

Sun shines for children after 30 years Rotary Club of Colombo East spreads wings to Jaffna

BEVERLEY JANSZ

The Rotary Club of Colombo East, responded to a request to conduct a seven day training program for pre-school teachers in the Kopay division in Jaffna. A total of 174 teachers voluntarily contributed their time and effort to train pre-school children selflessly.

These teachers depend totally on the contributions received from the parents, for pre-school education. Chief guest at the training program was Rotary District Governor, Rtn. Suri Rajan. Delivering his keynote address, Rtn. Suri Rajan said that he appreciated the foresight of the Rotary Club of Colombo East at organising such an important function as the training of pre-school teachers in the Kopay, Jaffna area.

Since the proper preparation of a child for school goes a long way in formulating his or her subsequent academic career, the pre-school teachers training program has such an important impact on the schoolchildren, especially those with young school going children.

This is why I consider it an honour to inaugurate such a landmark event, as it is my first visit to the Jaffna area as the District Governor, my participation in this pre-school teachers program, was considered by me



Rotary District Governor, Rtn. Suri Rajan delivers the keynote address at the training program



District Governor, Rtn. Suri Rajan (7th from left) with Colombo East Rotarians and officials of the Department of Education

as important as my Governor's visit and I thank the Rotary Club of Colombo East for this truly useful gift to the parents and pupils of the Kopay-Jaffna area.

I understand that this program covers a two day course for 174 teachers with

a five-day program continued for about 45 teachers who have had no training whatsoever.

I trust all the participants will take the opportunity presented by this training program to upgrade the quality education in the

Kopay-Jaffna area. I am also happy that this event will bring greater cooperation in the Rotary movement and will remove any other obstacles that by in the path of humanitarian movements such as Rotary from achieving their interests of future

generation. I trust other Rotary Clubs in other district will organise similar inter-club activities which are very much needed in this area.

The program was designed to cover a general training of two days for all teachers and a comprehensive, five-day training for 51 teachers who have never received any form of training in pre-school teaching.

District Governor Suri Rajan inaugurated the training program, during his recent visit to Jaffna. The program was sponsored by Rotary Club of Colombo East and was initiated and co-ordinated by P.P. Dharshan John, District Chairman, Community service.

In addition to the DG, PDGA Gage, Krish, President Mahilum, P.P. Shan and Rtns. Sampath, Jayaraj and Vijayawad of Colombo East travelled all the way to Jaffna to attend the inauguration ceremony.

The Zonal Director of Education Jaffna, Mrs. Vethanayagam, co-ordinated the resource personnel and the training.

The teachers who underwent training will be awarded a certificate signed by the Department of Education Jaffna, Mrs. Vethanayagam, co-ordinated the resource personnel and the training.

Computer Training essential for modern day society - PGD Goonewardena

Lasantha Goonewardena Foundation in association with the Colombo Mid City Lions Club and Mahalwaraya Joint Traders Society established a Computer training center at Mahalwaraya recently.

Addressing the gathering at the inauguration ceremony PDG Lion Lasantha Goonewardena said that Computer education is an essential tool for every child today. When you are working with the society and to get the knowledge around us we need to work with the computer. Today most of the educational programs and general knowledge tools are available in the computer.

So to become a better educated person it is important that each and every child should get the computer knowledge. When a student completes his career at school and steps into a job the most essential component is the Computer knowledge and English knowledge. With out these two, students will find it difficult to obtain suitable job. At present most of the public and private sector organizations place their confidence on Computers and computer programs. Today within a minute we can communicate with the entire world, get to know what's happening around us, knowing people around the world, career and educational development activities by Computer.

PDG Lasantha further added that the problem the majority of parents are facing today is how to give sound computer knowledge to their children. Most of



PDG Lion Lasantha Goonewardena himself a Computer Engineer, instructing a student.



