



THEERANIYAM

News Bulletin

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A Center for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

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

Introduction.

I thank the Almighty for His mercy and blessing on the Opening of the Center by the name “THEERANIYAM” for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and the tireless effort and hard work put in by Good Hearted souls and the well wishers.

History continued.

Dr Judy Ramesh Jeyakumar arranged a one month study course in Chennai for the staff training in India. The Serendib Children Home, based in UK extended one part of the grant to Rev, Bro. Wilfred Mariyathas the Principal of Theeraniyam and Mr. E.Neelamparan Speech Pathologist to India in February 2017 for one month residential training in “Sankalp” - an open school and learning centre for Autism Spectrum Disorder. Mr. Bimal Balasingham - an



Accountant in Singapore extended another part of the grant for their training. Teachers were interviewed and 5 of them were selected to have experience in

different schools, Organizations and centers conducted for children with special need.

Dr. Judy Ramesh Jeyakumar conducted awareness programs in all the leading Schools in and around Batticaloa town on Autism Spectrum Disorder in order to prepare the children and infuse the knowledge of its aspects to the future generation. A street walk also was organized from all these schools on the 8th of April from various public places of the city with the Band and School children to bring its importance to the public.

The International Autism Day falls on the 2nd of April and the World Health day falls on the 7th of April, the whole setup was ready on time, the eminent people of the Batticaloa district were invited. An Invitation card was printed to open the school on the 8th of April 2017.



The Chief Guest of the occasion was Dr. J.M.W. Jeyasundara Bandara. Director General of the Health Services, Ministry of Health Colombo. He was so obliged even in time of emergency service needed to curb the intense spreading of Dengue Fever in Colombo and other parts of the country, he risked his life to travel late in the night to reach Batticaloa early morning on time to participate in our opening ceremony of the “THEERANIYAM” Center.

All were set ready to open at about 7.30 am, the guests gathered in our Special Education Center about 50 meters away from “THEERANIYAM” Center and they were brought to the center in a procession led by Western Band of the St. Cecilia’s Girls College National School. Batticaloa.



The Name Board of the School at the entrance was unveiled by the Provincial cum Regional Superior of the Congregation of the Brothers of Charity. He made it a point to be with us for this occasion and encourage our endeavour.

The ribbon was cut to mark the opening by the Bishop of the Batticaloa Diocese Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Ponniah, Provincial cum Regional Superior of the Congregation of the Brothers of Charity, Dr. J.M.W. Jeyasundara Bandars. Director General of the Health Services, Ministry of Health Colombo and Dr. Ibra Labbi. Direcor, Teaching Hospital, Batticaloa



The next event was the unveiling of the Stone Plaque and invoking the blessing of God by the four Spiritual Leaders present for this occasion from different dominations.



The welcome speech was delivered by the Principal of the Center, and later he handed over a letter to the Director General of the Hospital Services, Ministry of Health Colombo to extend government resources of Medical Officer of Psychiatry, Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist and Physiotherapist to visit and work with Autism Kids in our Center.



Dr. Mrs. Angela Arulpragasam, Consultant Pediatrician and Dean of the Eastern University, Medical Faculty addresses the gathering on the need of an Autism Center in Batticaloa. She is one of the pioneer, worked hard with Dr. Judy Ramesh Jeyakumar to establish a center for ASD with many agenda.



Dr. Mrs. Swarna Wijayathunga MBBS (Col) MD (Psych) Consultant Child Psychiatric, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service, Lady Ridgeway Hospital. Colombo, addressed the gathering on Autism and its effects.

The Provincial cum Regional Superior of the Congregation of the Brothers of Charity Rev Bro. Bekaert Godfried FC. gave a brief out look on the services rendered by the Religious Society all over the world and in Sri Lanka. He added that, he was also happy to extend the greetings of the General Superior of the Society.



Dr. J.M.W. Jeyasundara Bandara. Director General of the Hospital Services, Ministry of Health. Colombo. In his oration he admitted that he hails from a very poor family and with much struggle and hard work he achieved what he is now. He was comparing the fate of creepers that climb up with the support of the tree to get the Sun light we too must support the needy, specially children like these to lead a normal life like the others. He added “I appreciate and happy that this center is going to do this. We plan to establish new development centers

in Sri Lanka in the future.

The Street Walk with School Band from different areas met at the Teaching Hospital at about 9.00 AM a Conference was conducted for the Hospital Staff and the children participated in the Street March.

Visit of Special Dignitaries.



The President of the “Holistic Special Education Foundation” Mr. Kaliyugavarathan a Yoga Master of advanced age organized a seminar on Yoga for special need children with two UK professionals Ms. Julie Cox and Ms. Jyoti Jo Mannel having a “Special Yoga Foundation” in UK on the 3rd of May 2017. Teachers and parents from other Special Education centers were also invited and all were benefited very much from the Yoga exercises they performed with the children in need.



Dr. Thavam Thambipillai MD. Consultant Transplant Surgeon in USA and the Treasurer of IMHO – International Organization paid a courtesy visit to our Center on the 7th of June 2017. He appreciated our efforts and encouraged the staff and the parents to continue the training and develop the skills of the children to the maximum. He promised that the organization is behind us to help and assist in every way possible.

Dr. Arulmoly. Consultant Cardiologist also was present to grace the occasion.



Mr. Murali Ramalingam an Accountant by profession is the Treasurer in the IMHO – USA Organization. He was the key person who visited our place, studied the need for this Center and took all the necessary steps to make this venture a reality.

The staff, the parents and the well wishers thank him in appreciation for all his efforts and undertaking to make the dream come true.

He made use of his time to spend among the Children and listen to their stories of frustration and the bleak future of their children.

Some of the Parents came forward and witnessed the development they found in their children after admitting in our school.



Mr. Ramalingam was very thoughtful and kind enough to present 2 (Two) iPads for the use in the center by the students. Mr. Neelamparam the Speech Therapist received the iPads on behalf of the Center.

He was happy to take a group photograph with the staff as a mark of appreciation. We thanked him for his visit and the encouraging words of enthusiasm, to continue the good work we do. Also, he promised to help the center in every way possible to upkeep the center and to run efficiently for the betterment of the beneficiaries.

Dr. Satiyamoorthy, Director Teaching Hospital, Jaffna also participated in the ceremony.

Rev. Bro. W. Mariathas. FC.