



ASHWINI Newsletter 2012

Seasons greetings

25 years so far and oh how far we've come! Our community health programme was started 25 years ago, with the intention of decreasing preventable deaths and illnesses, providing immunizations and promoting general health awareness among the adivasis. 22 years ago saw the opening of the first Gudalur Adivasi Hospital and the development of ASHWINI as an entity. So much as happened in the mean time and we would like to thank you for making this possible!

2012 itself has been an exciting year in ASHWINI with many fantastic changes being made to both the hospital and community health programmes.

Reeling in the year:

...building, building & more building...

A grant from the Navajbai Rattan Tata trust to upgrade the hospital ensured the beginning of construction of the much needed infrastructure in and around the hospital. Including a new operating theater, delivery room, postnatal ward, nursing and doctors quarters amongst others. We hope to complete all building by the end of 2013.

This year saw the opening of the endoscopy unit in the hospital, which has already been used to diagnose and treat nearly 300 patients. We also relocated to a new cytopathology, microbiology and sickle cell lab, ensuring a more timely and efficient diagnosis of our patients. Within the last 6 months alone, we have picked up 3 cases of early cancer of the cervix and thankfully we have been able to offer them curative surgery. The new part of the building was officially opened by Mr H.D. Malesra (Board member of NRTT) on the 11th of September.



...continued education...

13 more student nurses completed their BSS diploma in nursing, bringing the total number of BSS certified nurses to 21. Currently 22 more students are studying for their BSS diplomas & certificates in nursing, office accounting, pharmacy and lab work.

A special congratulations must be given to Mr Krishnadas, who has recently returned from Nagercoil, where he completed a diploma in Radiodiagnostic Technology in Dr. Jeyasekharan Hospital. Currently 3 more students are studying for diplomas in anaesthesia technology & medical laboratory technology.

...fancy equipment...

The radiology department welcomed a long awaited new ultrasound machine, which is used on a daily basis. A state of the art computerised radiology system is soon to be installed in GAH. We have also installed new equipment in the theater and labs, which is having a fantastic impact on patient care.

...green all the way...

We have recently installed many solar panels on the roof of the hospital, which is supplying power and hot water on a 24 hour basis.



...help from the state...

This year the state government has sanctioned a free dedicated 24 hour ambulance service for the adivasis in the Gudalur and Pandalur taluks. This will undoubtedly lead to a speedier referral service.

The hospital has also recently been empanelled under the Tamil Nadu Chief Ministers Health Insurance Scheme, whereby we can claim for specific conditions and procedures

...basking in the glory...

We were awarded the 20th Rotary India "Service to Humanity" Award in November 2012.

... a time to reflect...

This year we also lost one of our dear friends Manoharan, who joined ACCORD in 1995. As you all know he was an integral part in the creation of ASHWINI and a constant figure in the daily running of ASHWINI, ACCORD, VBVT school. A humble man, who could put a smile on anyone's face will be greatly missed by all of us.



What's on the horizon?

We are anxiously awaiting the opening of the new the new buildings in GAH. We are also hoping to introduce an Auxiliary Nurse Midwife training programme in the near future.

Donations in India are exempt from income tax under section 80G of the income tax act.
Indian Money can be transferred directly to our account in State Bank of India, Gudalur (A/c No. 11317309532)

Tax deductible donations can be made in the US through our website www.ashwini.org/donations.php

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