



Rotary 



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Official Bulletin of Rotary Club of Alleppey (Chartered on 25th July 1949)



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Rtn. PHF K. Cherian



RI President
Rtn. Mark Daniel Maloney



Dist. Governor
Rtn. Shirish Kesavan



Issue No. No.20 (2019-20) Dated 09th November 2019

From Editor's desk

Let us remember: One book, One pen, One child and one teacher can change the world- Malala Yousafaizi

The Princeton Child Development Institute, a nonprofit organization founded in 1970 at NJ USA provides behavioral intervention for people with autism. Services are provided in an early intervention program, in preschool and school, in community-based group homes, in families' own homes, and in a program for adults that features life skills and supported, competitive employment. All phases of PCDI's programs are based on behavior analysis, including educational services, staff mentoring and evaluation, and program administration. Ongoing research assesses new intervention strategies that are immediately implemented to ameliorate skill deficits and behavior problems. Technology dissemination is an important aspect of the Institute's endeavors, and there is continuing examination of variables relevant to program replication. Clinical data are supported by measures of interobserver agreement, and annual program evaluations by outside experts in behavior analysis show that 80% to 100% of all preschool and school instructional programs produce desired behavior change. PCDI has been recognized as an "enduring program in behavior analysis."

The parents of Aman living in the tiny village near Aluva in Kerala can not imagine joining their kid at the Princeton for an early intervention programme. The entire money saved by the lower middle class family for a life time will not be adequate for meeting a portion of the expenses and they have to be contented with the facilities available locally, if at all there. For every one, whether rich or poor, the well being of their kid is of prime importance. The Rotary- Alfa Kids Learning Centre, started in our Club premises provides for a solution. I wish to place on record my sincere appreciation to our President Rtn Cherian for his initiative in joining hands with Alfa to open the centre in Alleppey giving a solace to the parents of autistic children in the region. It is a stand alone project in the entire Rotary district 3211. I am bound to appreciate Mrs Shani S Hameed, the Director of the centre and her spouse for their passionate service to the children. This issue of RW is dedicated as "Alfa-Kids Special"



Secretary
Rtn. PHF John Kurian



Asst. Governor
Rtn. PHF V. Deepak



Bulletin Editor
Rtn. PHF M. Kumaraswamy Pillai



Jai Rotary

Rtn PHF M. Kumaraswamy Pillai

We meet on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm at Revi Karunakaran Rotary Hall, Alleppey

Membership increase and Foundation Contribution – Need of the hour.

Last week I just happened to give a ring to our District Governor Rtn. Shirish Kesavan. The scheduled DG visit to our Club is last week of November, and I requested a change of the date to last week of January as we have to fully gear up for the GOV. DG says – the very purpose of early scheduling of visits to large clubs is to motivate the members for increase in membership. He reminded me of the target of increase of 15 members given to our Club. He tells me that, your Club is having senior leaders, who have high connections and there is a large potential for increase of membership. He is putting the task to each and every member of us. If one out of five members is able to introduce at least one new member, our target in membership growth can be easily achieved. Is it not convincing? My earnest request to my fellow Rotarians is please give a thought to the idea of our leader DG Rtn. Shirish Kesavan.

Another request of our DG is TRF contribution. He says, we have many potential members who can become Major donors. As we know, November is Rotary Foundation month. It is not necessary to explain to our members the necessity of contributing to TRF. Our RW editor Rtn. M. Kumaraswamy Pillai, in his editorial of last issue of Royal Weeks dealt with the necessity of contributing to TRF. Let us take a vow – this year I will fulfill my commitment to the society by at least a small amount of contribution to the Foundation.

