

ASHWINI Newsletter 2016



Season's Greetings and All Good Wishes for a Wonderful Year ahead!

Right from its genesis as a small hospital to a pillar of the Adivasi Community, the past twenty six years have been as glorious as they have been tough. Our hospital, which started out as a harbinger of hope to the community in dire need of proper health care, has evolved into an institution that stands firmly by its motto:

"A hospital FOR the tribals; BY the tribals"

This has all been possible due to the continuous effort of each and every one of this larger family who has been a part of this journey with us

As we grow older each year, we are touched by the lives of all those who join us and help us push boundaries and achieve our true potential. Whether it is doctors like *Dr.Vimala Jyothi* who back us with 20 odd years of experience in family medicine or *Dr.Dhanya Narayan* who add to our dental and administrative team, each of them bring new perspectives to our table.

Expanding the horizons of our work has always been important to us and this year, *Dr. Wesley Rajaleelan* and *Dr.Susmita Chandramouleeswaran* have helped us do just that. Armed with her masters in Psychiatry and Epidemiology, Susmita has taken over the mental health programme and expanded the services. Apart from this, she has, along with *Dr.Anna Oomen*, stimulated the idea of medical research among us. She will continue the work started by *Dr Anand Zachariah* of CMC Vellore and *Dr Srivatsan* of Anveshi. At the same time, anaesthesiologist, *Wesley*, has widened our scope to perform surgeries especially emergency surgical interventions

However, none of this would be possible without the inexorable backing of our paramedical and support staff. This backbone of ours was strengthened this year by the addition of nurses *Leema, Nisha, Babitha, Josephine and Nithya*; pharmacist *Padma* and driver *Sanju*. We also welcome *Kasthuri*, who, with our support, recently completed her MA social work in mental health and *Arun D'Silva* our new public relations manager. The Disability Centre is progressing well with the continued help of NIEPMD. We welcome *Malaivizhi*, special education teacher and volunteer *Remadevi*, together with physiotherapist *Belcy & Susmita* they have streamlined care for those with seizure disorders as well as help many clients access Govt pensions.

Over the years, many specialist doctors-Drs *P G Premila, Binu Kurian, Vinoo Jacob* and wife *Pramila, Pradip, Ramesh, Veenu, Shivananda, Mainak, Shuba, Kiran, Sabine, Shalini Chico, Rajiv, Rekha & Tarun Kurian, Patti Chico Jithen, Lorenzo, Sashi, Agnes Mathew*, Unit of Hope Team (*Maria, Shilpa* and others) have lent their support, on a regular basis, to improve our services. We welcome *Dr.Renita Rajan*, a dermatologist, and *Dr.Nithya*, an oral surgeon, to our team of volunteers. We have been very fortunate to have *Dr Gnanaraj Jesudian*, urologist & a great innovator of gasless laparoscopy lift procedure, and his team visit us on a regular basis.

We are very happy that *Dr.Saji* our senior visiting orthopaedic surgeon is back with us having recovered from cardiac surgery post myocardial infarction.

First peripheral vascular procedure at GAH!

Senguttuvan is a happy man! Thanks to our visiting vascular surgeon, Dr.Shivananda, we were able to perform a Femoral endartrectomy, femoro- anterior tibial saphenous vein by -pass grafting! This is the first vascular procedure in the Nilgiris district.

Picture three siblings in an impoverished family suffering from schizophrenia! To add to that, one of the spouses develops the same disease and runs amuck. The old parents have to work, as well as take care of the children and grand children! Thanks to our active mental health team, the patients are on regular medicines and the family is back on its feet, with the adults going to work and earning their livelihood!

Some Good News.....!

We bought a beautiful 5 acre plot of land about three kms from Gudalur town, with the support of The Poristes Stiftung, a Swiss based charity. This land is for developing the infrastructure needed to house the increasing number of nursing and paramedical students.

The ANM course has finally, after a lot of effort, been sanctioned the “No Objection Certificate” from the TN Government. There is still the hurdle of getting sanction from the Indian Nursing Council. Keeping fingers crossed!!!

Events

December 5th – Adivasi day celebrations

An occasion for all of us, young & old to have some fun & frolic with sports, group activities, traditional music & dance!–The celebration in itself portraying tradition and unity....the nursing students staged a play showcasing their past and present life style. It was an occasion to reflect on the values we cherish and to resolve to maintain them

The senior team ending the day with some delicious traditional food...



Awards

Nk won the prestigious Lancet Commission on Global Surgery Award for Surgical Training in rural India

Susmita, Mahantu, Alice Knowles & Shyla received the Dr S K Ghai Award for the best paper on Social Empowerment at the All India Coordination Committee of the Royal College of Obstetrics & Gynaecology in Chennai

Nk & Shyla – The Reny Abraham TANKER Foundation – “Love for Service” Award

Obituary

We as the GAH family mourn the untimely demise of Staff Nurse Ammini who has been a part of us since 1991. We will miss a kind and gentle person.



Looking forward

We are looking at improving the quality of services and further empowering the tribal team to take over management this year.

We are in the process of getting NABH certification- however, a lot more work needs to be done. .

The tribal staff is being groomed to manage the institution. This year they will be independently planning the budget...

Youngsters are being encouraged to join the team both in the hospital as well as in the areas to bring in fresh zeal & vigour.

Donations in India

Are exempt from income tax under section 80G of the income tax act.

Money can be transferred directly to our account in SBI, Gudalur as ASHWINI DONATIONS, Current account No: 35765454150 IFSC Code: SBIN 001016

In USA

Tax deductible donations can be made by check to Vidyalay.org Foundation Inc and mailed to Ms.Asmita Shendye, 35 Meyer Drive, Clifton, NJ 07012

OR

By online donation through Tribal India Health Foundation <http://www.tihf.org.in/> and click the "donate" button on the page "How you can help".

In the UK

Gift aid can be a benefit if donations are sent to Account name: From Here To There, Sort Code: 30-65-92, Account number: 16621468. Email: friendsofgudalur@gmail.com.

