



The Ray Of HOPE

In house newsletter for private circulation to all well wishers of HOPE.

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From the Editor

Yesterday is but a dream
And Tomorrow is only a
vision
But Today well lived makes
Every Yesterday a Dream of
Happiness
And every Tomorrow a
Vision of HOPE

Inside this Issue:

Four Years of HOPE.....1

Messenger of Hope 2010....1

Annual Sports Day.....2

Montessori Hall
Inaugurated at Hope.....2

It's All Scientific.....2

Childrens Day Out
at Jungle Zone.....3

Dignitaries Visit.....3

Republic Day Program.....3

Café Ceramique Visit.....4

QAFCO Flower Show.....4

DPS Students Visit Hope...4

Friends of HOPE.....4

New Developments.....4

Four Years of HOPE

Four years, it has been since the opening of HOPE, a center for the differently abled children in Qatar. From the day of its conception the institution has strived to achieve what it stood for Help, Opportunity, Participation and Education to all its pupils. Now 4 years down the lane HOPE has proved to be a guiding light in the lives of children with special needs and their families.

HOPE Qatar had a humble beginning in the year 2006 in a small rented temporary apartment in the old airport area with a total strength of 8 students and 4 faculty members. Now HOPE has its own covered building and is supporting 21 students to go forward in life. This phenomenal growth owes all its credit to the hard work of the staff, support of the families, help of the well wishers, effective managerial body and the blessings of God Almighty. At HOPE we have followed a unique result oriented approach which has its primary focus on



the all round development of every individual child. Our team of well trained instructors with a student to teacher ratio of 1:6 strives to reach the greatest possible heights HOPE can achieve.

Over the years HOPE Qatar has been cherishing the help and support of various other organisations and institutions. List of its well wishers include educational institutions, media establishments, corporate giants, embassies, government and semi government organizations, volunteers etc.

Under the watchful eyes of its founder and advisory body,

HOPE has grown from being just a concept to a 'one-of-its-kind' center in Qatar. Now the institution is finalizing its plans to extend its foray into Oman and various other GCC countries. What has started as a spark is now a shining lamp in the world of children with special needs and throughout its growth what makes this institution special is that its primary goal has remained unchanged to help make specially abled children to be a contributing member of the society. With a goal like that an institution like HOPE doesn't have to look back and in this 4 years, it hasn't!

Messenger of Hope 2010

At HOPE we believe no child is disabled. It is just that they are capable in a different area than the conventional view of intelligence. There are many who may have appeared disabled in the first look but have strived and reached great heights in their lives. This was

possible because of the appropriate guidance they received at the different stages of their development.

Message of HOPE series launched this year is a part of HOPE's mission to spread awareness about children with disabilities, and the need to provide

(Continued, page 3)



Annual Sports Day



Physical activities has always been an integral part of HOPE's curriculum and it is in tune with this that everyday at HOPE begins with a drill, to warm up the eager students. Also to inculcate the values of healthy competition and sportsmen spirit, HOPE Qatar had held its first sports day in its own premises . This time in Nov 2009, the Annual sports day was held at the school grounds of Doha Modern Indian School.

The day showcased various sports events that displayed the students physical ability along with their temperament skills. The evening commenced with a march past by the senior students. The Ambassador of Malaysia received the salute and was followed by a

rhythmic drill of the junior students. It was a heart rendering sight to see the children pushing their physical limits to test their abilities with their friends. The biggest support was given by the audience who in true spirit of the event sat along the track and cheered the children on. The day ended with a fun filled Tug Of War between HOPE & Mothers. Special mention needs to be made of the volunteers who came to help the organising of the entire day's events.

The medals were given out by Mr. Jayashankar Pillai, Mr. K M Varghese , Mr. Nizar Kocheri and Ms. Luisa Gentile. The day ended with a vote of thanks from Mr. Rajeev Mathew Thomas, founder of HOPE.

Montessori Hall Inaugurated at HOPE

HOPE Qatar inaugurated their Montessori training hall in October 2009. The hall was named after Mr. Charles Moncrieff, who was a pillar for hope and had recently passed away. In his Honor, his daughter Ms. Natasha Moncrieff did the honors along with the Hungarian Ambassador Mr. Szabo Laszlo.

Mr. Moncrieff, who was the former CEO of HSBC-Doha, was a huge support to HOPE in its initial years. It was his help and attitude along with HSBC Bank helped the children that enabled the institu-

tion to acquire its new permanent premises in the Abu Hamour area. During the ceremony, Students and teachers of hope were joined by a delegation of officials from HSBC including its current CEO Mr. Abdul Hakeem Mostafawi. HOPE Qatar Advisory board president Mr. Nizar Kochery thanked HSBC bank for their support and requested them to continue their friendly ties with HOPE in future also. On behalf of the children of HOPE, senior student Rinesh Rajan thanked HSBC for their continued support.

