

Rotary Club of Colombo Cancer project

Fighting Cancer through early detection

Nirmali Samararatunga,
President, RCC and
Chairperson CEDC

The project to set up a Centre for early detection and prevention of cancer was launched by the Rotary Club of Colombo, recognising the urgent need for a dedicated national facility for screening, early detection and prevention of this killer disease. The Rotary Club of Colombo already has several major landmark initiatives in healthcare, to its name. These include setting up of the Centre for Prevention of Tuberculosis (CNAPT) and the Sri Lanka Anti Narcotics Association (SLANA).

Statistics indicate that each year over 13000 new cases of cancer are detected in Sri Lanka, and two out of three of these patients eventually lose their lives to the disease. It is also a significant fact that the incidence of cancer is on the increase. Furthermore over 80 percent of these patients come from the rural areas, whilst over 60 percent are women.

According to the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), the very high mor-



CEO, HSBC, David Griffiths hands over a donation from HSBC Cardholders, to the President, Rotary Club of Colombo, Rtn. Nirmali Samararatunga towards the funding for the new National Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Centre. Rtn. Tissa Manakkara and Rlenzie Martinez and Dihanai Yatuwara of the HSBC are also in the picture.

idity and mortality of cancer, is primarily due to the fact that in most cases the disease is detected only at a very late stage. The main reason is the absence of a dedicated national facility for early detection of cancer. It is well known for instance, that breast and cervical cancer can be detected well before malignancy sets in and the disease can be prevented totally.

For the last three years, the Rotary Club of Colombo, in co-operation with the National Cancer Control Programme, functioning under the auspices of the Ministry of Health, has been making available screening facilities for early detection of cancer through their Cancer Early Detection Centre, set up by the Club, at Narahenpita. Despite being open only five hours each day, the Centre is now well

established in the area and visited by many who visit to get themselves checked, being more aware of the need for screening, whilst others are referred to the Centre by their own Doctor. Up to date several hundred cases, particularly females, have been detected showing signs requiring further investigation, many of which have thereafter been confirmed as early signs of cancer. Basic screening is



A doctor examines a patient at the centre

presently carried out for cancers such as breast and cervical cancer. However, once a permanent and fully fledged Centre comes up, more detailed investigations could be conducted, and many more cancers could be detected. The NCCP presently reaches out to the rural areas through its Mobile Units and co-ordinates with the Medical Officers of Health Clinics in those areas to carry out screening, early detection and prevention activities. In addition, through the present Early Detection

Centre, selected high risk groups in the working population mainly women, are being targeted in the awareness programme conducted on the need for screening and early detection. Over the last year, several of such groups have been screened at the Cancer Early Detection Centre, from Government Institutions as well as the Private Sector. This is an ongoing programme and the NCCP can be contacted by Business establishments with a view to arranging awareness programmes for prevention of

Cancer, to be conducted at their work place, as well as to arrange for the employees, particularly females, to undergo basic screening at the Cancer Early Detection Centre. The Rotary Club of Colombo, with the support of generous donors, has already embarked on the construction of a permanent, centrally located and easily accessible to the general public. This Centre will be a fully equipped modern facility carrying out screening, diagnosis, lab investigations, counselling, record

keeping and awareness programmes for prevention. The Club will build and assist to equip the Centre, which will be operated by the National Cancer Control Programme under the auspices of the Ministry of Health.

Already a MOU has been signed with the Ministry for the smooth functioning and continuity of the Centre. Once complete the Rotary Club of Colombo will hand over the Centre to the Ministry, as its gift to the people of Sri Lanka.

The Rotaract Club of Colombo, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Colombo has meanwhile come forward to support this project by creating awareness on the vital need for screening and early detection, through a printed and electronic communication to the public.

In the meantime, the Rotary Club of Colombo is appealing to the generosity of the public to support the Cancer Early Detection Project by contributing towards the funding of the present Early Detection Centre operations, as well as assisting in equipping the new Centre.

Further details can be obtained from Project Office Telephone No.

