

GERDI GUTPERLE

**AGASTHIYAR MUNI
CHILD CARE CENTRE
VELLAMADAM
KANYAKUMARI DIST**



An Exclusive Paediatric Hospital at the Service of Poor Children

Inaugurated on 19.03.2008





Mr. Werner Gutperle and Mrs. Gerdi Gutperle



MOST REV. PETER FERNANDO D.D., Ph.D.,
Archbishop of Madurai

hop's House, K.Pudur, Madurai - 625 007. Tamilnadu, INDIA.

01.03.2008

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office,
iazhakudy Road,
adam - 629 305,
umari Dst.

My Dear Dr. Sudha,

Greetings from Archbishop Peter Fernando, the Archbishop of Madurai.

Indeed I am happy to know that the Childcare center, named after Gerdi GUTPERLE is ready to offer service to the people. I do remember that I laid the foundation stone for this center. I am sure this center offer quality health care to the children, especially to the needy children of the southern districts of Tamilnadu. As you are going to inaugurate this center, I wish you all the best. May the Good Lord Bless you and your hospital ministry.

God creates only Prince and Princesses.

Every Child is the greatest miracle on this earth

Every Child is born to Love.

Yours devotedly in Christ,

+ Peter Fernando

(✠ PETER FERNANDO)
Archbishop of Madurai





Most Rev. Peter Remigius, D.D.
Bishop of Kottar

Bishop's House ,
P.B. No:17, Nagercoil - 629 001,
Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu, India.
Phone : Off : +91 - 4652-279152, 278343
Per : +91 - 4652-278868
Fax : +91 - 4652-278570
E-mail : kottar_diocese@sancharnet.in
Website : www.kottardiocese.org

04.03.2008

MESSAGE

It gives me immense pleasure to know that the Gerdi Gutperle Agasthiyar Muni Child Care Centre will be officially inaugurated on 19th March 08.

I know about the noble vision of the GGAMCCC and its commitment towards serving the needy children of the 3 southern districts of Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli, Tuticorin with honesty and courtesy.

As the father of our nation, Mahatma Gandhi said 'A healthy Child is a nation's pride'. By providing holistic health care to a child i.e. by providing preventive, curative, promotive and when required, rehabilitative measures, the GGAMCCC can help attain Gandhiji's vision.

Helping the downtrodden & the marginalized would be following the footsteps of Jesus, and is essential for the growth of our society.

I wish the organization and the staff of the GGAMCCC all the very best and all success in fulfilling their vision.


† Peter Remigius
Bishop of Kottar





Dear friends in India,

For me as the public authority of the district Bergstraße in Germany as well as for all of our citizens, it is a great honour to call Mrs. Gerdi and Mr. Werner Gutperle part of our community. Creating and realizing the Gerdi Gutperle Agasthiyar Muni Child Care Centre they both focused a lot of time, mental power and strength of will on the welfare of Indian children.

This should not be regarded as a matter of course in a global world, which only seems to be ambitious for more and more profit. Thus, let me say some words about Mrs. and Mr. Gutperle:

Mrs. Gutperle has become a painter, whose works has found a great recognition in Germany and meanwhile also in Europe and it is most commendable of all, that she dedicates her work to help Indian Children.

Mr. Gutperle is one of Germany's most successful real-estate businessmen and he also has an admirably great heart for the social welfare of people worldwide.

So, founding the Gerdi Gutperle Agasthiyar Muni Child Care Centre, Mrs. and Mr. Gutperle, joined their forces and hearts to give Indian children a change for a better future. This engagement gains our respect and support now and in the future and for me it is a personal pleasure to be here with you for the official opening of the Child Care Centre.

Sincerely,

Matthias Wilkes

Head of the administration of the district Bergstraße, Germany



**Rev. Dr. Thomas Kalam, CMI
Director,
St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences,
Bangalore.**

Message

Reaching out to the unreached is the basic mission of the Church. This mission started somewhere in eternity when the finger of the Almighty reached out to the yet unreached 'Adam' which is beautifully and poignantly depicted in Michelangelo's 'Creation of Adam.' This reaching out to the unreached culminated when the eternal Son of God reached out to the broken humanity in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. It is heartening to note that Gerdi Gutperle Agasthiyar Muni Child Care Centre continues this 'reaching out to the unreached' by providing multidimensional health care for the children, especially the poor children, who are, perhaps, the most neglected lot in our Country, the most unreached. Father Dr. Cruz M. Hieronymus and Fr. Patrick Xavier along with the German sponsors deserve congratulations from everyone in this venture. May I wish this divine endeavour all success and God's abundant blessings.

Fr. Thomas Kalam, CMI



Dr. B. Evangeline Nesa Rathnabai.MD
Dean
Kanyakumari Govt. Medical College
Asaripallam
Nagercoil – 629 201

4th March,2008

MESSAGE

It gives me a great pleasure to greet the Management, Doctors and other Staff of Gerdi Gupterle Agasthiar Muni Child Care Centre, Vellamadam of Kanyakumari district on the occasion of Inauguration of their new 120 bedded Hospital building on 19th March, 2008. I appreciate the authorities for their dedicated health services rendered to the needy people around. I also congratulate the management for maintaining high standards of medical ethics and environmental awareness and extending an excellent medical care in this locality.

I am happy to know that the institution is releasing a magazine during this inaugural function. . I am sure the institution will continue to uphold the high principles and values which it has reflected so far in the future years also.

I wish Gerdi Gupterle Agasthiar Muni Child Care Centre all success in all its endeavors. May your services to the poor and sick grow day by day and bring glory to you all

