



UPDATE

Summer 2019

Editor's Note;

In this edition we focus on the long summer break for children, mothers and staff at Hope. The long-awaited two-month break comes full of anticipation and for the children but with a greatly increased workload for mothers and staff. Work begins long before the break begins. Plans are made, activities organized, trips and accommodation booked, course leaders lined up and a highly complicated timetable devised. This is no mean feat when planning for over 70 children of different ages, interests and aptitudes! Home visits are also arranged where at all feasible or appropriate and may be to extended family where parents are absent. This requires much extra work in terms of home visits for risk assessment to ensure safeguarding, but worth it in terms of preserving family ties, however tenuous. All this happens in tandem with absorbing exam results as they come out and finalizing plans, courses and destinations for the coming academic year. We salute their efforts and ingenuity year after year in coming up with an exciting and interesting timetable for the children. The following pages cover a small selection of the holiday programme, with commentary by Hope staff. All the children have now returned to school and normal life is restored!

Great North Run

As ever, we have procured five places in GNR 2019 which, this year, takes place on Sunday 8th September. We are proud to present this year's runners for Hope. We wish them all the best with their training and fund-raising and salute their dedication and prowess. If you feel you could rise to the challenge and would like a place in GNR 2020, please contact steveredmond205@hotmail.com

Ruth Woodhead, Cheryle Berry, Kala Wild, Vicky Blood and Simon Buttler.



This piece, written by Yvonne Bakker from the Netherlands, gives her impressions of an impromptu visit to Hope during her holiday in Kerala.

My visit to Hope Community Village

On my journey from Amsterdam to Mumbai, I met at Schiphol with a man who was going to visit charity projects in India. I was slightly jealous of him. I'd like to go with him, I thought, to see how such projects function and to be involved in something so meaningful.

A week later I met Liv and Steve and they invited me to go to the Children's Home that Hope maintains. What an opportunity! And I was so impressed by what I saw there. First of all, what it looks like upon arrival. A well-maintained site with lots of greenery and many colors. The different houses are grouped around a central area that is spacious and green. I saw children who were engaged in activities or, like some of the little ones, stayed close to their 'mother'. They are devoted women, these mothers. They stay there anyway until their retirement, but also afterwards. Actually, there is a special granny's house for the mothers who want or need to take it easier. How nice that must be for the children, this continuity! Every house looked neat and colorful. It all looked so well organized. There was a very calm and pleasant atmosphere. You could sense that it gives a lot of peace and structure to the children. They go to school in the village outside, making them part of a wider community. Once they have left Hope for work or marriage, they often keep coming back to 'home', I was told, which is of course a very good sign. It was not difficult for me after this visit or rather during the visit to decide to start to sponsor this home.

Yvonne Bakker



Kerala Travels Interserve EKM deserves special mention in this photo report for their continuous support in taking the whole Hope family to a Movie Hall for the third time since 2017.

Crazy Hair Styling Day was an event enjoyed by all at HOPE. Thanks for donating the quality kit from UK. Group leaders prepared their team members in colourful ways.



Yoga classes are held during every vacation. Children enjoy doing Yoga in the morning. Thanks to our Yoga teacher for coming to Hope during all vacations.



Sri Payipra Radhakrishnan, former Kerala Sahithya Academy Secretary conducted two days' workshop at Hope Community Village on Art & Literary Areas. A wide range of sessions were given to our children about Cartoon, Art, Drama, poem writing, story writing and Bird watching. In the evening a popular TV artist sang songs for children. Sri. Ravi Palathunkal, President of Gandhi Smarakam, Cherthala and Ms. Shirley Vincent from UK facilitated the function. Artist Vasudevan introduced various simple techniques to draw pictures within a short period of time. Special prizes were awarded for the children who produced the best results in each session. Certificates were also issued and distributed.



G-TEC Kalavoor came forward to help our children in IT Education. Skills training and career orientation were given to them during the holidays. Local parents also used this golden opportunity by sending their children to HOPE IT Academy. We have been giving free IT classes to women and children from the local community for the last 8 years.





Our children have attended Drama workshops at IPTA Centre for the last many years. This year three of our boys participated in the workshop as well as in the workshop production - "Uthupante Kinar" (Uthuppan's well)



The most enjoyed event of this vacation for our elder children is Joyal Chettan's marriage at Thankamany, Idukki. Joyal has been our social worker at Hope Youth House since 2012. For our boys and girls, he is so very near to their hearts. Moreover, our family-based care (FBC) model of child care works well within meaningful families. A trip to the hills of Idukki from the sea shore at Mararikulam... We did it by arranging a big bus. Special thanks to Joyal and family in providing accommodation at Idukki. After wishing the couple, Joyal bro and Anjali sis, the group covered the length and breadth of Idukki - Arch Dam, Vyshali Cave, Cheruthony Dam, Idukki Dam, Calvary Mount eco- tourism, Hill View Park, Kulamavu Dam and Nadukani view point. The two days' trip was a wonderful experience for all our children. Special thanks to the Touring BUS company for disco lighting and ear-breaking sound system!!!



Wedding Bells!

As mentioned above, Hope celebrated the marriage of social worker Joyal during the month of May. Joyal has worked at Hope as the senior social worker in charge of Youth House and our teenage boys since 2012. He is much loved and respected by all the boys and manages the task with skill and maturity far beyond his years. We wish him and his new wife Anjali every happiness in the future.