

Annual Report FY 2023

BRIDGE OF LOVE TRUST

Registered UK Charity 1096302

www.bridgeoflove.org

info@bridge-of-love.org

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Soup, Soap & Salvation

Our ultimate goal is to reach out with our King's love to the oppressed in their struggles and build a BRIDGE from the church to the afflicted.

We reach out to

- *Widows & Orphans*
- *Poor, Sick & Needy*
- *Child labour victims*
- *War/ Tsunami Victims*
- *Persecuted Christians*
- *Slum-dwellers / Children of prostitutes*
- *Dalits/Outcaste/ Untouchable*

Aim & Purpose

Bridge of Love Trust (BOL) is a non-profit organisation and a registered UK Charity (Charity No: 1096302). Rev G I Ebenezer is the chairman of BOL.

The Trust was established to protect and support society's most vulnerable, particularly widows and orphans. The trustees engage in numerous welfare initiatives to defend the interests of the poor, who often fall victim to the civil unrest in Sri Lanka.

Activities

Bridge Of Love focuses on community development in the Northern and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka and the tribal areas in Tamil Nadu, South India. For over twenty one years, we've provided financial support to registered local organisations dedicated to assisting the oppressed, vulnerable, abandoned, poor, needy, widows, orphans, child labour victims, underprivileged, young offenders, persecuted, and war victims in Sri Lanka and India.

We offer monthly financial support to the majority of our projects. Beyond our regular contributions, we identify specific needs and seek aid from individuals and organizations. We then channel these funds to trustworthy entities to meet those needs, ensuring that the organizations we support are genuine.

We assist individuals irrespective of their race or religion.

Charity Framework

Charity name: Bridge of Love Trust

Other names: BRIDGE OF LOVE (Working Name)

Address: 67, Yoxley drive, Ilford, Essex IG2 6PU

Governing document: DECLARATION OF TRUST DATED 02/02/03

Date of registration: 03 Mar 2003

Organisation type: STANDARD REGISTRATION

Charitable Objects: THE TRUSTEES SHALL HOLD THE TRUST FUND AND ITS INCOME UPON TRUST TO APPLY THEM FOR THE FOLLOWING OBJECTS ("THE OBJECTS") IN INDIA, SRI-LANKA, AFRICA, UK. ("THE AREA OF BENEFIT") TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN PARTICULAR THROUGH PROVIDING OR ASSISTING WITH THE PROVISION OF BOOKS, EQUIPMENT AND GRANTS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES. TO RELIEVE POVERTY, SICKNESS AND DISTRESS IN PARTICULAR AMONGST CHILDREN, WIDOWS AND PERSONS BEING PERSECUTED AS A RESULT OF THEIR CHRISTIAN BELIEFS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES.

Charity Classification

What

- GENERAL CHARITABLE PURPOSES
- EDUCATION/TRAINING
- THE ADVANCEMENT OF HEALTH OR SAVING OF LIVES
- DISABILITY
- THE PREVENTION OR RELIEF OF POVERTY
- OVERSEAS AID/FAMINE RELIEF
- ACCOMMODATION/HOUSING
- RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES
- ARTS/CULTURE/HERITAGE/SCIENCE
- AMATEUR SPORT
- ECONOMIC/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/EMPLOYMENT
- OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES

Who

- CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE
- ELDERLY/OLD PEOPLE
- PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
- PEOPLE OF A PARTICULAR ETHNIC OR RACIAL ORIGIN
- OTHER CHARITIES OR VOLUNTARY BODIES

How

- MAKES GRANTS TO INDIVIDUALS
- MAKES GRANTS TO ORGANISATIONS
- PROVIDES SERVICES
- PROVIDES ADVOCACY/ADVICE/INFORMATION
- OTHER CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Fundraising

We raise money for our causes through Standing Orders, Gift Aid/ donations from our friends and family / Church members. Occasionally, friends gather funds from their own circles for specific charitable causes using the Stewardship online fundraising platform

We do not use any “commercial participator” or “professional fund-raiser” and we do not have any fundraising agreement with anyone. Therefore, the following does not apply to us in relations to ‘Compliance with the Fundraising Regulator’s voluntary regulation scheme’.

- The charity’s approach to fundraising activity, and in particular whether a professional fundraiser or commercial participator was used.
- Details of any voluntary fundraising schemes or standards which the charity or anyone fundraising on its behalf has agreed to.
- Any failure to comply with a scheme or standard cited.
- Whether and how the charity monitored fundraising activities carried out on its behalf.
- How many complaints the charity or anyone acting on its behalf has received about fundraising for the charity.
- What the charity has done to protect vulnerable people and others from unreasonable intrusion on a person’s privacy, unreasonably persistent approaches or undue pressure to give, in the course of or in connection with fundraising for the charity.

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Financial Summary

Over the past twenty one years, we've funneled over £750k into our projects. In 2023, we raised over £26k and directed more than £28k to support our projects.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2023		
RECEIPTS:		
Donations received from organisations and individuals <i>(including Standing Orders/ Other Gift Aids)</i>	£22,949	
HMRC Tax refund	£3,380	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		£26,329
PAYMENTS:		
Abused / Abandoned	<i>Notes 1</i>	£634
Christmas presents for poor & needy	<i>Notes 2</i>	£1,902
Educational / Extracurricular	<i>Notes 3</i>	£7,952
Health & Safety	<i>Notes 4</i>	£347
Income Generating	<i>Notes 5</i>	£121
Orphanage / Residential School	<i>Notes 6</i>	£2,927
Sick, Poor & Needy	<i>Notes 7</i>	£3,785
Widows and Children	<i>Notes 8</i>	£10,294
Bank Interest		£181
TOTAL PAYMENTS		£28,143
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS		(£1,814)

Summary of Achievements

Orphans

In 2023, we contributed over **£2,900** to support the following orphanages.

