

ORGANIZATION OF CANADIAN TAMILS WITH DISABILITIES

Expanding our potential...



கனடிய தமிழர் வலுவளர் அமைப்பு
ஏம் தினன் வலுப்படுவாம்...

Dear friends,

Organization of Canadian Tamils with Disabilities (OCTD) is a not-for-profit cross-disability member organization founded in 1997. It is unique in the sense that with the exception of one member, all the founding members of the organization are people with disabilities. It is the first, cross-disability organization for people with disabilities serving the Tamil community in Canada. Disabilities may be congenital, due to disease, accidents, amputation or even aging process.

OCTD was founded with a vision of providing a voice on behalf of all Canadian Tamils with disabilities. It has been a catalyst for a change in the attitude towards people with disabilities. Over the past 16 years our membership has grown amazingly and we are proud to say that we have brought together approximately a hundred Tamil people with varied disabilities under one umbrella.

You may wonder how people with disabilities can really live independently without any outside help. You may also think it is easier and better to take care of them or even institutionalize them, instead of letting them do their own work and make their own decisions in life. With the exception of intellectually challenged persons, to the others the answer is a resonating NO. Parents too are aging and are concerned about what would happen to their children when they are no longer able to take care of them. Hence, our organization's primary objective is to improve the life styles of people with disabilities through basic life skills training, education, arts, computer literacy and wellness programs that leads to their independence, decrease isolation and promoting self-esteem and self-confidence in them.

Against many odds, we have managed to keep our organization up and running but have reached a point where we are unable to move forward without the much-needed financial assistance from the government. Until we are able to obtain the necessary aid, one of the founding members came up with a daring fundraising idea - to skydive. What started as an impractical project has become a reality today. On August 11, 2013, the day of the skydiving event, a 70-year old physically disadvantaged Sri Lankan grandmother has come forward to skydive for this worthy cause that she believes in. To make this a successful event a fundraising dinner has been organized.

Fundraising Dinner Night – Friday, July 19, 2013 at 6:30 pm - Princess Banquet Hall
Skydive – Sunday, August 11, 2013 at 10:30 am – 5714 Smith Blvd, Baldwin

Your contribution will directly enable persons with disabilities to become independent, contributing members of their community. We deeply appreciate your kind gesture and assure you that not a dime received will be wasted. It is worthy to note that with an exception of few, all the OCTD members who are working on these projects are with disabilities and not on a payroll.

One can do only so much. But one and one and one can move mountains.

Together we will make a lasting impact on the lives of our clients that will ensure a better and a brighter future for them. Please visit our website: octd.ca

Yours truly,

Logi Mariathasan
Advisory & Founder Member