

Events

Hub of activities/ Creating Awareness

Tamana campus has always been in the center of activities of all kinds: high profile visits, festivals, cultural events, fashion shows etc. Tamana's students take part in these events with full enthusiasm. Sometimes they are participants to the events and sometimes they are mere spectators. But in both the cases, they love to be a part them. Memories of many such events will never fade away from our minds. These are moments that show that our kids don't live on a segregated island; they are all part of the wonderful phenomenon called society. And they also show that people are not indifferent to the special kids. They do have love to sprinkle into the lives of those who are deprived of it.

2010

INAUGURATION OF SECOND INDO US CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOPS ON AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

Wednesday, New Delhi April 7th :The city had a glimpse of large heartedness of its citizens at the inauguration of a *Bilateral Conference and Workshops on Autism* organized by Tamana in partnership with Indo-U.S Science and Technology Forum

What started as an awareness and educative International seminar and workshop on autism, turned into a huge platform for supporting the autistic individuals. The Honourable Chief Minister of NCT of Delhi, Mrs. Sheila Dikshit and a number of city's celebrities came forward to support the cause.

Among the celebrities who pledged support for Autism were, Alok Shriram , Abha Sehgal, Amit Luthra, Amjad Ali Khan, Amod Kanth, , Anjana Kuthiala, Anuradha Ramam, Aparna Bahal, Asha Rani Gupta, Arti Mehra, Aruna Broota, Brian Silas, Barkha Singh, Deepak Nayyer, Dilip Padgaonkar, Geeta Chandran, Gopal Dixit, Kumkum Chadha, Madhukar Bhandakar, Manav Gupta, Manish Arora, Mohini Giri, Namrata Joshipura, P. Dasgupta, Pavan Verma, Payal Jain, Pervin Malhotra, Prabhua Chawla, Rajesh Saxena, Rajiv Shukla, Rajdeep Sardesai, Rakesh Mohan, S.K. Roongta, Sagarika Ghosh, , Satjiv Chahil Shahnaz Hussain, Shankar Sawhney, Shekhar Gupta, Shikha Sharma, Shovana Narayan, Sonia Lovely, Sonal Kalra, Sunil Sethi, Suhel Seth, Surinder Sharma, Sushma Seth, Timsy Anand, Vandana Luthra, Vineet Joshi, Vinod Duggal.

The four day International workshops and conference had various national and international experts providing insight on Early Diagnosis and Early intervention for Autism. The aim of holding this conference was to bring together American and Indian scientists in order to share information, identify common research

interests, and provide the foundation for extended research collaborations that will support Indian research and stimulate public policy concerning young children with ASD.

INAUGURATION OF PETRONET LNG CENTRE FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AT TAMANA NAI DISHA.

New Delhi, February 23rd: At the Diwakar Concert held in December 2007 at Siri fort auditorium the Chief Guest of the function , Mr. Murli Deora, Minister for Petroleum and Natural gas, announced a grant for adding infra structure to Tamana. The grant was routed to Tamana through Petronet LNG Limited. With the grant a new floor has been added at Nai Disha branch of Tamana at C-10/8 Vasant Vihar, New Delhi. The new floor became operational in August 2009 and is called the Petronet LNG Centre for Vocational rehabilitation. Shri Murli Doera inaugurated the centre on 23rd February. The guests of honor at the function included Mr. Sundareshan Secretary Ministry of Petroleum and Natural gas; Mr. R.S. Sharma Chairman ONGC and Mr P. Dasgupta, CMD Petronet LNG limited. With the addition of a new floor at Tamana Nai Disha scores of special needs children who had been waiting to avail vocational services at Tamana will now be able get admission at Tamana.

2009

On March 5th 2009 Tamana completed 25 years of relentless service in pursuit of inclusion. The silver jubilee was celebrated through three events . It was flagged off on March 5th where a kirtan was held at Tamana special school followed by a Langar. The kirtan was attended by all students and staff, governing body members and our valued patrons. The bhajans which mesmerized the audience were sung by Sidhharth Mohan of Art of Living.

