



## April 2006 Newsletter Cancer Aid For North/East Sri Lanka

Volume 2 Issue 1

April 2006

### The CANE JAFFNA HOSPICE is open

Dear Members/Donors,

We are pleased to communicate with you once again through this April Newsletter. We can congratulate ourselves that we are able to march forward as planned. By now, many of you would be aware that the CANCER HOSPICE at MARUTHANAMADAM was officially opened with the blessings of the Tamils and well wishers on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2006. This took place despite our initial fears that we might need to delay the opening due to the uncertain and tense situation prevailing in the Tamil areas at that time. The situation in JAFFNA during the month of January 2006 was so frightening that some members of CANE who had made all preparations to proceed to JAFFNA to participate at the inaugural function could not go. Even so, we are pleased to place on record that Mr Sabanayagam, DR Arumugarasa and MR. Tharmakulasingam, members of CANE UK managed to proceed to JAFFNA to grace the occasion. MR. Sabanayagam, secretary to CANE, who has been in Sri Lanka for sometime supervising the building work as well as making arrangements to make the inaugural function a success has done remarkable service to CANE. The function was gracefully attended by more than 300 people including SADIE SKELTON (from HELP THE HOSPICES U.K) who is so involved in the activities of CANE that she took all the trouble to travel to JAFFNA to participate at the function.



**We thank every one** who has helped us in funding and helping us complete this project **and our founder members who were instrumental in starting & building the project (see page 2)**. Our special thanks to **Mr Tharmakulasingam and family** for the initial funding of the Hospice project along with other significant donors listed below and **Sadie Skelton** for her logistic support and being instrumental in obtaining various funds.

Now that the major part of the project of Hospice building has been completed, we are beginning to contemplate building the accessories that are an essential part of the Hospice.

CANE members and subscribers would remember our plea that CANE requires around £2000 every month to run the Hospice in MARUTHANAMADAM without hitch. While we gratefully record that the public have positively responded to our Appeal for gifts and contributions which we made through interviews with "Deepam" T.V programmes and Newspaper appeals in Tamil Times, PUTHINAM and VADALEE, we have not met the target. In other words we still need the generous help of the public, especially the Tamil people to meet the said target.

In our December News Letter we said that we needed at least two part time doctors, four nurses and six nursing aids to run and manage the day to day activities of the Hospice. Fifteen staff members have been recruited.

The first patient was admitted on 27th March 2006. We have the minimum necessary number of staff in place at the Hospice. *Through this Newsletter we make it known to the people in the Tamil homeland that cancer patients who are terminally ill from the North and East of SRI LANKA are welcome to take advantage of the facilities CANE is offering.*

The financial help which CANE (U.K) has been giving on a regular basis to **Batticaloa Cancer Society** is to be increased by 30% from this year at their request. The Batticaloa Cancer Society is catering to the medical and

#### **Notable Donations Received For the Hospice building Project so far**

1.Land donated, for the Building of the Hospice, by the Late Kandapathy Aiyar Sri-Ragavan through Mr Aruthirumugan	
2.Tharmakulasingam & Family	£ 25,000
3.Duchess of Norfolk trust	£ 32,297
4.Mrs Mylvaganan & Family	SLR 10 Lakhs
5.Mrs Rajkumar & Friends	£ 4,000
6.Rajasekaran Family	£ 6,500

care needs of patients from BATTICALOA, AMPARAI and TRINCOMALEE. While we look forward to hearing good news from members, donors and well wishers, we wish all of them a very happy and prosperous Tamil New Year 2006.



PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF OUR CONTACT ADDRESS FROM MAY 2006 ON PAGE 2



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Cancer Aid For North/East (Sri Lanka)

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View of the Jaffna Hospice with the garden

Our first patient is admitted on 27th March 2006. He was well cared for till he died a few days later. The patient's family was very satisfied with the care at the Hospice.  
[We are planning to admit patients for respite care in the very near future.](#)

The all religion Prayer Hall funded by Mrs Mylvaganan & family was opened on 6th April 2006 by Dr. J. Namasivayam, a Founder Member of CANE at the family's request .

Our heartfelt gratitude to the founder members of CANE who have enabled us to come this far to help our people.

[The CANE Founder Members](#)

[Mr S.Ariaratnam](#)

[Mrs S.Sivagnanasunderam](#)

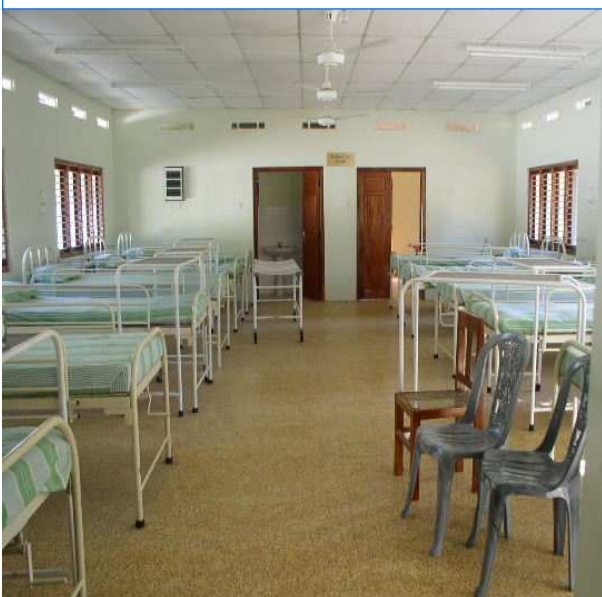
[Mr K.Maheswaran](#)

[Mrs M.Sriskandarajah](#)

[Dr J.Namasivayam](#)

[Mr M.Thangarajah](#)

[Mr S.Sabanayagam](#)



Internal view of a ward

[This project is providing direct employment to over fifteen local persons.](#)

Dr Meera Rajasekaran a UK trained Palliative care specialist has been very helpful in the training and setting up of the Hospice along with Dr.Jeyakumar, the Oncologist at the Jaffna Cancer Hospital and Dr Kanagaratnam President of the Board of Management of the CANE Jaffna Hospice.

Dr Rajasekaran is in Sri Lanka in a voluntary basis helping to establish the Hospice by liaising with various medical professionals in the local Hospitals and the Medical Faculty of Jaffna.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Dr Meera Rajasekaran, Dr Jeyakumar, Dr Kanagaratnam and our hardworking Administrator Mr. Ganesaraja.

We also like to thank Ann Watson for helping us run the Mobile Hospice and for help with the Nursing staff.

Finally we like to thank Mr. Indrasenan our Ex coordinator who has helped us in many ways including the setting up of and running the Mobile Hospice.