

VACD Progress Report

January – June 2013

- Changes were made to the VACD Steering Committee at the beginning of the year in order to assist us implement our projects and programs in a more efficient and conscientious manner, as follows;
 - Team Leader & Public Relations Coordinator– Mr. K.A. Ratnayaka
 - Secretary - Mrs. Damayanthi Jayasinghe
- Although reaching out to scattered and isolated families of children with disabilities in the Bandarawela district is no easy task, so far we were able to connect with 162 families, while many others have expressed their desire to be registered with our charity.
- A meeting was held on 27th January 2013 at the residence of Mr. Ratnayaka in Obada-Ella to discuss programs, projects and activities for the year 2013. An 'Annual Program Schedule' was distributed to all those who were present.
- A meeting with the Mother's Union and the Steering Committee was held on 09th March, 2013 at Mr. Ratnayaka's residence in Obada-Ella to discuss the proposed Training Program for Volunteers and the Sinhala & Tamil New Year celebrations. Dates & allocation of responsibilities were as follows;
 - Training Program for volunteers – 14th – 17th March 2013
Organizer – Mrs. Damayanthi Jayasinghe
Gathering Volunteers – Mother's Union
 - Sinhala & Tamil New Year Celebrations – 27th April, 2013
Organizer – Mr. K.A. Ratnayaka
Venue- Obada-Ella College Grounds
Few village committees to be formed for further assistance
- A general meeting with the steering Committee and the Mother's Union was held on 14th March, 2013 to monitor the progress relating to the Sinhala & Tamil New Year celebrations and future activities.
- A two stage Training program for an external Volunteers group
 - 1st Stage- 15th – 17th March 2013
33 out of 44 applicants were selected, of which 24 participated
 - The initiation ceremony took place in the presence of Dr. K.K.C.P.Kakulawela the new Consultant Pediatrician who took over the duties of Dr.Kumudini Cooray since her transfer to another hospital. Representatives of the Women & Children's Bureau of the Bandarawela Police and Uva Province Governor's office and Ms.Thushari Welagedara (Lecturer) were also present.
- A 'Shramadana' (working bee) prior to the Sinhala & Tamil New year festival was held on 5th April with the participation of the members of the Mother's Union followed by another meeting on 24th April 2013
- As arranged, the Sinhala & Tamil New Year Festival celebrations was held on 27th April 2013 at the Obada-Ella College Grounds with the presence of Clergy, Representatives of the Uva Province Governor, Politicians (both parties), Doctors of Diyatalawa Base Hospital, Representatives of Divisional Secretary Office and Women & Children's Bureau of Bandarawela Police, Officers of Diyatalawa Army Camp, teachers, as well as a school dancing troupe and a street drama team whose performances added color to the event.

- The AGM which was postponed due to various reasons was held on 10th May 2013 at the residence of Mr. Ratnayaka in Obada-Ella led by Dr.K.K.C.P. Kekulawela and members of the Steering Committee, Mother's Union and a few volunteers. The Annual Report and the Audit Report was presented for approval. The amended Annual Report will be published in the near future.
- A discussion was held on 11th May 2013 about the plans for Mr.K.A.Ratnayaka's house which he intended to donate to VACD to be used for the welfare of the children with disabilities. Mr. Felix Stephen, Mr. Phil Quinton (Architect), Dr.K.K.C.P. Kekulawela, Dr.Kumudini Cooray, Steering Committee members, Mother's Union and Volunteers were among those who were present. The following points were discussed regarding the modification of the house to a health and vocational training centre;
 - Number of rooms necessary for medical/therapeutic needs
 - Conference Hall & Recreation Hall
 - Bureaus
 - Kitchen & Garden etc. (Proposed by Mr.Ratnayaka)
 - An area for the Monthly Medical Clinic for the Villagers
 - A Reading Room for the senior citizens
- The project leadership team gathered again on 9th June, 2013 to evaluate past programs and plan forthcoming activities. It was agreed that we give more responsibilities to the Mothers' Unions when planning and implementing future activities.

Milton Perera
Project Holder

25th August 2013