

# ASHA TRUST



## Summer 2016

Charity No. 1108536

**Yes again, an exciting and busy time at the Asha Centre with the launch of a new project and new staff including a Centre Coordinator!**

### **Employment opportunities for women in Badowita**

Asha Trust is delighted to have teamed up with Panther Stationery Company, The Jelly Bean Foundation and The Rotaract Club of the Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Colombo in order to provide work opportunities to women in the area who struggle to find an income.

#### **Who are the partners?**

Panther is a family owned business that manufactures high quality stationery that is sold throughout Sri Lanka.

Jelly Bean Foundation is a charity organisation that runs projects supporting those with special needs in Sri Lanka. Their founder Samantha, has also been supporting with speech and language therapy at the centre.

The Rotaract Club of the Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Colombo consists of a group of students who work as a team to make a difference in their community.

#### **Who is the project supporting?**

Panther stationery is outsourcing some of the manufacturing work to the Asha Centre. At present, women in the area have been trained on how to make A4 folders. The Jellybean Foundation and the Rotaract Club are providing almost daily support to enable the women to do this.

Not only have the team lead by Samantha and Dinuk been trained on the manufacturing techniques for making the folders in order to ensure further women can be trained, they have also been a huge help in motivating the women to continue and develop in their work.

Current production is at 500 folders a week which gives the women a healthy income. The nature of the work also means that women can also fit their work around their other commitments; the main reason why those involved have not been able to find work elsewhere.

The team are currently focussing on supporting those who have a child with a disability as it is this group of women in the community who find it most difficult to bring in an income. Future plans include expanding the project for further groups of women in need in the area.



*Sister Conceta with the Rotaract Club members, Mohanthy from Panther and women involved in the project*

**Women receiving training from the  
Rotaract Club**



**Ellie and Glenda teaching sewing  
at the centre**



**Welcome to our new staff members!**

Nirmal, our new Centre Co-ordinator has got off to a flying start at the centre helping the team with the organising of the Afterschool Club as well as the general running of the centre. Nirmal has a background in administration and has also worked voluntarily in Badowita supporting the community particularly with youth work for the past 7 years. We look forward to him supporting us with further developing the centre.

We also have a new teacher, Anjali. Anjali is Montessori trained and has a passion for Sinhala. She is helping the younger children with Sinhala at the Afterschool Club.

**Thanks to our volunteers**

The Asha Centre was pleased to welcome Radhika and 6 volunteers from the UK in March/April. The group managed to achieve so much in the week they were there – teaching sewing and helping in the afterschool club as well as running an inclusive art session for all the children at the centre. Thanks to all of you for your energy, dedication and enthusiasm!

We also say a fond farewell to two local volunteers who supported at the centre last year – Prabashini and Roshi. Prabashini has also recently been supporting with some evaluation work for our women's befriending club. Thanks to both of you for all your support!

**Right: Prabashini and Roshi at the Afterschool Club helping the group make a tree of gratitude – combining English practice and emotional support!**



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