Jai Rotary
Rtn. K. Cherian

Minutes of meeting dated 6th November 2019

The regular meeting of the club for the week started with invocation of blessings of God Almighty by Rtn. George Thomas. President in his address congratulated the host team of October family dinner meeting for conducting the same in an elegant manner. However he expressed concern over the low participation of Anns and Annets in family meetings and requested the members to give suggestions to improve the situation. President informed that we will be conducting first round of Rotary Neelima Challenge Quiz competitions on 12th November in around 20 schools. Voluntary service of the members to supervise the quiz, is necessary as the event is being simultaneously conducted in all the schools. Rtn. Siby George along with Rtn. Subramania Iyer is making all arrangements for the conduct of the competitions. President informed that, in connection with World Diabetes day on 14th November, we are planning to conduct a camp offering free blood check up for Diabetes and Cholesterol, in association with MDC Labs & Scans, Alappuzha. MDC Labs will be sponsoring the event. In connection with Children's day on 14th November we propose to celebrate the same with children of Rotary Alfa Learning Development Centre. Members are requested to participate in the celebrations to be conducted from 11 AM, in which we propose to give small gifts to the children. President requested maximum participation in the TRF seminar to be conducted at Kovalam on 10th of November. Rtn. Raju Chandy reminded us the days when programmes like YAMCORA were conducted by the club and urged to hold such programmes. Rtn. Rosie John reminded that action on the letter given by the Inner wheel Club May be expedited. President informed that the action will be completed within a weeks time in consultation with the Board I the ensuing meeting. President added that all the members of the Rotary Club of Alleppey gratefully remember the contributions of Inner Wheel Club of Alleppey particularly Rtn. Betty Karan. He is waiting for an early opportunity to call on Rtn Betty Karan for discussions. Rtn. Rosie John has informed that she has not received accounts of LN 4 project for which Rtn. Antony Malayil replied that the accounts were produced in last year's board meeting. Rtn. Raju Chandy, Rtn. Tomi Eapen, Rtn. Gopinathan Nair, Rtn. Sajan Nair and Rtn. Sivakumar participated in the deliberations. Secretary Rtn. John Kurian proposed vote of thanks specially mentioning the host of the meeting Rtn. T. P. Shan.

Rtn. John Kurian, Secretary.

“The term ‘Special’ gives a feel of “sympathy”. But we do not want our kids to get sympathy from the society as they deserve “empathy” and we need support to bring them back to the main stream of the society”

-Shani. S. Hameed



(Shani S Hameed is the Director & Child Development Specialist at Alfa Paediatric Rehabilitation Centre an Initiative of ALFA Charitable Trust, Kalamasserry. At the initiative of Rtn Cherian, President of RC Alleppey, she has started the Rotary-Alfa Kids Learning Center in the building of RC Alleppey. Shani speaks on her experience in Alleppey centre and her plans in the future to the editor of Royalweeks.)

1. Greetings from the Royalweeks, the official bulletin of Rotary Club of Alleppey!

“Every child is special and gifted. They just unwrap their packages at different times”. The above quote I have seen in some of your brochures. You have also mentioned that with appropriate intervention their packages will unwrap eventually. Really great thought and I should appreciate the passion and dedication with which you are serving the little ones. Can you briefly explain the background in which you ventured into this most challenging but humanitarian work?

Alfa Paediatric Rehabilitation Centre has founded in 2012 and started its operation in a humble way in Changampuzha Nagar, Kochi . With a 100 sq ft clinic which started in 2012 in a converted car porch was intended to focus more on cerebral palsy children and developmental delayed children. Around 10 kids were given pediatric physiotherapy treatment during the initial year. With focused one-to-one, intensive physiotherapy treatment for one year, we could make tremendous results in kids’ motor functional areas. They could achieve independent walking. Indeed this was a satisfactory milestone for the centre and its committed team.

To make them more independent and self reliant, it was became very essential to give them more rehabilitation treatment facilities. So in 2013 the centre has expanded 1000+ sq feet own centre with more focus on early intervention program. The program includes medical assessment speech therapy, occupational therapy and special education. This time the beneficiaries were increased to 30-35 children who are affected with Cerebral Palsy, Autism, Mental retardation, Down syndrome, multiple disabilities like Muscular Dystrophy, Spina-Bifida or other physical and other orthopedic problems.

