

## **A. BRIEF ON ROTARY DISTRICT 3201**

Rotary district 3201 is located in Southern India, spanning the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The districts covered are Coimbatore, Palghat, Trichur and Cochin. District 3201 has over 100 clubs with 26 clubs in the city of Coimbatore. For details refer to the district website [www.rotary-district3201.org](http://www.rotary-district3201.org)

## **B. BRIEF ON ROTARY CLUB OF COIMBATORE SAICITY, R I DISTRICT 3201**

On the 9th May 1992 Rotary International became stronger with one more club added to its list by name Rotary Club of Coimbatore Saicity with Mr. Ramaswamy, as a Charter President and Mr. C. V. Raju as Charter Secretary and 41 charter members with the exemplary efforts of Rtn. PHF PP T. S. CHANDRAN as the GSR and the Dist. Governor Vallabhdas. The club was sponsored by ROTARY NORTH under the presidentship of Rtn. Dr. N. Govindarajulu. Its Charter was presented by Dist. Governor Rtn. B. R. Ajit on 31st Oct 1992.

- Presently under R I District 3201, club no. 29035 with 51 members as on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, 2009.
- Actively involved in community service by adopting the village Somayampalayam in the charter year.
- Launched its flagship project: GIFT OF LIFE- HEART SURGERY FOR POOR CHILDREN in 2002-2003.
- Active in the youth exchange arena since 2004-2005 in sending students and hosting students continuously.
- Became a 100% PHF club in June 2007.

Established a nonprofit charitable foundation ROTARY SAICITY CHARITABLE TRUST, with Indian government approved INCOME TAX exemption under 80G. This approval allows this club to accept donations from individual donors and other foundations.

Has its website [www.rotary-saicity.org](http://www.rotary-saicity.org)

## **C. GIFT OF LIFE (GOL) PROJECT**

It is a joint venture project of the rotary club of Coimbatore Saicity and Rotary district 7250, Rotary club of Gold Coast Lake Success, Rotary Club of Glen Cove, Gift Of Life Foundation 7250 and Rotary Foundation.

The mission of the project is to facilitate free medical services and provide aid to children suffering from heart defects regardless of race, gender, creed or national origin.

Reputed hospitals in Coimbatore namely Sri Ramakrishna Hospital, G. Kuppusamy Naidu Memorial Hospital, K.G. Hospital and Kovai Medical Center and Hospital came forward to undertake the surgeries at a concessional cost and hence became partners and facilitators in this project.

Milestones:

- The first surgery was performed on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2002.
- Was formally launched on 21<sup>st</sup> of December 2002 by Union Minister Sri P Chidambaram, who lauded the efforts taken by rotarians and GOL.
- Coimbatore was the first city to get the initial grant for 100 surgeries from GOL.

- Over 200 surgeries were completed by June 2006 and a major event commemorating the same was organized on 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2006 in Coimbatore. Coverage of the event in **rotary news**-august, 2006 issue-pages 64 and 65 under the topic **BRAVE HEART**.
- Over 350 surgeries under 6 matching grants of USD 410,000 completed as of 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2009.
- To further the cause of affected children and in the absence of new matching grants, **SAICITY IDHAYAM** was established in 2009. This trust was set up with Saicity in partnership with local trusts and philanthropists, to fund the surgeries and continue the work started by GOL. So far 120 children have been operated under this scheme.

## **D. BRIEF ON PARTNERSHIP WITH G.VARADARAJ TRUST**

Rotary Saicity is now proud to be associated with G. VARADARAJ TRUST (GV TRUST) as a donor and mentor for the GOL project.

The salient features of this partnership are:

- An amount of \$50,000 or more (amt. required to fund 50 heart operations) will be allocated every year.
- Besides assisting with the heart operations GV trust with mentor, fund the health and education of the beneficiaries until they are self sufficient.
- This will be an ongoing project every year and focus of The GV trust.

## **E. HEART AILMENTS IN CHILDREN**

In India, approximately 6 to 8 of every 1000 children suffer from congenital heart diseases. Very few get the privilege of medical expertise, and most are not diagnosed due to poverty and illiteracy.

Malnutrition and unhygienic conditions during pregnancy are the main factors for the cause of congenital heart disease.

In the absence of medical insurance, open heart surgeries are unaffordable and cost prohibitive for the poor. Typical family incomes in this economic sector range from \$100-\$500 per month, translating to \$1200 - \$6000 annually.

The Avg. cost of a surgery ranges from USD1000 to 1500 (at subsidized rates) based on the defect and complication involved.

The majority of the open heart surgeries in children in India are Ventricular Septal Defect, Atrial Septal Defect and Tetralogy Of Fallot.

### **Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD)**

One of the most common congenital heart defects, VSD is a hole in the wall (septum) between the heart's left and right ventricles. These can occur at different locations and vary in size from very small to very large. Some of the smaller defects may gradually close on their own.

### **Atrial Septal Defect (ASD)**

ASD is a hole in the wall (called the septum) that separates the left atrium and the right atrium. This has to be closed with an open heart surgery.

### **Tetralogy of Fallot (TOF)**

Tetralogy of Fallot is actually a combination of four heart defects. It includes pulmonary stenosis, a thickened right ventricle (known as ventricular hypertrophy), a hole between the lower chambers (known as a ventricular septal defect), and an aorta that can receive blood from both the left and right ventricles, instead of draining just the left. Because deoxygenated (blue) blood can flow out to the body, children with this defect often appear bluish.

## **Signs and Symptoms of Heart Defects**

Because congenital defects often compromise the heart's ability to pump blood and to deliver oxygen to the tissues of the body, they often produce telltale signs such as:

- ▮ a bluish tinge or color (cyanosis) to the lips, tongue and/or nailbeds
- ▮ an increased rate of breathing or difficulty breathing
- ▮ poor appetite or difficulty feeding (which may be associated with color change)
- ▮ failure to thrive (failure to gain weight or weight loss)
- ▮ abnormal heart murmur
- ▮ sweating, especially during feedings
- ▮ diminished strength of the baby's pulse