TAMANA CELEBRATE ITS SILVER JUBILEE WITH SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL, PRESIDENT OF INDIA

New Delhi, Saturday, December 19th - Tamana students presented a Cultural Programme at Le Meridian Hotel, New Delhi to celebrate its Silver Jubilee. Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of India was present, supporting our beliefs and cause.

On this special day, India's best and brightest came together to honour Tamana's journey of 25 years of relentless struggle and achievement. The President of India, Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil, was not only in attendance, but made it more special by celebrating her birthday with the children of Tamana. In her address she lauded the work done by Tamana over the last 25 years for providing opportunities for education and

holistic development to children with special needs. She said that the concerns of these children should be identified at an early age and efforts should be made to work out appropriate strategies. She cited that these children and other well know personalities like Helen Keller, Prof Stephen Hawking, Timothy Whitaker, and Beethoven reaffirmed the immense capacity of the human spirit to overcome obstacles and difficulties. The President of India made a personal contribution of Rs 75000 to Tamana.

Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Govt, of India Mr. Kapil Sibal presided over this ceremony, bringing to the fore India's commitment to ensuring that these inimitable children be accepted into mainstream society. He announced that the education of the disabled would soon become a part of the education bill and an amendment will be made in existing laws to integrate autism, cerebral palsy and multiple disabilities in the mainstream school system.

The distinguished guests of honour- Mr. S.K Roongta, Chairman Steel Authority Of India, Mrs. Charanjit Singh, Chairperson M&D, Le Meridien, New Delhi, Mr. Pawan Jain, Chairperson, Board of Governors, Mangalayatan University, Aligarh, Mr. Rajesh Saxena, CEO, American Express, Mr. Satjiv Chahil, Senior Vice President, Global Marketing, Hewlett Packard Mr. Sunil Dutt, Vice President, Personal Systems Group, Hewlett Packard, Mrs. Shahnaz Husain- were in attendance to show their support for this extraordinary journey that spans 25 years - in pursuit of inclusion.

The students from Tamana School presented an unforgettable afternoon of dance and music choreographed and conceptualized by Shiamak Davar's Victory Arts Foundation. Tamana students also showcased their computer skills by making birthday greetings for the President of India on Touchsmart PCs donated by Hewlett Packard. Tamana has been working with the HP in various aspects to use new computer technology to enrich the lives these special children

TAMANA SILVER JUBILEE FASHION SHOW

New Delhi, Saturday, November 14th - Tamana, presented a fashion show previewing the collections of renowned fashion designers at The Hyatt Regency, New Delhi. India's top talent came together to support this honourable cause and Aparna, Tania & Anisha from Preferred Professionals produced and executed the choreography for the show. The participating designers were – Ritu Kumar, Manish Arora, Ranna Gill, Rajesh

Pratap Singh, Anuradha Ramam, JJ Valaya, Namrata Joshipura, Rohit Gandhi & Rahul Khanna, Abhishek Gupta & Nandita Basu, Vinayak by Asha Gupta.

Mr Atul Singh, CEO Coca Cola India was the chief guest and Mr. Sunil Sethi President FDCI was the Guest of honour. In the show, the students from Tamana School walked the ramp, alongside professional models. The show was held in aid of Tamana, not only to raise funds but also to celebrate the silver jubilee of Tamana. The show also provided a platform to the 'special needs' students to share the limelight with top models of India and to show the world that they too, can participate in all walks of life.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Shayama Chona, President, Tamana said, "We are overwhelmed that such excellent design talent is supporting the cause. We hope to do a lot more with the funds raised. This event has provided an excellent platform for the students of Tamana, to express their individuality and have some fun. Most importantly, this being Tamana's Silver Jubilee year, I would like to thank everyone who has made this incredible journey possible."

The Hyatt Regency and Aircel as part of the CSR provided support for the show.

TAMANA WINTER CARNIVAL-

Wednesday, New Delhi, December 2nd: The carnival is an event held annually. Since the last 4 years the event is being held at the British High Commissioner's residence to mobilize the international community to support the cause of the disabled. Tamana tries its best to provide experiences to its students, which they otherwise lack in their daily life. Our students get limited opportunities for enjoyment, recreation and interaction with the wider community because of the societal stigma. These children get limited exposure to the outside world. Every year Tamana the Winter Carnival is a fun day for our students and guests.