We formed a strong rehabilitation team of experts from fields like Physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, Remedial & Special Education, Pediatric psychology, and Pediatric Neurology. With their committed efforts, ALFA could make significant changes to these children’s life, most of them achieved their walking abilities and since they got better cognitive, speech and communication skills they could start normal schooling. ALFA centre also conducted several parental awareness programs with supports from various medical experts which helped the parents to get more awareness & training on various conditions and also how to handle their kids.

We have strengthened our specialty services like special education, remedial education, and behavioral therapy services and added psychological counseling & training to parents.

Q2. In such projects, as I understand, confidence building exercise among parents is the most difficult part. How did you manage to get children for your Alfa Paediatric Rehabilitation Center at Kalamassery?

ALFA follows most modern rehabilitation methodologies and researched techniques so that our beneficiaries are getting a high quality services. Our rehabilitation team is highly experienced and is committed to make results in short time.

The mission of the ALFA Learning Development Centre is to support these kids in education to reach their career paths. For those who are not able to perform in education ALFA intends to provide appropriate vocational training to them so that they can make a living of their own and become independent.

Initially we will conduct Parental Counseling and awareness session to make them understand parents on their kids conditions. Also we will do multi disciplinary assessment on the kids and will plan treatment goals for an year, half yearly and quarterly goals.

With focused early intervention therapies and multi disciplinary team approaches the centre could make significant achievement in rehabilitating the children with special needs. 150+ kids walked independently, 120+ children achieved their speech capabilities and 120 children could start their normal schooling.

Q3. Generally such schools are named as Special School and I find that all of your projects are devoid of the name Special School. Is there any specific reason for that?

The term Special gives a feel of “sympathy”. But we do not want our kids to get sympathy from the society they deserves “empathy” and we need to support them to bring them back to the main stream of the society.

Q4. Which are the departments working in the Rotary Alfa Kids Learning Center?

1. Physiotherapy
2. Occupational Therapy
3. Speech Therapy
4. Behavioral Therapy/psychological Training
5. Special/Remedial Education
6. Group Therapy/Recreational Therapy
7. Parental Counselling and Awareness Sessions



Q5. The State Government is bent upon supporting the special schools established in the State. Did you get any financial support from the Government any time?

No. As ours is not special school, we are not eligible for Government grants. But we ensure all our kids and parents are getting all kind of Governmental benefits like scholarships, insurances etc personally. We give them awareness on all of these benefits and make them aware of their rights as a differently abled person.



Q6. It is gratifying that you have extended your service to Alleppey joining hands with the Rotary Club of Alleppey. What was motivating factor to open a centre at Alleppey?

As many kids in Alappuzha district with condition like Autism, ADHD, Down Syndrome and Learning Disability are looking for a individual focused Learning Development Centre, we found that there is no such centres which is affordable to economically backward functioning in Alappuzha district. That is the reason why Alfa has planned to extend our services to Alappuzha District as well. As per the survey, we found a lot of poor kids struggling with multiple disabilities in this district.

Q7. It is a couple months since the centre was established at Alleppey. It is quite natural that there will be a lot of initial constraints. What are the challenges faced by you in Alleppey?

As Alappuzha is a economically backward community, the parents are mostly depended on free therapy centers and govt hospitals. But these centers can provide them only one day training per week. This is not sufficient for the kids to have progress in their condition. Our aim is to provide dedicated focused and individualized training for these kids and ensure they are getting high quality treatments irrespective of their financial state or backwardness. And most of the parents from Alappuzha are not having much awareness on the treatments like rehabilitation. So it was tough to convince them first on bringing their kids regularly to the centre and since condition of their kid was a life long condition they might require continuous intervention.

To provide high quality training, we need to deploy and retain high quality medical professionals. So getting a nominal fee from kids is also too essential for the sustainable running of the Centre. So if an organization like Rotary can support the kids who are finally poor, the centre can be run in a more sustainable way.

Right now we are struggling to buy students equipments and some educational material for their therapies and training.

