sri Lanka transition homes

In this period we have supported a total of 19 boys and girls in two Brighter Path Sri Lanka transition homes in Colombo which are fully funded by Brighter Path. In March 2024 the boys' transition home moved to new, bigger premises and can accommodate up to nine care leavers. The girls' home, which opened in 2023, has capacity for six girls. Care leavers come to these homes from orphanages and have the opportunity to attend vocational training or university. Care leavers benefit from a mentoring programme in which they learn essential life skills and are supported to stay in training or work whilst also learning to manage money and to save for when they leave the programme. We fund the three Brighter Path Sri Lanka staff who work with the care leavers in the transition homes. As well as running the mentoring programmes these staff work closely with future employers to help care leavers into well-paid, secure employment. We have also continued to fund weekly English classes which are compulsory for those living in the transition homes because improving English is a good way to increase employment prospects. Recent graduates from the transition homes include an A/C engineer, an IT specialist, nurses and bakers. In the transition homes in this reporting period we had nurses, bakers, motor mechanics, hairdressers, and hotel and hospitality students, and two university students including one girl who is being supported to study law at the University of Colombo.





Vishaka Training Centre

We have continued our support for the Vishaka Training Centre in Bandarawella. This is home to up to 40 young girls, most of whom have had children and often as a result of sexual abuse in remote communities which makes it impossible for them to return home. In the last reporting period we began to provide course materials and to fund the salary of a sewing and dressmaking teacher.

Suraksha Boys Remand Home and Certified School

Following an approach from Commissioner Nadeesha Chaturangani of the Uva Province Department of Probation we agreed to fund a masonry teacher, and materials, for boys in this remand home/ certified school. The boys in this institution are all either awaiting criminal trials or have been sentenced to detention. Their prospects are limited and we hope that by helping them to acquire practical skills they will be in a better position to provide for themselves as adults. Caroline and John visited the home to see the masonry workshop and we made a further donation of sports equipment.

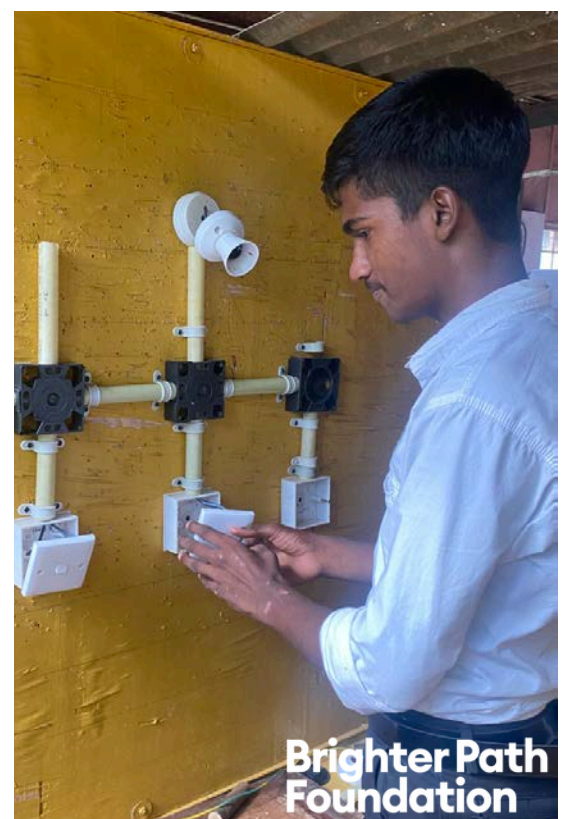


Support for care leavers in the community

Although our primary focus remains supporting care leavers in education through the Colombo transition homes we continue to support some individual care leavers in their own communities. A total of four care leavers in the North Central and Uva Provinces have been supported financially in this period whilst living at home. For example we are funding a boy in Bandarawela who was placed in a children's home because his family did not have the financial resources to support him. He has now returned to live with his grandfather but without our support would not be able to attend the local state Vocational State Training Authority (VTA) where he is training to become an electrician. In addition to his course fees we are funding his course materials, uniform, travel and paying him a small amount towards his daily living expenses. For him, and the others to whom we are providing support, this makes all the difference and is what enables him to obtain a qualification which would otherwise have been beyond his financial means.

We have provided funds for the construction of a ramp for a disabled care leaver who is a wheelchair user so that he is able to live independently.

We continue to provide monthly grants to care leavers, both in the transition homes and those we support in the community, to enable them to continue in training and education.



Nursing care

A young baby being cared for in a children's home needed life-saving heart surgery. The Provincial Children's Commissioner approached Brighter Path to explain that a leading surgeon at the Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children in Colombo was willing to perform the operation if funding was in place for a specialist nurse to care for the child afterwards. In November 2024 Brighter Path started providing the necessary funding for 24 hour care from a specialist nurse.



Support for baby homes and teenage mothers and disabled homes

We have continued to support a number of residential homes. The Sujatha Sewana centre in Bandarawela provides accommodation for young babies up to the age of two who are in state care. It also looks after teenage mothers who are then permitted to stay with their babies for up to six months after birth. We had previously provided a grant for soft play flooring and in this reporting period we were asked to fund curtain material for the centre. This is a mountainous area of Sri Lanka and at night it can be cold and draughty. The new curtains which we funded make a huge difference to the comfort of the babies, young mothers and staff at Sujatha.



We have provided support to a number of homes for the disabled. We provided Methsewa with donations of milk formula and dried food and cleaning products. We paid for the renovation of 40 iron bed frames. We also funded the centre's water and electricity for six months.



At the Polonaruwa Parakum Disabled Child Development Centre the sanitary facilities were in very poor condition but there was no funding available for the renovations as a result of which all the residents were sharing a single shower and only two toilet. We funded the renovation of two washrooms and the centre now has proper washing and toilet facilities for its children.



At the Marc Sri Saranaseva Nivanha Disabled Child Centre in Kalutara we funded the Christmas party (food, drink and entertainment) for this organisation's three homes and over 100 children.



At the Minihiri Girls & Women's Protection Centre in Higurakgoda, Polonnaruwa we provided dried foods and cleaning materials.

Food distribution / Family Strengthening

As part of our family strengthening' programme we returned to the Dimbulagala area in the North Central Province where we distributed food, dry rations and other essential supplies to vulnerable families. These are primarily single grandmothers caring for grandchildren who would otherwise be taken into state care. We are also supporting a number of single parents in great need, often managing chronic illnesses themselves (typically kidney disease) or caring for children with significant disabilities. By providing this ongoing support we are helping keep families together and reducing the risk of children ending up in orphanages. A key feature of our work is regularly visiting every single family in their own home. Most do not have access to transport or childcare and live in remote areas. Visiting enables our staff to assess and assist every family individually and to build long term relationships.



