

DYSLEXIA PROJECT – “Train the Trainer” 2010

Club Trainer:

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The Rotary Clubs of Nicosia-Aspelia and Nicosia Sarayonu, representing all the 19 Rotary Clubs in Cyprus, have taken the initiative to recognize and assist the Dyslexia Associations of the two communities in implementing training workshops for parents and teachers who handle or encounter Dyslexic children.

Parents and teachers 107 all together, were trained between November and December 2010 on special strategies for helping their children to handle their learning difficulties. All participants will be the “core of the program” and through the knowledge they gained during their training they have acquired the necessary skills to train and educate others.

RC Aspelia and Sarayonu applied and secured external funding from the Small Grant Programme of the “Engage” project executed by the NGO Support Centre and the Management Centre and sponsored by the UNDP-ACT. Engage supports activities that promote dialogue and discussion regarding issues related to the peace process or reconciliation more broadly.

The Dyslexia Associations of both communities participated actively in the Programme in recruiting parents and teachers, attendees, compiling the guide, monitoring presentations content and delivering sessions.

This was the first successful step of a thousand mile journey, in helping parents with their dyslexic children. Parents feel isolated when confronted with their dyslexic child. They feel no one wants to understand and accept that they need that “specialised help”. This is purely because of the lack of knowledge and misunderstanding of what dyslexia is in our communities. Every parent needs help and support as this is not just a short term problem but a lifelong learning disability that takes many years for the child, its family and the overall community to understand and accept.

The Project has been immensely successful as it brought the two communities together, sharing learning and good practices and working together for a common goal. This will be followed up by small bi-communal informal meetings where both the Greek and Turkish Cypriot parents and teachers come together to discuss progress and methods of how they are coping in helping their dyslexic children to reach their full learning potential.