Wattala City Lions induct new members

Text & pix
Beverley Jansz

Lions Club of Wattala, District 306 B1, inducted 25 new members at a glittering ceremony held at Raja Bojan Hotel, Mahabage, Wattala.

In the Lionistic history in Sri Lanka, this is the first time that a new club inducted 25, including four Lady Lions Members to it Den, said President Lions Club of Wattala City Lion Meon Alagma.

The induction ceremony was conducted by District Governor, 306B1, Lion S. Rajajayavan Zone Chairperson and finding Lion Dr. Seba Jayamaha and Extension Chairperson, Lion Lakshman Wijesinghe attended the ceremony.

Most of the new members were sponsored by Club President, Lion Dinesh Perera. His main goal this year was to find 25 civic minded people from the community and induct them into the den.

Majority of members in this club are under 40 years of age. Lion Dinesh believes that with 46 members, the club in a better



The new members inducted to the club, with President Lion Dinesh Perera, Cabinet Secretary, Lion Callistus Jayatileke, and Zone Chairman, Lion Dr. Seba Jayamaha.



From left Dist. Chairperson Membership Relation and Vice Dist. Governor Candidate Lion Lakshman Wijesinghe, Zone Chairperson, Lion Dr. Seba Jayamaha, Dist. Governor Lion S. Rajajayavan, Club President Lion Dinesh Perera, Cabinet Secretary, Callistus Jayatileke, and Zone Chairperson, Lion Stephen Leonard.

position to serve the needy in the community.

"With the support we are getting from the present



President, Lions Club of Wattala City, Lion Dinesh Perera pins the Lion Emblem, on his wife, Lion Lady Nisansala, and zone Chairperson, Dr. Seba Jayamaha. I have no doubt that this club will reach greater heights in the

Lion Ladies Association District 306C2 Gift of Home

One of the greatest humanitarian acts is the giving a deserving family a home. Lion Sridevi Silva who is the Chief Coordinator for Child Development and Women's Empowerment selected a highly deserving family of four affected by tsunami devastation to gift a home constructed on a piece of land they owned in Dehiwela.

The father in this family Lalith Perera earned this privilege by his diligent application to the upkeep of International Buddhist Centre in Wellawatte. He and his wife with their two children moved into their new home with a simple celebration where the members of the Lion Ladies Association participated with many useful household gifts that would turn this house into a home. The Patron of the Lion Ladies Association Lion Lalani Baddevithana was the Chief Guest along with District Governor Lion Dr. Priyanka Baddevithana. Lions Club of Jawatte Summit is home to Lion Sridevi Silva her spouse Lion H. Mervin Silva.



House constructed for donation by Project Chairperson Lion Sridevi Silva. First Lady of the District Lion Lalani Baddevithana with recipients.



Lion Ladies handing over household items to the beneficiaries.

Club President Rajendra of the Club too participated Ganesha along with members to appreciate this worthy

Multi-Service Mega project Lions Dist. 306A2



District Governor, Lion Kamal Seneviratne presenting a pair of spectacles to a needy person, Lady Lion, Delrusa, Suwa Udana District Chairperson, Chandra Katuwawala, Chief Organiser, Region Chairperson, Lion S. Sekar, Lion Daya Wijetunge and Lion Indu Katuwawala.

Following International President, Lion Mahendra Amarasinghe's theme "Challenge to Change" Region one of Lions District 306A-2, organised a multi-service mega project under the concept of District Governor 306A2, Lion Kamal Seneviratne. It was held at Dahanyake grounds, Dehiwala. The project included

Health Camps, distribution of new spectacles, dental camp, Ayurvedic treatment Camps, Diabetics Awareness and Screening Camps, distribution of wheelchairs, processing of birth certificates, Identity Cards, Passports and special Identity Cards to senior citizens, Legal Advice, distribution of school books and uniform material.