Conclusion

In our sixth year we have moved to a different level in terms both of our fundraising efforts and the level of support we are able to provide to children in need and care leavers in Sri Lanka. Our assistance remains targeted but there is no doubt that for those we are able to help we make a considerable difference. In particular those young people we have helped with accommodation and training over this reporting period have transformed their own life chances. I believe that we are beginning to make a real difference to some of those for whom there is no alternative to institutional care within the realities of the Sri Lankan system, in particular with our support for the Vishaka Training Centre and the Suraksha Boys Home. We are particularly proud of our family strengthening programme and its efforts to keep families together and children out of institutional care in the first place and our emergency food aid programme has been an important part of that work.

Caroline de Bono, Oxford, January 2026





Brighter Path
Financial Report for Year Ending 30th April 2025

	Total 2025	Total 2024
Incoming resources		
Donations	53,023.58	17,825
Other income	-	22.36
Gift Aid ¹	-	4,861.32
Bank Interest	25.45	24.13
Resources Expended		
Bank/ fundraising charges	689.88	559.83
Grants	48,341.76	27,160.28
Net resources		
Total incoming/ outgoing	4,017.39	-4,987.30
Total funds carried forward	16,885.96	12,844.07

The notes on pages 2 to 3 form part of this financial report

¹ A request to HMRC for Gift Aid was not submitted in the relevant period, but a claim at a later date will include Gift Aid on donations made in this period

Balance sheet as at 30th April 2025

	2025	2024
Cash in CAF Bank	16,858.23	12,728.45
Paypal balance	28.23	115.62
Stripe balance	-0.50	0
Total assets	16,885.96	12,844.07

Notes to Financial Report

Brighter Path is a CIO which previously had an income of less than £25,000 and therefore our accounts used only to require approval from trustees and were not subject to independent examination. The accounts had to show receipts and payments with a statement of assets and liabilities.

Now that our income has increased above the £25,000 threshold we are required to submit our accounts for independent examination.

Brighter Path remains in good financial health with a steady flow of donations, large and small, from very generous donors who believe in what we are doing. We are grateful for their support.

Our income from donations for the year to 30.4.25 increased significantly to £53,023.58. This compares to £22,728.76 in 2024 and £22,778.25 in 2025. The reason for the increase is an increase in the amount of annual giving from some donors, the continued generosity of existing donors and a very significant one off grant of £15,000 from a single donor in March 2025 for which we are most grateful.

Our expenditure for 12 months to 30.4.25 was £48,341.76 which was a significant increase on the £27,720.11 for the previous 12 months. The increased expenditure reflected the increase in our donations.

Website: two trustees continue to donate the value of hosting the website and plug-ins to allow the website to operate².

Trustee remuneration: No remuneration was paid or was payable for the year directly or indirectly out of the funds of the charity to any trustee. Attention is drawn to the heading 'conflicts of interest' below.

Conflicts of interest: Caroline and John de Bono who are trustees of Brighter Path are also directors of Brighter Path (Sri Lanka) a not for profit company in Sri Lanka which provides support for care leavers and those in care in Sri Lanka. In accordance with the Charity Commission's guidance on conflicts of interest neither trustee voted on any grants to Brighter Path in Sri Lanka.

² Hosting cost £50.99 per month

Brighter Path

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Brighter Path

Year ended 30 April 2025

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Brighter Path ('the charity') for the year ended 30 April 2025

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Richard Williams

RL Williams

ACMA Retired

Independent Examiner

9 Hillside
Hardwick Rd
Whitchurch on Thames
Oxfordshire
RG8 7HL
6th January 2026

BRIGHTER PATH

England & Wales - Charity number 1183507

Accounts



Annual Report 2023-2024

Brighter Path was registered as a charity in England and Wales in May 2019 and this is our fifth annual report, covering the period 1 May 2023 to 30 April 2024. In the past 12 months we have continued making grants to individual care leavers, we have provided emergency food aid, we have supported organisations on the ground in Sri Lanka which work with care leavers and have continued to fund a boys' and girls' transition home for care leavers in Colombo.

Trustees

The trustees remain Caroline de Bono, John de Bono, Patrick Marshall, Henrietta Woolf and Alice Pilcher.

Banking

In accordance with our banking policy Brighter Path banking remains with CAF Bank who specialise in supporting the charitable sector. Our bank and platform fees (Stripe/ Paypal) were £559.83.

Funds received

In the period of 12 months to 30 April 2024 we received cash donations of £17,825 and £22.36 from Amazon Smile. We claimed Gift Aid of £4,861.32.

Website

Our website and its running costs remain entirely funded by private donation from the trustees.

Funds distribution

We made charitable grants of £27,160.28 which was a significant increase on the previous year (£20,101.45). At all times we have followed our own banking policy and have been aware of the importance of complying with best practice to avoid money laundering.

Conflict of interest

Two trustees (Caroline and John de Bono) are directors of Brighter Path (Sri Lanka) a not for profit company registered in Sri Lanka which provides support to children in care and to care leavers. Where any grants were made to Brighter Path (Sri Lanka) a potential conflict of interest was declared, these grants were approved by the other trustees and John and Caroline did not vote.

Working with other organisations

Brighter Path is keen to work with any reputable organisation in Sri Lanka which offers support to care leavers or, following the amendment to our change of purpose, with children in care. With the exception of SOS Villages, which provides support to care leavers who have been cared for as children in orphanages run by SOS, Generation Never Give Up, Emerge (which supports girls who have been sexually abused) and Brighter Path (Sri Lanka) we are aware of no other organisations focussing on supporting care leavers.

We are also aware of the importance of ensuring that our donations are spent on their intended purpose and of the risk that comes from working with organisations that we don't know either of the funds being spent ineffectually or of those funds being diverted away from our intended purpose. These factors combine to make it more common for us to work with Brighter Path Sri Lanka, but we remain open and committed to assisting other organisations working with children in care or care leavers where appropriate.

Sri Lanka is a national jurisdiction which operates to high child protection standards and has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. See the website of the Department of Probation and Child Services, http://www.probation.gov.lk/index_e.php

Ethical image policy

Images play an important role in helping us to raise awareness of the challenges faced by young people in care and care leavers. However the gathering and use of images can also cause harm or offence if they are intrusive, manipulative or used inappropriately. Our images must show a true and accurate account of the ways in which people live. We have introduced an ethical image policy to manage and guide our use of photos in fundraising which is in line with leading NGOs including Unicef and Save the Children.

Safeguarding

We have a safeguarding policy and a code of conduct for Brighter Path staff and volunteers working in Sri Lanka. Brighter Path is committed to working in accordance with the laws of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and to working with the Department of Probation and Child Care Services. Brighter Path is committed to a practice which protects children and young people from harm. The best interests of the child or young person and are paramount and are the primary consideration in our decision-making. Brighter Path accepts and recognises our responsibility to develop awareness of issues relating to child protection.

