



Rev. Fr. Lawrence Perera Memorial School for Differently Abled Children

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Rev. Fr. Lawrence Perera Memorial School For Differently Abled Children

This School was established in year 2007 by then Parish Priest Rv. Fr. Lawrence Perera with the support of the Mission Committee of the Church and with some philanthropic villagers. The best period of the School was marked when it was run by Rev. Sr. Conceliya Croos during 2009 – 2014.

Rev. Sister Croos made effective arrangements to identify individual capabilities and incapability of each child and tailored training and care activities with individual attention. Those children thus trained were presented for various competitions in sports, dancing, singing, hand crafts, arts in District and provincial levels. Many children won prizes and certificates. She also directed every child for physiotherapy, psychotherapy and speech therapy enhancing the capacity of each child significantly.

Rev. Sister Croos ended her praiseworthy service in this mission in year 2014 and had a transfer. That marked the beginning of the end of the School. All major donors gradually stopped helping the School. All above medical services collapsed including the valued transport those children were provided with. The School which had 30 children reduced to just 6 children in November 2017 and eventually closed down. Parents de-enlisted their children not because they had another alternative school but keeping them at home looked better. The entire training and development of those special needy children stopped, pushing them into more misery.

A group of affected parents formed a Committee and had a series of meetings with the present Parish Priest and appealed to re-open the School. After many humble appeals, the Parish Priest gave approval to re-open the School but with no financial or teaching help from the Church whatsoever.

Helpless parents had no other option, they re-opened the School on 19 January 2018 without any means to support it. The School commences at 8.00am and closes at 12.30pm. It has 3 teachers and one staff member to assist children in their needs. These 4 individuals agreed to work free of charge until the School find some finances to pay them.

At present School has 24 children and the number is expected to grow. Committee members cannot refuse any child with special needs and they too face the same situation.

The Committee members agree that their sole vision is to make every child affected by down-syndrome and autism as able as they can so that they would manage their basic daily needs on their own.

The services provided by the School are,

- ✓ Day caring of children with special needs
- ✓ Physiotherapy
- ✓ Psychotherapy
- ✓ Speech therapy
- ✓ Daily meals
- ✓ Sanitary needs and first aid
- ✓ Transport to & from school
- ✓ Annual holiday trip
- ✓ Annual concert attending only the school kids
- ✓ Various sport activities (incl annual sport meet)