The Chief Guests at the 2009 carnival were Lady Stagg and Mrs. Sonia Lovely (wife of Mr. Arvinder Singh Lovely, Minister for Education, Govt. of Delhi). People from the local community, international community and corporate houses are invited to spend a day with our students. Our students treasure such interaction with wider society. We also invite the parents of the students so that they can share happy moments with their special child.

Tamana students and students of Tamana kindergarten performed for the honored guests and the citizens of Delhi who had come in thousands to attend the carnival. The carnival had live music, kids amusement area, food stalls, fashion show, stalls of local craftsmen, stall of private exhibitors. Products made by Tamana

students were also displayed and sold-like candles, carry bags, towels, paintings, jewelry, bags and bakery products.

Tamana hosted the 2005's carnival at the Sudan Embassy and 2004 carnival at the Tanzanian Ambassador's Residence

CONCERT BY PRAGUN SHARMA

New Delhi, 30th January -Thirteen year old child prodigy, Pragun Sharma, a student of Class VII of Delhi Public School, R.K.Puram gave a live piano performance at the FICCI Auditorium for Tamana Special Schools. Pragun played a whole range of songs from the old classical to the latest numbers. Tamana students danced on a few numbers played by Pragun. The occasion was graced by Ms Shallu Jindal (Kuchipudi danseuse and cultural activist) and Mr. Brian Silas.

An excellent student, Pragun has been awarded three consecutive scholar badges at DPS. He started learning music at the tender age of three and has been receiving training at the Brian Silas Society of Instrumental Music. In 2005, he bagged the 'Best Student Pianist Academy Award'. He touched the hearts of the audience with the beautiful notes of 'Suhana safar aur ye mausam hasin'. He has already passed the Trinity College of London Grade 4 exam with merit. Pragun has many live performances to his credit and all his performances have been highly appreciated.

2008

SPORTS DAY

New Delhi, March 15th: Tamana organized a sports day which saw mass participation of 300 students of Tamana. This was the first time that a sports day had been planned on such a scale where all the students were involved irrespective of the severity of disability. Our aim was to involve each student in at least one activity. The activities were planned taking into account the severity, the age and physical dexterity of the students.

The students practiced for 1 month in the respective branches of Tamana. A week before the event they practiced continuously for 5 days at the venue (hockey grounds of DPS, R K Puram). The students

exhibited immense enthusiasm in rehearsing for the event. It was a new experience for them. They did not mind the repeated practicing and were very cooperative. The autistic adjusted to the venue, which was a new surrounding for them without any hiccups. The different sports selected were- drills like hoopla, yoga drill , athletic events like cycling, shot put throw, racing(sack race, obstacle race, relay race) long and short jump.

The chief guest at the function was the Union Minister for Sports, Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyer and Mrs. Aiyer. The sport day started with a ceremonial torch run by Jyotsna Kalra, winner of Silver medal at Special Olympics at Beijing in 2007. She handed the torch to the honorable minister who declared the games open. The winners of the athletic event were awarded gold, silver and bronze medals by the Honorable minister.

The parents who attended the function in full force were delighted to see their child participating in the event and discovering his / her skills and hidden talent. It was an emotional moment for the parents to see their child win medals and participate in a co curricular activity. The parents were appreciative of the tremendous hard work, effort and fine tuning that had gone in to make 300 special students participate in an event at the same time. At the end of the day it was a very gratifying and moving experience for all of us at Tamana and we realized that we had accomplished a major feat.

FASHION SHOW BY THE STUDENTS OF TAMANA SCHOOLS

New Delhi, Thursday August 21st - Tamana presented a fashion show previewing the collections of renowned fashion designers at The Ashok Hotel, New Delhi.

India's top talent came together to support this honourable cause and the show was choreographed by Aparna, Tania & Anisha from Preferred Professionals. The participating designers were - Manish Arora, Rajesh Pratap Singh, Abhishek Gupta & Nandita Basu , Namrata Joshipura, Rohit Gandhi - Rahul Khanna and Reebok. In the show, the students from Tamana School walked the ramp hand in hand with the professional models. The show was held with the objective of creating and enhancing greater public awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with special needs. Most importantly, the show provided a platform to the 'special needs' students to share the stage and limelight with the top models of India and to show to the world that they too, can participate in all walks of life.

