

Association for Health Welfare in the Nilgiris

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Once a dream - now a reality! The first batch of 19 students from The ASHWINI Adivasi School of Nursing has successfully completed the ANM course.

The highlight of the year has been the accomplishments of the tribal youth. First generation learners exhibiting focus, determination and skills to compete with the mainstream and match them.

Kavitha, Sindhu and Durga, all from the Paniya community have completed BSc Physiotherapy, Diploma in Special Education and MSc Audiology

respectively from premier institutions with flying colours. They have joined us, setting up departments and taking the work to the next level. There were more applicants than we could admit for the ANM course this year. So much for our doubts of being able to fill the 20 seats each year!

Achievements of others who have joined courses like MPH, MSc & BSc Nursing, dentistry, Ayurvedic medicine etc makes us proud and optimistic about the future of the community.

Creating leaders and providing role models for the next generation, is a sure way for upliftment of the community. None of this would have been possible without the support of Poristes Stiftung and the Rambo Foundation..

All things good..

Several people have pitched in with their time, money and skills for the continued growth of the programme. Volunteering specialist doctors, those helping us remotely with teleradiology, tele neurology&tele orthopedics, volunteers at Plenti helping in many different ways; the list is long.... We cannot thank them enough for the time and effort they have put in.

Dr.Namrita, a young obstetrician joined us and the department is blossoming under her wholehearted efforts. Stephen is the new junior doctor, smart and committed. Dr. Roshina, a Public Health Specialist and Mr. Rasaiya a Clinical Psychologist, have added zeal to our community and mental healthteams.

The Research department has been established and there is greater focus on systematic documentation, analysis and publishing papers. The Harvard Program in Global Surgery & Social Change and ICMR are partners.

Differently Aabled Centre supported by the Speech & Hearing Foundation is focusing on early detection of disabilities. An OAE machine has been acquired for hearing screening. All newborns are being screened now. Hearing aids and speech therapy are given to children with hearing deficits.

A new lift has been commissioned easing the struggle in moving patients within the hospital.



A Rural sensitization program for medical students and young doctors was conducted in May. The importance of exposing young medical students to health problems and practice of medicine in rural areas cannot be undervalued. Several stalwarts from the field of medicine participated to motivate and guide the students. A fellowship is being proposed; details of which are at

<http://ruralsensitisationprogram.org/>

<http://ruralsensitisationprogram.org/thi-fellowship-program/>

Award

We received an award from the Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Tamilnadu for our performance in the Chief Ministers Comprehensive Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS)

The downside...

Tribal family life has been adversely affected by the increased use of alcohol resulting in broken homes and rising levels of malnutrition among children. TASMAC, the Government owned alcohol vending monopoly, is aggressively setting up shops in every nook and corner. Working with alcoholics is proving to be an uphill task with little returns. We have started work with children and adolescents to create awareness and to build their skills to say no to alcohol.

Financial support:

The Tata Trusts have supported the work here for almost two decades. This came to an end in March 2019. Poristes Stiftung continues to support the training programs. The struggle to get the Govt to reimburse us the cost of in-patient care for tribals continues!

Anaha Trust, JSK Trust, Nilgiri Adivasi Trust, Friends of Hope and The Rambo Foundation support various aspects of the work. A generous donation from Val Hawkins in the memory of George Mc Donald has helped to keep the mental health program going.

Several individual donors have been equally supportive and making significant donations. We welcomed Dr and Mrs. Jayendra Patel, our longstanding and staunch supporters, who finally visited us and saw the work first hand.



Disrupted families; when the responsibility falls on a child!!



A story to share...

2 year old Ananya, had a recto-vestibular fistula, a birth defect. Her father recently committed suicide and the single mother had to take care of two children.

She would never have managed to go to a tertiary hospital and would have remained incontinent!

Dr Subha, the volunteering pediatric surgeon operated on her in September 2018. To correct her malnutrition, she and her mother stayed in hospital for over a year. She was fit by October this year and had corrective surgery. The final step, closure of the colostomy, will be done soon.

Such is the contribution of our volunteers...

Focus for the year 2020...

The Vision of tribal empowerment by capacity building and ownership will continue to be the major thrust of the year. The ASHWINI Board, the Management Team as well as the Staff will continue to have sessions on governance and leadership as they take the baton from the outgoing Founders.

Life skill training for adolescents in the villages is being planned in a big way. We hope to arm children with the skills and knowledge to face the modern world, a task that the traditional leadership is finding difficult to impart.

Training and providing support for the young girls and boys aspiring to take up higher studies will continue.

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.AsmitaShendye, 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.

Direct foreign donations: Net Banking to ASHWINI, Ac No: : 11317309429, State Bank of India, SWIFT Code :SBININBBT03 (Ooty branch) IFSC Code : SBIN0001016

Thank You