

EYE2EYE



Apr 2007, Volume 9, Issue 1 **Murali's Corner**

EIN: 77-6141976 Warm greetings to all of you from San Jose, California.

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Thanks to your trust, encouragement, and enthusiastic support, 2006 turned out to be a fantastic year for SEF. Our revenue crossed the two million dollars mark for the first time! Over 57,000 free eye surgeries were performed at our three hospitals in India.

Both SEF and Sankara Eye Society, India are learning to manage multiple projects at the same time and we are very pleased with the progress. SEF is still run almost entirely by an amazing group of dedicated volunteers and they are working very hard to keep up with this exciting growth. Capital Projects, Booths, Events, Data Entry, Accounting, Marketing, Volunteer Resource Management and Donor Care are some of our groups and they are all busy. If you would like to join any of the above exciting groups, please email us at volunteer@giftofvision.org or call us at 1-866-Sankara (1-866-726-5272).

We truly understand the importance of partnering with other like-minded organizations to collectively achieve Vision 20/20 by 2020 for India. We are very fortunate to be working with Bay Area Telugu Association (BATA) and Telugu Association of North America (TANA) for our SEH-Guntur, Association of Kannada Kootas of America (AKKA) and Kannada Koota of Northern California (KKNC) for our SEH-Bangalore, Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA), Charotar Leua Patidar Samaj (CLIPS) Bay Area), Matiya Samaj and Bhakta Samaj for our SEH-Gujarat and Veerashaiva Samaja of North America (VSNA) for our SEH-Shimoga. We hope to forge many more such fruitful relationships.

We are very happy to inform you that land has been acquired for Sankara Eye Hospital near Anand and

construction is expected to start in the first week of June this year. The hospital should be ready to



start serving the visually handicapped poor of Gujarat in about a year from then. You have so far helped us raise around a million dollars and we need to raise another million to complete the construction.

The construction of SEH-Bangalore has already begun and is expected to complete by October this year. SEF, USA has committed around \$1.4 million for this project, of which more than \$800,000 has been raised and we have to raise an additional \$600,000 to complete the construction.

The expansion of SEH-Guntur is already in full-swing and we expect to complete it in the second half of this year. Our budget for this work is over \$500,000, of which \$400,000 has been raised and we need to raise another \$100,000 this year.

The construction of SEH-Shimoga has also started and is slated to complete in about a year from now. Our commitment to this project is \$1.2 million of which we have raised more than \$200,000 and our goal is to raise at least \$500,000 this year.

Please become a founding donor of any of the above four Sankara Eye Hospitals by donating \$1,000 today. As a founding donor, you will have the name of a beloved one permanently etched on the Hospital's 'Wall of Founders'.

Thank you,

--Murali Krishnamurthy



Calendar of Events

June 3rd – 4th Annual SEF Golf Tournament
Coyote Creek Golf course, San Jose, CA

June 22nd - Alka Yagnik & Kumar Sanu's live in concert
Flint Center, Cupertino, CA

August 25th - 3rd Annual Sankara iWalk
Shoreline Park, Mountain View, CA

October 20th - SEF Dandia 2007
San Jose Convention Center, San Jose, CA

October 27th - SEF/CLiPS Dandia 2007
Santa Clara Convention Center, Santa Clara, CA

**SEF is proud to present
Alka Yagnik and Kumar Sanu in Concert
Dance & Anchoring by Jassi
on Friday, June 22, 2007
at Flint Center, De Anza College, Cupertino, CA
Please visit www.giftofvision.org for more details**

SEF Dandia

is back even Bigger & Better.



on October 20th at
San Jose Convention
Center, San Jose, CA

also

on October 27th at
Santa Clara Convention
Center, Santa Clara, CA

Mark your calendars
right away and buy
your tickets as soon as they go on Sale.

Visit www.giftofvision.org for more details.



www.giftofvision.org

Proudly
Presents

4th ANNUAL
SEF GOLF
TOURNAMENT

**Coyote Creek Golf Club
June 3, 2007 at 12:00pm**

One Coyote Creek Golf Drive,
San Jose, CA 95037
(408) 463-1400
www.coyotecreekgolf.com

FORMAT

Four person best ball, shotgun start.
Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places,
Long Drive and Nearest to Pin.