The Ashok Hotel as a part of its CSR showed tremendous generosity and support for the show.

TAMANA WINTER CARNIVAL

New Delhi December 17th , The British High Commissioner's Residence. The Chief Guest for the carnival was Lady Stagg and Guests of Honour were Mrs. Vandana Luthra and Mrs. Bela Madan. The carnival was supported by VLCC and Sanya Automobiles.

2007

DIWAKER SINGS FOR TAMANA

New Delhi, 18th December: Diwaker Night was hosted by Tamana and Petronet LNG Limited at the Siri Fort Auditorium to showcase the talents of differently abled children with Diwaker leading the charge. Shri Murli Deora, Honourable Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas was the Chief Guest. The Chief sponsors, Petronet LNG Limited, was represented by their MD and CEO Mr. P. Dasgupta. Petronet LNG Limited is an organization that realizes its social responsibility and has been continuously making a significant contribution to the cause of the disabled. Mr. P Dasgupta, MD And CEO Petronet LNG Limited, has tremendous appreciation for relentless crusade by Tamana and Dr, Shayama Chona to change the lives and times of challenged children and their families. Diwakar lit up the stage with his mesmerizing voice and scintillating performance. His performance spanned thirty songs that truly exemplified his versatility. A video shot when Diwakar was six, further showcased the metamorphosis he has undergone since his childhood. Diwakar's maturity as a singer left the audiences spellbound.

Students from under privileged background (DPS Anubhav Shiksha Kendra, R.K Puram) also received a chance to show case their dancing talents. These students danced as Diwakar sang in his melodious voice. Between the songs, the students of Tamana revealed a new angle to their abilities by dexterously performing dances, one of them involving Tamana Chona herself.

TAMANA WINTER CARNIVAL

New Delhi December 5th, The British High Commissioner's Residence: The Chief Guest for the carnival were Sir Richard Stagg and Lady Arabella Stagg . Guest of Honour- Mrs Shanaz Husain and Mr. Sanjay Gupta, Senior Vice President American Express.

2006

INAUGURATION OF THE FIRST INDO U.S. CONFERENCE “UNRAVELING AUTISM: CAUSES, DIAGNOSTICS AND INTERVENTION”

Wednesday, New Delhi, 13th September 2006: The Indo U.S. Conference “Unraveling Autism: Causes, Diagnostics and Intervention” and workshop “HANDLE” was organized by Tamana in partnership with Indo U.S. Science and Technology Forum. It had a very auspicious beginning as it was inaugurated by the President of India, Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam..

The President of India in his inaugural address exhibited his in-depth understanding of autism. The President said that research must identify if autism was both genetic and environmental. “There are no established biological markers. There are 20 autism-related genes that have been discovered for far. What is inherited and how broad the inheritable genotype is, still remains unclear,” he said.

President Kalam highlighted the need to treat autistic child equally in our society. He also elaborated on the need to have fruitful research and development activities to provide an integrated solution to the problem of these children. The president stressed on the convergence of fields like Information and Communication Technology, Medicine, Electronics, Biotechnology and Nano-technology to find solutions to the problems. Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam suggested possible research areas in autism, including use of stem cells, and whether the activities of the damaged area of the brain can be transferred to other areas with the use of a micro-chip. “My own perception is that the problem should be less in joint families than in nuclear families. But that needs to be scientifically looked into,” he added.

Calling upon researchers to work with a mission of making humanity autism free, the President said that it was necessary to network research experience across the world so that a common knowledge base was developed and the data could be used through on line web services. He urged the experts and the participants in the conference to come out with a comprehensive report that would act as a guide for those working for the education of special children and also to ensure inclusive education.

Mrs. Meira Kumar, Union Minister for Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment and Mrs. Sheila Dikshit, Chief Minister of Delhi also graced the occasion and pledged their support for development activities of the autistic. Meira Kumar, Union Minister Of Social Justice And Empowerment said that her ministry has

constituted an expert committee to devise ways for better and faster diagnosis of autism. The report would be submitted in two months. That would ensure early detection and intervention. She informed that the ministry was also in the process of framing a National Policy for Persons with Disabilities.

Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit promised all help from her government in the field of autism. Dr. Shayama Chona, founder of Tamana, talked of her own experience with her daughter to drive home the point that early intervention and behaviour therapy can ensure “normal” lives for special needs individuals. Dr. Geraldine Dawson, Director of the University of Washington Autism Centre and co-chair for the conference, talked about the needs to explore autism as a multidimensional disorder with genetic and environmental factors contributing to it. She hoped that this conference would make available information that would offer new hope and expanded perspectives that would ultimately enhance the lives of children with autism and their families. She reiterated that she and her colleagues from the U.S shared a desire –an aspiration, as the word Tamana implies-to more fully understand autism and to help individuals with autism reach their fullest potential.

Dr. Arabinda Mitra, Executive Director, Indo U.S Science and Technology Forum thanked all the distinguished guests for supporting the cause. He informed that in line with the mandate of the Forum to promote catalyze and seed bilateral collaboration between India and U.S in science, technology, engineering and biomedical research through substantive interaction amongst government, media and academia, through this bilateral conference, he hoped to bring some much-needed attention to the problem of autism in India. Indian and U.S. scientists would get a platform to exchange their personal experience in improving training and treatment methodologies for the autistic.

Tamana students entertained the distinguished guests with dances choreographed by Victory Arts foundation. Tamana Chona also showed her dancing talent. The show was compered by Devesh, a student of Tamana Autism centre.

BALLET BY SHOVARA NARAYAN

New Delhi, 18th February 2006: Ms Shovana Narayan, a well-acclaimed classical dancer and choreographer graciously came forward to perform her famous ballet “Moonlight Impressionism” for Tamana students and parents. "Moonlight Impressionism" is one of those unique experiments of Shovana Narayan, which sought

to bring together the Western and Indian classical music through an exquisite love story, painted in the tradition of Kathak. The story was so bewitchingly depicted by Shovana ji and her pupils to the accompaniment of music that it mesmerized the audience. The students of Tamana and Tamana Chona also put up separate performances prior to the ballet which touched the heart of every one present. The Chief Guest was Mr. C.P. Jain, Chairman NTPC.

TAMANA WINTER CARNIVAL

New Delhi December 19th, The British High Commissioner's Residence : This was the first carnival hosted by the British High Commissioner for Tamana at his residence. The carnival was inaugurated by His Excellency Sir Michael Arthur and Lady Arthur.

2005

CIRCLE OF LIFE- TAMANA PAYAL JAIN FASHION SHOW

New Delhi, March 4, 2005: The Spring Summer Collection of Fashion Designer Payal Jain, was presented at the Tamana Payal Jain Fashion Show at the Hyatt Regency. The charity event was dedicated to mobilize funds for building a sheltered workshop at Tamana or moving the disabled to complete economic rehabilitation.

The show unfolded with the Tamana children performing a dance sequence choreographed by Giles Chuyen. The fashion show had Tamana students sharing the ramp with the top models of India, incorporated the motto of the International disability movement: Nothing About Us Without Us. Taking to the ramp, clad in Payal Jain ensembles were some of leading names from the Indian modeling world-Anupama Verma, Jesse Randhawa, Carol Gracias, Diandra Soares, Nayanika Charrerjee, Sapna Kumar, Monikangkana. The last ramp sequence found the Tamana children matching steps with these models draped in the enchanting silhouettes from Payal's Collection. The culmination of the show was a harmonious rendition of "We are the World" by the little angels on stage directed by George Pulenkala.

The fashion show carried forward the year 2004 International Disability Day's theme, that is, full and equal participation by persons with disabilities in social life and development. In the present scenario, people with

disability did not want to be viewed as “objects” of welfare policies. Persons with disability had started to enjoy the full spectrum of civil, political, social, cultural and economic rights. People with disability had the right to make their own choices and participate in all areas of like. They had the right to imbibe the latest fashion. The purpose of Fashion was to make everyone look beautiful, irrespective of race, class, creed, colour, ability and disability....