Activity

Financial support for care leavers

In 2023-24 we supported a total of 15 care leavers, with grants each month to about 8-10 care leavers at any one time. The financial support includes money for food, transport, course fees and materials, and personal hygiene needs. Without this financial support care leavers would typically go into low paid work and not have access to training.

Transition homes

We have continued to pay for the running of two transition homes in Colombo. In March 2024 the boys' transition home moved to new, bigger premises and can now accommodate nine care leavers. The girls' home which opened in 2023 has capacity for six girls. Care leavers come to these homes from orphanages and have the opportunity to attend vocational training or university. Care leavers benefit from a mentoring programme in which they learn essential life skills and are supported to stay in training or work whilst also learning to manage money and to save for when they leave the programme. Brighter Path staff work closely with future employers to help care leavers into well-paid, secure employment. Recent graduates from the transition homes include a graphic designer, a nursery school teacher, nurses and bakers.

We also funded annual outings for the boys and girls. These young people rarely have an opportunity to celebrate. We funded a day out at Galle Face, Colombo for the girls with kite flying and pizza. For the boys they travelled for the day to Galle, went swimming in the sea and had a celebratory meal before visiting Galle Fort. Both occasions which might be routine for some young people were memorable events for our care leavers.



1. The Boys' new transition home



2. and 3. Boys trip to Galle and Unnawatuna



4. Girls' trip to Galle Face

English classes

We have started providing English lessons to the care leavers in the transition homes. Weekly classes from a good teacher make a huge difference to these young people's language ability and good spoken English is a valuable skill in the employment market.

Vikasha Training Centre

We have begun to support the Vikasha Training Centre in Bandaarewella. The Training Centre is a home for young girls in the care system who have been unable to remain in mainstream education. They are taught how to sew and make clothes, giving them essential skills which they are able to use to obtain employment. Brighter Path's help with the Training Centre follows a direct approach from Commissioner Nadeesha Chathurangani of the Uva Province Department of Probation who has overall responsibility for the Training Centre and its residents. We supply course materials and pay the salary of a teacher for up to 40 girls.



The Vishaka Training Centre sewing school which Brighter Path is supporting. Girls in the care system who can't attend mainstream school study vocational skills here.

Presidential Commission

Commissioner Chaturangani travelled to Colombo to visit the Brighter Path transition homes. After her visit she commented, "I like the concept and good practices of Brighter Path. I am really impressed by the facilities and the great opportunities that you provide for institutionalised children at 18. I love the focus on the wellbeing of care leavers and the help given so that they may become productive members of society."



Mrs Chaturangi, Commissioner for the Uva Province, visiting the Boys' and Girls' Transition Homes in Colombo

Following her visit Mrs Chaturangani reported back to the President of Sri Lanka, Ranil Wickremasinghe. The President had recently established a "Committee to make recommendations for the protection, care and well-being of children subject to various forms of violence in Sri Lanka".

Brighter Path was asked to submit a report to the Committee explaining the Brighter Path vision and our model for care leavers and children in care. At a subsequent meeting and evidence session there was apparently quite a buzz and real interest in the Brighter Path programme which was presented as an example of best practice.

The 5th Biennial Conference on Alternative Care in Asia

In September 2023 we funded three young care leavers from Sri Lanka to fly to Kathmandu. They were sponsored by Brighter Path to attend the 5th Biennial Conference on Alternative Care for Children in Asia. This is an important event which I had attended previously in India and which rotates between countries.

The focus is very much on hearing the voice of young care leavers, learning from their experiences and seeking to improve best practice internationally. For our delegates it was not only an opportunity to travel abroad for the first time but to meet other care leavers

from different countries and share their experiences. We were very proud that two of our delegates made presentations to the Conference.

These care leavers all reported back that their own horizons had been broadened by the experience and the confidence and skills they will have learned from attending this international conference will benefit each of them individually as well as the communities from which they come.

Topics covered included the policy gaps so frequently encountered by care leavers: in financial security, housing, education, access to healthcare and in employment.



1.The three care leavers at the Biennial Conference.



2.and 3. Dulanjali at her graduation see (below)

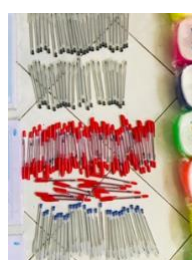


Graduation success

Brighter Path was delighted to celebrate the graduation of a second university student to whom we have been providing financial support. Dulanjani is a wheelchair user who uses her feet to type and write. Brighter Path supported her with funding for the daily journey between her accommodation and the university campus. She studied in the prestigious 'English Medium' cohort and graduated in October 2023 with a degree in International Relations.

Family strengthening/ school supplies

We undertook a project to fund a distribution of school supplies in conjunction with the Uva Province Department of Probation. This is an important part of our work to support 'family strengthening'. There are many families who are struggling economically and do not have enough money to pay for the most basic of school supplies. By providing essential resources to these families we can help keep the children with their families and also to access education.



The stationery that was donated

Underwear donation

We donated 585 pairs of underpants to boys and girls in government children's homes in the Bandarawella area. Although these homes receive some state funding they rely heavily on private donations. There is a real shortage of underwear for children but most people are too embarrassed to talk about the issue. Some boys manage with a single pair of underpants but others do not have any at all. Our donation ensures that every child in these homes will have at least two pairs of pants.



1. The underwear for boys and girls aged 2 to 18.

3. Caroline handing over the underwear donation to the Uva Province Commissioner

Support for Children's Homes

We made a donation to the Meth Sewa home for disabled children in Wellawaya. Our funding was a significant contribution to the home's water and electricity bills and we provided milk formula and nappies.

In February 2024 we donated baby essentials including formula and nappies to the Sujatha Sewana babies home in Bandarawella. This facility is run by the State and looks after newborn babies and very young children who have either been given up at birth, abandoned or who cannot be looked after by their parents. The babies are well cared for but there is a chronic shortage of supplies.



1. The newborn baby room at Sujatha Sewa Baby Home

2. Young children at the Meth Sewa home.

3. Some of the donations

1st October 2023 was the United Nations National Children's Day. This is always a big day in Sri Lanka, particularly for children in care. The motto of the 2023 event was "For every child, every right". We sponsored T-shirts for all children in the care of Uva Province's probation department. A total of 564 children took part, aged from four to 18 and all wore the same colourful t-shirt. On this special day many children who are in different children's homes see siblings from other homes for the only time in the year.



