

ECSAT

EQUALITY-BASED COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND TRAINING



ANNUAL REPORT
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The ECSAT A-Z

Activities **B**onavista
Children **D**ance & drama
Education **F**riends **G**ames
Handicrafts **I**nclusion
Justice **K**arapitiya **H**ospital
Life-s kills **M**ission
Statement **N**ew volunteers
Outreach **P**hysiotherapy
Questions **R**esources
Speech & language **T**herapy
Unlocking **D**oors
Vocational training **W**riting
Xtra **c**urricular **a**ctivities
Young **a**dults **Z**est

1-to-1 support is one of ECSAT's many services

ECSAT provides one-to-one support to beneficiaries in the following areas:

- Physiotherapy
- Speech and language therapy
- Learning support for autistic and hyperactive children

They come to the Galle Community Centre once or twice a week for sessions lasting an hour. Beneficiaries who are unable to travel to the Galle Centre are visited in their own homes for sensory skill training through the Outreach Project.

Thanks to Friends of ECSAT for funding Outreach Project



Danushka is supporting the head of a child with cerebral palsy who has no head balance and cannot walk or move his arms. He is looking at his mother who is throwing the ball and Danushka helps him catch it. At the same time she is singing him a song.

Raising awareness programme: Ayurvedic medicine

The children from the Kids Club and young adults from the Vocational Training programme took part in an Ayurvedic Awareness Raising Programme organised by ECSAT with the Ayurvedic Community Medicine Unit in Galle. All the participants had the opportunity to learn about "How to lead a healthy life according to the Aruyurvedic way". One by one they did relaxation exercises on the floor under the supervision of the Community Health Officers.

Thanks to the Community Health Medical Officers in Galle:

Dr. Lasantha Kodagoda, Dr. F.N.M. Nisamadeen &

Dr. V.H.D. Weerasinghe for dedicating their time.



Inclusion in the local community

Poson Dansala

ECSAT Parental Support Groups organised a Poson Dansala at the Galle Community Centre. Children helped their parents serve *samm*, a drink made from coconut milk, sugar and jaggery, to passers-by in the local community.

Poson is one of the most important Poya Days for Buddhists and celebrates the arrival of Buddhism in Sri Lanka over two thousand years ago.



Butterfly wishes festival

On March 15th ECSAT planned and hosted a festival for 90 disabled children in Galle, in cooperation with Serendipity Trust. The day was themed round the story of ‘The Hungry Caterpillar’. Several volunteers supported children on a one-to-one basis. On arrival, children wrote a wish on a butterfly card which was hung from a wishing tree. Activities included dancing with butterfly wings, games and creative activities such as making the life story of the butterfly out of playdough, origami butterflies and caterpillars out of painted egg boxes. The day ended with a spirited telling of ‘The Hungry Caterpillar’. It was an opportunity for the children to meet new friends and join in a festival regardless of their ability.



Thanks to the volunteers who supported the children and Serendipity Trust who funded the festival

Dance and drama for Galle community

On March 20th ECSAT presented ‘The beauty of Taprobane’ dance and drama at Karapitiya Faculty of Medicine auditorium in Galle. This was an important element of the Direct Aid Project (DAP) for Inclusive Education of Children with Disabilities, attended by Robyn Mudie, the Australian High Commissioner. Feedback and comments from the audience were extremely positive and Robyn Mudie gave a verbal recommendation for DAP to continue with her sponsorship. A principal of a local college was so inspired by the disabled children’s dancing that he is planning to open a special education class at his college.

Thanks to Australian High Commission for funding the Direct Aid Project



Taking part in cultural and social occasions

ECSAT's 9th birthday

The children, staff and parents celebrated the 9th anniversary of ECSAT in April 2014 with the blessings of Buddhist monks. A boy welcomed the monks by washing their feet and white cloths were arranged on chairs and tables. When seated, the monks chanted the blessing called *pirith* and gave each child a *pirith noola*, a thread tied round the wrist, and *pirith* water to drink. The two oldest beneficiaries cut the cake and staff offered it to the monks, parents and children. The beneficiaries learnt how to take part in a special occasion.



“Sharpen talents” exhibition

ECSAT organised an exhibition called Sharpen Talents in cooperation with the Divisional Secretariat Galle Four Gravets.

The aim was for the children and young adults to display their talents acquired during their educational and vocational training sessions and talk about their exhibits. Visitors were treated to a variety of paintings, painted pottery, teddy bears, necklaces and models made by the beneficiaries.

In addition, ECSAT handicraft producers displayed their batik cushion covers and tablecloths and cushion covers and wall hangings with appliqué embroidered cultural designs. Government and non-government officers came and praised the skills of the ECSAT beneficiaries.

