



Rotary Club of Sonarpur

Rotary District : 3291



PRESIDENT :
Santanu Ghosh

SECRETARY:
Sajal Kumar Dutta



R.I. Club No. 23960 Charter dt. 30.06.1986

RI PRESIDENT:
Kalyan Banerjee

DISTRICT GOVERNOR
Angshuman Bandopadhyay

NO. 37

VOL : XXVI

27th April 2012

Sunshine rally puts a smile on children's faces in Kenya



April 10, 2012 by Rotary International

Buses full of eager students rolled into the Jamhuri showground in Nairobi, Kenya, 25 February.

Every year, Rotary clubs in Nairobi, Thika, and Machakos collaborate to put together a special rally for children with physical and mental disabilities. This year, a record 3,500

children took part in the event, hosted by the Rotary Club of Nairobi East and Nairobi Parklands.

It is a joy to see the excitement on the faces of the children, who, according to their teachers, hardly sleep the night before. The rally is a big event on their calendars.

As the buses made their way into the showground, they were met by Rotaractors from the University of Nairobi, Kenyatta, and the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, who took a very active role in picking up the children from their schools, assisting them around the arena, and helping with meals.

Dancers, clowns, comedians and DJs entertained the students. After lunch, rally cars and dirt bikes put on a spectacular display. Henry Wanyoike, a blind athlete from Kenya who competes in the Paralympics Games and marathon racing, encouraged the children to overcome whatever challenges life puts in their way. He told the students a disability is not an inability.

Some of the schools took to the stage to perform their own songs and poems for the other students. The child performers had put a lot of effort into rehearsing and practicing, and the pride was plain to see on their faces.

It was a great day for all the children. A teacher at one of the schools summed it up best when she said "A big thank you for throwing an outing like this. You touched my kids. May the Almighty shower many blessings on all the Rotary clubs who took part."

Health camp reaches mothers and children on remote island in Sri Lanka

April 19, 2012 by Rotary International

By Gehan de Alwis, a member of the Rotary Club of Colombo Regency, Western Province, Sri Lanka

I was lucky recently to be a part of a team that visited a remote island off the northwestern coast of Sri Lanka as part of a prenatal and postnatal health camp.

The camp was supported by a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant initiated by my club, together with the Rotary Club of Colombo Fort, and our international partner, the Rotary Club of Newtown, Pennsylvania, USA. My trip with three other Rotarians, a Rotaractor, and a prospective Rotarian for the "mother and child" health camp began at 4:45 a.m. in Colombo.

We reached Jaffna, the northern-most city in Sri Lanka, by 9 p.m. via the infamous A9 highway, which used to be partially controlled by rebel forces during Sri Lanka's 30-year civil war.

A half-hour boat ride, standing up, in pitch black over open seas brought us to Delft Island.

Before we could call it a day, we still needed to complete all the ground work, sorting and delivery of medicines, banners etc., for a bright and early start the next morning on five hours sleep!

But this being the fourth out of a series of five health camps, and almost the 15th in our club's 10-year history, we knew the challenges. And these challenges come with pleasures words cannot fully describe. With the assistance of the Sri Lanka Navy, we set up the makeshift pharmacy, arranged the medicines, and prepared the patient registrations and doctor's consultation areas, all within 30 minutes.

As soon as the gates were opened, mothers-to-be and mothers with infants and children started pouring in to register themselves for a meeting with one of five volunteer doctors from the Jaffna Government Hospital.

The first challenge was communicating with the Tamil-speaking mothers at registration and in dispensing medicine from the pharmacy. I was pleasantly surprised, though, that one of our Rotarians and her guest Rotaractor were able to communicate and translate.

The second challenge was reassuring everyone that there were enough medicines to go around. Everyone who participated received multi-vitamins, folic acid, iron tablets, worm treatment and other prescription medicines handed out under the supervision of a registered pharmacist who also volunteered his services with us.

