

WIMALAWANSA EDUCATION TRUST FUND (WETF)

Education is one of the greatest assets and a great gift to give. Recognizing this fact, Professor Sunil J. Wimalawansa, Professor of Medicine at the University of Texas, USA, and his family have offered a sum of money out of his earnings in the USA, to inaugurate a Trust Fund for needy students at the primary level.

Professor Wimalawansa received his primary and secondary education at Ananda College in Sri Lanka and thereafter pursued his medical studies at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya. Professor Wimalawansa continued his studies and research in the United Kingdom, and is now attached to the University of Medicine and Dentistry.

Professor Wimalawansa's initial gesture of magnanimity is one of goodwill and gratitude for the free education he received from his motherland, which indeed was the stepping-stone to success and progress in the academic world. He will continue to support this worthwhile venture.

This trust fund is a nonprofit organization and is registered and approved by the Government of Sri Lanka. Responsible and qualified people without any biases or prejudices will manage the trust fund. The fund, which stands at Rs. 1.5 million, is for the underprivileged, regardless of race, creed, sex or parents' political beliefs. Tuition in Sri Lanka is available free of charge until after the undergraduate level; however, basics such as books, clothing, and medical care are not available, and in the rural parts of the country are indeed a luxury.

Recipients will benefit 100% of the donated funds because individuals who believe in the cause will donate all administrative services. Sixty percent of the annual interest accruing from the trust funds will be used for scholarships and grants, as set out in the Trust Deed. The remaining 40% of the interest will be re-invested, allowing for growth of the capital. Each grant is anticipated to be between Rs. 5,000 and 8,000 per year on a continuous basis (approximately Rs. 77.00 to US\$1.00) to be assessed as follows:

- Scholarships and grants are awarded to individual students; these funds will be of monetary value for purchasing basic educational items (including clothes, shoes, toiletries, school bags, auxiliary schoolbooks, etc.). Additional money can be allocated for the health care needs of the child, if required.
- To support residential facilities, as needed, for such students.
- Priority will be given to students in Grades 1 through 6 (Primary Education).
- Support will be extended for needy children for their secondary education (Grades 7 through 12).
- In exceptional circumstances, support will be continued for students who have been beneficiaries of the Trust at the Primary and Secondary levels to continue with their Tertiary/University Education.
- Students with exceptional learning abilities (in any academic or technical area) will be identified and special attention given to them so that poverty will not compel them to discontinue their education and hamper their achievements.
- Selection is restricted to one student from a family per year. However, preference will be given to underprivileged students from rural areas, orphans (as a consequence of war or otherwise), and students who have been displaced from their parents.

With world trade increasing and the global economy getting ever smaller, we invite you to donate your mite to enhance the Fund to help those in need and make this world a better place for our children.

Donations in foreign currency may be invested in the same currency, another foreign currency, or Sri Lankan Rupees. Prospective donors can contribute directly to the Trust Fund (checks, any other means, or direct debit mandate).

Bank Account: Bank of Ceylon Savings A/C No: 106120157534 (Lake View Branch, Colombo 2, Sri Lanka).

Donors also can specify a child or children, a province, district, or village for which their funds can be utilized. The Board of Trustees will take every effort to comply with these requests.

(Information-WETF/2013)