



# Hamilton Kerala Samajam Incorporated

Registered under Incorporated Societies Act 1908  
Reg No. 1764776

## ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008

Namaskāram, Greetings to all,

2007-2008 can only be described as a remarkable and very inspiring second year for Hamilton Kerala Samajam. It was extensive in terms of our program, profiling, quality, innovation, cultural development and community participation. We not only achieved our goals but exceeded expectations and went further than we ever could have imagined. We have not only delivered but evaluated and continued to set the future direction of Hamilton Kerala Samajam as an organisation, a pivotal strength and partner in delivering cultural diversity in a multicultural Hamilton. The Executive Committee took some huge steps in delivering our Forward Planning Program. We, the Executive Committee of the Samajam are proud and honoured to present this Report which outlines our achievements from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 to 31st March 2008.

### THE EXECUTIVE

The following members elected by the Annual General Meeting formed the Executive Committee of the Samajam:-

1. Mr. Jeevan Syril Mathews	President
2. Mr. Tobin Thomas	Vice President
3. Mr. Simon Varghese	Joint Secretary (Acting Secretary till February 2008)
4. Mr. N. K. Thomas	Treasurer
5. Mr. Sony Stephen	Committee Member ( Acting Secretary since February 2008)
6. Mr. C.K. Satheesh Kumar	Committee Member
7. Mr. Poulouse Poulouse	Committee Member

### FAMILY GATHERINGS

The first Saturday of every month was earmarked by the Executive Committee to conduct family get-togethers. The members along with their families enjoyed the numerous family meetings which were conducted from 6pm to 7pm every first Saturday of a month at Hamilton West School Auditorium. Various entertainment and fun activities were held during these family gatherings which the members and their children enjoyed to the full. We are proud to boast that these gatherings brought out

communal harmony and brotherhood among members and also helped Samajam in finding new talents in Arts and Sports.

## **CELEBRATIONS / FESTIVITIES**

### **1. Easter-Vishu Celebration 2007**

Easter and Vishu were celebrated with a colourful cultural function on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2007 at Hamilton YWCA Hall at 6.30pm. The two and a half hour long programme consisted of songs, cinematic and classical dances and a colourful presentation about Easter. Rev.Fr. Raji Eapen delivered the Easter message and Mr. Satheesh Kumar in his speech reminded of us the fervour in which Vishu is celebrated. The programme was attended by over 150 people who also enjoyed the delicious dinner catered by RR South Indian Restaurant, Hamilton. We would like to congratulate and thank the programme co-ordinators Mr. Varghese Vadakkan & Mr. Roy Vellara.

### **2. Onam Celebrations**

Onam, the national festival of Kerala which is the only festival celebrated by all Malayalees irrespective of caste, creed or religion, was celebrated by Samajam on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2007 with the same spirit as it is celebrated in our native land. It was a whole day long programme which started at 9am and finished at 6pm. The floral arrangement (Athappokalam) brought colour to the function. Various native sports and games competitions were held along with arts competition. The high light of the function was the traditional **Onam Sadhya** (onam feast) which comprised of 28 mouth watering dishes served on banana leaves. This brought nostalgia to most of the 145 members gathered. At the closing ceremony President, Mr. Jeevan Mathews gave away the prizes to the winners of various competitions held on that day and also to the winners of our Annual Sports and Arts competition held in August. Congratulations to Mr. Poullose Poullose and Mr. Texin Thomas, the Onam programme co-ordinators.

### **3. Christmas Celebrations**

Christmas was celebrated in its full colour and zeal at Karakariki Christian Camp on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2007. Members who were divided to form two groups presented their Christmas program of one and a half hour's long each. This brought out healthy competition and presentation of variety programs like Carol singing, traditional carol songs, skits, dances, instrumental music and Christmas messages. This was followed by a barbecue dinner.

