



# The Ray Of HOPE

In-house newsletter for private circulation to all well wishers of HOPE.

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## From the Editor

"It's an alpha-beta situation" as the world takes it. The world being the majority and minority being the differently abled. To bring in an existence to these rare flowers, HOPE Qatar has taken a huge step to teach them how to live as they move into their third year of operations in Doha.

With nominal resources and a devoted team, HOPE has ensured that their outcome focused training methods whip out the best results for the children who attend the educational program.

This issue of the Ray of HOPE takes a look at a year of endeavors and bid each of you to be an active participant in their future.



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## Three and counting..

When you encounter Dr. Ciby Mathew these days, she beams with pride because a small dream of hers has bloomed into an organization that has become a synonym for love and affection for children with special needs in Qatar.

HOPE Qatar is now three years old and still counting.

Having started off in a small rented temporary hall in the old airport area, sheer hard work, determination, and most of all the Will of God has enabled her along with her team of teachers achieve what once was considered impossible.

Today HOPE can pride itself for having put over 20 children on a path of development and growth that is aimed at making them all value adding members of the society they live in.

Through a unique result oriented approach, which focuses on the individual needs of each child at the centre, the HOPE

team continues its endeavor to place themselves as a benchmark for service to the differently abled children.

HOPE Qatar has invoked a



### Former Indian Ambassador with children at HOPE's new premises.

special bond with the society which includes educational institutions, corporate organizations, governmental and semi governmental bodies, and volunteers. Numerous students from leading colleges and universities from Qatar and overseas come to HOPE for field activities and internships which as one stu-

dent from Carnegie Mellon University put it "makes them better human beings"

With relentless support from the various embassies and their ambassadors, and the ever watchful and caring advise from an eminent advisory board, HOPE Qatar completes three successful years in Qatar.

The journey is far from over. In fact it is just gathering steam. Today HOPE is enrolling a more robust team of professionals to join their teaching force. Evening classes and remedial programs are on the anvil. In responding to request from other GCC countries, HOPE is planning foray into Oman and GCC. It is in search of a local partner to establish one of the regions best rehabilitation and training facility for children with special needs.

"If a small group of likeminded individuals can make these happen in a few years, how much more we can accomplish if all of you join hands with us" says Dr. Ciby Mathew with hope in her eyes.

## Memories are forever...

As we celebrate three years of accomplishment, we look back and remember all the people who have helped us reach here. It was one great desire and need of HOPE to move into its own premises—a dream that was realized due to the corporate support of HSBC Bank, led by Charles Moncrieff their former

CEO. In a short while Charles became close to the HOPE team. In one single visit to the organization, he displayed his sincerity to the cause of H O P E . Through



his personal attention to details, he ensured that a path was laid for long term relationship between the two groups.

Unfortunately, we lost Charles last year, but he has left behind so many fond memories. Memories that will last forever.

**Charles—A great friend of HOPE**

## UN Rapporteur lauds HOPE's efforts



**United Nations Special Rapporteur for disabilities Sheikha Hessa Bint Khalifa Bin Ahmed Al Thani congratulating Dr. Ciby Mathew.**

Being acclaimed for work that is out of the ordinary is heartening, but in the end what really matters is the fruit of the efforts.

During the second annual day celebration of HOPE Sheikha Hessa Bint Khalifa Bin Ahmed Al Thani the United Nations Rapporteur for Special Needs and Disabilities outlined the efforts of the UN Rapporteur's office for publication of the 'Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities'. According to her, when it comes to Education, it is important to Educate members of the society about the need to equalize

opportunities for persons with disabilities, because there was a need for social acceptance and change in this direction.

She lauded HOPE's efforts in this direction. Not only was HOPE focusing on delivery of educational program for children with special needs, but was also actively involved in the promotion of awareness in the society with the objective of enhanced understanding among all people about the needs,

and abilities of children with disabilities. She expressed her sincere appreciation, and assured her full support in official and individual capacity to HOPE in its endeavor, and wished them the very best.



**Letter of Appreciation from the UN Special Rapporteur being received**

*"Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired and, and success achieved. I thank God for my handicaps, for, through them, I have found myself, my work, and my God"*

*Helen Keller*

## Showcasing talent at RD Function

For the third year in succession, HOPE Qatar's children marked an impressive display of talents at the Indian Republic Day celebrations organized by the Indian Cultural Center in front of a packed capacity audience.

Their theme for this year was a skit based on the civil disobedience during the period of Sardar Vallabhai Patel a popular Indian freedom fighter

during Gandhi's time.