Q8. It will too short of time to make a review. But you might have been getting responses. Whatever the feed back from the parents?

We have started the Alappuzha centre on July 29th and now its completed al ost 3 months. By this time 15 kids started availing our services. And most of them are having significant improvement in their respective conditions. We have conducted monthly review for parents. We ensure our parents are also involved in therapies and training. We make them aware that they are the life-long therapists for their kids. So we teach them on how to handle the kids and do necessary therapies at home as well. Now the parents are very happy and conveyed that their kids are having better progress in short time after starting the treatment from ROTARY ALFA Learning development Centre.

Q9. What are your future plans in Alleppey

The centre need an out-door play area for kids to avail group and play therapy trainings. Also need to setup a sensory integration room for autism, ADHD and Learning Disability.

To increase awareness in parents having differently abled kids, we need to conduct more awareness programs and sessions. Need to focus on early detection and intervention to avoid delay in treatments. Need to identify 0-5 Years kids early so that they can be brought to independent level at the earliest. Current facility is only can accommodate only 20 kids. Our vision is to support 100+ kids in Alappuzha which needs more infrastructure facility with the support of Rotary





Kids in action at the Rotary-Alfa Kids Learning Centre

Board met in the ambient venue of Kalpakavadi Inn



Rtn Ambu Vaidyan was a host with a difference on 9th November 2019 at Kalpakavadi Inn where he received all the Board members flanked by his mother and wife. The cool breeze from the meeting point of the Arabian Sea and Vembanad lake and the coconut garden all around provided great ambience to the meeting venue. The discussions were hot but the atmosphere made it cool and the business was smooth. The highlight of the evening was the tasty and sumptuous food that was specially cooked by Rty Ann. Ann Vaidyan.

Thanks Rtn Ambu Vaidyan and Family for providing a wonderful evening to the Rotarians.

2019-2020

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- District Project - RISS - Rtn. PHF V.J. Francis
- Asst. Governor - Rtn. PHF V. Deepak
- Club Historian - Rtn. MPHf Tomi Eapen

HAPPY BIRTHDAY dear Rotarians ANNES & ANNETS November

- 2 - Sheela Tomi Eapen
- 7 - Krishnan Venugopal
- 10- Anush, d/o Raju Chandy
- 10- Tomy Pulikkattil
- 15- Geetha, d/o Arjun Reddiar
- 17- Ashwin, s/o R. Srinivasan
- 18- Rtn'e Jameela Sali
- 20- Ms. Tiya, d/o Jacob Neroth
- 21- Dr. Abraham Thayyil



- 3 - Nagaraj H & Vijeesh
- 5 - Vijayakumar & Shyama
- 8 - Vidhu Unnithan & Nisha
- 12 - Joseph Thayyil & Divya
- 13- Vidhukumar & Pritha
- 14- P. O. Thomas & Molly
- 19- Mathew Joseph
- 22- George Thayyil

Tit-bits The Middleman

One day an old man wrote a letter to God and tied the letter to a tree outside a church. The priest came and took down the letter. It read "Please God, I'm a poor man, please send me \$100,000 so I can pay my debts and live peacefully". Being a kind priest, he took donations around town for the old man and raised \$5,000. He put it in an envelope and wrote on it "From God" and left it next to the tree when he saw the old man come visit again. The next day, the old man came back and tied another letter to the tree. The priest then came and took down the letter and read it excitedly. "Dear God, thank you for sending me the money. Next time, please send it to me directly as the priest can't be trusted, can you believe he took \$95,000 of the money!"

Engagements

Free Blood Check up for Diabetics and cholesterol in connection with World Diabetics day on 14th November. Camp in association with MDC Labs and Scans. Venue: MDC Labs and Scans near Malabar Gold from 7AM. Children's day celebrations with kids of Rotary Alfa Learning Development Center at 11 AM at our Club hall on 14th November.



Next Meeting: @7.30pm on 13th November 2019
Host: Rtn Muhammed Sali

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