

Kodaikanal International School - Dispensary
P.O. Box 25
Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu 624 101, India
Missionary - Betsy Perkins

He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge.
Psalm 91:4

The dispensary, or health center, of Kodaikanal International School, is called the Dish. It is the shortened version of the fond nickname Dish Pan, used by students at the school over 50 years ago. The Dish is staffed by a doctor and three nurses. They attend to the health care needs of over 1200 people who make up the community of students, staff, and family members of those who work at the school. Over the years the Dish has not only cared for the school community, but has also reached out into the wider community. The doctor has assisted at the local mission hospital in town, the nurses have helped to run a well-child clinic for poor families, the students do their part by weighing and measuring babies or teaching basic hygiene and nutrition.

Most of the students live in one of the 17 dormitories at KIS that are open for students from 4th through 12th grades. Their parents live and work all over the world, from cities that are just several hours away, like Chennai or Bangalore or Bombay, to further flung places in Bangladesh, Bhutan, South Korea, Germany or even New York. The saddest and loneliest times come when they get sick and miss having mom and dad to care for them. That is when they go to the school Dish to get medical care and some TLC from the staff there. Kodaikanal is located at 7000 ft elevation in the mountains and it gets quite cool at night. In the months of January and February it can be in the 30-40s at night, without any heat in the houses, warm blankets are essential. It's even more important at the Dish, with kids shivering with the flu or chicken pox or just an upset stomach.



Dish nurses in the girls ward



Prowess women show off their handiwork

Thanks to a gift from the American Baptist Women through the ministry of White Cross, the 20 beds in the Dish were supplied with fluffy comforters with bright colored covers.

They were hand made by the women of a self-help cooperative called Prowess. These women come from impoverished families and have suffered abuse, live with a handicap or are supporting children alone. They teach each other sewing skills and make soft toys and quilts to earn a living. The clean, well-lit workshop is a refuge which affirms their worth, empowers them and gives them hope. The White Cross grant has not only covered and comforted KIS students, but made a difference in the lives of these special women.

Thank you, American Baptist women!