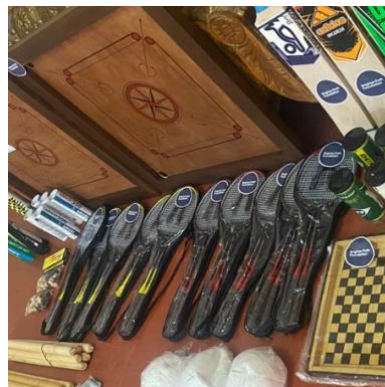
Boys and girls enjoying Children's Day wearing the T-shirts Brighter Path sponsored

Boys' detention centre

We made a donation of much needed sports equipment and games to a boys 'certified home' in the Kappetipola area. This home is a borstal or youth detention centre for 'young offenders'. The 40 or so boys who live here, aged 11-18 are living in a strict environment where there is little time or opportunity for recreation. They learn vocational skills and work tending an area of land for fruit and vegetables but did not have any sports equipment at all. We donated cricket, volleyball, football and badminton which was excitedly received by both the boys and the provincial probation department who oversee the home.



The boys' new sports equipment



Conclusion

In our fifth year we have continued to flourish. Our 'core business' remains the transition homes and the financial support to care leavers. Those who we are able to help can see their life opportunities transformed by our investment in their futures and we are proud of what they achieve. At the same time we have managed to provide a wide range of support to children's homes, other organisations and individuals throughout the country in line with our charitable purpose. Once again I express my gratitude to my fellow trustees for their time and support, financial and otherwise, and to all our donors. We could not do what we do without you.

Caroline de Bono
Oxford
February 2025



Brighter Path
Financial Report for Year Ending 30th April 2024

	Total 2024	Total 2023
Incoming resources		
Donations	17,825	22,748.02
Other income	22.36	30.23
Gift Aid	4,861.32	-
Bank Interest	24.13	11.98
Resources Expended		
Bank/ fundraising charges	559.83	429.33
Grants	27,160.28	20,101.45
Net resources		
Total incoming/ outgoing	-4,987.30	2,374.45
Total funds carried forward	12,844.07	17,831.37

The notes on pages 2 to 3 form part of this financial report

Balance sheet as at 30th April 2024

	2024	2023
Cash in CAF Bank	12,728.45	16,631.73
Paypal balance	115.62	1,199.64
Total assets	12,844.07	17,831.37

Notes to Financial Report

Brighter Path is a CIO with annual income of less than £25,000 and therefore the accounts require approval from trustees but are not subject to independent examination. The accounts must show receipts and payments with a statement of assets and liabilities.

Brighter Path remains in good financial health with a steady flow of donations, large and small, from very generous donors who believe in what we are doing. We are grateful for their support.

Our income from donations for the year to 30.4.24 was £22,728.76. This was remarkably similar to that in the period of 12 months to April 2023 (£22,778.25) and much more than in 2022 (£12,521.43).

Our expenditure for 12 months to 30.4.24 was £27,720.11 of which grants totalled £27,160.28 i.e. 98%. The balance of £559.83 (2%) was bank charges and Paypal/ Stripe fees (on donations).

We have increased our expenditure from £20,101.45 in 2023 and £6,924.77 in 2022.

We were able to spend more without having increased our income because we had money in the bank from our first year of operations. We received a one off donation of £4,724.44 a fortnight after the end of the accounting period, if that had arrived two weeks earlier our income for the year would have been £27,453 against expenditure of £27,593. This shows that we are living within our means.

The picture of who is donating and how is changing slightly. At the beginning, presumably when people first heard about us, we had more donors but they tended to give less. We now have a smaller pool of donors but they are giving more.

We continue to support the boys' and girls' transition homes in Colombo. The cost of the girls' home is about £4,000 p.a. and the (larger) boys' home about £6,000 p.a. In addition we are supporting at any one time about 16 care leavers with monthly grants.

Gift aid: we reclaimed Gift Aid of £4,861.32

Other sources: we received £22.36 from Amazon Smile

Website: two trustees continue to donate the value of hosting the website and plug-ins to allow the website to operate¹.

Trustee remuneration: No remuneration was paid or was payable for the year directly or indirectly out of the funds of the charity to any trustee. Attention is drawn to the heading 'conflicts of interest' below.

¹ Hosting cost £50.99 per month

Conflicts of interest: Caroline and John de Bono who are trustees of Brighter Path are also directors of Brighter Path (Sri Lanka) a not for profit company in Sri Lanka which provides support for care leavers and those in care in Sri Lanka. In accordance with the Charity Commission's guidance on conflicts of interest neither trustee voted on any grants to Brighter Path in Sri Lanka.

BRIGHTER PATH

England & Wales - Charity number 1183507

Accounts



Annual Report 2022-2023

Brighter Path was registered as a charity in England and Wales in May 2019 and this is our fourth annual report, covering the period 1 May 2022 to 30 April 2023. In the past 12 months we have continued making grants to individual care leavers, we have provided emergency food aid to care leavers facing starvation in the worst of a period of severe economic crisis, we have supported organisations on the ground in Sri Lanka which work with care leavers and have started funding a boys' and girls' home for care leavers in Colombo. We have amended our charitable purpose to enable us to provide support to children in care as well those who have left care.

Trustees

The trustees remain Caroline de Bono, John de Bono, Patrick Marshall, Henrietta Woolf and Alice Pilcher.

Banking

Brighter Path banking remains with CAF Bank who specialise in supporting the charitable sector. Our bank and platform fees (Stripe/ Paypal) were £429.33.

Funds received

In the period of 12 months to 30 April 2023 we received cash donations of £22,748.02 and £30.23 from Amazon Smile. This was a significant increase from the previous year (£12,521.43).

Website

Our website and its running costs remain entirely funded by private donation from the trustees.

Funds distribution

We made charitable grants of £20,101.45 which was a significant increase on the previous year (£6,924.77). At the start of the period we were using Xoom (part of Paypal) to distribute funds to individuals but following a review of our procedures now only make transfers through CAF Bank. At all times we have followed our own banking policy and have been aware of the importance of complying with best practice to avoid money laundering.

Conflict of interest

Two trustees (Caroline and John de Bono) are directors of Brighter Path (Sri Lanka) a not for profit company registered in Sri Lanka which provides support to children in care and to care leavers. Where any grants were made to Brighter Path (Sri Lanka) a potential conflict of interest was declared, these grants were approved by the other trustees and John and Caroline did not vote.

Working with other organisations

Brighter Path is keen to work with any reputable organisation in Sri Lanka which offers support to care leavers or, following the amendment to our change of purpose, with children in care. With the exception of SOS Villages, which provides support to care leavers who have been cared for as children in orphanages run by SOS, Generation Never Give Up, Emerge (which supports girls who have been sexually abused) and Brighter Path (Sri Lanka) we are aware of no other organisations focussing on supporting care leavers.

