

December 2017

Sister Concepta, New Venture



Having worked in Badowita for over 10 years, Sr Concepta has moved on to work in another part of the country. Her dedication and love for those she has served has contributed massively to the work of the centre, she always spoke of the centre being an 'oasis of love' and for many this is exactly what it has become. Sister Concepta's vision and commitment has shaped all our work and we wish her every blessing for the future. We had a great send off for her with the children at the centre and we remain in contact with her as she explores new ways to continue working with the poor.

2018, Embracing the Future with Renewed Vigour

Steve was able to visit the team in October and helped us plan for the future of the centre. We focused our discussion on 'a good life', considering what children, young people and other users of the centre require to experience a 'good life'. The team agree that education although crucial, 'is not always enough' and

have developed a new curriculum with a more holistic approach that focuses on wellbeing. We will explore activities that build confidence and communication skills. Inclusion and gender equality remain key priorities. Enterprise and employability also emerged as key themes particularly for the older teens and we will work on developing our links with local businesses in order to enhance opportunities for our young people

This is an exciting time but also a challenging time as this holistic programme comes with a financial cost, in order to train staff and provide additional resources. We require an additional £5000 in 2018 to achieve these aims. Can you help us?

Holiday Club



With funding from Volunteers For Educational Support and Learning, the team at the Asha Centre ran a two week holiday club in August this year. A wide range of activities took place with the goals of promoting teamwork, encouraging creativity and imagination and having fun! There were trips to the local sportsground and the beach as well as activities at the centre such as kite-making, creating board games and team games. We also had a

great creative therapy session run by a local organisation – Child, Adolescent and Family Services - who we are hoping to work with more closely in 2018.



Circle Time training

In **October**, Margaret Egerton, a retired primary school teacher and SENCO worked with the teachers and children on 'circle time'. This is a whole class activity that encourages an open forum for discussion, problem-solving and team work and is also used to promote confidence and self-esteem in a classroom. As well as an interactive training activity with the teachers, she also led circle time with the children. Plans are now developing for weekly circle time sessions in 2018 with a focus on key themes such as feelings, friendship and co-operation. The circle time sessions will be part of a wider model at the centre based on participation for all, a clear understanding of

expectations, a positive behaviour reward system and a happy centre environment

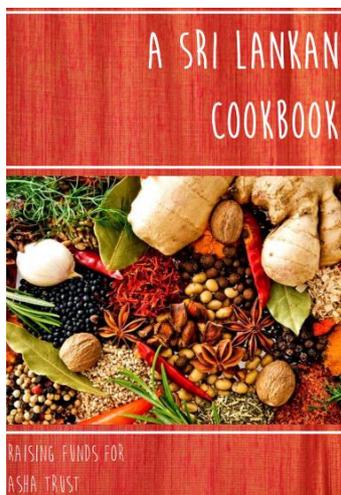
Special Thanks



Thanks to Shiranee and the team at the RCCI who continue their work with those with disabilities in Athidiya. Their ongoing support has meant that those with disabilities in Athidiya continue to develop and experience new things at the centre. RCCI support at centre events such as trips and celebrations has also meant that inclusion of all children is now seamless throughout the centre activities.

Sri Lankan Recipe Book

Our first recipe book in 2015 flew off the shelves we continue to receive requests. This



year's edition has 40 new recipes, provided or inspired by local people and staff at the Asha Centre.

At just £12.99 (plus £1.99 postage) it will make a perfect present for all curry lovers.

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