

# Mithuru Mithuro join Lions to rehabilitate women

BEVERLEY JANSZ

**M**ithuru Mithuro Movement is an organisation that has been dedicated towards drug prevention and rehabilitation in Sri Lanka for the past twenty years.

It is one of the very few organisations among the NGOs and GOs in the country that is committed towards an abstinence nation. Rehabilitating youth who have fallen victim to the evils of drug abuse is the core focus area of Mithuru Mithuro. This invaluable service is provided by the organisation through a network of treatment and rehabilitation centers and Outreach Drop In Centers (ODICs) established in Rathnapura, Gampaha and Colombo. The organisation is the sole entity in the country that practices the world renowned concept of a "Therapeutic Community" system as its rehabilitation and treatment modality. In addition to providing residential rehabilitation services to drug addicted youth, Mithuru Mithuro in its 20 years of existence have evolved to be an organisation providing diverse set of services. These services vary from drug prevention and demand reduction services to childcare services, educational and training facilities, poverty alleviation programmes and HIV/AIDS prevention programmes. The list keeps growing as Mithuru Mithuro envisages



Front view of Mithuru Mithuro

being the most diverse and effective organisation rendering social services by 2013 as per its five year road map and to also be the best treatment and rehabilitation facility in Asia. As one of the many steps to reach out to the international community, Mithuru Mithuro established an international training center - "4C Residence," in Kallurua.

Adding to its previous list of establishments and its growing family of institutions, Mithuru Mithuro in collaboration with the Lions Club of Kalubowila successfully launched its first treatment and rehabilitation center for women in Liyanaw-

ila, Keshwara. Its founder, Rear Admiral (Rtd) Lion Harsha Mayadunne said that this is the first time an NGO in Sri Lanka in association with Lions has opted to offer such services to women who have been victimised by drug abuse and other social concerns. Taking close to two years to complete and costing over Rs. 8 million, the "Liyanawila" center provides counselling, medical consultancy to all its resident patients and is a three storey complex equipped with a fully functional kitchen, dormitory, halls for workshops and spiritual programmes and space for administrative functions.

Built on a land donated by the S.D. De Seram family of Thimbrigayaya, the facility was built with the devotion, assistance and philanthropy of Rear Admiral Lion Harsha Mayadunne, his friends of the Kalubowila Lions Club and many well-wishers. Rear Admiral Mayadunne the founder/coordinator of "Liyanawila", a veteran of Sri Lanka Navy with 34 years of celebrated service, sportsman and the former president of the Sri Lanka Rugby Football Union (SLRFU), strives for quality, efficiency and effectiveness of the programme and modality offered at



Founder, Rear Admiral Harsha Mayadunne

"Liyanawila". He encourages the victimised women of Sri Lanka to rise from the clutches of drug addiction and to enrol at "Liyanawila" for a better future. He together with the director of Mithuru Mithuro, Ven. Kappiyawatte Bodhananda Thera (Rev. Bodhi) calls upon all affected females not to fear the social stigma that may prevent them from reaching out for what is essential and crucial for a successful life. While the management at "Liyanawila" vows the highest level of confidentiality on the resident patients. The best treatment programme is offered through a personalized treatment plan for the purpose of prompt recovery of an individual. Further details could be obtained from Rear Admiral Harsha Mayadunne on 0773032789 or Rev. Bodhi on 0452274363 or to contact the Mithuru Mithuro City Office - "Voice" on

## Emergency Care Unit opens today at Teaching Hospital - Jaffna

**T**he Emergency Care Unit of the Teaching Hospital, Jaffna which has been modernised and equipped to accommodate more patients by the Lions Clubs International, District 306B1 will be opened today at 11.30 am by the Immediate Past International President Lion Mahendra Amarapura on the invitation of Lion S. Raghavan, Immediate Past District Governor and the

Project Coordinator. This project is being funded mainly by the Lions Clubs International Foundation and the Australian Medical Aid Foundation Inc. Lion Raghavan when he visited Jaffna three years back, observed the dire need for an emergency care unit to fulfil the needs of



IPP Lion Mahendra Amarapura

ever increasing patients in this hospital which caters to the entire population in the peninsula. He took all possible steps to make this project a reality. Thanks to his untiring efforts, a modern Emergency Care Unit will be presented to the people of Jaffna at a ceremony to develop this unit to fulfil the needs of Teaching Hospital, Jaffna

## 7th AGM - JCISL Kollupitiya

**J**cisl Kollupitiya conducted its 7th annual general meeting at mt. lavanya hotel where the new office bearers for the year 2009 were elected and appointed.