What a treat it was to see poor and malnourished mothers-to-be and children receiving access to free doctors' consultation and medical care. Our supply of medicines worth roughly US\$3,000 enabled us to treat more than 500 residents by noon. We donated further medicines worth \$1,000 to the only government dispensary on the island, to be used for ongoing prenatal and postnatal care.

All participants over 30 years old also had their eyesight tested, and over 200 prescription reading glasses were issued for free. It is a phenomenal feeling when you see the expressions on the faces of the recipients who now have improved vision.

We meet every Friday, 7.30pm. at ' HARMONY ', 20A, Kali Mohon Banerjee Lane, Kolkata 700025

Minutes of the Meeting

Meeting no 1049

Dated 20.04.2012

President called meeting no. 1049 to order.

National Anthem led by Rtn. Bibhas Roy Chowdhury.

President welcomed Dr. Rtn. Rahul Sinha of RC Kolkata Tilottama.

Minutes of the last meeting confirmed.

Discussions:

- President thanked the members of the club for their overwhelming participation in Scholarship Award programme on 13th April morning as well as for the District Governor's official visit in the evening
- President informed the club about submission of the Helping Grant Project to the Eastern India Rotary Foundation.
- Rtn. Sripati Pradhan pointed out that the name of the Guest would be Mr. Utsav Hazra instead of Mr. Uttam Hazra as printed in the bulletin. President admitted.
- Rtn. Sarbendu Dutta noted, in his own absence in the Award of Scholarship at Ballygaunge Vidyalaya and Silpa Sikshayatan held on 13th April 2012, he heard from other sources that the announcement of beneficiaries on the basis of 'Merit and Economic Background' should have been modified and 'Economic background' should have been deleted. President and other members of the club explained to him the ground situation and he agreed.
- The members of the club discussed the success of 'Award of Scholarship' to the students of Ballygaunge Vidyalaya and Silpa Sikshayatan. All the members present agreed that the programme touched their hearts. Rtn. Sarbendu Dutta announced that Mrs. Abha Pal has promised to donate Rs. 500.00 extra for the Yearly Scholarship programme from the next year. Rtn. Pradeep Chowdhury and Rtn. Debasis Chakraborty also made commitments of Rs. 5000.00 each for the programme in the coming years.
- Rtn. Sarbendu Dutta enquired about the club's commitment to award scholarship for vocational training of a candidate whose papers were submitted to the club through him. President reminded him about the informal

discussion he had with him, 2 weeks back, whereby he was requested to resubmit the relevant papers as the previous ones seems to have been misplaced. However IPP Rtn. Sarbendu Dutta insisted that the President goes through the minutes of the meeting dated 03.02.2012 and then comes for discussion. On enquiry by the President if he has a copy of the documents, he refused to divulge.

President handed over the business to the Secretary. Secretary Rtn. Sajal Kr. Dutta announced the receipt of bulletins from neighboring clubs, and upcoming District events before handing back the meeting to the President.
Having no other business, President terminated the meeting.

Members Present: 10 Sunshine Collected : Rs. 200/-

Congratulation

Rtn. Debasis Chakraborty and Rt. Pradeep Kr. Chowdhury for their promises to contribute towards the Club Project, 'Award of Scholarship' to the needy students of our Interact School.

DISTRICT 3291 UPCOMING EVENTS

1. May 26: Inter City Meet on Future Vision at Rotary Sadan at 3pm. Major changes in TRF funding to be discussed.
2. May 26: District Drama at Gyan Manch from 6.30pm

Thought of the Day

IF PEOPLE
ARE TRYING
TO BRING YOU
DOWN
IT ONLY MEANS
THAT YOU ARE
ABOVE THEM

Four Way Test

Is it the **TRUTH** ?
Is it **FAIR** to all concerned ?
Will it build **GOODWILL** and better
FRIENDSHIP ?
Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned ?

**GLOBAL
POLIO ERADICATION
INITIATIVE**



every last child