In true spirit of HOPE, the students and teachers took to stage dispelling their individual challenges and disabilities to

put together a memorable performance that led to thundering applause and appreciation.

This year's performance also marked the first appearance on stage by visually impaired and physically impaired students. As always, HOPE ensured that ALL their students would have a role to play on stage for the world to see and appreciate.



## New premises, a dream realized

A long standing dream has been realized with HOPE Qatar moving into its new customized premises at Abu Hamour in Doha.

Mr. Robert M. De Gama Deputy CEO of HSBC Qatar inaugurated the premises and expressed appreciation of HOPE Qatar's activities, and reiterated his bank's commitment and intention towards a long term partnership with the organization.

To commemorate the occasion, the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Disabilities

Sheikha Hissa Bint Khalifa Bin Ahmed Al Thani sent a letter of appreciation that read "HOPE Qatar is responding to a need and a demand, as well as fulfilling the rights of children with disabilities and their families."

His Excellency Dr. George Joseph the former Ambassador of India said "HOPE has touched the lives of many children and their parents in the last couple of years since inception. I wish the organization the very best in its new facilities."

The new premises has five customized well equipped class rooms, a computer lab, speech and audio room, art room, conference room, and shaded play areas.

Special equipment and furniture has been imported and training aids have been brought in from USA and UK to meet the growing needs of the centre.

Needless to say you can see that the smiles on the faces of the children has become brighter, and this is what the team at HOPE strives for.



**Visitors in one of the classes at HOPE's new premises .**

# Farm Visit

Once again HOPE ensured that



**Children and parents at the farm**

their classrooms had no boundaries. The children of HOPE along with their parents and the staff members went on an educational

tour to Al Sulaiteen Agricultural Farm at the outskirts of Doha.

The group was taken around the various green houses having the different vegetables and flowering plants by Mr. Nagoor Meeran the Agricultural Production Manager at the farm. Mr. Meeran expressed the farm's happiness in being able to participate with HOPE Qatar in providing an educational opportunity to the children.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ciby Mathew, Coordinator of HOPE Qatar stressed that one of the objectives of the organization was to ensure that all children had adequate exposure to the world they lived in.

# Students Involvement

2008-09 saw leading universities and colleges approaching HOPE for student interaction opportunities and field placements.

Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, which is part of Qatar Foundation Education City involved their students in a program titled "Its not that simple" over a 6 weeks period at HOPE Qatar. Symbiosis Institute of Media and Communication from India and MOP Vaishnav College had their students spend some internship time at HOPE, applying classroom knowledge into practice and gaining additional insight into the unique approaches for teaching children with special needs.



**Interns from India with students**

# Young Artist of the Year at National Contest

Stevin Mathew a 12 year old student at HOPE won the prize of "Young Artist of the Year" with an honorable mention at the painting contest that was organized by the Doha International Institute for Family Studies (DIIFS) under the theme 'I Love my mother because...'

Stevin was encouraged to make a painting about his

love for his mother. With the help of his father, Stevin used his hands, fingers and lips to create the image that depicted his affection for his mother. In spite of limited vocabulary he inscribed

the caption "My Mother, My All" which means his mother is everything to him. This painting was selected as one of the top 10 finalists from over 3500 entries across schools in Qatar at a national level contest.

The painting is currently being exhibited at various art galleries and museums in the country.



**Stevin with his certificate (left) and his painting (right)**

**HOPE Providing Help, Opportunity, Participation, and Education for differently abled children.**

# Sports Day Celebration

Seizing every opportunity to motivate the children at HOPE, the teachers ensured that each and every child at HOPE had an opportunity to participate in the First Sports Day Celebration that was held in the shaded play ground at HOPE's new villa.

It was a really heart rendering performance by the children who pushed their limits to do better than their friends, continuously encouraged by the teachers who often had to run along with them to ensure that the children stayed in their lanes.

In true sports spirit, the spectators sat along the tracks clapping and cheering their friends along as they participated in the different events for the day.

President of the Advisory Board Adv. Nizar Kochery gave away the medals and prizes to the winners of the different events. The sports day was witnessed by other members of the Advisory Board of HOPE Qatar, teachers, staff and students.

All participants were winners in their own right, and were led by:

Seniors: Mustafa Intermediate: Jessina Juniors: Alan & Mahin



**Children participating in the sports day contests with their teachers encouraging them along the way**



If you know a differently abled child who needs special education, help them by referring to us.

Each child is unique, and comes with their strengths and weaknesses.

Come; let us join together so that we can provide Help, Opportunity, Participation and Education (HOPE) to enhance their strengths to overcome their weaknesses.

