



# THEERANIYAM

## News Bulletin

Volume 8

30<sup>th</sup> Sep 2018

*A Center for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.*

**Brothers of Charity, No.: 18, Govinton Road, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka.**

The newly recruited teachers who are well experienced and devoted towards the welfare of the special need children are a boost to our service. Gradually the number of children also was on the increase. In the Morning 15 children who are severely affected and unable to attend normal school come to the Center for training and another 14 of them come in the afternoon for therapies and learning. The children from far distance and their parents are attending to the special weekly and monthly training

The quantity saviors living in different part of the world extend their assistance for the wages of two teachers. The “Our Society” Canada is helping us to pay salary for one teacher and Late Rev. Fr. PakiaRanjith’s Trust, Canada: extend the wages for the fourth teacher and for the other expenses, our well-wishers and friends from in and out of the country are helping from their earnings. Our service is being an essential need of the time; God will find ways and means to continue, if he is willing. Our humanitarian voluntarily services for the needy are moving well smoothly because of your prayers and the blessing.

### Autism Walk.



On the 8<sup>th</sup> of July, under the theme of “Walk for Differently Able People” was organized by the Social Department, 10 to 12 Organizations for special need people around Batticaloa Town walked from different places and directions to gather in one place to give awareness to the Public. Our Children, Teachers and parents walked from the General Hospital to Ganthi Park where all the participants met for a social gathering.



### **The Work of Art.**

The Eastern University students voluntarily showed their talent by drawing creative Cartoon Pictures on the wall of our children park at the center. The parents and the public appreciated their contribution and thanked the 11 student who finished the art work within a day for the valuable service.



### **Awareness Programs.**

The case of Autism among the children is on the increase. To make known to the public we conducted awareness programs on Saturdays to the School Teachers and even to the upper level students (future parents). In addition, Dr. Judy introduced Yoga and Meditation as part of the program.



### **Seminars Conducted by NGOs.**

A two days Seminar was organized and conducted on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July with the help of the “Child Fund” for the Pre-school Teachers of Vavunathivu Region in our Center. The Project Coordinator for “Vaunathivu Development Organization” Mrs. Sooriya Jeganathan organized this Seminar on “Mental health of Children” and about 45 of them under their care took part and benefited.



Mr. A. J. Rajaretnam, the Project Coordinator for “Vaunathivu Development Organization” conducted 1 day Atlas Review Meeting for Primary teachers from year 1 to 5 and about 65 of them took part and benefited.



We submitted a proposal to Neelan Thiruchelvam Trust (NTT) to conduct awareness programs on “Early Detection on Autism and other Neuro Disorder on children” to the teachers in the Nursery and in Primary Schools of Manmunai East and West in Batticaloa District. If we get the approval, we expect, more than 1200 teachers to benefit directly who will be participating in the seminar and indirectly, many thousands of Children and parents come in contact with these teachers. The teachers will be able to identify and detect the actual defect in a child in the early stages and send them for treatment to the proper Medical authorities.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August we too declared Term Holidays for our children. The parents were little depressed in fear of their children drifting back to their old condition during this vacation. We encouraged and advised them to continue the training at home which you learned, witnessed and undergone so many awareness programs and Seminars all these days.

When they returned after the Holidays, the teachers were happy to see that everything worked well and the parents also felt proud of their achievements.



During the Holidays we conducted workshops on Occupational therapy and related topics, Yoga and Meditation for our Teachers, Parents, friends and who ever wanted to participate.

One of our teachers mastered the Yoga to her credit and conducted Yoga sessions to the interested public.

### **Visit of Benefactors.**

Mr. Sam Santhakumar a well-wisher from Qatar collected money among his friends and assisted our urgent need in the center, paid a courtesy visited to our Center in August during the holidays. Even though he could not witness our activities and the children learning, he was satisfied with the setup and the facilities provided.



Mrs. Kalawathy Mahendrarajah brought Indoor Play Materials from Australia which was a gift from her sister Dr. Mrs. Pathma, to entertain our children. We thank all of them for their concern and generosity towards the neglected and needy children in our society.

### **New Class Rooms.**

The upper right wing of the building was renovated with the contribution of many well-wishers and friends, to be used as class rooms. We allotted one classroom for one teacher with her children of two or three. This separation gives them more privacy and peaceful environment to concentrate without the interference and disturbance of other children.



### **Birth days.**

We celebrate the Birth days of the Children with their parents to make them happy and the parents to enjoy participating in the celebration with cutting of Cake, music and dance.



### **New additions.**

Dr. Judy was kind enough to find money to purchase two children park items to add to the facilities. The children are very happy enjoying and using all the items not knowing which one to choose first.



We appreciate and thank all the benefactors who helped us to establish and to run this Center for the last one and a half years to grow strength to strength.

We thank the parents also for their moral support in our trials and failures.

We are still depending on the support of well-wishers and donors for us to meet our daily expenses until we find some means to attain self-sufficiency.

*W. Mariathas.*

**Rev. Bro. W. Mariathas. FC.**

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