We are also aware of the importance of ensuring that our donations are spent on their intended purpose and of the risk that comes from working with organisations that we don't know either of the funds being spent ineffectually or of those funds being diverted away from our intended purpose. These factors combine to make it more common for us to work with Brighter Path Sri Lanka, but we remain open and committed to assisting other organisations working with children in care or care leavers where appropriate.

We have a Child and Young Person Code of Conduct for Brighter Staff and Volunteers working in Sri Lanka. We also have a safeguarding policy.

Sri Lanka is a national jurisdiction which operates to high child protection standards and has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. See the website of the Department of Probation and Child Services, http://www.probation.gov.lk/index_e.php

Change of charitable purposes

In November 2022 the trustees approved, with the permission of the Charity Commission, a change to our charitable purpose. We are a charity which focusses on supporting those leaving care rather than a charity for the relief of poverty in the general population. However we increasingly came to realise from work on the ground that the situation in respect of care leavers is quite nuanced. Whilst in Colombo and other big cities there are formal orphanages (most run as businesses) the reality for many children 'in care' is that they are brought up by neighbours, friends or relatives (aunts, cousins etc) and also that in the poorer villages in particular the precise line between family and friends is not always clear.

We also increasingly came to realise that waiting until a child has left care to help them can leave the child in a much worse position, and us with much more work to do, than if we intervene early. With this in mind we have made two changes.

The first is to recognise that a 'care leaver' may have been brought up by wider family/friends rather than having lived in an orphanage.

The second permits us to provide assistance before a child has left care, so for example we might now make a grant to provide food to a family who are destitute but have taken in the child of a friend or relative. Second, there might be a child in a children's home who needs a wheelchair or go on a course but the children's home cannot provide it. Under our previous constitution we were unable to provide such assistance because she had not yet left care.

Our revised charitable purpose is therefore:

To advance in life and relieve the needs of young people in Sri Lanka, who by reason of natural disaster, poverty, destitution, bereavement, the ill health of others, their own ill health or for any reason are living in or have lived in residential care or under the care of others who are not their parents, by providing support and monetary grants with a view to ensuring these people are equipped with the necessary skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.

Ethical image policy

Images play an important role in helping us to raise awareness of the challenges faced by young people in care and care leavers. However the gathering and use of images can also cause harm or offence if they are intrusive, manipulative or used inappropriately. Our images must show a true and accurate account of the ways in which people live. We have introduced an ethical image policy to manage and guide our use of photos in fundraising which is in line with leading NGOs including Unicef and Save the Children.

Activity

Whereas the period covered by our previous report (2021-22) will be remembered for the impact of Covid and lockdowns in Sri Lanka the period of this report was dominated by economic crisis.

Economic crisis and emergency food distribution

In May/ June 2022 the economic situation was deteriorating almost by the hour – <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/06/16/asia/sri-lanka-fuel-crisis-five-days-stock-intl-hnk/index.html>

Caroline visited Sri Lanka in May 2022 and saw long queues for fuel, there were extensive power cuts and even normally well off people were left cooking food on wood stoves in their gardens. As she left the country demonstrators were on the street and there was a real threat of civil unrest. The situation continued to deteriorate after she left.

The poor economic situation was compounded by Covid, political mismanagement, the Easter bombings in 2019 which decimated tourism and a disastrous plan to switch overnight to organic farming which meant that Sri Lanka is for the first time dependent on rice imports.

We made a grant of £2,500 to Brighter Path Sri Lanka for emergency food aid. A plan was made with a retired local headmaster in Anuradhapura District is Northern Central District of Sri Lanka. This is a remote and poor area of Sri Lanka, about 200km (4 hours' drive) north

of Colombo. With his help Brighter Path (SL) identified a list of 70 families in desperate need. All of these families were care leavers – either one or both parents were in care, or an individual who has been in care, or children who have been in care and have returned to live with family or friends. 100% of the funds were spent either on supplies or the cost of transportation. We were able to provide rice, red dhal, wheat flour, chickpeas, tea, chilli, dried fish, onion, soya, toothpaste/ soap/ sanitary products, and school stationary for children aged 11+ (during the crisis there were such significant shortages that children had to bring their own paper to school and the children we were able to help would not otherwise have had anything to write on).

In October 2022 we made a further grant to Brighter Path Sri Lanka of £1,500 as a contribution to its second food distribution, this time in Dimbulagala and Welikanda, a remote area about six hours' drive northeast of Colombo. Over the course of four days food was distributed to a total of 75 families in conjunction with the help of local community leaders and the Divisional Secretariat. This is an area which has suffered from years of poor agricultural practices and the persistent misuse of fertiliser has left many adults with chronic kidney disease and children disabled by congenital injury.



Financial support for individual care leavers

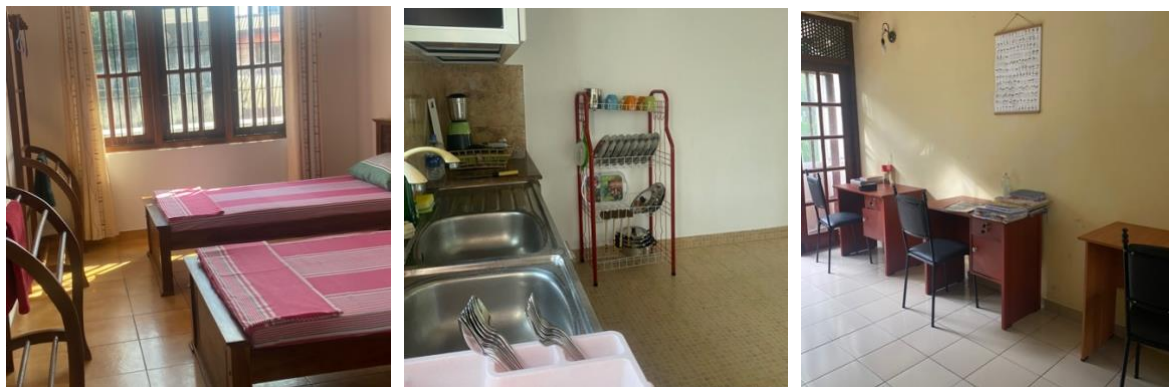
During the year we were funding at various times between 5 and 10 care leavers at any one time. These were boys and girls who had left orphanages and who relied on our support to access training courses. Our funding helped with training course fees, accommodation and living expenses without which these care leavers would not have been able to stay in training. By accessing training and obtaining qualifications they are able to access higher paid work which, without family support, they would not otherwise be able to do.

Bicycles

We have provided funding for three bicycles to be used by care leavers in Colombo to get to work or training, together with locks and helmets. In the financial crisis and with petrol shortages there were serious interruptions to public transport and bicycles were hard to come by. The bikes were soon in regular use and this meant that the care leavers we were supporting were able to remain in work where otherwise this would not have been possible because of the transport difficulties.