Yours sincerely,

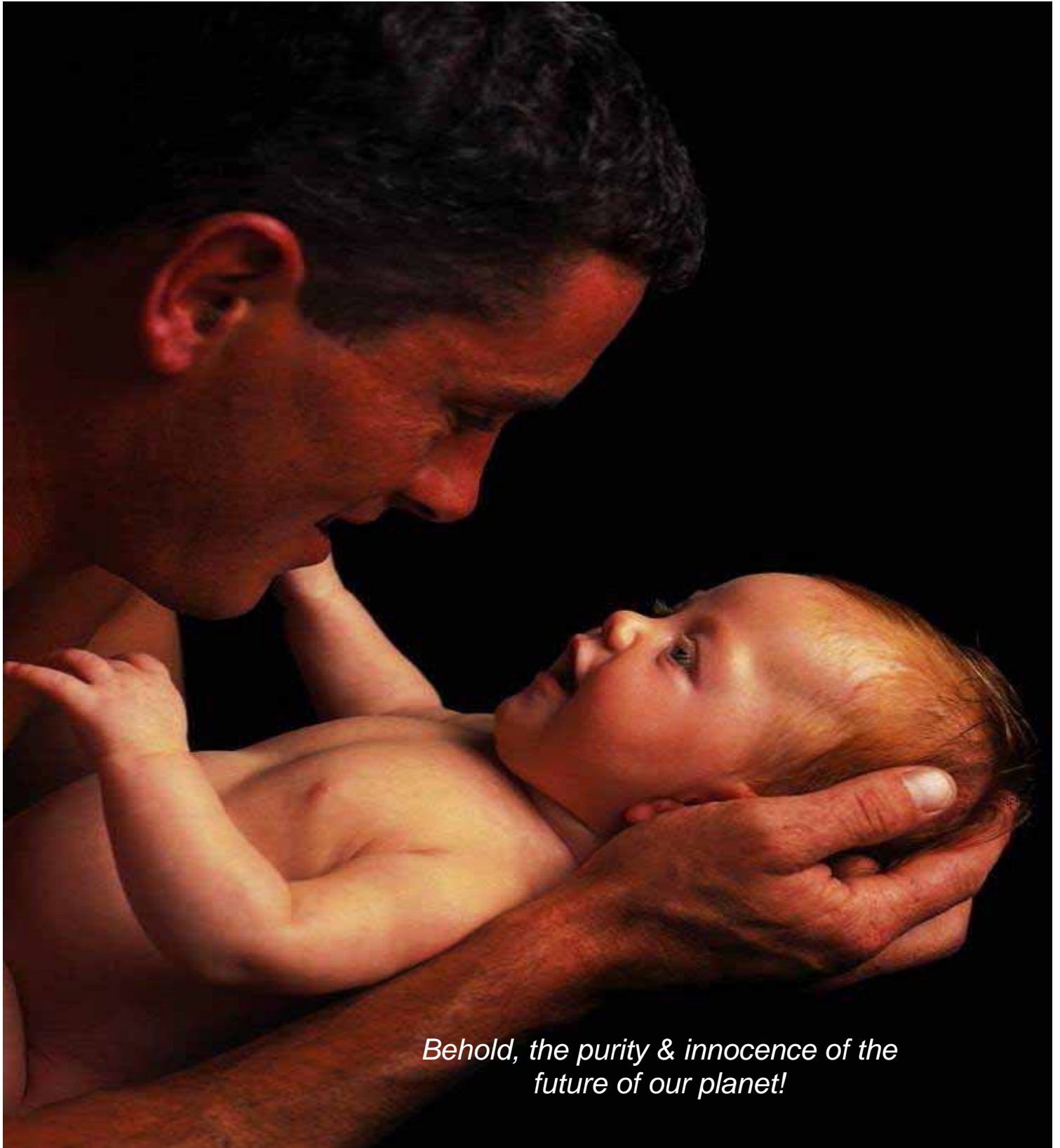

4.3.08

Dr. B. Evangeline Nesa Rathnabai.MD

Dr. B. EVANGELINE NESA RATHNABAI, MD.
DEAN

KANYAKUMARI GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL
ASARIPALLAM
NAGERCOIL





*Behold, the purity & innocence of the
future of our planet!*

OUR EDITORIAL TEAM

Dr. Sudha Ponnu

Dr. A.Anish

Mr. Thomas Paulraj

Mr. Benedict Joe

Ms. Jonny Flower



Coming together is a beginning,
Keeping together is progress,
Working together is success.

Henry Ford.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

It has been a delightful experience for all of us in the editorial board, to bring out this souvenir. It was extremely heartening to see the enthusiasm and effort put in by the team.

Compiling the trip down memory lane, was a nostalgic journey, right from the buying of land to the completion of the magnificent hospital structure seen now. If we journey a little further back in time, we see the love, compassion and spirit behind the vision of the Gerdi Gutperle Agasthiyar Muni Child Care Centre. It originated in the heart and soul of Ms. Gerdi Gutperle, a renowned German artist and Philanthropist. Ms. Gerdi laboured frequently into the wee hours of the mornings, painting, to raise money for her dream project. She had tremendous support from her husband, Mr. Werner Gutperle, and together, they have made the G.G.A.M.C.C.C. a reality, through the able hands of Rev. Fr. Cruz M. Hieronymus and Rev. Fr. Patrick Xavier.

We have attempted to provide a pictorial view of the history of the hospital, to its present status. We hope you get a clear insight into the vision and mission of the GGAMCCC, as your travel through this souvenir.

On behalf of the Souvenir Committee, I would like to thank each and everyone, who contributed in deed or in spirit, to this endeavor.

*Chief Editor
Dr. Capt. Sudha Ponnu M.D. (Paed)
Medical Superintendent*



A vision that drives us

We are very happy to bring out a souvenir on the occasion of the official inauguration of the Gerdi Gutperle Agasthiyar Muni Child Care Centre (GGAMCCC). This souvenir serves as a documentation of the GGAMCCC in words and images. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for all those who have sent messages or contributed article to this souvenir. A special word of thanks to the editorial committee, headed by Dr. Sudha Ponnu, our Medical Superintendent, which has done a marvelous job in a short time.

The Gerdi Gutperle Agasthiyar Muni Child Care Centre at Vellamadam, Nagercoil, is a Children' Speciality Hospital with German collaboration, established to give quality medical care primarily to the poor

children of the southern districts (Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli and Tuticorin) of Tamil Nadu.

This Child Care Centre is named after the great Indian sage Agasthiyar, who is reputed to be the Father of Indian medicine. The name of the German sponsor Mrs. Gerdi Gutperle is also prefixed. In fact it is this lady, Gerdi, a devotee of Agasthiyar, who was very keen on naming the Child Care Centre after the great Agasthiyar.

The Child Care Centre is not just a hospital, but we envisage promoting the entire spectrum of health. This comprises of 3 aspects:

- i) Preventive i.e. by developing Health Care by health education (by providing health awareness and protection) and screening for early detection of diseases.
- ii) Curative i.e. by developing into a tertiary paediatric referral hospital.
- iii) Reconstructive and rehabilitative, i.e. by providing opportunity to children who have birth or acquired defects, to undergo reconstructive procedures through surgery or other aids. Children, who have noncorrectable ailments, will be provided rehabilitative measures like counselling, physiotherapy etc. and if required, will be referred to institutions which cater to their special needs.

In our medical care to children, we wish to integrate Indian systems of medicine, such as Siddha, Ayurveda etc. along with the allopathic medical system.

Our vision is: 'A Healthy and Happy Childhood'. Our goal is to **make quality health care accessible and affordable** to all needy children. Since the Child Care Centre is located in a rural area (Sahayanagar village panchayat in Thovalai Taluk of Kanyakumari District), we intend to make our health services **accessible** to people by providing free transport from

the main road (i.e. N.H. 47B passing through Vellamadam). We also provide ambulance services.

Our wish is to make quality medical care **affordable** to poor people. We provide **fully free** medical care and surgical interventions to the poorest of the poor, such as the tribals, gypsies, other similar social groups, orphans, abandoned children etc. Children of parents whose monthly earnings are not higher than Rs. 2500/- are also included in this “fully free” category. Children of parents whose monthly earnings are not more than Rs. 5000/- receive **huge concessions** (about 60%). Children of parents whose monthly earnings are not more than Rs. 7500/- receive **considerable concessions** (about 25%). Children of parents whose monthly earnings are more than Rs. 7500/- are expected to pay **full charges**. The German Foundation of Ms. Gerdi Gutperle and her husband Werner Gutperle which has helped us to put up this Child Care Centre (buildings in 90,000 square feet, medical and surgical equipments) has assured us of continued support for the concessions and free treatments.

Our motto is: **service with courtesy and honesty**. All the employees of the GGAMCCC understand that they are here primarily to serve. Their induction into the GGAMCCC is seen by them as a **call to service**. Of course they are provided with a decent remuneration. The employees also share in the joy of being able to make quality medical care affordable to poor children. To provide **service with courtesy** is our motto. We wish to give the feeling of being wanted and respected to every patient who enters our campus. They should feel happy and their visit to our Child Care Centre should be seen by them as really fruitful. We wish to provide medical care with **utmost honesty**. In an age when allegations of unfair medical practices are not too infrequent, we wish to make a difference. People who come with their children to our GGAMCCC can be sure that

they will receive all the medical attention and surgical processes they require and only those which they really require. Awareness of the helplessness of the patients in this area makes us all the more conscientious in providing health service in all honesty.

