

## Bhavana 2008 - Nirmala Sadan and Home of Faith Overall Winners

Bhavana 2008, the annual arts festival for Mentally and Physically Challenged children took place on 12 Jan, 2008 at the Ernakulam District Co-operative Bank Hall at Kakkanadu. This is the fifth year Bhavana is being conducted by Rotary Cochin International. DLF supported RCI in this mega event this year.

The event was inaugurated by PDG Rtn. KC Philip. Lt. Gen. M.G. Girish of DLF felicitated and TV personality Tiny Tom graced the function and entertained the children. Rtn. KC Philip in his inaugural address lauded the project Bhavana. Lt. Gen. M.G.Girish said, DLF has joined hands for Bhavana as RCI also matches DLF's commitment to social cause. President Aby presided over the function, Bhavana Chairman Prasanth welcomed the guests and Secretary Pradeep proposed the vote of thanks.



Five hundred and fifty students participated from nearly thirty schools from Ernakulam and neighbouring districts. Competitions were held in Pencil Drawing, Painting, Mimicry, Fancy Dress, Song (Solo & Group) and Dance (Solo & Group), for both MC and PC categories. The participants were divided into three age groups, Sub Junior, Junior and Senior. The competitions were held in five different venues simultaneously.

### Leaders speak..

**Aby**  
President

We had the entire club members contributing in one way or the other for the conduct of Bhavana 2008. The participants number has doubled and we are inching towards an all Kerala event. This has actually increased our responsibility towards this event and the cause of special children.

It was really a proud moment for us when the special schools appreciated the conduct of Bhavana, providing a stage for these children to perform. We will continue, as Team RCI, to take this event to greater heights in the coming years.

Congrats Bhavana Chairman Prashanth, Community Services Dir. Dr. Sudheer and New Generations Dir. Falu for the excellent show. I would also like to thank the PDGs Rtn. K C Philip and Rtn. Babu Joseph, all sister club Presidents, Secretaries, members and district officials and other well wishers who have visited us during the event and guided us in this.

I am really honoured to be the President of this energetic club.



Film actors Lalu Alex and Vineeth visited us at the venue and interacted with the children. District officials and sister club officials also visited us.



The valedictory function took place in the evening with PDG, Rtn. Babu Joseph, AG Dr. Prakash Chandran, DLF Chief Marketing Manager Shri. James Joseph and GGR Harikrishnan along with club officials, giving away the prizes. TV personalities Nadirsha, Aby and Shanne charmed and entertained the audience. SR was the mainstay of the function.

Home of Faith, Chittethukara and Nirmala Sadan, Muvattupuzha were the Overall Champions in the PC and MC categories respectively. Adarsh Special School, Thripunithura and Alphons Sadan, Angamaly were the Runners Up.

Entire RCI family toiled for more than three months to make this event happen. And the smiling faces of the participants and the words of appreciation from the parents and teachers will inspire us to go on.



**Prasanth Menon**  
Chairman, Bhavana

Another Bhavana has gone by and all at RCI have been left with a pleasant feeling and a lot of good and emotional experiences to reminisce. It's the combined strength of RCIans that was reflective in the event. We now know that when we are into something as noble and big as this, we are really one bunch. The excitement and joy of those children motivate us to go on. Over the years the canvas has become larger and I'm sure there next year's team will have a handful and the entire RCI family will huddle up for yet another emotionally satisfying experience.



**Lt. Gen M. G. Girish**  
Vice President, DLF

Notwithstanding the challenges of handling such a large group of differently abled children, the RCI group through this event gave an opportunity to these children, to recognize their own talents and instilled a lot of confidence in the teachers and the institutions for such special children. Setting up an elaborate event



(..Contd. page2)

*editor's thoughts.*

*for RCIans, bhavana is an emotion beyond words, beyond expressions. in these pages, i have tried to capture a few frames from this colourful canvas. i thank calypso and reji raman for filming bhavana start to finish..*

*manju*



(..Contd. from page1)

like this, by a small group of people and professionals and their families, proved that, through commitment and intimate planning anything can be achieved however large it may be. The event was well conducted and brought a lot of happiness to these children, their parents, teachers, sponsors and society at large. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and offer my compliments to the dedicated team of volunteers from RCI who made this event such a rewarding and memorable occasion.

**Rotary Leaders speak..**



“Bhavana is one of its kind among all Rotary Club projects.”  
**PDG. Rtn. Babu Joseph**



“I pray that this youth fest becomes a grand affair lasting many days, in the coming years. I congratulate and wish RCI on behalf of the DG.”

**Rtn. Dr. Prakash Chandran (AG)**



“I wish RCI would be able to make Bhavana an all Kerala event in the coming years.”

**Rtn. G Viswanath, DG nominee**

“I am overwhelmed by the magnitude of this event and the display of talent. My hearty congrats to RCI and the teachers & parents.”

**Rtn. Sen Thomas (AG)**

“Bhavana has shown what Rotary can do to bring out the human spirit and prove that disabilities can be overcome in its own way; I really feel great to be a Rotarian.”

**Rtn. Balagopal, Sec, RC West**



**Bhavana- Evolving over the years..**

Our first Bhavana was on a Children’s Day, second year since the inception of RCI in 2002. The concept was an offshoot of our Prathyasha project, in aid of special children. Over the past five years, Bhavana has evolved to become a major event in the Rotary and Special School calendar. From two hundred participants and fifteen schools, the participation has grown to five hundred and fifty students from thirty schools. Competitions are now being held in more events; Mentally and Physically Challenged have separate competitions, and we also introduced an Overall Championship for the highest scoring schools in both categories. Bhavana has also managed to grab the media attention, which has enhanced the reach of the event. We started with contributions from members and like minded individuals. In the past one or two years , we also had corporates like ITC and DLF supporting us in the conduct of Bhavana, fulfilling our commitment towards the society jointly. We hope that Bhavana would give us the platform to build our dream project, a special school.



**The media reflect..**





**Celebrities interact..**



**Participants muse..**

**Ashakendram:** "This is our first year in Bhavana. We would love to come back again and again."

**Schools Participated**

Adarsh, Alphons Sadan, Ashadeepam, Ashakendram, Assissi, School of Blind, Chavara, Cottolengo, CSI Karunalayam, Dare School, Home of Faith, Janey Centre, Karuna, Kripa, MES, Madonna, Mithram, Mothercare, Nirmala Sadan, Raksha, Reena Memorial, School of Blind, Shilpa, Snehanilayam, Vimala Bhavan, Vimukti and We Care.



**Alphons Sadan :** "Every year our children eagerly look forward to this event. Thank you RCI."



**School of Blind:** "Behind the success of this program lies the efforts of all the members of the club as a single unit."



**Ashadeepam :** "Bhavana is getting better and better every year"



**Madonna:** "Thank you for your countless days and efforts for making this day special for our children."



**Chavara:** "Thank you for bringing in the celebrities; their interaction will remain a cherished memory for the children."





# Heart warming performances



Photos: Calypso, Reji Raman