Transition homes

In January 2023 Brighter Path took on the funding of two transition homes in Colombo run by Brighter Path Sri Lanka. This is one of the most effective ways we are able to help individual care leavers improve their life chances. Brighter Path Sri Lanka has run a boys' transition home in Colombo since October 2018. Up to 10 boys live in good quality, shared accommodation whilst studying, training or working. They sign up to a mentorship programme and are supported whilst they adapt to life away from the institutional care in which they have grown up. Brighter Path Sri Lanka was looking to offer the same opportunity to girls and opened its first girls' home in Colombo in February 2023.



Generation Never Give Up

We continued to support Generation Never Give Up with funding for its resource centre, which operated in premises provided by SOS Villages. GNG is an organisation founded and run by care leavers that campaigns on care leavers issues. GNG wanted a resource centre to provide support, training and employment opportunities to care leavers and also to create a voluntary database of care leavers so that they would have better access to work and other opportunities. We had made an initial grant in September 2021 with a commitment of up to 3 years to fund staff, computers and office equipment and provided a second six months' funding in April 2022. The amount of the April 2022 grant was 498,000 LKR (approx. £1,857). In September 2022 we made a final grant to Generation Never Give Up of 240,000 LKR. The trustees decided that in the light of the prevailing economic conditions we should not continue to fund GNG beyond that because our funds could have a bigger impact on care leavers if we distributed funds directly to those in need or supporting individual care leavers with training and education.

Support for care leavers at university

In the period covered by this report we continued to support a severely disabled care leaver who is a wheelchair user. During the pandemic he had returned to live in the children's home where he had grown up but we funded more suitable accommodation, closer to the university as well as helping with his transport and funding a computer. This care leaver has now completed his degree and has obtained a graduate job. Our support made a significant contribution to his being able to complete his university studies, obtain his degree and secure an independent future.

We also started funding a second university student who is also a wheelchair user. She was also living in the orphanage where she grew up and remained there because they were able

to provide for her care needs but she was unable to continue her studies at Colombo University without transport. We made a grant to fund her transport to and from the university, allowing her to continue her degree.



Conclusion

Our fourth year demonstrated a significant step up both in our income and expenditure. We have expanded our range of activities whilst keeping our focus firmly on making the biggest difference we can to individual care leavers and now, children in care. We are able to look to the future with confidence with future as we continue to evolve, learning from experience on the ground. I am very grateful to my fellow trustees for their time and support, financial and otherwise, and to all our donors. We could not do what we do without you.

Caroline de Bono
Oxford
February 2024

Brighter Path
Financial Report for Year Ending 30th April 2023

	Total 2023	Total 2022
Incoming resources		
Donations	£22,748.02	£12,521.43
Other income	£30.23	£31.21
Gift Aid	-	£2,885.15
Bank Interest	£11.98	-
Resources Expended		
Bank/ fundraising charges	£429.33	£537.75
Grants	£20,101.45	£6,924.77
Net resources		
Total incoming/ outgoing	£2,374.45	£7,975.27
Total funds carried forward	£17,831.37	£15,456.92

The notes on pages 2 to 3 form part of this financial report

Balance sheet as at 30th April 2023

	2023	2022
Cash in CAF Bank	£16,631.73	£10,111.57
Paypal balance	£1,199.64	£5,345.35
Total assets	£17,831.37	£15,456.92

Notes to Financial Report

1. Brighter Path is a CIO with annual income of less than £25,000 and therefore the accounts require approval from trustees but are not subject to independent examination. The accounts must show receipts and payments with a statement of assets and liabilities.
2. Donations received: £22,748.02.
3. Amazon Smile: we received £30.23.
4. Gift aid: whilst many of our donations are eligible for Gift Aid we did not submit an application for repayment of tax in this reporting period, but have not lost the ability to do so at a later date.
5. Website: at trustee continues to donate the value of hosting the website and plug-ins to allow the website to operate¹
6. Charitable grants: £20,101.45
7. Governance: bank and platform payment fees were £429.33.
8. Trustee remuneration: No remuneration was paid or was payable for the year directly or indirectly out of the funds of the charity to any trustee. Attention is drawn to the heading 'conflicts of interest' below.
9. Conflicts of interest: Caroline and John de Bono who are trustees of Brighter Path are also directors of Brighter Path (Sri Lanka) a not for profit company in Sri Lanka which provides support for care leavers and those in care in Sri Lanka. In accordance with the Charity Commission's guidance on conflicts of interest neither trustee voted on any grants to Brighter Path in Sri Lanka.

¹ Hosting costs £50.99 per month

Stripe:

Opening balance: -£0.12

Closing balance: £0

Received (before fees): £5,466

Fees £122.80

Total payout: £5,343.08

Paypal

Opening balance: £5,345.35

Closing balance: £1,199.64

Fees: £87.41

Payments received: £2,135.

Payments made: £6,193.30

Transfers to paypal account: £500?? (check, but I think this was when we couldn't find a way to make international payments, there is a note to explain).

CAF

Opening balance: £10,111.57

Closing balance; £16,631.73

Payments made from CAF: £14,162.15

Payments received: £15,189.23

BRIGHTER PATH

England & Wales - Charity number 1183507

Accounts



Annual Report 2021-2022

Brighter Path was registered as a charity in England and Wales in May 2019 and this is our third annual report, covering the period 1 May 2021 to 30 April 2022. In the past 12 months we have continued making grants to individual care leavers on the ground in Sri Lanka and we have begun making grants to organisations in Sri Lanka which support care leavers.

Our activities were severely restricted by the effects of the Covid pandemic in Sri Lanka which affected the country particularly in the months from May 2021. With the country in lockdown until September / October and rapidly increasing inflation the support that we provided to individuals was very important and made a significant difference to them.

Trustees

The trustees of Brighter Path remain Caroline de Bono, John de Bono, Patrick Marshall, Henrietta Woolf and Alice Pilcher.

Banking

Brighter Path banking remains with CAF Bank who specialise in supporting the charitable.

Funds received

In the period of 12 months to 30 April 2022 we have received cash donations £12,521.43.

Other donations

Our website and its running costs remain entirely funded by private donation from the trustees.

Funds distributed

In the period of 12 months to 30 April 2022 we have distributed a total of £6,924.77.

Activity

May/ June 2021

Sri Lanka went into full lockdown so many care leavers were not able to go to work or attend their vocational training courses. Many people were required to remain indoors, living in cramped and unhygienic conditions. Food was rationed.



We were asked by Generation Never Give Up (see below) to provide emergency dry food packs to care leavers who were going hungry as they had no source of income. Many care leavers are on day wages and with no work during lockdown they were not earning any money. The food packs included rice, lentils, coconut, onions, milk powder, sugar, flour, chillies, oil, tea. Many of the care leavers who received these rations had babies or young children. The funding provided was equivalent to £275.