A day in the Child Care Centre begins with a prayer which includes a reading either from the Bhagavat Gita, the holy Quran, the Bible, and sayings of great Indian souls such as Vivekananda, Tagore, and Gandhi etc. or from Tamil sages such as Thiruvalluvar, Manikkavasagar etc.

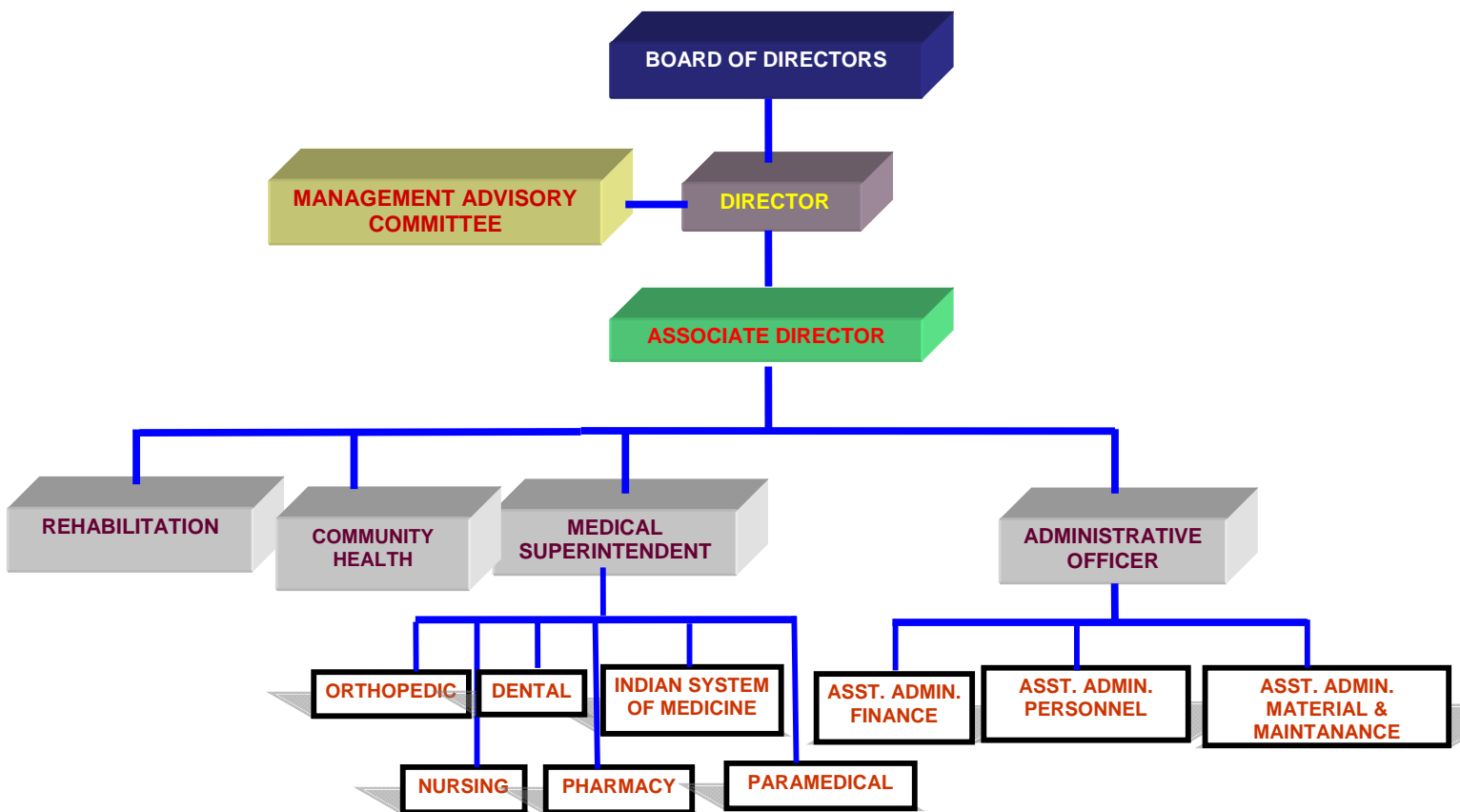
The Gerdi Gutperle Agasthiar Muni Child Care Centre is run by a charitable company (under section 25) of which Fr. Patrick Xavier and I along with the German sponsors Werner Gutperle, Rene Gutperle and Gerdi Gutperle Foundation (in Germany) are Directors. Through it is a company, we strive to function as a family, interested in the welfare of everyone and promoting participative leadership.

The Management Advisory Committee comprising of eminent personalities mostly from the southern Districts helps the Child Care Centre to evolve common perspectives, strategies and programmes. The Bishop of the Diocese of Kottar (Nagercoil), Most. Rev. Dr. Peter Remigius is the Chairman of the Management Advisory Committee.

It is my fond hope that we, working with the motto of serving with courtesy and honesty, will be able to achieve, at least to a considerable extent, our goal of making quality medical care accessible and affordable to poor children, in our march towards realizing our vision of 'A Healthy and Happy Childhood'.

Fr. Cruz. M. Hieronymus
Director

ORGANOGRAM



Members of the Management Advisory Committee

Most Rev. Dr. Peter Remigius

Rev. Bala Prajabathi Adigalar	Prof. Sahul Hameed
Prof. Subbu Lakshmi	Dr. Sanjeev Lewin
Dr. Rex Sargunam	Dr. Arul Pragasam
Mr. Stalin	Rev. Fr. J. Gaspar
Dr. Ebenezer Solomon	Dr. Johnson Raj
Mr. John Morris	Mr. Anto Xavier
Rev. Dr. Cruz M. Hieronymus	Rev. Fr. Patrick Xavier
Mr. Thomas Paulraj	Dr. Sudha Ponnu

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TAC on Finance

1. Mr. John Morris	-	Chairman
2. Mr. Kulathooran Pillai	-	Member
3. Rev. Fr. A. Joachim	-	Member
4. Rev. Fr. Cruz M. Hieronymus	-	Director / Convener
5. Rev. Fr. J.R. Patrick Xavier	-	Administrative Director
6. Mr. Borgio	-	Secretary

TAC on Personnel

1. Mr. Anto Xavier	-	Chairman
2. Mr. S. Lawrence	-	Advocate
3. Rev. Fr. Rex Lumine	-	
4. Rev. Fr. Cruz M. Hieronymus	-	Director / Convenor
5. Rev. Fr. J.R. Patrick Xavier	-	Administrative Director
6. Dr. Jegadhesh Manuel	-	Consultant
7. Mrs. Manjula	-	Staff Nurse

TAC on Medicine and Purchase

1. Dr. Ebenezer Solomon	-	Chairman
2. Dr. John Titus Sales MD. DM.	-	Cardiologist
3. Dr. Joseph	-	Siddha
4. Rev. Fr. Cruz M. Hieronymus	-	Director / Convenor
5. Rev. Fr. J.R. Patrick Xavier	-	Administrative Director
6. Dr. Sudha Ponnu	-	Medical Superintendent
7. Mr. Thomas Paulraj	-	Secretary

TAC on Community Health

1. Dr. Johnsonraj	-	Chairman
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|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 2. Fr. Michael Angel | - | Member |
| 3. Rev. Fr. Cruz M. Hieronymus | - | Director / Convener |
| 4. Rev. Fr. J.R. Patrick Xavier | - | Administrative Director |
| 5. Dr. Sudha Ponnu | - | Medical Superintendent |
| 6. Dr .J. Christy Flora | - | Member |
| 7. Sr. Britto | - | Secretary |

The Paths we have treaded....