- Canaan Children's Home, Badulla, Sri Lanka
- Canaan Children's Home, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka
- Canaan Children's Home, Irupalai, Jaffna, Sri Lanka
- Happy Home, Kotagala, Sri Lanka
- Anpusahotharar Illam, Mannar, Sri Lanka (ASI)

Mr. Luke Mahendra, the Treasurer of Bridge of Love (BOL), is the coordinator and sponsor of the the Canaan children's homes (listed above). Mr. Veeman Masillamany coordinates ASI, and Mrs Jeeva Algendran oversees the Happy Home in Kotagala.

Windows & children

In 2023, we allocated over **£10,290** to support the following projects.

Mr. Luke Mahendra coordinated and sponsored the Canaan widows' projects.

- Widows, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka (Canaan)
- Widows, Devipuram, Puthukudiyirruppu, Sri Lanka (Canaan)
- Widows, Mannar, Sri Lanka (Canaan)

Sis Malini is the local project coordinator for the poor widows living in remote villages in Mullaitivu district.

- Widows, Theravil, Sri Lanka
- Widows, Valluvarpuram, Sri Lanka
- Widows, Kallapadu, Sri Lanka

Sis Jayaseeli Raviraj is the local project coordinator for widows living in a remote village in Jaffna district.

- Widows, Periyavillan, Sri Lanka

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Rev Karunanithi is the local project coordinator for the poor widows living in remote villages in Batticaloa district.

- Widows, Kopaveli, Sri Lanka
- Widows, Rajapuram, Sri Lanka
- Widows, Tumpalancholai, Sri Lanka
- Widows, Viyajapuram, Mamangam, Navakeni and other areas in Batticaloa

Rev Kathireson is the local project coordinator for poor widows living in remote areas in Dehiwala and Pita Kotte slums.

- Widows, Dehiwala, Sri Lanka
- Widows, Pita Kotte, Sri Lanka

Rev Ranjit is the local project coordinator for widows living in a remote village in Nuwara Eliya district.

- Widows, Oliphant Estate, Sri Lanka

Mr. Sutharshan Gopalan donates regular financial assistance to a widow and her children in Tirunelveli, India.

- Widow & Children, Tirunelveli, India

Educational Projects

In 2023, we donated over £4,350 towards educational programmes in Batticaloa, Mullaitivu, Pita Koote and Cheyyar. Rev Karunanithi, Sis Malini, Rev Kathireson and Rev Samraj coordinated these projects for Bridge of Love. Bro Jesuthasan sponsors and manages an educational programme in Kallaru, Killinochchi, and in 2013, he contributed £3,540 towards this project.

Due to the closest local government school being situated 4 Km away, most kids in two remote villages in Cheyyar, Tamil Nadu had to walk to school. In December 2022, we donated bicycles to 10 poor children who live in this area. In March 2023, we donated 5 more bicycles worth £600. Mr. Robert Arokisamy sponsored and coordinated this project, with Rev. Samraj serving as the local project coordinator.

Altogether, we directed over **£7,900** towards these projects.

Income Generating, Health & Safety Projects

In 2023, we donated over **£120** to a poor widow in Batticaloa to start small businesses. This project was coordinated by Rev Karunanithi.

In February 2023, we contributed over **£340** to construct a toilet for a cancer patient in Puthukudiyiruppu. Sis Malani coordinated this project on behalf of Bridge of love.

Poor, Sick & Needy and Other

- Mr. Luke Mahendra, Treasurer of Bridge of Love (BOL), coordinates and sponsors Canaan poor pastors' project, contributing over £345 in 2023.
- For over fifteen years, we've provided financial support to 10 underprivileged pastors in Batticaloa, donating more than £725 in 2023 alone, with Rev. Karunanithi as our local project coordinator.
- We donated more than £1,000 to support the poor, sick, and needy in Batticaloa, with Rev. Karunanithi overseeing the local projects.
- We contributed over £660 for the poor, sick, and needy in Mullaitivu, coordinated by Sis. Malini.
- We provided more than £195 for disabled and handicapped women in Mullaitivu, also coordinated by Sis. Malini.
- We allocated more than £435 for the disabled and handicapped in Batticaloa, with Rev. Karunanithi as the local coordinator.
- We donated more than £145 for the disabled and handicapped in Trincomalee, coordinated by Sis. Malini.
- We contributed more than £485 to support abandoned individuals and victims of domestic abuse in Mullaitivu, with Sis. Malini coordinating the efforts.
- We provided over £145 for victims of domestic abuse in Batticaloa, with Rev. Karunanithi as the local project coordinator.

In total, we contributed over **£4,400** to these projects.

Christmas Gifts

In December 2023, we donated study materials worth over **£1,900** as Christmas presents to underprivileged children in Batticaloa, Mullaitheevu, Jaffna, Pita Kotte and Dematagoda. Rev Karunanithi, Sis Malini, Miss Iruthayarajah and Rev Kathireson coordinated these projects for Bridge of Love. Mrs Evangeline Sathyendran contributed £1,000 towards this project and Mr. Sutharshan Gopalan added £500 to the cause.

Contact Information

BRIDGE OF LOVE TRUST

Address: 67, Yoxley Drive, Ilford, Essex IG2 6PU

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Web: www.bridgeoflove.org

Email: info@bridge-of-love.org

The trustees hereby declare they approve the trustees' report given above

Rev G I Ebenezer

Chairman, Bridge Of Love

Varnan Goodwin

Secretary, Bridge Of Love