It's All Scientific

One of the most important courses in a regular school is Science. To know how things around us work. As the wise man once said, knowing science is knowing our self. At HOPE we do not see the importance of science in a lesser way and to showcase the scientific knowledge the children have acquired in the recent years, HOPE organized a Science exhibition in its premises on 17 th of April 2010.

The exhibition was open to the general public and it involved events which included the display of various scientific experiments, interesting models, cut outs etc. The event was inaugurated by Satish Pillai, CEO of Galfar Al Misnad group. Special guest of the day was former director of Qatar Petroleum Administration. Mr. Juma Ismail Al Boenein. The event was graced by the presence of the Indian Ambassador Mrs. Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa. The senior school students prepared a variety of displays including a model rocket that

explained the principle of jet propulsion, a model that explained the principle behind the colorful and attractive lava lamps, the principle of static electricity, and a chemical reaction that collects carbon dioxide and expands balloons among others. The major attraction of the show was a scalable model of a solar system as viewed from the earth on display, by a student who was confined to a wheelchair.

The Junior section students were energetic and full of enthusiasm to explain to the crowd, their models of the human body, different organs, senses, means of transportation, uses of domestic animals, different color combinations and seasons among others.

Overall it was a memorable day of learning about the scientific world. It was a day filled with laughter and joy and of course knowledge which would be cherished by the Students, Teachers, parents and above all the visitors who came to see the children in action.



Republic Day Program

The children of HOPE Qatar put on a stunning opening performance for the republic day celebrations organized by the Indian Embassy. For the fourth year in succession HOPE Qatar children displayed their talents on stage for the community to be glimpsed and appreciated. The show took place in Doha cinema and also had performances by ICC dance class,

DPS Modern Indian School, Indian Women's Association, Vidya Arts among others. But the special attraction of the day was still the curtain raiser skit with a Medley of songs performed by the young stars of HOPE and their show was specially appreciated by Indian Ambassador Mrs. Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa who was the chief guest of the evening.

Childrens Day Out at Jungle Zone



After showcasing their talents at the Republic Day function, it was time for the children to relax and have a day of fun at Jungle Zone. Thanks to the support from the officials of Jungle Zone. The children were able to enjoy some free rides and play some of their favourite games. The children

were presented with snacks and a goody bag. HOPE Qatar sincerely thanks all the officials who helped to realize the trip and wishes for their support in the coming years as well.

The children were accompanied by all the HOPE faculty on this very memorable day.

Dignitaries Visit

A lot of dignitaries visit HOPE Qatar every year and this year also was no different. It is the support of these good hearted people and the organizations they represent that gives HOPE the drive to go forward.



The ambassador of India to Qatar Mrs. Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa paid her maiden visit to HOPE in January 2010. She was spell bound by the working of the organization and offered her whole hearted support for the future of the institution. Mr. Anil Wadhwa, Indian ambassador to Oman was also present on the occasion.

February 2010. She applauded the effort of the entire HOPE team and was happy at the progress the children were making. She specially mentioned that the classrooms at HOPE suited the requirements of Children with special needs. She was accompanied by Ms. Bindu Salim, Counsellor & Psychology teacher at DPS-MIS.

Dr. Razeena Padmam, Dean of Behavioural Sciences at M G University visited HOPE in

Officials from HSBC Bank led by their CEO Mr. Abdul Hakeem Mostafawi came to visit the children in March 2010. They said it was always great visiting HOPE Qatar and wished the Centre all the best in continuing the wonderful initiative in the coming years. DHL Express Qatar employees visited HOPE Qatar. They were impressed by the discipline exhibited by the children and ensured full support in the activities of HOPE. They had collected and presented toys to the children at HOPE. Mr. Daniel Kearvel, DHL Express country manager expressed his delight in this initiative taken by the employees.



Messenger of Hope 2010 (cont. from page 1)

them appropriate and timely educational and training opportunities to ensure that they grow up to become value adding members of the society. In simple words, the "message of hope" is that if given the right opportunities at the right times, children with special needs can achieve great heights and it is our collective responsibility to ensure that such opportunities are provided to them, so that they become value adding members to the society and will not be looked upon as a social liability.

Each year HOPE plans to invite a personality who in spite of being

disabled has risen in the society and achieved personal heights. This year HOPE had organised a 2 day program which featured Dr. Sindoor Desai and Sujeet Desai. First day witnessed an awareness program of 2 interactive sections one with the Maestro himself Mr. Sujeet Desai and the second one with his Mother Dr. Sindoor Desai. Second day was a musical concert with the members of the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra.

Sujeet Desai is a wonder child. Even while he has Down's syndrome, he has mastered 7 different musical instruments

including violin, piano, clarinet, alto sax and drums. He is also a taekwondo master and a medalist at Special Olympics. He is an accomplished swimmer and an orator with a master's degree in music.