Thanks to the Divisional Secretariat Galle Four Gravets



Accessing medical services

Hearing aids

The Rotary Club of Colombo Fort donated 7 hearing aids to ECSAT Kids Club children. Mr. Nishantha Jayamanna the General Manager of Southern Hemas Hospital in Galle, who is also a member of Colombo Rotary Club, kindly brought these to Galle and donated them to the children who had been identified as needing them. Mr Jayamanna had an opportunity to talk to the hearing impaired children with support of ECSAT staff using sign language. In addition he spoke with the parents and staff.

Thanks to the Rotary Club of Colombo Fort



Dental clinic

Retired Dentist Mrs. Anomi Jayasinghe volunteered to organize a dental clinic for ECSAT beneficiaries.

Initially, the children were afraid, particularly those who do not regularly take up the chance of an annual free check-up. Twenty-six children had the opportunity to practise the correct way to clean their teeth and have the plaque removed. Twelve were referred to the Karapitiya dental clinic for further treatment.

Thanks to Mrs. Jayasinghe for dedicating her time for these children.



Medical clinic

The clinic was organised by ECSAT with the support of the Paediatric Neurologist, Paediatric Consultant, Occupational Therapist and Physiotherapist of the Karapitiya Teaching Hospital. The paediatricians and therapists assessed 49 children with disabilities and clarified the ECSAT intervention for their future development.

Thanks to the doctors and therapists of Karapitiya teaching hospital.



Fundraising through dance and drama

The Beauty of Taprobane



In December ECSAT presented a dance and drama event called 'The Beauty of Taprobane' at Jetwing Lighthouse Hotel. We wanted to change attitudes towards disability by showing the talents of the people with disabilities and raise funds to develop ECSAT's unit for physiotherapy and speech and language.

The show opened with a Puja Dance followed by a programme of 10 dances and drama telling the story of the beauty of Taprobane.

Parents shed happy tears to see their children in the dance programme. They could not believe they were performing at a prestigious event in a five star hotel with a packed audience of local and foreign guests.

Thanks to Jetwing MD Shiramal Cooray and Lighthouse Hotel Manager Priyanthika Wijenayake

Opening of our new therapy centre for children with cerebral palsy



The new centre was opened by the Galle District Secretariat Mr Raveendra Hewawitharana and many government invitees attended. After the blue ribbon was cut and the unit officially opened, the government therapist at Karapitiya hospital, Mr Asanka, and the Japanese volunteer therapist from JICA, Ms Ayumi Naguchi, started therapy sessions for the children.

Children tried out their new equipment with support from the therapists to show the visitors how it would help with their muscle development and mobility. Eight children took home special equipment, one boy and one girl took a corner chair, one boy and three girls took a standing frame and two boys took walking frames.

Many thanks to everyone who supported the fundraising

How you can support ECSAT

Make a donation

Your donations make a huge difference to the lives of poor and vulnerable people in Sri Lanka. Please continue to support our work by making a one-off or a regular donation.

Donate online at www.ecsatlanka.org/support

Or set up a regular or donation to our bank:

Sri Lanka: ECSAT

Bank name and branch: Commercial Bank - Galle Fort
Account number: 1107585301
SWIFT CODE: CCEYLKX

UK: Friends of ECSAT*

Bank name: HSBC
Account number: 01858920
Sort Code: 40-09-18

*If you would like to donate in the UK using Gift Aid we will be able to claim the tax back, increasing the value of your donation by 28%. Please visit www.ecsatlanka.org/support for more information.

Buy our handicrafts online!

Visit our shop at www.tinyurl.com/ecsatshop

Keep in touch

Check our website www.ecsatlanka.org

Join us on Facebook www.facebook.com/ecsat

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Registration:

with Ministry of Defense and Urban Development - Reg No: L – 105104

with National Council for Persons with Disabilities - Reg No MSS/NSPD/R/178

A BIG THANK-YOU...

to all of you – our supporters and friends – who have made ECSAT's work possible!

Current board members

President: Prof. Chandrani Liyanage (Community medicine)
Secretary: Mrs. Dayarathna (Teacher training)
Treasurer: Mr. Janaka De Silva (Public relations & fundraising)
Mr. T Someswaran (Public relations and finance advisor)
Mr. Roshan Samarawickrama (Psychosocial and community development)

Dr. Janaka Amaraweera (Medical)
Mr. Kasun Samarasinghe (Accounts and finance)
Mrs. Tharanga Dayananda (Human resources)
Mrs. Melba Dias (Public relations and fundraising)
Mrs. Ruwaiha Razik (Public relations and fundraising)