

## **Blind Association**



Vanni Association for the Visually Handicapped was founded in 2013 as a non-governmental organization. It unites people who lost their sight during the civil war in northeastern Sri Lanka. Today, this association has 278 members and is managed on a non-profit basis by a board of nine visually impaired members. In addition to initiating emergency and livelihood assistance in the early stages with the help of donors, the gradual improvement of medical assistance for eye care, the provision of glasses and accessories is a high priority. In addition to meeting basic needs in medical care, hygiene, and transportation, the association's tasks also include training for visually impaired children and their families.

We support the blind organization's goal of community self-sufficiency through the cultivation of agricultural products and the sale of surpluses. The proceeds benefit all families with blind relatives. We are also willing to finance, for example, an oil press for the new project "Production and Sale of Coconut Oil," if the production of this oil proves financially viable.

An attempt to establish and maintain a chicken farm (2016) unfortunately failed, as all the chickens died after a short time. The focus then shifted to growing agricultural products (2017/18). With land clearing and vegetable cultivation (2019), the farm has now successfully produced melons. The sale of the fruit is an important contribution to securing financial support for the affected families. A student from the Association for the Blind has been studying at the University of Colombo since 2020.