Dr. Sindoor Desai is the president of the Association for Asian Parents of Children with Down's Syndrome. In her widely acclaimed work shop, she talks about a lifetime of parental advocacy for a special child, how to apply the theory of multiple intelligence to overcome their

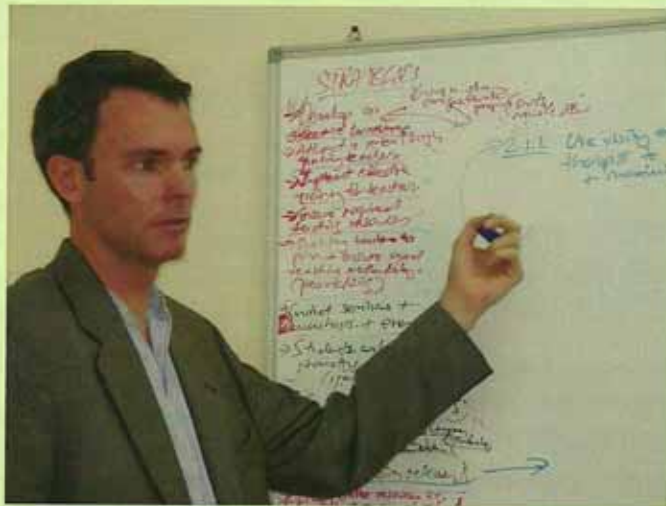
weakness and bring the best in a child.

Needless to say, both the days where staggering successes and the name of HOPE became more acclaimed.

Such programs which showcase the potential within a child whom the society deemed as disabled was a real feather in the cap of HOPE. There is going to be more programs over the coming years and we are sure that all of them will send forward the message of HOPE as effectively as Sujeet did for us in 2010.

Team building workshop

HOPE Qatar has always been proud of their team of well trained faculty. To sharpen their abilities a special workshop was held in the institution on Team building and planning. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Brendan Johnson from Qatar Foundation. Mr. Nizar Kochery, Advisory Board President, Mr. M.A Saleem, FOH President and Mr. Rajeev Mathew Thomas Founder of HOPE and member of Advisory board were also present for the workshop. The full day Workshop was attended by all the faculty members and was quoted by the participants as a very insightful and rewarding experience.



New Staff

Ms. Anita Paul had joined the HOPE team in December 2009 as our Head OF Special Education. Ms. Anita is a specialist in her field and has twenty five years of experience in working with children having special needs. She will be undoubtedly a pillar of strength to the working of the institution and to raise it to a numero uno status after her return.

Friends of HOPE

The new office bearers of Friends of HOPE decided to strengthen its activities to support the requirements of children with special needs. M A Salim is the new president of FOH. His team includes P N Baburajan (Senior Vice President), Dr. Vivish Philip (Vice President), Rency Abraham (General Secretary), Suresh and Sreenath (Joint Secretaries) and Biju Krishnan (Treasurer). Rajeev Mathew Thomas will continue to serve the forum as an ex-officio member.



DPS Students Visit Hope

Psychology students of DPS-Modern Indian School visited HOPE Qatar. The class 12 students were accompanied by their Teacher in charge Ms. Bindu Salim. The visit was aimed at understanding children with special needs more and for getting an insight into the teaching methods of HOPE. The DPS students were taken around by the Director of the center Dr. Ciby Mathew and the students were detailed on how a day at HOPE was spent. The students distributed sweets to the children at HOPE and also handed over an amount they collected as a small contribution to the support of HOPE's activities.



QAFCO Flower Show

The Annual Flower show organized by QAFCO has become almost a trademark event in the lives of any Resident of Qatar. HOPE had also participated in this year's flower show. The students of HOPE presented a model of mini Garden under the guidance of their teacher Ms. Sithara Manoj.



Café Ceramique Visit

Children of HOPE Qatar got an opportunity to be a part of the Global Community Partnership Day observed by the HSBC - Qatar Security Services (HSS). The children were Entertained at Café Ceramique and were given the opportunity to express their creativity by painting and decorating ceramics of their choice. Each child was supported and encouraged by one of the HSS team members. Children had a wonderful time to just play, paint and relax.

The event ended cheerfully with each child getting a gift picked up specifically keeping in mind their individual interests and skills.

700HOPE

HOPE Qatar received a new easy to remember number from Vodafone Qatar. The number 700HOPE (7004673) will serve as a single, primary contact number for the center. Thank you Vodafone.

If you know a differently abled child who need special education, help them by referring to us.

Each child is unique, and comes with their strengths and weakness. Come, let us join together so that we can provide Help, Opportunity, Participation and Education (HOPE) to enhance their strengths to overcome their weakness.

HOPE- QATAR

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