PDG Lasantha Goonewardena addressing the gathering. Lion Chandrasena Masakorale is also in the picture

the Computer programs available at the private organisations are very expensive and not affordable to many of the people. Having identified this Lasantha Goonewardena Foundation and Lions of Colombo Mid City with the help of Mahalwaraya Traders Society decided to open this Computer Training Center to the children who cannot afford the cost of Computer course. The course is free of charge and it will be three months program. Under the supervision of qualified lecturers children will learn how to use Computers and how to get maximum from the computers. Helping young people to continue their education is one of the

challenges our community faces. We are also extraordinarily grateful for the support and contributions we received from members of the community. You are helping us make a difference," PDG Lasantha said.

The President of Mahalwaraya Traders Society and President of Pammitipathi Central Lions Club Lion Wijitha Masakorale addressing the gathering thanked PDG Lasantha Goonewardena for offering Computers for the training center. He also thanked his trade society members who agreed to pay the salaries of the lecturers. He further said that they are hoping to train at least 30 children per month under this program.

Rotary launches Rs 6.67m Children's Heart Surgery Project

Annually in Sri Lanka there are approximately 2,000 children born who need corrective heart surgery. Of this number the Government Hospitals and other private hospitals combined are only able to correct 800 of these cases.

This leaves approximately 1,200 children without corrective surgery, each year. If these surgeries are performed, at the early stages of diagnosing, their Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) before they develop significant side effects of their illness, the risk is less.

The most common surgeries required are VSD and ASD, both of these are relatively straight forward and are also the most cost effective, if done early in a child's life. Many parents of these children are unable to afford private corrective surgery for their children.

The Rotary Club Luebeck - Burgtor District 1940 in association with the Rotary Club of Wattala launched a project valued at Rs 6.67m which will benefit several underprivileged children born with Congenital Heart Defects.



Exchanging agreements from left are Ann Elisabeth, District Rotary Foundation Chair Lucky Peiris, Dr. Armin Wegener, District Governor Suri Rajan and President Rohan de Silva



Dr. Armin Wegener signing the agreement. Others in the picture are (from left) District Rotary Foundation Chair Lucky Peiris, District Governor Suri Rajan and President Rohan de Silva

The President Dr. Armin Wegener of Rotary Club of Wattala, The District Governor Suri Rajan and the District Rotary Foundation Chair Lucky Peiris were also present.

Rohan de Silva of the local Partner Club Wattala. The District Governor Suri Rajan and the District Rotary Foundation Chair Lucky Peiris were also present.

New approach by Lions 306 B2 Dawn to Dusk (D2D)

Lions District 306 B2 has successfully launched a series of very effective service projects under the caption "Dawn to Dusk" which is a new concept introduced by the District Governor Lion Kingsley Bernard in line with his theme "Strategize to Excel". These projects are being conducted by the club of each Region on a selected day of the month.

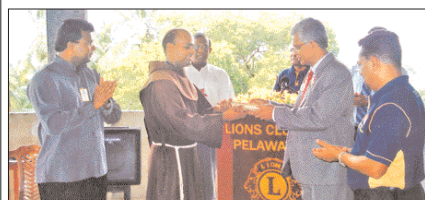
These service projects take place from morning to evening through out the day conducted by the respective clubs in a given Region. The implementation of this program commenced in August and continued during the last three months, very successfully. Three Regions have already completed their "Dawn to Dusk" program and the other six Regions are scheduled to



District Governor 306 B2, Lion Kingsley Bernard makes a presentation to a student

conduct their programs from November 2009 to April 2010. The Region Chairpersons and Zone Chairpersons are responsible in attending to logistical arrangements and District Governor and Principle Cabinet with relevant Region Chairperson and Zone Chairperson visit

these individual clubs during the officers service projects. In addition to, well known Lions Projects such as Sight First, Diabetes Awareness etc, novel and innovative service projects are being conducted during this program. One such project is "Waste to Wealth" projects.



District Governor 306C1, Lion Eng. Saliya Kaluarachchi makes the donation to Rev. Fr. Benedict. At extreme left is Past District Governor, Lion Direseth Hettirachchi.

