

ASHWINI Newsletter 2013

Season's greetings and all the best wishes for a wonderful year ahead



Another exciting year has gone by. It has been one of the most eventful years in the history of the organization. A dream come true - The Gudalur Adivasi Hospital is well established today. Thanks to the support of so many wonderful people. The buildings are in place and so also are most of the basic equipment. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for making this possible!

The highpoints...



New hospital building inaugurated in June 2013...

A day of celebration! The maternity wards and labour room, operating theatre block with post operative wards and autoclave room, more ward space, blood bank, offices and quarters for staff are all part of the new construction.

Critical equipment like a good ultrasound machine, X ray with digital imaging, OT tables and lights, laparoscope, cots and other furniture have also been installed and are functional now.

Thanks to the Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust for their generous donation. The hospital has become a hub of much activity...

First laparoscopic surgery ...

With the help of our wonderful visiting surgeons; the first laparoscopic cholecystectomy was successfully performed in October this year. Since then, it has become a routine. Many of these surgeries are covered under the Tamil Nadu Government Insurance scheme. This is a boon for the poorer non tribals as well..

The training front...

While the BSS courses continue, we are going all out to establish a Government recognized ANM (Auxiliary Nurse Midwife) School. Ms Jyothi, an MSc nurse from St Johns Medical College has joined us and is taking the application process forward. We hope to admit students next year.

The medical student elective program continues to be popular and has given us some financial stability. Other students from CMC Vellore, TISS, St Johns and other colleges spent time with us doing various projects.

"Beyond Medicine"...

We held a 3 day workshop for health professionals. 18 participants from different parts of India made it a very lively program. We hope that we have sensitized these youngsters to look at health care more holistically keeping in mind the needs of the community.

Staff and students...

8 of the BSS students who completed their course have joined us for one year training. 12 new students have joined the various BSS courses.

Durga, who belongs to the Paniya tribe, did her primary education at Vidyodaya school (our sister organization). She procured admission to the BSc Course in Speech and Hearing at the National Institute in Mysore, a much sought after course. She is being supported under the Project grant from Poristes Stiftung, a Swiss charity.

Dr Manju has rejoined us after a break of three years. Apart from dentistry, he is actively involved in hospital administration. Dr Sheldon and Dr Gita, recent additions to the team have helped to ease the clinical work load. Dr Peter, an anesthesiologist, has also joined the team making more surgeries possible.

Looking ahead...

Setting up proper systems in GAH to streamline functioning is a priority at this point. As more children complete schooling, making more vocational training courses, is another priority. The Poristes Stiftung has agreed in principle to support this venture and set up an "Adivasi Community College" and we are in the process of procuring the land for this initiative. With their support, we are also putting up the nursing training centre as well as dormitories for the students at GAH.

We are certain that the health program will provide much needed services in the Gudalur valley and we thank you all for being a part of this journey.

Continued support...

We hope that you will continue to support us in many ways.

Donations in India are exempt from Tax under 80G and money can be transferred to our SBI account in Gudalur payable to ASHWINI, Ac no 11317309532, IFSC Code: SBIN 0001016.

Donations from overseas can be sent directly to our foreign account in SBI, Ac no 11317309429, SWIFT Code: SBININBB470

In the USA, Tax deductible online donations can be made through Tribal India Health Foundation, <http://www.ashwini.org/donations.php> This site uses a "Paypal" account. Please send us an email if you do use this route.

In the UK, we can get the benefit of "Gift Aid" if donations are made through the charity "From Here to There" Sort Code: 30-65-92, Account no: 16621468. Please send an email to friendsofgudalur@gmail.com

Website: www.ashwini.org Email: ashwinigudalur@gmail.com