

Save A Dream

2022 End of Year Report

In April 2022, a group of Sri Lankan- Australians from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane came together under an umbrella called *Save A Dream* (www.saveadream.org.au) to provide urgent medical supplies to address the deteriorating medical supplies situation in Sri Lanka. Rotary Hills District Kellyville 9685 and Rotary of Colombo South (District 3220) also joined the initiative.

As a program partner, Rotary provided facilities for financial management and ensured financial probity and integrity of all financial transactions. The Rotary participation enabled the donors to claim a tax rebate, ensure that the funds are sent to an established organization with high credibility, procurement of supplies through accredited agents and the Sri Lanka based Rotary Clubs delivering the supplies on behalf of *Save A Dream* Team to the individual hospitals as well as inviting Rotary clubs in India to lend assistance where required.

Due to an urgent appeal made by Dr Saman Kumara, Consultant Neonatologist, Castle Street hospital for Women and immediate past President Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka, *Save A Dream* decided to focus initially on providing relief to the neonatal and perinatal health sector rather than trying to address the needs of the whole of the

Speakers



**DR. SAMAN
KUMARA**

*Consultant Neonatologist,
Castle Street Hospital for
Women.
President, Perinatal
Society of Sri Lanka*



**DR. SURANTHA
PERERA**

*Consultant Paediatrician and
Neonatologist, Castle Street
Hospital for Women.
Vice President, Sri Lanka
Medical Association*



**DR. ANVER
HAMDANI**

*Co-ordinating
Secretary & Director
Medical Technology
Services, Sri Lankan
Health Ministry.*

health sector.

The fund-raising efforts were kick started with a webinar “Sri Lankan Healthcare Crisis” held on 27 April 22. Leading surgeons and Health Ministry officials namely Dr

Saman Kumara, Dr Surantha Perera Consultant Paediatrician and Neonatologist attached to the CSHW and Dr Anver Hamdani, Co-ordinating Secretary and Director Medical Technology Services, Sri Lanka Ministry of Health participated. *Save A Dream* Team, through word of mouth, distribution of flyers at various events including the Sinhala Cultural Forum NSW events, and appeals published in several community news media outlets including eLanka, Ozlanka and Yasiru multimedia.

The Good News Lutheran School in Middle Park, QLD took the initiative to collect donations from parents and students through the school's Chapel offerings. The school donated \$500. The *Save a Dream* team extends their thanks to the school.

Save A Dream - NSW Team organized a ticket book sales campaign with the Australasia Muslim Association (ALMA) raising \$2,100. Save A Dream Melbourne Team organized a very successful dinner dance called "*Dance for a Cause*" at the Clayton Hall in Melbourne on 19 August 2022. The dinner dance was well attended and raised A\$ 17,666 including sponsorships from several organizations and well-wishers. The event resulted in a net profit of A\$9,514.

Many individuals and organizations responded to our appeals. Through these generous donations we are happy to report that we collected slightly over A\$ 50,000. ***We take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them for their valuable donations which has saved lives.***



Scenes from Dance for A Cause

Where have the donations gone

1. Nitric Oxide Gas Cylinders

Dr Saman Kumara, flagged the need for Nitric Oxide (NO) gas cylinders. Over 300,000 babies are born each year. Two percent of them (6,000 – 7,000) suffer from a disease called Neonatal hypoxic respiratory failure (HRF). Nitric oxide gas is essential to prevent a premature death. The flyer shown below and distributed at the time briefly explained this. Annual demand for Nitric oxide gas is 96 cylinders and the country was running short of this essential preventative medicine. *Save A Dream* supplied 16 gas cylinders at a cost of \$17,032. These were ordered from Linde Australia/Ceylon Oxygen and distributed to several hospitals including Castle Street, Jaffna Teaching hospital, Batticaloa and Karapitiya Galle through the respective Rotary clubs. The photo below shows Rotary District in Batticaloa handing over the NO cylinder to the Batticaloa hospital.