‘Life is Beautiful’ is a word very often uttered by Mr. Werner Gutperle, who has journeyed this life by enjoying and savouring the beautiful aspects of life and so has really made life a beautiful one. Mrs. Gerdi Gutperle likewise believes that she had been born into this world to give to blossom and give life to poor children. With these high ideals governing their life, they travelled in the same path with the oneness of mind and that propelled them to start the Gerdi Gutperle Agasthiyar Muni Child Care Centre. They belong to the wealthy class and enjoy a luxurious and rich life in Germany. Their meaningful outlook of life, humaneness and real concern for others made them to thrive both at the family and at the business front. Mrs. Gerdi Gutperle used to portray the aspirations and feelings of her mind in the form of beautiful painting works suggested to her husband one day, “I am going to paint some pictures and plan to sell them to help poor children.” Mr. Werner responded to her saying that he could donate her for the same cause ten



times more than that amount she would made by selling her pictures, and this paved the way for the establishment of Gerdi Gutperle Foundation in Germany.



I firmly believe that the starting a Child Care Centre at Vellamadam is God's work. This scheme would not have materialised if our German friend Mr. Axel Fisher had not met the Gutperle couple and taken initiatives to introduce Gutperle family to us. Or it would have also possible that the project would have gone to a different place in India if Gutperle couple had an opportunity to meet some one else interested to start such a project in another place. Rev.Fr. Hieronymus and myself showed our interest in cooperating with them to start the Child Care Centre. Mr. & Mrs. Gutperle agreed and along with Mr. Axel Fisher met late Bishop Leon Dharmaraj in February 2004, explained to him about the objectives of the project and got his blessings. This was the green signal for the Indian phase of the Gerdi Gutperle Foundation work.

It is interesting to recall the way they selected this part of our state to execute the project. As Mr. Werner Gutperle was fully lost in the beauty and majesty of the Western Ghats and the highly fertile green paddy fields, Mrs Gerdi Gutperle ran with the children holding her hands and enjoying every bit of the moment spent with the little kids. After examining six different locations for the project, they were quite satisfied with this beautiful location. Though we felt it was remote from the main link road, Mr. Werner convinced us saying that people will definitely throng to this medical care centre which will provide high quality medical care with love and concern. .



In July 2004, Mr. Borgio joined us as the first employee of the project. His wide experience, tireless efforts and total commitment made the initial phase of the work progress without delay. At that juncture, I experienced how difficult it was to buy a large area at one place for a project like this. It took almost two years for us to buy ten acres of land from seven different individuals.



On 10th October 2004, the foundation stone was blessed by the arch bishop of Madurai, Most. Rev. Peter Fernando and it was laid by Mr. and Mrs. Gutperle. The function was graced by fifty five friends who had come all the way from Germany which added glamour to the ceremony. The presence of the locals from Vellamadam and surrounding villages also made it all the more colourful. It proved that it was a wonderful occasion for the coming together of people. In June 2005, Mr. and Mrs. Gutperle opened a temporary building of 2000 square feet for keeping the building materials and to run the office work of the project.



A German architect Mr. Michael Bugert was called to conceive the hospital building with a high standard hygienic ambience utilising the fresh air and the bright sun light available at the site in all seasons. Keeping in mind these natural resources, he designed the building and sent us the layout immediately. Soon advertisements were out in the newspaper calling for tenders. After so many inspections, the building consultant, Mr. Joseph guided us to start contract work with *Urgentchs and David Associates* and consequently on November 1, 2005 the building work was started.



Mr. Wener Gutperle came here to review the construction work in March 2006. The work could not progress as expected because of the nature of the soil and continuous rain fall.



On 17 August 2006, a Dispensary was opened which rendered great service to the children of this area. The opening function of the hospital was presided over by the Sahayanagar Panchayat President Mr. Yesudhasan. The humble beginning of this hospital was made successful by a team of people involved actively in the project. The ordinary people and small children were attracted by Dr. Cross Micheals' highly approachable and friendly nature. Dr. Jagadish Manuels' cool and soft disposition coupled with his witty speeches enlivened the lives of the poor people. The hard and untiring services of nurse Suja, pharmacist Suba, lab-technician Arul Rajan heralded a great beginning in the execution of the project. The coordinated efforts of these people strengthened our contacts with the poor people around and we could do useful service to those in need. In November 2006 Mrs. Gutperle officially opened this dispensary.





Again in March 2007, Mr. And Mrs. Gutperle visited us and speeded up the pace of the work. While the construction work was taking place in one part of the building, medical services were provided in other parts where the work had been over. On 8-10-2007 Rev. Kulanthai Swamy blessed the In-patient Ward and it started functioning.

By divine providence, we have successfully completed the construction work and today we witness its grand inauguration.



As this dream to have a modern child care centre has become a reality, I strongly feel that it was made possible only because of the joint efforts of many generous and large-hearted individuals. It is my bounden duty to include all those involved in the development of the project, but due to the limitations of space involved in writing a report like this, I shall recall the contributions of only some people. When this project was at its initial stage, we had our own doubts and reluctance to go ahead. But it was Dr. S. Johnson Raj who instilled courage in us saying that it was a wonderful opportunity and that we can make it a successful venture. I thank Mr. John Ohilvi for being with us from day one we started deliberating on this project and for assisting us in company affairs. I sincerely thank Mr. Joseph for acting as the chief building consultant at the beginning and Mrs. Shoba Mohan, the present architect for strengthening the works that have been

carried out so far. I specially thank Prof. Ganapathy, Mr. Maria George, Mr. Ganesan and Mr. Darwin who formed a dedicated team of engineers in this project. I thank Mr. Robert for offering his suggestions during the course of the work. I also thank Mr. Kumaradhas for acting not only as an engineer but also helping us out with his innovative ideas and getting us to have easy contacts with influential people. It is my privilege to thank building contractors Mr. David Sundar Singh, Mr. Anand, Mr. Maria James, Mr. Mathias, Mr. Dinakaran and Mr. Amal. I thank Dr. Arul Prakasam for providing us with his ideas. I extend my sincere thanks to the people of Othamarakudi, Puthukalvi Vilai, Beema Nagari for the co-operation and interest in the project. I specially thank sister Jenova for acting as a bridge between us and the public and for her total willingness to help us at all times and for her involvement in the growth of the child care centre.

The world we live in is a commercial world. But the people, who had business contacts with us took cognizance of our selfless service, have become aware of the high goals of the project and have taken steps to be part of the project.

Mr. Dinesh, the partner of *Vinesh Rajan Metal House*, always reminded us that he was like our own brother and whenever we needed any help, we should immediately contact him so that he could come down from Madurai. He has been here quite a lot of time at our request.

Mr. Dharmesh, the partner of *K.A.M.A.K Dharmaraj Nadar*, has always provided his best ideas and has introduced us to reliable and good persons.

Mr. Soma Sundaram, the owner of *Arasu Paper Mart*, encourages us by showering his praises on us.

Mr. Belarmine, the owner of *Sirumalar Electricals*, and Mr. Vitus, the partner of *Retnam Hardwares*, were helpful to us by their guidance.

Mr. Balan, Mr. Thomas Xavier, the partners of *Laks Blue Metals* had a way of helping by being with us in all the works that we undertook.

Mr. Selvam, Mr. Immanuel, our neighbours were ready to heed to our calls and to immediately run to us to play their part in all the programmes.

Mr. Rajendran, Advisor of the electrical department, known for his simplicity spent electricity judiciously and carefully planned it for our future use too.