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HOPE Qatar is a Not For Profit organization

Affiliated to the Indian Cultural Centre

Under the aegis of the Embassy of India.

Registered under the Ministry of Education.

Spreading the Ray of HOPE



Our team is indebted to each and every one of you who supported our activities during the past years. Without you, we could not have come this far and accomplished what we have. Individual and corporate supporters have always been there for us when we needed you.

**Our corporate supporters:**

- Amal Ready Mix
- Air India
- Al Maaref Trading Company
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- Behzad Group of Companies
- Consillium Qatar
- DHL International - Qatar
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- Dr. Aju's Dental Clinic
- Dr. Kutty's Clinic
- Family Food Centre
- Focus Qatar
- Global Resources
- Gulf Times
- Habib Qatar Intl. Exchange
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- HSBC Bank - Qatar
- IGTC Chubb Fire
- Indian Airlines
- Lulu Hypermarket
- Mannai Corporation
- Nabina Transports
- Najda Communications (Solutions)
- Nasser Al Hajri Company
- ONGC Qatar
- Qatar Airways
- Qatar Design Consortium
- Qatar Indian Islahi Centre
- Qatar Industrial Equipment Company
- Qatar Technical Inspection Company
- Rachana Audios & Videos
- Safari Group
- Sri Lankan Airways
- Trust Exchange Company
- Voltas Limited Qatar
- Video Home Electronics

A very big Thank You to all our Volunteers and Friends of HOPE.

**Our thanks to the following organizations:**

- Aikyā
- Al Noor Institute for the Blind—Qatar
- Asian Parents Organization for Downs Syndrome
- Carnegie Mellon University Qatar
- Child Support. in
- Doha Modern Indian School
- Downs Syndrome Association - Nepal
- Friends of HOPE
- Indian Club Qatar
- Indian Cultural Centre Qatar
- Indian Women's Association Qatar
- International Mosaic Downs Syndrome Association
- Kalakshetra
- Mosaic Moments Today
- Qatar Society for Rehabilitation and Special Needs
- Reach Out To Asia (ROTA)
- Rumailah Hospital—Qatar
- Sanskriti
- Shafallah Centre for Special Needs—Qatar
- Skills Development Centre
- United Nations Special Rapporteur Office on Disabilities
- Weill Cornell Medical College Qatar (Students Council)

**Our voice of the Media:**

- Asianet TV
- Gulf Times
- Jeevan TV
- Kairali TV
- Qatar Tribune
- The Peninsula Qatar

We also thank Their Excellencies the Ambassadors/ Charge de Affairs of the following **embassies:**

- The Embassy of India
- The Embassy of Sri Lanka
- The Embassy of Nepal
- The Embassy of Malaysia
- The Embassy of Thailand
- The Embassy of Indonesia

Our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Nizar Kochery, and all member of our Advisory Board.

# Friends of HOPE

The members of Friends of HOPE, a voluntary group formed to enable social support to HOPE Qatar convened recently and passed resolutions related to various strategic initiatives.

Some of the major decisions approved included the formation of an enhanced Volunteers Division, and the expansion of membership of Friends of HOPE to reach out to a wider spectrum of supporters of the organization. They plan on reaching out to all likeminded persons in Qatar who have an interest in doing something good for children with disabilities. By joining FOH, one can volunteer their time, efforts, resources, skills and abilities to support HOPE Qatar in achieving their objectives.

The meeting also reviewed the plans of HOPE Qatar to expand into other countries in the GCC to provide educational programs for children with special needs.

Membership is open to all and free. If more socially active people, especially those who are talented and have expertise in any area join together, the FOH organization can do more to help and promote the activities of HOPE. People with time, skills, talents, expertise, resources are all welcome. To become a friend of HOPE or to know more, please e-mail [info@hope-qatar.org](mailto:info@hope-qatar.org)



## Meeting the PM

Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of India who visited Qatar recently was met by Mr. Rajeev Mathew Thomas, the President of Friends of HOPE who appraised him about HOPE Qatar, its activities and objectives. He also presented Dr. Singh with a HOPE Qatar souvenir. The Prime Minister congratulated the organization for performing an act that was close to God, and wished them the very best.

Mr. Rajeev Mathew Thomas is also a Founding Member and Advisory Board Member of HOPE Qatar.



## Spreading wings

HOPE has been recognized regionally and in responding to growing demand for its approach and services in other parts of the GCC will be opening up God Willingly, a **branch in Oman very soon**. Also on the cards is a branch at Bahrain, and a HOPE Global Foundation head office in Chennai, India which will become a research and development centre

