



THEERANIYAM

News Bulletin

Volume 7

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A Center for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

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

Autism Day Walk.

The World Autism day falls on the 2nd of April. We inaugurated our school on the 8th of April 2017 but we postponed the first annual ceremony to make it a colourful and memorable one.



We participated in the Autism walk on the 22nd of April Organized by SLACD a non-profitable association in Sri Lanka dedicated to child development in Amparai about 80 Km from our center. Our Children with their parents about 30 in number booked a minivan and participated in the rally. This outing was a new experience and the children enjoyed very much.

New Extension



We renovated the right wing of the building to conduct classes dividing the children in groups according to their ability to extend our service from the second year. The Teachers, Parents and the well-wishers helped us voluntarily (which reduced so much of labour cost) in cleaning, colour washing and preparing the place a suitable environment for studies.

We spent lot of money in purchasing play items and erecting a children park with an attractive fence all around from the generous contribution of good souls from many parts of the world.



A Heartfelt THANK YOU For all Donors

We the staff, parents and the children are very grateful and thank the well-wishers from the bottom of our Hearts for their fabulous contribution towards the upliftment and development of the center for an adequate and quality service.

We thank the parents and the teachers also for their sacrifice of time and valuable contribution of voluntary help in minimizing the labour charges which is almost equal to the cost of the materials purchased.

In the latter part of the year 2017, Dr. Judy had some misunderstanding with IMHO-USA Organization and withdrew from all his humanitarian voluntary services and refrained from coming to our Center also for some time. Dr. Judy's Wife was appointed by the Hospital authorities, Colombo to visit our center and assess our children, but that too was curtailed by some unwanted people. So, we made an appeal to the Hospital authorities, Batticaloa to send Doctors to assess our children but nothing happened. We approached IMHO officials, Dr. Mrs. Rajam Thevathasan. MD. (New York) negotiated with the proper authorities and arranged Dr. Gadambanathan (Psychiatrist) to do the assessment. At the yearend Dr. Gadambanathan came with a team of Doctors and conducted the clinic. He redirected almost all the children to come to the Teaching Hospital with the special equipment they have for further treatment. After the clinic he gave an adverse report as though the children are not Autism affected but suffering from neuro disorder.

That was the only incident that he visited our Center but he took our Letter Head and did changes on his own. The specific purpose for which this center was organized had been manipulated by him to "neuro Development Center" and other changes such as wiping away the "Open school & learning Center" to bring this center also with the other 10 to 12 Centers already exist for common Neuro development purpose.

When we pointed out this misgiving to the IMHO organizers they too supported his changes and wrote a memorandum of Understanding for us to sign.(MOU attached). This MOU was put forward to the Advisory Committee, School committee, Parents and well-Wishers. All of them agreed to have this Center only for the Autism Children because it was started for this specific purpose and this is the only one in the District. Also they were on the opinion that the Medical personnel should not interfere in the administration but he can give his suggestions and advice. We agreed to the rest of the conditions.

Unfortunately the IMHO was not agreeable to our corrections to the MOU. Instead they informed us that they were stepping down from helping us anymore. By this the poor innocent, suffering children will be badly affected. We are committed to stand-by our objectives, that is, rehabilitating the Autism children. We strongly feel that we should not deviate from this objective.

Empowerment Seminars.

We conducted empowerment workshops from time to time on subjects like ASD, and other Therapies, inviting competent people and paying them for their service. These seminars are conducted (for about 30 to 40 participants) not only for our Teachers and parents but we invite teachers involved in caring special need children even from very far places.

Mr. I. M. Mufaseer, an Occupational Therapist attached to Basic Hospital, Kalavanchikudy. Batticaloa conducted one day seminar to our Teachers, Parents and even neighbouring school Teachers on Speech and Language Pathology.



Mr. J. Thaneraj, Clinical Audiologist conducted seminar for about 35 participants on improving and developing the Autistic children from their delay condition.



Mr. Felician Francis, Counselor and Psychosocial Practitioner, conducted a session on peer support. The session also included relevant child related Psychosocial Care.

Dr. K. Puvanendran , Development Pediatrician from UK was kind enough to come to our Center on the 29th of June 2018 and conduct a clinic and training session for about 41 Children and their parents.

We welcomed Dr. K. Puvanendran when he arrived at 9.15 Am on Friday the 29th of June 2018. He asked the Medical Students to assess the Children along with their parents and he looked around our Center and was satisfied with the facilities we provided for the children. He also appreciated the new class rooms set up for more intensive care on the children.



Dr. Mrs. Angela Arulpragasam. Dean of the Medical faculty came with her team of Medical Students numbering 16 of them to assess our children and as a practical experience for them.

Dr. Mrs. Vijayakumary, Consultant, Pediatrician also gave her support by treating the children to minimize the burden of Dr. K. Puvanendran. We are very grateful and thank her for the voluntary service and timely help.



The Medical Students were very friendly and cordial with the children and the parents, sympathetically and patiently recorded their symptoms and helped the Doctor with the necessary information. We thank them for their dedicated service and appreciate their devotedness for remaining till the end of the session at about 5.30 Pm.



He was kind enough to advise and medicate all the 41 children till 3.00 Pm. After that he took a very light lunch and from 3.30 Pm till 5.30 Pm he shared with the participants how to identify, medication, care to improve the children affected with ADHD.



He even waited to pose for group photos and promised to come again soon, to be with us for more days to help the children.



It is very rare to find a simple and understanding person like him, who can mingle with the patients to console them and lighten their hearts from the burden about the future of their children voluntarily without a break or rest.

We thank him and pray for a long and healthy life on service of the needy.

Visitors.

Miss. Paula Bulance, Deputy Representative of UNICEF in Sri Lanka visited our Center and was well pleased with the new development and additions of adequate equipment for the use of the children.

She also promised to help the Center in her capacity to uplift the quality of service as soon as possible.



Miss. Damika Gamaghe, Field Manager of Surena Foundation. Colombo paid a visit to our Center and promised to include our Center in their group for coordination and follow-up.



The second stage of activities to mark the 1st Year Anniversary and the opening of the Class Rooms in the 1st Floor are delayed due to incompleteness of preparation. We will publish our next steps of progress and developments in increasing the number of children and adequate number of staff in our Bulletin Vol. 8.

May God Bless you all.

Thank you.

W. Mariathas.

Bro. W. Mariathas. F.c.
(Principal.)