Mr. Valan has acted as an advisor and readily made himself available whenever there was a programme.

Mr. Bennoy, the Managing Partner of *Arch Medies* helped us to plan the indoor facilities of the building.

Mr. Harry, the Managing partner of *Asiatic* installed everything in the operation theatre.

The Advisory committee members indeed became the partners of this mission by making themselves available and encouraging us amidst their busy schedule and works.

The list will go on and finally,

With the ideal of providing quality and comprehensive health care to the poor and the needy children at an affordable cost in the southern districts of our state Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli and Tuticorin, the Child Care Centre has began its sojourn. It is only a beginning. Rendering service to the poor is the core spirit of this project. Honesty with courtesy is its hallmark. Keeping all these ideals and working in line with this spirit, this centre will become a shining star in the lives of millions of children in need. We are a unique institution in many respects. We ourselves should evolve our standards, policies and procedures. In this regard we are here with an open mind always to receive useful suggestions from all our well wishers. We request each and every one of you to extend your cooperation, ideas and join us in our efforts to make this mission meaningful to the children.

Patrick Xavier
Associate Director



Address of the Founder on the Occasion of the Inauguration of GGAMCCC

Thiru Suresh Rajan, Minister for Tourism and Registration, Thiru M.R.K. Panneer Selvam, Minister for Health, Thirumathi Dr.Poongothai Aladi Aruna, Minister for Social Welfare, Thirumathi Jothi Nirmala, Collector, Kanya Kumari Dt, Ladies and gentlemen,

honoured guests, physicians,

I cordially welcome you and I would like to express how happy I am to be in India once again, especially this time. Because today we celebrate the grand inauguration of the Gerdi Gutperle Agasthiya Muni Child Care Centre. My dream has come true! I cannot describe the feelings in my heart at this historic moment. All my hopes have become reality. So many minds and hands have contributed toward creating what we see before us here. I am profoundly grateful to everyone who collaborated on this project.

We've already been able to help so many children. We've treated 20,000 children in our emergency station, which we set up provisionally in July 2006. Now, in the main building, we can fully commence treatments for outpatients and inpatients.

How did all this come about? I'd like briefly to tell you how it all began and how it came to be. You know the motto of my life and my husband Werner's life: *Life is beautiful!*

We've had the great good fortune to make this motto a reality for ourselves and our family. But we know the world is full of so much suffering and misery, and we know that life is unfortunately *not* beautiful for far too many people. Werner and I regard happiness as an obligation and a responsibility. The construction and operation of the GGAMCCC here in South India is an expression of our gratitude for the lives of fulfilment and satisfaction that we've had the good fortune to be able to live.

This wasn't always the case: just the opposite, in fact. I am not, nor is my husband, a child of wealthy parents, so we had to struggle very hard for many long years to make ends meet. This no doubt heightened our awareness of the shortages and suffering that beset the world. We finally overcame our financial difficulties, but we never forgot the problems of others. Above all, we believed then and we still believe today that all human beings, rich and poor alike, share a tremendous responsibility for the greatest treasure of all: our children, the next generation, the future.

One thing was quite clear to me: if I should ever enjoy success with my art, I would want to create something from my own resources which would help the world's needy people. When my pictures began to find their collectors, I decided to use the entire income generated by those paintings for a good cause, a social project – and that's exactly what we've done here.

Determination, perseverance and discipline are the basis for my work.

But why did we choose Sahaya Nagar Vellamadam, near the town of Nagercoil in South India, to be the location for the project?

I clearly recall my conversation with Mr. Werner Kraus, who gave me the crucial telephone number when I was searching for a suitable venue in India.

That telephone number put me in contact with Axel Fischer, who had collaborated with the diocese of Kottar several years before to establish the Midalam children's aid organization.

Thanks to him, we ultimately arrived here and quickly found a suitable plot of land. In an especially peaceful environment; surrounded by coconut trees and paddy plantations, great culture and – most importantly – by openhearted people.

That's why I'm so very grateful to those two individuals.

Today we can harvest the fruits of our painstakingly disciplined, perseverant and four-year-long labours.

It wasn't always easy. Before we could begin the construction work, we had to conduct many gruelling negotiations.

We relied here on the valuable experience of our architect Michael Bugert, and that of the two Indian architects Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Shoba Mohan, Engineers Mr. Kumaradas and Mr. Ganapatty and Contractors Mr. David Sundersing and Mr. Anand. They succeeded in realizing our plans and wishes.

They were able to successfully complete the construction work despite recurrent monsoon rains and other problems. I believe I'm right when I say that the results speak for themselves. Here again, I express my heartfelt thanks.

(applause)

Despite all the difficulties, we've now established a secure basis for the preservation and ongoing operation of this enterprise.

Father Hieronymus Cruz and Father Patrick Xavier are presently the managing directors of our Indian sponsoring company and the directors of the children's health center. Other managing directors and sole shareholders are my husband Werner and my son René. In this way, we assure that the activities are in reliable hands.

We've also enjoyed support from the bishops of the diocese: first by Bishop Leon A. Tharmarai, who is unfortunately deceased now, and whom we fondly recall. Bishop Leon first showed his support by making available for our project two of his best people: Father Patrick Xavier and Father Hieronymus Cruz. We're very happy and grateful that Bishop Peter Remigius generously continues to support us. We'll care for needy children of all faiths, and it goes without saying that we'll provide them with medical help irregardless of their religious affiliations. The treatments will be free of charge for all really poor children. Our Child Care Centre is equipped with the most modern medical technology and upholds the highest hygienic standards. It's equipped with 100 beds, three operating rooms, several examination and treatment rooms, an outpatient station and a dentist's practice. Under the direction of Dr. Suudha Poonu, we employ five highly qualified doctors, a team of extraordinarily dedicated nurses and assistants, and an additional team of male and female aides. It's very important to me that the ailing children, in addition to receiving Western medical care, also undergo treatment in accord with the traditional Indian healing arts. We want this to be a place where children will have a chance to recover their strength, to regain complete health – and to preserve their good health. I'm sure you'll agree with me: body, mind and soul must all be restored to harmony.

An important contribution toward achieving this goal is made by the healing method known as "myoreflex therapy," which was developed by Dr. Mossetter. This is, therefore, the perfect

moment to extend my hearty welcome to Dr. Kurt Mossetter and his colleague Dr. Leonhardi, as well as to the physiotherapist Brigitte Harrer. This therapeutic method activates the body's own capacity for self-healing. For example, ailments of the joints can be healed, thus eliminating the need for costly surgery. Several days ago Dr. Mossetter began teaching myoreflex therapy to our clinic's physicians and therapists, who are eagerly and enthusiastically absorbing this new knowledge. Furthermore, he or one of his colleagues will return at regular intervals to continue training our team, whose members will become fully qualified myoreflex therapists. I'm tremendously grateful for Dr. Mossetter's dedication. [Applause]

All my life, I've always openly expressed whatever has moved me. So also at this moment, I will not remain silent about how the idea came to build the children's hospital, although I'm aware that some, or perhaps many, of those present today either cannot share, or prefer not to share, my intimacy with the source of my inspiration. As you all know Agasthiya is the patron of our Child Care Centre. He lived in this area 6,000 years ago. The wisdom and knowledge that he taught we also find in the principles of Christianity.

Six-thousand years ago, a message from Agasthiya was written on a palm leaf, where you can read that he assigned my dear friends Isolde Heller-Bayer and Dr. Jürgen Bayer to spread his pearls of wisdom. It has been their mission to develop a scientific teaching and consulting method to disseminate Agasthiya's wisdom in his sense worldwide. The ancient scripts tell us about our origin in all its complexity and about our spiritual growth – our most important aim. Isolde and Jürgen Bayer have taught this high knowledge of Agasthiya in Germany for many years.