July 2021

We received an application from C, a student at Colombo University, for monthly help of 6,000 LKR for help cover transport costs and a contribution towards his food expenses. His need for help was particularly acute because of rampant inflation. Our grant enabled him to remain at university and he has since graduated.

August/ September 2021

We received an application from Generation Never Give Up to fund a new resource centre for care leavers. GNG is an organisation founded and run by care leavers that campaigns on care leavers issues. GNG had been offered office space by SOS Villages, a long-standing care organisation, but funding was required for staff and office equipment. GNG wanted a resource centre to provide support, training and employment opportunities to care leavers and also to create a voluntary database of care leavers so that they would have better access to work and other opportunities.



DONOR VISITS

Ms. Caroline De Bono, Chairperson of Brighter Path Foundation, visited SOS Children's Village on the 30th of November 2021. She met with a few members of GNGN Executive committee members and the newly recruited Program Coordinator



Following a lengthy application process including several zoom interviews BP agreed to fund a full time staff member and office equipment, including a computer, which enabled GNG to get their project off the ground. The initial grant was for 570,000 LKR.

(GNG published this photo in their annual report of Caroline visiting them to discuss funding)

October to December 2021

Whilst many courses were not operating because of the lockdown we were approached by two care leavers in their early thirties who were seeking funding for professional development courses which they could not otherwise afford. Both were care leavers who had missed the opportunity for further education when they left school because of the lack of family support and the need to obtain work. A further grant was made to a care leaver to purchase a laptop which significantly increased his employment opportunities.



(D 's new laptop)

January/ February 2022

We provided funding for a disabled care leaver to restart art therapy. He had suffered significant childhood abuse and had made a successful start to therapy which was interrupted by the pandemic. Therapy has been of significant benefit and has led to such an

improvement in this young man's condition that we have since been able to find him employment.



(M's employment prospects improved dramatically after we helped him move to Colombo)

We also provided funding for a care leaver who had been living in poor accommodation outside Colombo. As a result of this funding which covers basic living expenses the care leaver has been able to take up better paid employment in Colombo with professional training.

In March 2022 we paid a second tranche of funding to GNG for its resource centre of 498,000LKR. This gave GNG continued funding for their programme coordinator and office expenses as well as the option of recruiting an assistant.

March/ April 2022

In March 2022 inflation was running at 19% and by April 2022 this had increased to 30% (inflation continued to increase in May 2022). Care leavers were feeling the effects of the economic crisis in Sri Lanka because they do not have family networks to fall back on in times of difficulty. We began supporting 8 care leavers with food and living expenses



In addition we started funding a care leaver who at 18 would otherwise have been forced to leave school before completing his A-Level studies. This bright student has no other means of support and we are providing funds for accommodation, food, school expenses and transport. As a result of this support he has been able to stay at school and complete his A-Levels. This has significantly increased his future opportunities.

(H is still studying for his A-Levels)

Conclusion

The economic and political instability in Sri Lanka continue to present challenges and in the next 12 months we look forward to expanding our support to those most in need, working directly and through partners on the ground. We will continue our fundraising efforts. In the meantime I am very grateful to the trustees for their hard work and unstinting support and to our very generous donors without whom we would not be able to operate at all.

Caroline de Bono

Oxford March 2023

Brighter Path

Financial Report for Year Ending 30th April 2022

	Total 2022	Total 2021
Incoming resources		
Donations	£12,521.43	£10,981.83
Other income	£31.21	-
Gift Aid	£2,885.15	-
Bank interest	-	-
 Resources Expended		
Bank/ fundraising charges	£537.75	£153.50
Grants	£6,924.77	£3,446.68
 Net resources		
Total incoming/ outgoing	£7,975.27	£7,381.65
 Total funds carried forward	£15,456.92	£7,481.65

The notes on pages 2 to 3 form part of this financial report

Balance Sheet as at 30th April 2022

	2022	2021
Cash in CAF Bank	£10,111.57	£6,654.65
Paypal balance	£5,345.35	£827
Total assets	£15,456.92	£7,481.65

Notes to Financial Report

1. Brighter Path is a CIO with annual income of less than £25,000 and therefore the accounts require approval from trustees but are not subject to independent examination. The accounts must show receipts and payments with a statement of assets and liabilities.
2. **Donations** received: £12,521.43
3. Payment from **Amazon Smile**: £31.21
4. Tax recovered under **Gift Aid**: £2,885.15
5. **Website**: a trustee continues to donate the value of the hosting of the website and plug-ins to allow the website to operate¹
6. **Charitable Grants**: £6,924.77
7. **Governance**: bank and payment platform fees were £537.75.
8. **Trustee remuneration**: No remuneration was paid or was payable for the year directly or indirectly out of the funds of the charity to any trustee. Attention is drawn to the heading 'conflicts of interest' below.
9. **Conflicts of interest**: Caroline and John de Bono who are trustees of Brighter Path are also directors of Brighter Path (Sri Lanka) a not for profit company registered in Sri Lanka which provides support for care leavers in Sri Lanka. In accordance with the Charity Commission's guidance on conflicts of interest neither trustee voted on any grants to Brighter Path in Sri Lanka.

¹ Hosting costs are £50.99 per month

BRIGHTER PATH

England & Wales - Charity number 1183507

Accounts

Brighter Path Annual Report 2021

To 30.4.21

Brighter Path was registered as a charity in England and Wales in May 2019 and this is our second annual report, covering the period 1 May 2020 to 30 April 2021. In the past 12 months we have opened a bank account, started fundraising, launched our website and most importantly, begun making grants to individual care leavers on the ground in Sri Lanka.

Trustees

The trustees of Brighter Path remain Caroline de Bono, John de Bono, Patrick Marshall, Henrietta Woolf and Alice Pilcher. We held trustee meetings in June 2020, September 2020, December 2020, and February 2021.

Banking

We opened an account with CAF Bank who specialise in supporting the charitable sector in August 2020.

Funds received

In the period of 12 months to 30 April 2021 we have received cash donations **£10,981.83**.

Other donations

Our website and its running costs have been entirely funded by a private donation.

Funds distributed

In the period of 12 months to 30 April 2021 we have distributed a total of **£3,446.68**. The exchange rate has moved in our favour over the last 12 months such that whereas previously we worked on the basis of 200RS to the £, we now work on the basis of 250RS to the £.

Organisations we work with in Sri Lanka

There are a limited number of organisations and individuals working with care leavers in Sri Lanka. It is a fundamental principle of Brighter Path that we are able to make grants to any bona fide organisation working with care leavers in Sri Lanka. We are able to make grants directly to these organisations or to individuals that they refer. We have strong relationships on the ground with the University of Colombo, Brighter Path Sri Lanka¹, SOS Villages Sri Lanka, Child Protection Force, a number of children's homes/ orphanages, and Generation Never Give Up².