## **FAMILY AND YOUTH CAMP**

Samajam organised a Family & Youth Camp from 14<sup>th</sup> December to 16<sup>th</sup> December at Karakariki Christian Camp near Hamilton. The three day camp was an outright massive success with the 55 members who attended it enjoying to the full. Campers who were divided into two groups brought out fierce competition in the various activities and the arts and sports competitions held at the camp. They competed in Anthakshari, Songs, Dances, Soccer, Volleyball, Table Tennis, Archery and Air Rifle shooting. The paper dance competition for couples brought out a good laugh. Campers also enjoyed BMX biking, climbing walls, canoeing, bush walk and refreshing baths at a waterfall and also at the swimming pool. Camp provided a stage

for our youth to nurture their talents and also to finesse their leadership qualities. Congratulations Mr. Sony Stephen for co-ordinating such a great event.

### **SPORTS, GAMES AND ARTS**

The arts and sports wing of the Samajam is doing a wonderful job in training members and the children in various sports, games, entertainment and arts activities. The Samajam hires Hamilton West School Hall every weekend and uses the School basketball and football courts for training in various sports and arts activities. Currently members practice basketball, soccer, badminton, chess, caroms and cards. The arts wing practices their dance, songs, skits and various traditional art forms. Our sincere gratitude to the Hamilton West School authorities for letting us use their facilities. The arts and sports competitions for members were held during the month of August. The Badminton Tournament held at Waikato Badminton Stadium showed that we have a great future in store for Badminton. Prizes for these competitions were distributed at the Onam function. Special thanks to our Vice President ,Mr. Tobin Thomas for co-ordinating the sports and arts fest.

### **HUMANITARIAN PROGRAM**

The Executive Committee members provided a helping hand in raising fund from members for Mrs. Lisa Joseph, a malayalee sister, who was in dire financial constraint. The Samajam members always run to the solace of fellow members of the community if there are any mishaps or bereavement in their families. The Committee also strives to help new malayalee migrants in settling well in Hamilton.

### **PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY PROGRAMS IN HAMILTON**

The representatives from Executive Committee participated in various workshops, forums and meetings held by Hamilton City Council and ethnic community forum. Samajam member, Poulouse Poulouse performed at the Diwali function held by the Waikato Indian Cultural Association.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND GENERAL MEETINGS**

The Samajam Executive Committee met 12 times during the report year. Annual General Meeting and one Special General Meeting were also held during the year. A big thank you to all the members who participated in these meetings.

### **FINANCE**

Financially we have now shown that through hard work and good management Samajam is travelling well. Our Treasurer, Mr. N.K. Thomas, has provided new direction on financial operations and planning. The only disappointment at times is the fact that funding received does not always reflect the valuable and innovative work Samajam undertakes. Samajam is often praised for its efforts, used as a model, remarked on about the effort the organisation puts into planning, organising and initiating -yet funding sources and levels do not reflect this work. Strong verbal support, which is encouraging, does not pay the bills and cannot always

take the organisation to its next level. Samajam calls on those in control of funding sources to look closely, examine and evaluate the efforts of Hamilton Kerala Samajam and to provide the funding commensurate to the projects being undertaken by Samajam. We, the Executive Committee, are proud of our efforts, and our financial reports demonstrate that the organisation is financially sound, has an achievable mission and delivering.

During the financial year the Samajam made expenses of \$7165.91 and had a gross income of \$8247.00. The excess of income over expenditure of \$1081.09 will go a long way in achieving our goals.

### **A NOTE OF THANKS**

We take this opportunity to thank Hamilton West School authorities, Hamilton City Council, M/s Trust Waikato, Mr. Mark Crean of Millennium Insurance Group, M/s Kiwi Fresh Bader Street, M/s Black Bull Liquors and all the individuals who supported us financially to make all our programs a success.

We thank all the members whose relentless support made the past year a success story for Samajam and present this report for the approval of this AGM.

### **For Hamilton Kerala Samajam Executive Committee**

**Sd/-  
Jeevan Mathews  
President**

**Sd/-  
Sony Stephen  
Secretary**

**Dated: 26<sup>th</sup> April 2008**