2004

INAUGURATION OF BAKERY UNIT AND WHO COURSE

25th November 2004 was a red-letter day in the history of Tamana. On this day the Canadian High Commissioner to India, Her Excellency Ms. Lucie Edwards, inaugurated two new Projects of Tamana one at the Tamana Autism Centre, School of Hope and the second at Nai Disha

a) The first six months Certificate Training Course for Teachers of South Asian Region Countries working with the intellectually disabled (Sponsored by WHO, South East Asian Region). Tamana was identified as the premier NGO in the field of disability by WHO (South East Asian Region Office) to develop and conduct a Training course for teachers working with the intellectually disabled. Tamana developed a 6 months certificate course for this purpose.

b) The Bakery Unit at Nai Disha Vocational Center- With the financial support of Children’s Hope India Inc. a New York based NGO, Tamana set up a Commercial Bakery unit to add to its vast list of vocations being taught to its students to ensure economic rehabilitation and self reliance. This unit has disabled friendly, state of the art equipment.

2003

THE 1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AUTISM: ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES"

New Delhi, September 3-5 :As part of its continuing commitment to autism, Tamana Association organized India’s first ever-international conference on autism, ‘Autism: Alternative strategies". The conference was followed by a two-day workshop on Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), conducted by Pyramid Educational Consultants Pvt. Ltd. From Australia and UK.

The Indian Government's support for Tamana's work with autism and recognition of its national importance was stressed in inaugural speech given by Mrs. Sheila Dikshit, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi. The inaugural ceremony was attended by the heads of several government department, rehabilitation programs, regular schools, special schools, the diplomatic community in Delhi, the speakers for the conference and workshop and over 400 delegates.

Release of Postage Stamp

The Department of posts, Government of India, created a five-rupee postage stamp dedicated to children with special needs, which was unveiled at the inaugural ceremony of the International Conference by Mr. Ashok Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of State for Communication and Information Technology. Students at Tamana Special School made the design for the selected postage stamp. Though the stamp celebrates the special child, the design displays a jigsaw piece, which is the internationally recognized symbol for autism. This is the first Indian stamp to focus on the concepts of special needs and autism and its wide circulation is expected to spread awareness of the same.

2002

BRIAN SILAS PIANO CONCERT

Concert Pianist Brian Silas joined hands with Tamana to strengthen the movement of the disabled with his first ever performance for the world of special needs on September 4, 2002. Ebony and Ivory came together in perfect harmony to create a fantasia of possibilities. The touch of the master's hands transformed the piano keys in to a kaleidoscope of melody, transcending the material world and reaffirming the joy of living for all. This joy reached the special needs individuals through Tamana. This collaboration enabled Tamana to create a new facility for autism.

2001

KUCHIPUDI DANCE RECITAL:

New Delhi, 20th Jan: Payal Ramchandani, disciple of Padmabhushan Raja and Radha Reddy was at the centre of an event organised for the benefit of Tamana. Her Kuchipudi dance recital, organised at India Habitat Centre, was an event to remember. The Reddys are known for their love and support to special children. They

have trained many special learners such as Kulbir Soni, Neha Tiwari, Ekta Jain, Meenakshi Aich, Niyati Salpekar, Tejkiran Kishore and Manishara Thapa. On this occasion, their disciple Payal made a touching gesture of compassion for the less privileged by dedicating the evening of Kuchipudi dance recital to help make a difference in the lives of children with special needs at Tamana.

1994

PAYAL JAIN FASHION SHOW

New Delhi, October 15, was another memorable day in the history of Tamana. This was the day when mentally impaired students of Tamana stood tall with India's top models in the Durbar hall of Taj Palace Intercontinental, New Delhi. The kids, wearing outfits designed by fashion designer Payal Jain, matched the models step by step with confidence and enthusiasm. The unconventional event showcased our kids' talent and belief in their own abilities.

1992

RAJIV GANDHI WALKATHON

New Delhi August 20 :Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, flagged off 4000 special and normal students of Delhi's schools at the Rajiv Gandhi Walkathon in memory of the Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary on August 20.