Lions Club of Cosmopolitan and Bellanwila Lion doctors, Dr. Shan Perera and Dr. Pallin examining patients. Also in the picture are District Governor 306A2, Lion Kamal Seneviratne and Lady Lion Delrusa, Region Chairman, Lion S. Sekar, Cosmopolitan President Lion Hasanja de Silva Leo Member from Germany, Leo Annette.



Dr. Nilanthi Wathuliyadda Dentist Therapist of the Dehiwala Dental Clinic treating children at the Dental Camp. District Governor, Lion Kamal Seneviratne and Lady Lion Delrusa, Suwa Udana Program Chairperson, Lion Chandra Katuwawala, Region Chairman S. Sekar, and Leo Annette from Germany. Pix Beverley Jansz

Lions Dist. 306 A 2 Results of Annual Essay Contest

The results of the 16th annual all island contest on Drug Abuse & HIV/AIDS conducted by the Lions Club of Dehiwala North as a district project were released by the Project Chairman Lion S. Ramachandran MJF. The results are as follows:-

(1) Topic 'Youths' role in building a drug free Sri Lanka'
Sinhala Medium- 1st Miss. Wijesooriya Arachchige Dimusha Nirmali, Dodangoda Miriswatta MV, Dodangoda. 2nd Miss M. Kavisha Lakshani Silva, Potupitiya Maha Vidyalay, Potupitiya. 3rd Miss C. M. Sudharma Jayamini, Mahamaya Balika

Vidyalaya, Maha Nuwara. **Tamil Medium**- 1st Miss Mariya Jenat Mariyuthas, St. Cecilia's G. M. V. Batticaloa 2nd Miss M. S. F. Rushdha, Al Azfa Muslim Vidyalaya, Palahala. 3rd Miss Nawalapitiya. 3rd Miss Sivathasan Kajhani, St. Xavier's Girls College, Mannar. **English Medium**- 1st Mast. B. H. Indunil Madusankha, Kularathna MMV, Godakawuchi. 2nd Miss Gamaganda Sugandima Nishadi Weragoda, Holy Cross College, Gampaha. 3rd Miss W. Dilini Manushika Perera, St. Paul's Girls' school, Milagiriya. (2) Topic: 'Youths' responsibility in the prevention of AIDS'
Sinhala Medium- 1st

Miss Kulatunga Arachchige Guyani Kavina Chandrasekera, Ferguson High School, Ratnapura. 2nd Miss Priyankarage Tikiri Pramothi, Gnanadana MV Kalutara. 3rd Miss K. H. F. Asma, D. S. Senanayaka Central College, Beruwala. **Tamil Medium**- 1st Mast R. Rahul, Highlands College, Hatton. 2nd Miss M. Fathima Rishtha, Fathima Balika MV, Oddunavadi. 3rd Miss A. K. Jasmiya, Erulkalamipiddy MMV, Palavi. 3rd Miss Kumaraguru Sinduja, St. Cecilia's G.M.V. Batticaloa. **English Medium**- 1st Mast Navaratnam Ketheesakumaran, Colombo Hindu College, Colombo 4.

1st Mast Mohamed Lafikun Mohomed Aijib, Harischandra College, Negombo. 2nd Mast Thaha Adamjee, Zahira College, Colombo 10. 3rd Mast Madhavi Bhagya Attanayake, St. Joseph's BMV, Kegalle. Cash prizes of Rs. 10,000, Rs. 5000 and Rs. 2500 together with beautiful trophies and certificates will be awarded to the first, second and third place winners respectively (3 winners will share the prize money equally) at a fitting Awards Ceremony to be held on Saturday 22nd March. District Governor Lion Kamal Seneviratne MJF accompanied by his lady Lion Delrusa will grace the occasion as the

Lions distribute spectacles

Lions Clubs of Sri Jayawardenepura Metro and Lions Clubs of Kolonnawa distributed spectacles to the needy people at a service project held at Kotte. District Governor 306 C-

I, Lion Hemasiri de Silva is seen presenting a pair of spectacles to a needy person. Project Chairman, Lion Quintus Jayatileke is also in the picture.

