



නව
ජීවිත
සිසිලිය.

320, Mahawela Road,
Tangalle,
Sri Lanka.

Tel : 047-2242718/224 1345
Fax : 047 224 0579
Email : navajeevana@sltnet.lk

Friday 2nd May 2008

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate use

Navajeevana chairperson named as Lions Clubs International “eminent personality of the year” for her contribution to social service

Kumarini Wickramasuriya, founder and chairperson of “Navajeevana”, and NGO focusing on disabilities, earlier this month received international acclaim as Lions Club International – District 306 A2 “eminent personality of the year 2007-8” for her contribution to the field of social service.

Kumarini set up Navajeevana in 1987 to provide much needed rehabilitation services for people with disability in the Hambantota district. Now the organisation is one of the southern province’s leading service providers, offering a range of services from community based rehabilitation to physiotherapy, special education for children with disabilities, and economic independence for disabled clients across the region.

Kumarini said: “This award is not only a huge personal achievement but also a victory for the thousands of people living in Sri Lanka with a disability. My personal passion to improve the chances of those most vulnerable in our society has been matched a hundred times by committed staff and volunteers over the last two decades, and it is this that has made Navajeevana the successful and unique organisation it is today.

“Our programme is based on the ethos that a disabled person experiences the same hopes, fears, worries and pleasures as any other person. People with disabilities are fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, daughters and sons, just like their peers and community around them. Last week’s international recognition of this is a vital step forward and I am grateful for the Lions Clubs International District 306 A for giving me the opportunity to raise this important issue on behalf of Navajeevana. ”

Kumarini received the award at Swarna Sinhabhimani 3rd Annual District Convention on Friday 2nd May 2008 at the BMICH.

-ENDS-

About Navajeevana

Navajeevana, meaning “new life”, has been working to rehabilitate people with disabilities in southern Sri Lanka for over twenty years. Originally operating from a small room in Kumarini Wickramasuriya’s home in Tangalla, the organisation’s vision is to see people with disabilities as equal and participating members of a non-discriminatory society.

Navajeevana now provides a holistic service for people with disabilities and work with the “whole” person—from early identification, intervention, and treatment to full rehabilitation, where the person is able to earn an independent income. It is this holistic approach which makes Navajeevana unique in Sri Lanka.