I'd now like to welcome Isolde and Jürgen Bayer and to thank them for their important support. This ancient wisdom and knowledge will also be integrated here as a type of therapy – the so-called "Yogasolan Method." To bring this method to our centre, the Yogasolan consultant Dr. Frank Braner and his team will begin contributing their knowledge and expertise starting next week.

As for me – I too received Agasthiya's message at the Palm Leaf Library several years ago. I was told two important things. First, my destiny is to build a Child Care Centre in Agasthiya's home country, India. Second, to create a place where the knowledge he handed down to my friends can be passed on. To explain this in simple words: the body can only regain complete health, if we provide a healthy mind.

Agasthiya tells us: first of all, we must cultivate a clear and clean mind without any negative thoughts. Furthermore: We need knowledge and education to raise the consciousness which will lead us to perfect health. It's my duty – and my delight – to comply with Agasthiya's request. He is the patron of this project. His love and wisdom guide and guard us. This institution is destined to become a source of strength for people of all cultures and all religions. It's my dream that everyone will live here peaceably together. The meditation and prayer room refreshes us all, no matter what our faith or religion may be. It's a haven that transcends all creeds and dogmas. It shows us that we all come from the same source.

The park on our grounds – with its trees and plants, flowers and fountains – likewise plays an important role because nature encourages and supports healing processes. I'm very grateful to the industrious workers who helped to create this lovely landscaping. I often work day and night: a small part of my oeuvre can be seen hanging here in this health centre, where these paintings, with their lights, shapes and colours, can stimulate the children's imagination. As we know,

cheerfulness and happiness contribute importantly toward speedy healing. My husband Werner is a construction specialist, and he was instrumental in designing our project. He is the jewel at my side. All of my beloved family members are likewise enthusiastic about this project. I know they're standing with me and supporting me. I'm happy they are all here. So many friends and acquaintances have recognized the importance of this project and have travelled here to assist us. Many of them design their birthdays, business anniversaries or other occasions as charitable events to benefit the Gerdi Gutperle Foundation. My heartfelt thanks to all our donators and benefactors! This great project shows that something wonderful can indeed be achieved when people work with one another and for one another.

I thank you for that, I'm very pleased by it, and I hope that increasingly many people will fully appreciate the value of this project, will put their trust in it, and will donate smaller or larger sums to cover its ongoing operating expenses.

Every single penny that I receive in exchange for my artworks goes into my foundation. Nothing flows into outside channels. The construction expenses have already been covered through sales of my numerous paintings- here big thanks goes to everyone who bought my paintings. All costs incurred through travel, lodging, etc. are generously defrayed by my husband. For this too, I owe him a debt of gratitude.

I also extend my deep thanks to Collector Matthias Wilkes and the Bergstrasse District Chapter of the German Red Cross, also executive manager Thomas Schweitzer and treasurer Hartmut Koch, for assuring that my pictures arrived here undamaged. Furthermore, as chairman of the GRC's Bergstrasse chapter, Matthias Wilkes' great trust in us helped enable us to build 40 new homes for victims of the tsunami. I visited the families there on my previous trip and they're very happy and grateful.

As I approach the end of my talk, I'd like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Viernheim Rotary Club with its current president Otto Scharpf. I'm extraordinarily pleased that several members of the Rotary Club, who have since become good friends of mine, are with us here today. They defrayed the cost for equipping the dental practice and have agreed to cover ongoing operating expenses. My warmest thanks for your generosity!

My gratitude also goes to everyone who helped make this project a reality: to Peter Blei for his work and his excellent organization of this trip, as well as to Nicole Leize, who also contributed her efforts for some time. My very great thanks go to our two administrative directors Hieronymus Cruz and Patrick Xavier for their outstanding supervisory work onsite. To the physicians, above all to Dr. Sudha Ponnu, and nurses, to all the helpers and workers here: my deepest thanks. If I have inadvertently neglected to mention anyone – to her or to him too, I offer you my genuine gratitude.

A very big "thank you" also goes to the representatives of the press, many of whom are here today, from India and from Germany. You've shown strong interest in this project.

You've helped to spread the word and make it more widely known so that even more children can be helped here. I'd like to conclude my remarks with a quotation from Agasthiyar "Greatness can only happen on Earth when great people have good hearts to help the little ones, so that they too will someday pass greatness along to create goodness and success for the wellbeing of everyone on Earth." Let us all live according to the principles of all Saints: love, respect and honesty.

Thank you very much!



COMMUNITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF THE GGAMCCC

- Sr. Britto RNRM, DPHM.

GGAMCCC with the aim of promoting comprehensive health of the children focuses on Promotive, Preventive, Curative and Rehabilitative dimensions of health care. While the hospital is well equipped with the latest facilities to render professional and curative services, the Community Health activities are tuned towards promotion of the health of the children and prevention of childhood and vaccine preventable diseases. Keeping this goal in mind, GGAMCCC from its inception visualized an Autonomous Department to undertake community outreach activities.

Objectives:

1. To reach out the poor people in the rural and remote areas of the three district and promote awareness on child health and educate the community to adopt practices that would facilitate better child health.
2. To identify children with ill health or disabilities at an early stage and guide and motivate the parents to undertake appropriate measures.
3. To undertake epidemic and endemic surveillance and other need based research and respond to the existing and emerging situation.
4. As a strategic means, to work in collaboration with the Government departments, NGO's Parents, Teachers and other stakeholders to address the health related issues of the children.

Strategy:

Though it is visualized to cover all the forty blocks of the three southern districts, to start with two blocks in each district will be covered by outreach activities.

I. Kanyakumari District:

1. Thovalai Block
2. Agastheeswaram Block

II. Tirunelveli District:

1. Valliyoor Block
2. Radhapuram Block

III. Tuticorin District:

1. Sathankulam Block
2. Thiruchendhur Block

Since December 2007, the CHD started its function. It collected the data of each block from the Deputy Directors of health services in all these blocks. Some data were received from ICDS project officers in district level and block levels.

So far 30 health screening camps for children were conducted. Nearly 2,200 children are covered (0 – 12yrs). These camps are conducted in the primary schools, Anganwadi centers, Day care centres and in community halls of villages and churches. We could identify quite a good number of children with Heart problems, Anaemia, Malnourishment, over weight, Mental Retardation, Juvenile diabetes, Deformities, Tongue ties, Defective vision and AIDS.

They are referred to the referral hospital and respective doctors to give treatment and do the follow up.



Role of Paediatric Surgery

Dr. C. Murugadhas, MS., MCh. (Paed Surg)

Children needing surgical intervention to correct deformities or as like saving procedures need to be managed in a specialized manner.

Children cannot be considered as smaller replicas of the adult and needs of the children cannot be summarized from the adult solutions. Hence a need for a group of specialists concerned specifically with the needs of children resulted in the birth of a new branch of surgery the paediatric surgery.

Paediatric Surgery is a branch concerned with identification of birth defects and correction of the same in single stage or several stages. With advances in the field of medicine, the branch has moved one step further with interventions in utero and stem cell therapy as a source of solutions to many mutilating congenital anomalies. By intervention in utero, we mean attempts to correct the lethal congenital anomalies before the birth of the child or during the birth of the child.

Paediatric Surgery addresses the problems of birth defects and the surgical conditions faced by the growing children.

Need for a surgical intervention in children can be of two types

- a. Elective interventions.
- b. Emergency interventions.