Lions Club of Pelawatta donates furniture to Sunday school

The Lions Club of Pelawatta donated wooden desks valued at Rs. 620,000.00 to the Sunday School of the Church of St. John Dal Bastoni at Pelawatta Battaramulla at a ceremony held at the church premises. The Sunday school is housed in the newly constructed four-story building at the premises of this 125-year old church and has a student population of over 200. The

donation made by the Lions Club of Pelawatta which satisfied one of the greatest needs of the Sunday school, thus creating a comfortable environment for the pupils to pursue studies on the faith, said District Governor, 306C1, Lion Eng. Saliya Kaluarachchi.

Forty desks made out of yak wood were presented to Rev. Fr. Benedict, Parish Priest of the Church on behalf of the Lions Club of

Pelawatta by the District Governor, Lions International District 306 C1, Lion Eng. Saliya Kaluarachchi in the presence of a large congregation. Lion Anil de Silva, President of the Lions Club of Pelawatta, Lion Philip Weir, Project Chairman, and Lion Direseth Hettirachchi, Immediate Past District Governor, were associated with the District Governor in making the presentation.

Prince Ratnam Dancing Club 4th annual celebration



Winners receiving their awards from Prince Ratnam (extreme left)

Prince Ratnam Dancing Club held its 4th annual dance at Mount Lavinia Hotel on a grand scale. The event was sponsored by Ceylon Tobacco Co. Ltd.

A host of distinguished guests and pupils of Prince Ratnam Dancing Club graced the occasion. Scintillating music was provided by Super Pink N' purple band. Many colourful competitions were on the cards and winners were presented valuable gifts.



A section of the guests. Pictures by Beverly Jansz



Lions Club of Colombo West donated household items, mattresses, chairs, pillows, kitchen utensils and cash to a visually handicapped family affected by the recent floods, at Berella. In the picture is President, Lions Club of Colombo West, Lion Ashroff Hussain (Second from left) handing over the donation to the family. Others in the picture are Secretary Sri Lanka Council for the Blind S. L. Hettirachchi and Vice President S.A.M.B. Bank, Riyadh Saudi Arabia, M. Thasim.

Rotary Club of Kandy celebrates World Interact Week

The Rotary Club of Kandy develops the youth for future by sponsoring 23 Interact Club in Kandy. Interact is an organization for youth between 14-18. Interact exists in 110 countries and promotes active service at home and abroad. With almost 200,000 members and more than 8,600 clubs worldwide. Interact provides a powerful force of youthful enthusiasm and energetic service.

The goals of Interact are to recognize and develop constructive leadership and personal integrity, to encourage and practice thoughtfulness and of helpfulness to others, and to create an awareness of the importance of home and family.

Rotary Kandy together with the Interactors of the Interact Clubs of Good Shepherd Kandy, Girls High School Kandy, Asoka Vidyalaya Kandy, Al Imran

International Kandy, Ceylan Sussex Kandy, Dharmaraja College Kandy, Trinity College Kandy, St. Sylvester's college Kandy, Kingswood College Kandy, Zahira College Gampaha, Hillwood College Kandy, Kandy Grammar School, Gateway International Kandy, Viharamahadevi Balika Vidyalaya Kandy, Siri Samangala Vidyalaya Kandy, Berewats College Kandy, Badi ud Doon Mohammed Girls School Kandy, Ranabima Royal College Kandy, Springfield College Bhandulpatha National School & Siddhartha College between November 3-9 by engaging in various programs such as assisting the disabled patients at the Center for Handicapped and organizing joint Inter City Meeting. Under the able presidency of Ayeshah Wijesaratne, the club intends to organize more Leadership Program for the Youth this year.



Kandy Rotary Club donated bed sheets and pillow cases to the Physiotherapy department of the General Hospital Kandy recently. In the picture Rotarian Hafiz Marikar MMC handing over the items to Dr. H.M.V. J. Hettirachchi, Assistant Director. Looking on are K. Divarthne Head of the Physiotherapy Department and Sherine Marikar.