Sri Lanka Needs Your Support
<https://saveadream.org.au/>

**Save A Life
Save a Dream**

Help stop preventable death of newborns in Sri Lanka through your donation to purchase **Nitric Oxide & Critical Medical Supplies** for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) throughout Sri Lanka

Neonatal hypoxic respiratory failure (HRF) is a severe respiratory illness that affects 2% of all live births and carries very high risk of death in newborn babies. When this happens due to high blood pressure in the lungs, the gold standard treatment is inhaled Nitric Oxide. The adopting of this life saving treatment at the NICUs in Sri Lanka had significantly eliminated neonatal mortality from HRF in the past three years. Now Sri Lanka is running out of Nitric Oxide and large numbers of deaths seem inevitable.

“ YOU ARE NOT DONATING MONEY YOU ARE DONATING A LIFE ”

Dr. L. P. C. Saman Kumara
Consultant Neonatologist, Castle Street Women's Hospital, Colombo, Sri Lanka and President, Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka

All funds are collected under the Rotary Project "Sustainable Community Development in Sri Lanka & India"

<https://saveadream.org.au/>
Save A Dream is an initiative of Sri Lankan expatriates in Australia coming together to save lives.

In Partnership with: **Rotary** of The Hills-Kellyville District 9620



2. Distribution of Blood Gas Analyzers

Dr Saman Kumara also made a request for Blood Gas Analyzers which are used to measure blood gases, electrolytes, pH values and biochemical parameters of the blood. *Save A Dream* procured them from the USA at a cost of A\$ 7,570.74. The photo shows Rotary Colombo South representatives on behalf of *Save A Dream* presenting the Blood Gas Analyzers to Dr Saman Kumara.



3. Nutritional Packs to Batticaloa

Acting upon an urgent request from the the Regional Director of Batticaloa District Health Service to supply nutritional supplements for pregnant mothers, *Save A Dream* distributed 450 packets of nutritional supplements at a cost of Rs 495,000.



4. Medical Supplies to Apeksha hospital.

Apeksha hospital is the premier cancer hospital in Sri Lanka based in Maharagama. Through another program partner Medical Help Sri Lanka Global Initiative coordinated by the USA based Ayusha Amarakone, *Save A Dream* funded US\$3,442.90 worth of medical supplies to Apeksha hospital.

5. Future donations – Lady Ridgeway hospital, Borella

Lady Ridgeway hospital is the premier children’s hospital in Colombo. Upon a request made, it is intended to supply medical goods to a value of \$1,750.00. These are being procured.

6. Badalkumbura hospital in Moneragala

Badalkumbura base hospital in the district of Moneragala made a request for medical supplies and equipment. This is still being investigated. It is a small hospital and lacks the profile of Colombo based hospitals. Moneragala district is one of the three poorest districts in the country. Even items such as plasters, baby Panadol syrup were not available in the hospital. Therefore patients either have to purchase these from the pharmacies or go without.

Comments from the recipients

“I am pleased to write a few lines for the end-of-year report of the Save A Dream project. I am Dr L.P.C.Saman Kumara, Consultant Neonatologist at Castle Street Hospital for Women, Colombo, Sri Lanka, and the immediate past president of the Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka. I am very grateful to the Save A Dream project for helping the healthcare system in Sri Lanka in many different ways when it was in great trouble. The Save A Dream activists were in direct contact with me and, they promptly responded to many requests made by me to save the lives of newborn babies in Sri Lanka. We received many life-saving items including expensive Nitric

Oxide, breathing circuits, and some important essential medicine for newborn babies. We managed to continue our services without interruptions thanking to kind people like you all. I am again thankful to the Save A Dream project for helping us to save lives in Sri Lanka”.

In Conclusion

The *Save A Dream* Team came together to help Sri Lanka in its hour of need. Our task is not over but we can be proud that we together helped those in need.

This could not have been possible without the generous donations, promotion by well-wishers and assistance from the program partners for placing their trust in us to deliver much needed medical supplies.

Wishing You and Your Loved Ones Happiness and Good Health.

Save A Dream Team