Emergency interventions are faced by all groups of children – neonatal, (birth to 1 month) infants (30 days – 1 yr) and children (above 1 yr) and does not have the choice of timing the procedures. Advances in the anaesthetic facilities and preoperative care have greatly improved the out come of the procedures.

Elective interventions require adequate planning and appropriate timing of the procedures. All surgical conditions in children do not need immediate interventions on detection. Procedures are selected based on the gravity of the condition requiring correction.

The commonly faced condition that require surgical intervention in children includes.

Inguinal hernias congenital hydrocoel, Hydrocoel of the corel, phimosis, Tongue ties, cleft lip, cleft palate. Hypoppadias & Various paediatric malignancies etc.

Minimally invasive procedures are added as yet anchor tool and this has greatly improved and reduced the rate of morbidity associated with large incisions. Minimally invasive procedures include Laparoscopy, Thoracoscopy, Cranioscopy and Arthroscopy.

Centres concentrating on the paediatric problems exclusively have produced better results. Improved monitoring facility and improved preoperative care in such patients have improved the results of the surgical outcome.

Paediatric surgery not only deals with the existing surgical cenciltion of the children but in cooperation with the obstetricians and the pediatricians help to bring out better result in antenatally abnormalities and prevent possible recurrence of such anomalies.

Paediatric surgery strives to improve the outlook of the children with various anomalies to bring them on par with children with no handicap.



NECESSITY OF PAEDIATRIC ORTHOPAEDICS

Dr. Chenthil Kumar

(MRCS Ed (UK) MCh Ortho (Lpool UK))

'Paediatric Orthopaedics' is the study and treatment of growing bones, joints and muscles.

A Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon is a surgeon dedicated to the care of musculo skeletal problems in children and adolescents and is considered a super – specialist in his / her field. Over the last few decades this super speciality has advanced so much that it allows Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeons (POS) to give a very high level of health care for children.

Growth and development is a process that occurs smoothly in most children. However this orderly process may be disrupted in conditions like injuries (Trauma, Fractures), birth malformations, neurological disorders or bone infections. It is crucial that an expert effectively treats these injuries or diseases as soon as possible, because childhood injuries or diseases may impede or alter growth. A Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon uses a developmental approach to ensure each child's optimal lifetime function.

Two key factors towards good patient care:

1. To provide parents with appropriate information about their child's problems / illness.
2. To help both the parents and the child cope well with difficulties, uncertainties and stressful situations. This may or may not include operative intervention and operative care.

A Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon is thus a valuable and powerful tool in the care and rehabilitation armamentarium for improving musculo skeletal function in several childhood disorders.



**TOWARDS REDUCING CHILD
TRAUMA AND STRESS
DR. JEGADEESH MANUEL M.B.B.S., D.C.H
DR. ANISH M.B.B.S.,**

**Oops! Mummy, its hurts!
This is an oft heard childhood cry,
Which we must address.**

It has been estimated that 15% of all disabilities across all ages is caused by injuries. Most children who have attended an Accident and Emergency Department leave with some limitation to their activities as a result of their injuries. Psychological morbidity following injuries receive little or no emotional support from the health services. Leisure injuries are caused by falls following being struck by an object.

Sports involving balls, wheels, sticks, horses etc result in injuries. Wearing a cycle helmet will reduce the injuries to the head and brain. Safety advice is to be given with low cost equipment. In the vehicles, use of infant restraints should be encouraged. Promoting welfare of children is based on effective information sharing, collaboration and understanding between agencies and professionals.

Any child whose progress to autonomy is delayed or who has to rely on caretakers becomes more vulnerable to all forms of abuse.

The aim of management in childhood is to enable the child to develop into an adult who can be as physically independent as possible, within the limitations of their disability and who has the emotional independence to enjoy childhood. The children and parents should leave the paediatric service with a full knowledge of their disability and should be familiar with the services.

All children with physical disability will need repeated assessment and appraisal of their needs, so that a management plan can be initiated. The child's mobility will not only depend on

his functional ability but also upon the environment, which can worsen a handicap. Hence, a child's total requirements need to be assessed.

The position of children in society has varied at different times in history, which has influenced thinking about their welfare. Children's health services must be organized in such a way as to meet the need of children and their families.

The child health services aims to place the needs of children first. The development of ambulatory styles of practice enables more specialist care to be the provided in the community.

Caring for these children will prevent a lack of understanding from peers, restricted friendship & emotional difficulties in making a successful transition from childhood to adulthood. "No burden is too heavy, if it is carried with love."



**Chubby Cheeks
Dimple Chin - - - -
Stop Stop!
Is it interesting?
Or is it Alarming?
? ? ? ? ?
Double edged Weapon
Let us see about it.**

Childhood Obesity:

It's a serious issue. The incidence of childhood obesity is growing at an alarming rate. Children who are overweight tend to grow up into adults who are obese.

Over the years, this increases their risk of developing medical problems with child obesity such as heart attack and strokes, Type 2 Diabetes, bowel cancer, high blood pressure, liver disorders, and gall stones. Asthma, Menstrual problems metabolic syndrome and sleep disorders. Being overweight, as a Child Cause psychological distress, children's who are teased or discriminated against as a result of their appearance tend to have less confidence and lower self esteem. This can lead to isolation and depression which in turn may further aggravate the trauma, of adolescence.

Causes:

Although there are some genetic and hormonal causes, most excess of weight is caused by kids eating too much and exercising too little.

Risk Factors:

Diet, Regular consumption of high caloric foods, such as fast foods, baked good and vending machine snacks, contribute to weight gain. Loading up on soft drinks, candy and desserts can also cause weight gain.

When to seek Medical advice:

If you are worried that your child is putting on too much weight, approach a pediatrician in our Institution GGAMCCC, Vellamadam. We can provide a complete weight assessment taking into account your child's individual history of growth and development, your family's weight for height history and where your child lands on growth chart. These evolutions help to determine if your child's weight is in an unhealthy range.

Using growth chart, we determine your child's percentile, meaning how your child compares to other children of the same sex and age

Treatment:

Weight loss should be slow and steady – anywhere from / pound a week to / one pound a month, depending on your child's situation. The method of losing or maintaining weight is the same. Your child needs to eat a healthy diet and increase his or her physical activity. Success depends largely on your commitment to help your child make these changes.

Preventing childhood obesity:

Children have high energy requirements because they are growing. A varied and nutritious diet is essential for their development. However, like adults, if they take in more energy in the form of food than they use up, the extra energy is stored as fat. The best method to avoid is to teach children how to eat a healthy diet and increase their level of daily activity.

- Limit Sweetened beverages.
- Bake chicken instead of frying it.
- Sit down together for family meal.
- Don't eat in front of TV or Computer
- Limit the number of times you eat.
- Discourage eating in front of a screen likes TV, Computer and Video game.
- Increase physical activity. If you want an active child, be active yourself.
- Because of risks involved and possible long term complications, weight loss (Bariatric Surgery) is rarely considered for obese adolescents.

- Dr. J. Christy Flora B. Sc., M. B. B. S



INVEST IN YOUR BONES

MR. THOMAS PAULRAJ. M.Pharm., M.Phil., MBA

Keeping your bones healthy is a life long process. From adolescence onwards, your eating and life style habits can protect you from bone weakness later in life. Bone weakening is a slow and silent process, often not realized until a bone is fractured. So start caring for your bones now, regardless of your age!

Stop Getting Weak and Brittle Bones by:

Consuming Adequate Calcium: Calcium is the bone builder. 3 cups of low fat milk or butter milk or yogurt or palm sap per day can ensure adequate calcium intake and close calcium gap.

