



## Father's Workshop

In Kelaniya we held our first Father's workshop meeting, in time for Father's Day. We were delighted that fifteen fathers attended. The children had made cards and bookmarks for them

and gave them cake and juice to enjoy. Project Manager Dilhani spoke to the men about the importance of the role of a father in a family and how important they are to the children. She told them that a child's father is their hero and that they long to look up to them. She also emphasized the importance of spending time with the children make them feel valued.

The response from the fathers was incredible, they were so touched by the event. It was very moving to see them receive gifts from their children.

Whilst many of them struggle in many, many ways – with anger, alcohol, lack of jobs and regular income and so on, we recognize that also many of them have never had any encouragement whatsoever to get on in life. They too were neglected and brought up in a context of violence, abuse and poverty. The impact of a morning of encouragement and support was life-changing. Below is a story from one of the mothers following the event.

### 'In Her Own Words.'

#### ***A mother's story following the Kelaniya Fathers Day Workshop:***

"My husband is drinking, that is a habit, somehow or other he finds money and drinks. Even on holidays he needs to drink. He won't spend time with children, most days he fights with me, and my children are living in fear. But after he came to this programme, his life has changed. He decided to stop drinking gradually. The whole of last week he didn't drink, he spent time with kids. He told me 'I want to be my children's hero.' Now my kids are happy. He goes to work now and brings money home. I am so grateful."



#### **Kandy Centre Three (12–18 year olds)**

Our older kids in Kandy have the opportunity to do a variety of activities as well as academic work. They have weekly computer classes which is a vital skill for them to get ahead in life. They also get to do dance, sports, sewing and photography. Our CAL Photography Club was set up by staff member Tishan and volunteer Daniel and has already produced some impressive results. You can see a 'snap-shot' of the creative talent by checking out [facebook.com/childactionlankaphotographyclub](https://facebook.com/childactionlankaphotographyclub).



### **Spotlight on Killinochchi**

It almost goes without saying that for many of the children CAL's centres are a lifeline of food, opportunity and most importantly, hope. The contrast in the children between how they are when they start to visit the centres and who they become can be startling.

At Adventure Killi, there are two brothers Suranjen\* and Jay\* whose home life is so violent they spend as much of their time as possible at the centre, either playing cricket or in classes with Ramesh, the centre's manager.

As a pair they're a hilarious double-act, always laughing, joking and creating mild mischief. At home, they are completely the opposite – silent, and subdued, afraid of being beaten. Their father has two wives, and their mother lives further north, in Jaffna. Every day they are among the first to arrive and the last to leave, often wearing the same clothes, day after day. For them, the CAL centre in Killi isn't just a place to learn, but a safe haven from the reality of their daily lives, and a place they can come and truly thrive.

*\*Names changed.*





## Join us to see lives transformed

Child Action Lanka began six years ago working with street children in Kandy. Debbie and Dilshan Edirisinghe opened the doors to over sixty children who were grateful for a safe place to come and learn, play and have fun. CAL has grown significantly over the last six years and we now have centres in five locations: Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Kelaniya, Killinochchi and Batticaloa.

We would love you to consider partnering with us as we develop and grow as an organisation to give maximum opportunity to the next generation. For further information and how to give time and/or resources to support this important work, please email [childaction@sltnet.lk](mailto:childaction@sltnet.lk) or contact us via our website at [www.childactionlanka.org](http://www.childactionlanka.org)

### Current Needs

Thanks to generous support, five highly-resilient large-sized **parachutes** have been ordered for us, way beyond the quality and size we expected. They will be out with us for use by early August. We are delighted! We would love to add to this number so that each centre can use them and so we are still looking for a further two in order to do this.

We are also taking time currently to consolidate our systems and core support team in order to sustain the projects and growth long-term. If you are interested in **giving regularly to support our core costs** please do not hesitate to contact us. Even a small monthly donation can make a huge difference and our overseas partners can help to ensure your giving is tax effective.

**A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS WHO HAVE MADE THIS WORK POSSIBLE—WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT AND HELP.**

Child Action Lanka

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