The chief guest for the occasion was JCI Sri Lanka National President JCI. Sen Niroshan Silva who was the outgoing Chairman of the Kollupitiya Chapter in the year 2003 when the Chapter was revived and subsequently became the Chapter President in the year 2003. In that year JCISL

Kollupitiya excelled exceptionally well by winning almost all the awards that were on offer at the 2004 National convention. At the conclusion of the event a 6th year anniversary cake was cut by the past presidents of the chapter.

National President JCI. Sen Niroshan Silva who was the outgoing Chairman of the Kollupitiya Chapter in the year 2003 when the Chapter was revived and subsequently became the Chapter President in the year 2003. In that year JCISL



Cutting of the AGM Cake from left: JC Dakshina Goonaratne (JCISL - Secretary General), JC Ruwan Senanayake (JCISL VP), JC Umar Shankar (JCISL - EVP), National President, JCI Sen. Niroshan Silva (Chief Guest), JCI Sri Vikunthan President elect JCISL Kollupitiya 2009, JC Sumedha Alakshank (IPP)

## Toastmasters "Reverberation -08" at Chennai, India

**O**ver 300 contestants from India and Sri Lanka participated at the Humorous Speech Contest while over 500 con-

testants took part at the Evaluation Contest, organised by Toastmasters Clubs District 82. These contests were held

on a grand scale and culminated with nine contestants taking part at the "Reverberation -08" District Conference held in Chennai, India.



Member of the Delhi Toastmasters Club, Punita Singh, winner of the Evaluation Contest receives her award from Toastmasters International District Governor, District 82, T.M. Arunasalam Balraj.



Toastmasters District Governor District 82, Arunasalam Balraj presenting the award to the first runner-up of Humorous Speech Contest, Ramash Shari at the semi-finals of the Toastmasters International Annual Conference held in Chennai, India.



The Rotary Club of Colombo North sponsored the Interact Club of Arethusa College, Colombo and the Club was chartered under Rotary International. Here the President of the Rotary Club of Colombo North Rtn. Sriyantha Senarathne hands over the charter certificate to the Principal of the College U.B. Thilakaratne at Galle Face Hotel recently. Rtn. Dayani Panagoda (Secretary), Rtn. Marshad Barry (Director new generation and youth service) and Charter President of the Interact Club Int. M. Hussain are also in the picture.

Picture by Ruzaik Farook

## Series of health camps by Colombo Orient Lions

**A** mega health project was launched by the Lions Club of Colombo Orient with a sponsorship from Chevron Lubricants Lanka PLC focusing the private bus community in Ratmalana.

The project was carried out for the Bus Community who are registered with the Provincial Board Passenger

Transport Authority of the Western Province region three where over 650 buses are registered.

This is the fourth health camp organised by the Lions Club of Colombo Orient in their series of health camps which has been a mega event where 533 patients who are registered with the Provincial Board Passenger

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District Governor Lion P. Jayarajan MJF presenting a pair of spectacles to a needy, witnessed by Lion Lalith Hewage (Colombo Summeret), Lion V. Nithyanandan (Secretary Colombo Orient), Lion V. Nithyanandan (Secretary Colombo Orient), Lion Lady Priyanti Samararatunga (Colombo Orient), Leo Kamal Jayathilake (Leo's Club of Wattala) and Chamara Surangithi Gamage.



A pair of spectacles being presented to a patient by the President of the Lions Club of Colombo Orient Lion Amal Samararatunga. In the background from left are Lion Lalith Hewage (Colombo Summeret), Lion V. Nithyanandan (Secretary Colombo Orient), Lion V. Nithyanandan (Secretary Colombo Orient), Lion Lady Priyanti Samararatunga (Colombo Orient) and Leo Kamal Jayathilake (Leo's Club of Wattala) and District Governor Lion P. Jayarajan MJF.

Pictures by Beverley Jansz



The donation of scholarships to 107 students of grade "V" who obtained best results in the Matara district, was organised by the Millennium Lions Club - Matara and held at Sujata Vidyalaya Matara recently. Here Lion Kingsly Munasinghe President of the Millennium Lion Club Matara hands over a scholarship to a student. At right some of the students.

Picture by A.W. Gunawardana, Matara Central correspondent

## Colombo Western City Lions 4th charter celebration

District Governor 306 B1 Lion Nimal Rajapakse MJF hands over a wheelchair to a needy in the presence of President Lions Club of Colombo

Western City Lion M. Senathilath, Region Chairman Lion S. Kullipitiya and District Coordinator Lion S. Jayathilake, at their fourth

charter celebration of the Lions Club of Colombo Western City held at excel world Colombo.

Colombo North Correspondent