¹ Brighter Path in Sri Lanka is a not for profit company, founded by Caroline de Bono to provide care and support to care leavers. Caroline and John de Bono are directors of Brighter Path in Sri Lanka and to avoid conflicts of interest they do not vote on any funding application by Brighter Path Sri Lanka.

² Generation Never Give Up is an organisation of care leavers in Sri Lanka which campaigns and advocates for the rights of care leavers. It was founded by care leavers and is run by care leavers for care leavers. Caroline de Bono has been a member of its Advisory Board between January 2021 and December 2021.

Conflict of interest

We have a conflict of interest policy and all grant decisions are made in accordance with this policy.

Activity

May to October 2020

- In this period we concentrated on developing our banking and other policies to enable us to open a UK bank account with CAF Bank. The account was opened in August 2020. We have registered with HMRC and are now able to claim gift aid on donations.

November 2020

- We received an application from N, a care leaver, for funding for board and accommodation. N was studying an NVQ course at the Vocational Training Authority (VTA) to become a pre-school teacher. We made an initial grant of 25,500RS (to include a 10,000 RS deposit) and thereafter committed to 15,500RS per month to pay for N's board and lodging with a family in Colombo. This grant has enabled N to continue her studies.
- We received an application from A, a care leaver, who runs a small soup kitchen. He asked for help to pay for the deposit on a fridge so that he could store his soup and ingredients, enabling him to make his business more profitable and sustainable. We made a grant of 25,000RS.

December 2020

- We were contacted by the University of Colombo about a disabled undergraduate care leaver who was about to abandon his degree studies. He had been living in university accommodation but this was closed as a result of the pandemic and he had been sent to live in an old people's home. A lack of internet, no privacy or facilities for study and the general unsuitability of an old people's home for a young man of his age were causing serious mental health issues and C was about to drop out of his degree course. The University asked whether we might be able to find a better accommodation solution for him. C made an application to Brighter Path for funds to adapt the bathroom in a house where he had been offered accommodation. A grant of 639,100RS was made in December 2020 and the works were completed on time and on budget.
- We launched our website in the week before Christmas. The website at www.brighterpathfoundation.org showcases the work of Brighter Path and as well as raising awareness of the issues facing care leavers in Sri Lanka is an important platform for fundraising. The website and hosting costs have been funded entirely by a specific donation.

January 2021

- C moved into his adapted accommodation in January 2021 and has resumed his university studies. We have since been approached by the University to consider

assisting a second disabled student but were unable to help because this second student was not a care leaver.

February 2021

- R, an 18 year old care leaver made an application to Brighter Path for a monthly allowance of 12,000RS to cover living expenses (excluding accommodation) including food and clothes. He is waiting to start a training course in April 2021 and in the meantime is learning important life skills, including housekeeping, cooking and personal finances, all of which will give him much greater confidence as he embarks on his training.

March 2021

- N made a successful application for 12000RS to pay for three work sarees. She is at the stage of her training where she will be placed in a pre-school and without funding would not have had any suitable clothes to wear. This is the sort of 'small but essential' help which Brighter Path is able to provide to individual care leavers who do not have the sort of family support which would normally fund purchases such as this.
- We have started funding 4,000RS per week for art therapy and counselling for P with Vista Counselling and Training. P is a disabled care leaver who, after leaving his orphanage, returned to the countryside to the village where he was born. He was taken in by someone he knew but spent a traumatic two years of abuse. He was made to do unpaid domestic work, was not allowed to leave the house, was not properly fed and was left severely malnourished. He was in a traumatised state after he finally escaped to Colombo. His therapy is provided by an art therapist and counsellor and is overseen by a psychiatrist. The challenges for any disabled care leaver are enormous even without the experiences that P has been through but we hope that with our support he will recover and that in the long term we may be able to support him into employment.
- We made a further one-off grant of 8,000 RS to C for mobile phone data for his online classes and for the printing of online course materials.

April 2021

- As a result of the pandemic worsening in Sri Lanka all training courses have been delayed. R was due to start an IT and English course but instead is now seeking work and we are supporting him through interviews.
- C's in-person university studies have been further delayed and he will be working remotely for the foreseeable future.

Plans for the following year

Our plan is to continue supporting individual care leavers with grants but we are also looking to work with organisations on the ground in Sri Lanka. The impact of the pandemic is likely to continue to be significant.

Brighter Path

Financial Report for Year Ending 30th April 2021

	Total 2021	Total 2020
Incoming resources		
Donations	£10,981.83	-
Other income	-	£100
Bank interest	-	-
 Resources Expended		
Bank/ fundraising charges	£153.50	-
Grants	£3,446.68	-
 Net resources		
Total incoming/ outgoing	£7,381.65	£100
Total funds carried forward	£7,481.65	£100

The notes on pages 2 to 4 form part of this financial report

Balance Sheet as at 30th April 2021

	2021	2020
Cash in CAF Bank	£6,654.65	£100
Paypal balance	£827	£0
Total assets	£7,481.65	£100

Notes to Financial Report

1. Brighter Path is a CIO with annual income of less than £25,000 and therefore the accounts require approval from trustees but are not subject to independent examination. The accounts must show receipts and payments with a statement of assets and liabilities.

2. Donations received:

Via website: £2,653

Other sources: £8,328.83

Tax recovered under Gift Aid: none in this accounting period¹

In addition a trustee donated the cost of the website, plug-ins and all the hosting costs²

3. Charitable Grants.

The following grants were made (without identifying individual recipients by name)

Care Leaver A	£106.08
Care Leaver N	£511.73
Care Leaver R	£191.15
Care Leaver P	£63.32
Care leaver C	£2,621.95
Total:	£3,446.68

4. Governance

Bank fees were incurred of £64

Deductions from payment platforms (Paypal and Stripe) on the website were £95.50

¹ A claim for Gift Aid in respect of relevant donations in the period ending 30.4.21 has been made in the financial year ending 30.4.22 and will feature in the financial report for 2022.

² Website value £5,700, excluding cost of hosting and plug-ins

5. **Trustee remuneration:** No remuneration was paid or was payable for the year directly or indirectly out of the funds of the charity to any trustee. Attention is drawn to the heading 'conflicts of interest' below.

6. **Conflicts of interest:** Caroline and John de Bono who are trustees of Brighter Path are also directors of Brighter Path (Sri Lanka) a not for profit company registered in Sri Lanka which provides support for care leavers in Sri Lanka. In accordance with the Charity Commission's guidance on conflicts of interest neither trustee voted on the application by Brighter Path (Sri Lanka) for funds to adapt the Brighter Path (Sri Lanka) transition home to make it suitable for a severely disabled care leaver (see annual report).