

# Touching the lives of children the world over

Lions "Quest for the Best" launched in Sri Lanka



First Copy of the Lions Quest Program being presented to International President Lion Mahendra Amarasingh by District Chairman, 306B2 Lions Quest Lion V. L. Selvakumar. Also present from left Lion Lady Nilmini Fernando, District Chairperson 306A1, Lion Quest Programme, Lion V. Selvakumar MJF, District Chairperson 306B2, Lions Quest Programme International President Lion Mahendra Amarasingh, District Governor 306A1, Lion Lester Aponso, District Governor 306B2, Lion Mahesh Pasqual, Lion Lady Dr. Adhikshmi MJF, Lions Quest Trainer from India and Hemalima Gunatilake, Senior Lecturer, University of Sri Jayawardanapura.

## Lester Jansz

The law of harvest is to reap more than you sow. Sow an act, and you reap a habit. Sow a habit and you reap a character. Sow a character and you reap a destiny. To shape the destiny of the future generations of Sri Lanka, Lions Clubs Districts 306 B2 and A1 on February 27 launched Lions Quest, a comprehensive program of Lions Clubs International Foundation to help discipline and educate the adolescents of Sri Lanka.

Past District Governor Lion Dr. Adhikshmi Gunamurthy PMJF of District 324 B-3 from India made a presentation on the Lions Quest program. She emphasized that this program was a need of the era where lifestyles of each and everyone was changing rapidly.

"We don't have time to talk to our children any more with today's rat race. In an era where crime and drug abuse are high among the youth, we tend to ignore these as 'dirt under the carpet'."

With high expectations of parents and continued pressure from the school, preventing children from negative influences of life is the need of the hour," Dr. Adhikshmi said. She said the Lions Quest program will help the adolescents to be drug free, disciplined and responsible citizens and make them to say a strong "NO" to negative influences.

District Chairman, Lions Quest Lion V. L. Selvakumar said this program will help us to change the way we think of our children.

"This program will interact with the teachers, parents and students to train the adolescents to be useful citizens of the country," he said.

International President Lion Mahendra Amarasingh, District Governor, 306B2 Lion Mahesh Pasqual, International President, Lion Mahendra Amarasingh, Lion V. Selvakumar, MJF, District Chairperson 306B2 and District Governor, 306A1 Lion Lester Aponso MJF. *pix: Beverley Jansz*



International President Lion Mahendra Amarasingh addresses the gathering.



District Governor 306B2 Lion Mahesh Pasqual addressing the gathering.



District Governor, 306A1, Lion Lester Aponso addressing the gathering.



The Head table - from left International Board Appointee, Lion Graetian Jayawardene, District Governor, 306B2 Lion Mahesh Pasqual, International President, Lion Mahendra Amarasingh, Lion V. Selvakumar, MJF, District Chairperson 306B2 and District Governor, 306A1 Lion Lester Aponso MJF. *pix: Beverley Jansz*

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## Japanese Red Cross funds Sight Restoration Project

Text and pic.

### A.W.A. Fareed

Trincomalee District Spil Czar

Free Eye screening camps are conducted in all parts of Trincomalee, by the District Branch of Sri Lanka Red Cross Society. These camps are conducted comprising all parts of the district continuously, including the backward villages.

While spectacles are distributed to people participating in the camps, the patients with cataract, a disease in which the clear lens

of the eye becomes cloudy, are transported to the teaching hospital, Kandy, operated free of charge and conveyed back to their own homes. Japan Red Cross Society has been providing



Group of people awaiting free eye screening

the whole funding assistance for these projects which are undertaken by the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society. During the past month 927 persons with sight defects, from Mollipothana, Wan-Ela, China bay, Palaiyotura and Selvanayagapuram areas



Group of people awaiting free eye screening

Lane and Andankulam were issued free spectacles while 90 persons selected from Mollipothana, Wan-Ela, China bay, Palaiyotura and Selvanayagapuram areas

were taken to Teaching Hospital Kandy and after surgery, transported to their own places.

Summary of the Project Activities

Total Number of camps - 112

Total Number of screened - 20709

Total Number of cataract cases identified - 2979

Total Number of selected for issue of spectacles - 17642

Total Number of spectacles issued - 16053

Number taken to Kandy hospital for cataract Surgery - 1468.

Community Hall. The cost of the project is around Rs. 2.0 million which was borne by the Universal Association for

peace and love, a registered guarantee company for community development and welfare activities (UAPL). Chairperson of UAPL, Ursula Beier, from Germany said that villagers at Kanatholuwa live under dire

strains. Only very little children attend school. Some of the little ones have to walk five to six km to reach school. She said that she had to organise over seven shramadanas to clear the roads at Kanatholuwa.

