

ASHWINI Gudalur Adivasi Hospital

Annual Report & Newsletter 2006

SEASON'S GREETINGS! Wishing you a wonderful 2007.

This year has been an eventful one with much progress being made. The participation of the community as well as that of friends, visitors and medical students has been heartening, infusing fresh energy into the work.

The Gudalur Adivasi Hospital recorded the maximum number of in-patients in its history - office rooms and meeting halls often being turned into wards! Out-patients were also at a record high. The health seeking behaviour of the tribals is rapidly increasing.

There is a pressing need for a better equipped hospital building as the present one - a converted office- is unable to meet the growing needs of the people. We hope to construct the new hospital on a 2.5 acre plot purchased 15 years back. **Please see the details attached.** Our thanks to the Baltimore branch of ATMA (American Tamil Medical Association) for starting off the Building Fund with a donation of \$5,000.



H.V. Kali

The **Village Health Volunteers** are as gung-ho as ever. More than 150 of them have been volunteering their time and energy for the health of their people. They have been taking on a number of responsibilities.

The **Community Mental Health programme** started last year with the support of the Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT) has, in this short period, changed the lives of about 200 patients. Patients who had been mentally ill for many years, unable to go to work and a huge drain on their families, have responded dramatically to treatment.

Chandran of Mayfield village had been a bank employee. When severe psychosis affected him, he lost his job and wandered the streets for years with a sack full of papers - his petitions. 6 months after treatment, Chandran is near normal now. He takes tuitions for children in the village. Recently, when a library was started in his village, the people requested him to inaugurate it!

The **Community Insurance Programme**, also supported by SRTT, has been going well. We renegotiated with the Royal Sundaram Insurance Company for a great package that includes deliveries.

A "**Good Gifts**" programme of distributing 5 chickens to a family, supported by Charities Advisory Trust (CAT), UK is being implemented. The money generated will be used to create community funds facilitating payment of health insurance premiums.

CAT has also helped us set up the Heart Fund to support cardiac surgeries in children.

The Corpus Fund has steadily grown to over Rs.10 lakhs.

GAH has been recognized as an HIV/ AIDS testing and counselling centre by the Government. We continue to be part of the Govt RNTCP program for the control of TB.

The **Sickle Cell Disease Centre** at GAH has had a tremendous impact on the suffering of 106 patients with sickle cell disease. The introduction of 5 hydroxy urea, along with pneumococcal vaccination, has significantly reduced the number of crises in these patients. Screening for early detection is being carried out. Our sincere thanks to Hari Prabhakar of The Tribal India Health Foundation for making this possible.



Lakshmi and Chithra with SCD used to be admitted to hospital in agony at least 2-3 times a year. With 5HU, they have been leading near normal lives!

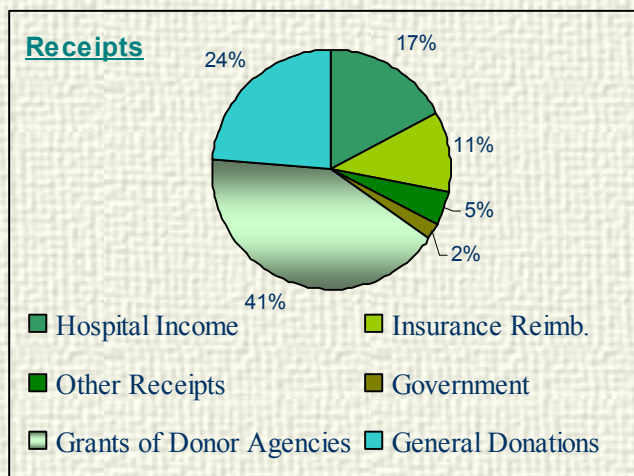
The Medical Students Elective program has been successful way beyond our expectations with 25 foreign students participating this year.

Our sincere thanks to our visiting volunteer doctors – Premila, Roberts, Ramesh, Fettle, Roopa and Henry.

The Dental Programme has been active being manned by interns from the Coorg Institute of Dental Sciences.

Our team of Nurses and Health animators continues to grow as more youngsters complete their training.

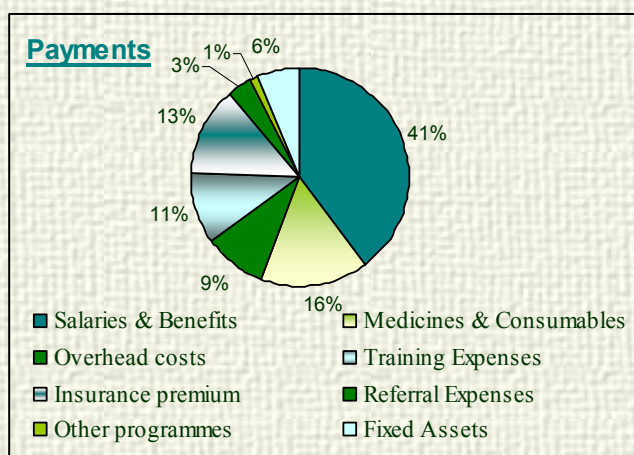
Financial highlights of the year 2005-06 :



Donations

In the US, for tax deductible donations on line, go to www.ashwini.org. Checks (tax deductible) can be made out to Vidyalay.org Foundation Inc and mailed to Ms. Asmita Shendye, 35 Meyer Drive, Clifton, NJ 07012. In the UK, checks can be made out to Charities Advisory Trust, Radius Works, Back Lane, Hampstead, London NW31HL. Donations can be "gift aided". (Please mention that the donations are for ASHWINI).

Checks from donors in India and other countries can be mailed directly to ASHWINI, P.O.Box 20, Gudalur-643212, Nilgiris, Tamilnadu. INDIA. Donations in India are tax exempt under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act.



Salary Rs	Male	Female
< 5000	7	22
5-10000	2	2
10-25000		1

International travel: Mr.Subramanian, Secretary visited Germany, sponsored by Adivasi Tee Projekt. He holds an honorary post.

Highest salary: Rs. 25,000 / month for consultant physician

Lowest salary: Rs. 1,800 / month for junior-most staff

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Thank you all once again for your support

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