Vitamin 'D', "The Sunshine Vitamin"

Vitamin D helps deposit Calcium into your bones to keep them strong. For adequate vitamin D production, you need about 20 to 30 minutes of sunshine on your skin (hands and face need not be exposed or use sunscreen cream) 2 to 3 times per week or ensure the milk or buttermilk you drink is fortified with vitamin D.

Exercise Regularly:

Being inactive for long periods of time can weaken the bones. Regular weight bearing activities, such as waling triggers your body to deposit more calcium into your bones, which makes them stronger and denser. 30 min of walking / day is recommended, carried out all at once is better than splitting it into shorter segments throughout the day.

Avoid Consuming high quantities of salt:

Consuming a lot of salt may lead to many diseases. High sodium levels in the blood can withdraw calcium from the bone. This leaves the bones weak and may cause kidney stones. So replace some of your salt intake with spices, herbs, garlic, onion or a squeeze of lemon or lime on your food.

Avoid Consuming high quantities of meat:

Consuming a lot of meat (red or white) can affect the bone density by shifting calcium out of bones. 5 to 7 ounces of lean meat, fish or poultry is an adequate amount per day. Your body does not need more than 1 gm of protein per / kg of ideal body weight.

Regardless of your age, it is not too late to start caring for your bones!!

ARTISTIC BLENT

A beautiful art
is brought to life
with all its colour and dreams

One dreamy angel
rejuvenated the other
A star that refused to blame
the darkness lit the light
Gerdi and Werner
achieved it with all their might!
AGATHIYA MUNI CHILD CARE CENTRE

A child of their dream
will continue to light the lamp
in the huts of motherhood!
The smiles of the poor mother
will travel miles and miles
just to shake your hands
They will live with you-with
their thankful heart

The world is lifeless
But Gerdi –
you brought life to it
Motherless children and
Childless mother will
Find comfort and solace
from your out, stretched arm
and never ending service
will be ever a guiding
star for all!

A thorny path
all of a sudden
Becomes
A flowering one
just because you tread on it

We have a long way to go
But your dream will ever a
constant inspiration for our hearts
Dear Gerdi
you are part of our history
you are part of our life!

**Sr. Jenova
Vasantham
Convent
Vellamadam.**



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DEPTT. OF NURSING

The backbone of our hospital



DEPTT. OF MEDICAL ANCILLARY SERVICES

Providing staunch support always



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Proving that a healthy society is a wealthy society



OFFICE

Keeping our records straight



TECHNICAL DEPTT.

Giving sound technical back-up



The

jolly

residents of our quarters



CATERING DEPTT.

Guardians of our taste buds & balanced diet



DEPTT. OF HYGIENE

Ensuring cleanliness & security



HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE



PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Entertaining us with an ethnic touch



JOIN IN OUR MEMORABLE MOMENTS.....



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- ❖ 24 hours Casualty department
- ❖ Paediatric ICU - equipped with ventilator, Defibrillator and Monitors and ECG.
- ❖ Neonatal ICU – equipped with ventilator, Warmers, Phototherapy and Monitors.
- ❖ 3 Operational Theatres:
 1. Specialized theatre with Laminar flow equipped for cardiac, thoracic, neuro and reconstructive Surgeries.
 2. General and orthopedic Surgery
 3. Casualty theatre.
- ❖ Community Medicine department
- ❖ Dental Dept. equipped with OPG
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 2. Semi Private
 3. Private
- ❖ X-ray, Clinical Lab and Pharmacy
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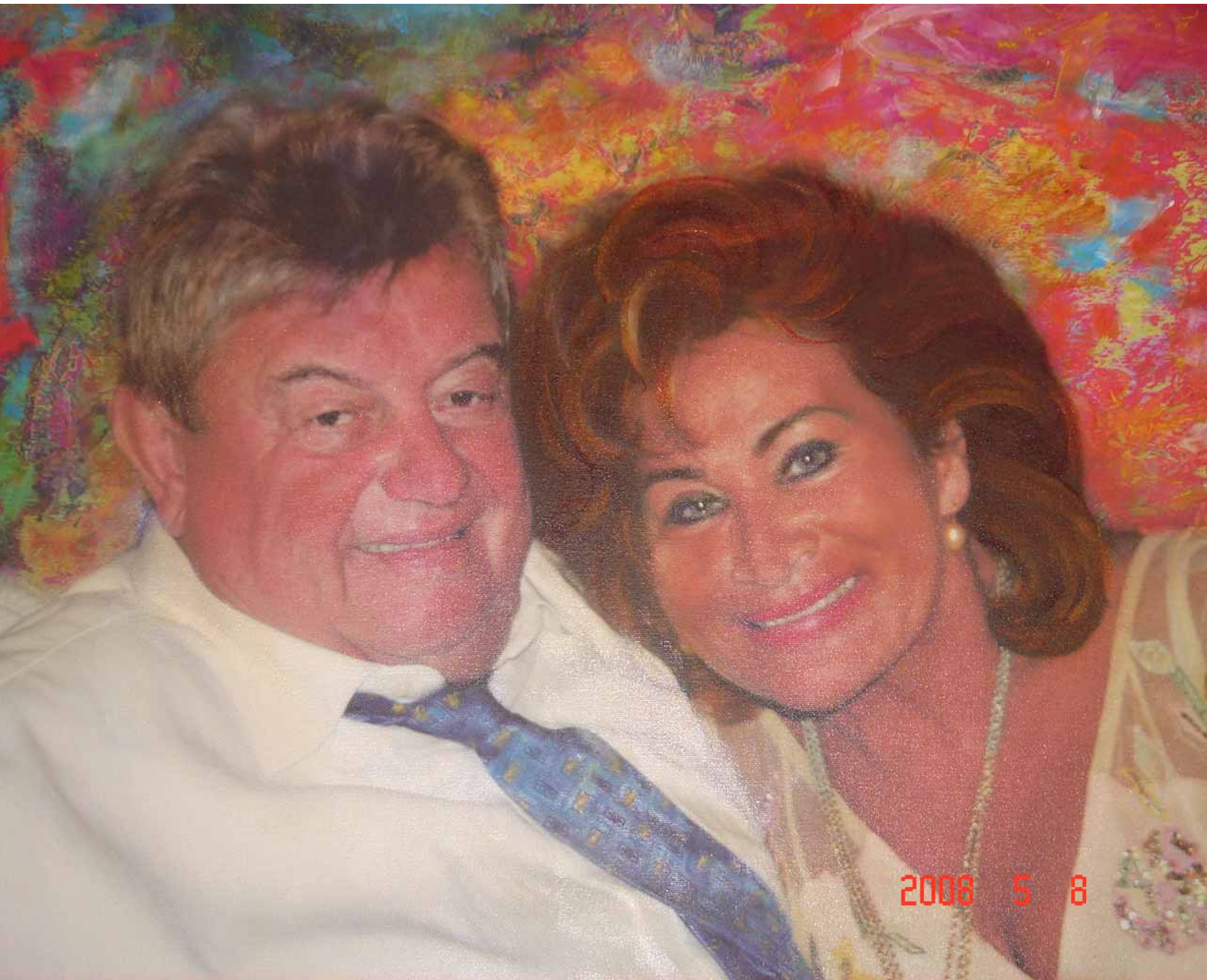
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Mr. Werner Gutperle and Mrs. Gerdi Gutperle

Founders of

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Ph: 04652 – 285708, Fax : - 04652 – 2857875

E-Mail : ggamccc@rediffmail.com