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## District 306C2's Mission on Child Development

Top priority was spelt out for the Mission on Child Development at the beginning of the Lioness Year in July 2007 by District Governor Lion Dr. Priyanka Baddevithana as follows: Assist in building the lives of children and families by creating equal opportunities through removal of economic, education, health and environmental disadvantages. Through facilitation of professional counselling, their experiences of hardship endured could be turned into strengths for character building of children towards the creation of a just society that recognises children's rights.

Lion Indrani Sugathadasa is the District's Chief Coordinator for the programme on Child Development and Women's Empowerment. In order to create much needed public awareness the following article was provided by her in her professional capacity as Secretary to the Ministry of Child Development & Women's Empowerment.

### Child - Most valuable resource

There are six million children (persons below 18 years of age) in Sri Lanka's population according to the National Census. There is no doubt that all parents would want their children protected from all evils and dangers whether such dangers are man-made or otherwise. Many parents give priority to their children's education, health and general well-being. It is true that education and health are very important, but at the



Lion Lady Indrani Sugathadasa appointed Lion District 306C2's Chief Coordinator for Child Development and Women's Empowerment at District Cabinet Installation Ceremony. Also in the picture District Governor Lion Dr. Priyanka Baddevithana and International President Lion Mahendra Amarasingh.

same time most parents forget that the protection of the children is equally important. Unfortunately, some parents are not aware of the social evils and dangers prevailing in society or they tend to pay less attention to the child protection issues. Therefore, increasing awareness on this vital aspect is becoming more and more important.

The Ministry of Child Development and Women's Empowerment recently opened a Child Helpline with a toll free number 1929 to prevent and protect the children from abuse and also to create a better environment for them.

Any child or an adult from any part of the country can call this number to make a complaint of a child sexual or physical abuse, child labour, corporal punishment or any kind of child harassment.

For those who are not privileged to grow without

fear and abuse there is now someone to talk to. This is one way to protect the vulnerable children in need.

The complaints or any information received by the Helpline 1929 are referred to relevant organisations immediately to take necessary action.

The National Child Protection Authority, Department of Probation and Child Care Services, Police Department, Department of Labour, Ministry of Health, Legal Aid Commission, Human Rights Commission and the NGOs such as FORUIT, Sumathirayo and Sahaniya are the agencies who are supporting and active in this network.

It is a responsibility of not only the parents but the civil society in general to use this facility and help to protect children from abuse and violation of their rights. Protection of children is a long term investment for the well-being of a nation.

## Through Wellawatte West Lions

### Visiting Lions donate hearing aids to Kalubowila hospital

Visit by Lion Vic Trulluck and Lion Lady Bernice Trulluck, from Hastings Lions Club in UK, as guests of the Lions Club of Wellawatte West, enabled the Club to conduct two major projects in February.

The Club visited Shilpa Girls Home, in Narahpetta, on the 16th of February, with the visiting Lions, to donate hearing aids to the poor. The cost of a hearing aid in the open market is around Rs. 18,000. This time too Lion Vic donated 250 hearing aids to the hospital through the

Project Chairman, Lions District MD 105 UK, in charge of supplying hearing aids to the third world countries.

On two earlier occasions the Lions Club of Wellawatte West donated 500 hearing aids and two audio meters to Kalubowila Hospital which the Club received from Lion Vic. With these donations the Hospital, for the first time, started issuing free hearing aids to the poor. The cost of a hearing aid in the open market is around Rs. 18,000. This time too Lion Vic donated 250 hearing aids to the hospital through the

club. The total cost of hearing aids and the equipment donated so far to the Hospital is over Rs. 10 million.

As a tribute to Lion Vic Wellawatte West Lions Club organized a special project where 50 student, with hearing deficiencies, were brought to the Kalubowila Hospital from Llangunawehera where the ENT Surgeon Dr. (Mrs) Malkanthi Jayasinghe, along with her dedicated staff, provided the required hearing aids. All the expenses, including transport and meals, were met by the Wellawatte West Lions Club.



Lion Vic Trulluck handing over hearing aids to Dr. Malkanthi Jayasinghe ENT Surgeon Kalubowila Hospital.



Eye testing of a patient at the eye camp held at Rankadu Dewale, Kaduwela by the Lions Club of Oruwala.



1000 reading glasses and 200 eye lenses were distributed among the needy at a Multi-Service Social Welfare Programme held at Kottawa recently. Pannipitiya Metro Lions Club organised the programme. The Governor of the Lions district 306 C (2) Lion Priyanka Baddevithana was the chief guest. Here, an eye surgeon presents a reading glass to needy. Maharagama Special correspondent, Welhelle Piyathilaka

## UAPL builds Community Hall for less privileged at Kanatholuwa

Twenty six families at Kanatholuwa, Kurunegala have been benefited by the construction of a

Community Hall. The cost of the project is around Rs. 2.0 million which was borne by the Universal Association for

peace and love, a registered guarantee company for community development and welfare activities (UAPL). Chairperson of UAPL, Ursula Beier, from Germany said that villagers at Kanatholuwa live under dire

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