DETAILS

Single - \$200, Foursome - \$700
(Price includes Boxed Lunch and Silver Buffet Dinner)
Registration deadline: May 25, 2007

MORE INFO / TICKETS

You can register online at www.sulekha.com

Website: <http://www.giftofvision.org/events/2007/Golf.htm>

Email: sefgolf@giftofvision.org

Registration: Moloy (925) 952-6349, Mohit (732) 322-0916

Sponsorships: Raj (408) 230-4698, Sahithya (408) 679-2777

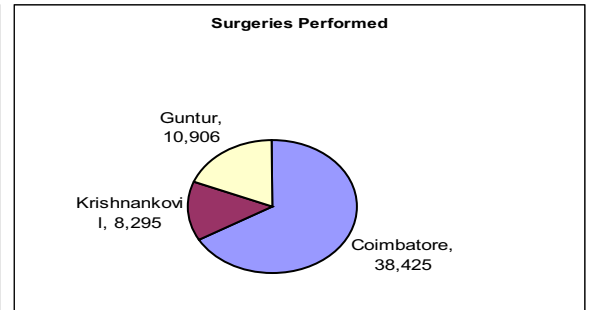
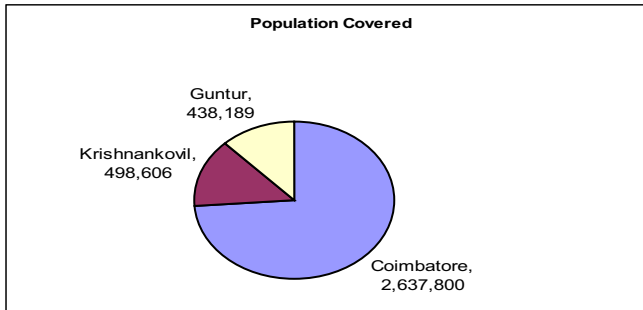
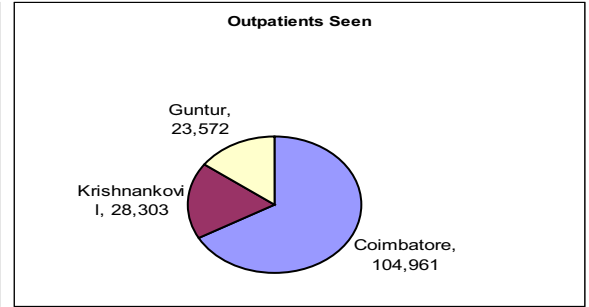
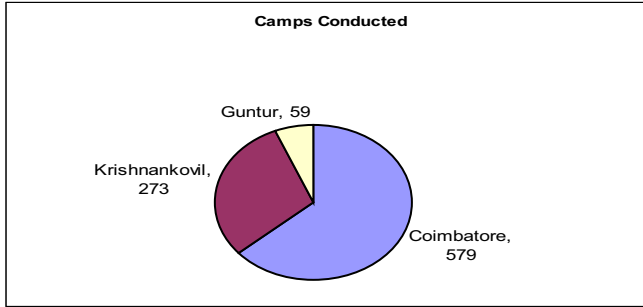
Event details: Sumanth (925) 487-8952, Bakul (510) 593-9240



This is a step to realizing our mission 'Vision 20/20 by the year 2020'
to completely eradicate curable blindness from India by the year 2020.
Sankara Eye Foundation:(SEF) www.giftofvision.org 1-866-SANKARA

Performance Report for 2006

	Coimbatore	Krishnankovil	Guntur	TOTAL
Camps Conducted	579	273	59	911
Population Covered	2,637,800	498,606	438,189	3574595
Op Seen	104,961	28,303	23,572	156836
Surgery Performed	38,425	8,295	10,906	57626



Sankara Eye Hospital – Anand, Gujarat (India) Update

- ◆ Beautiful 5+ acres of land has been purchased for Sankara Eye Hospital (SEH), Anand, Gujarat!!
- ◆ The site is located on the highway, and is approx 2.5 miles from Chikodra Ni Chokdi in Anand, Gujarat.
- ◆ Architects visited the site and are currently working on project plan, which is expected to be completed in about two weeks.
- ◆ Hiring of Doctors and Nurses has begun.
- ◆ Planned start date of construction is June 2007.
- ◆ The Hospital is expected to be fully functional by first quarter of 2008.
- ◆ Need \$ 2 Million to complete the construction.
- ◆ Till now, \$1.25 Million has been raised.
- ◆ The hospital will serve areas like the Panchmahal region where there is no access to vision care.

PLEASE HELP US BRING VISION TO THE BLIND IN GUJARAT

Donate \$1,000 and become a Founding Member

For other sponsorships please visit our website

<http://www.giftofvision.org/focusgujarat/FocusGujarat.htm>

Email: focusgujarat@giftofvision.org

SEF and BATA Marching Together - Hema Chamraj

SEF and BATA continued the tradition of celebrating Sankranti together and raising funds for our hospital in Guntur. This evening's event was arranged to raise funds for the Phase II construction of the hospital.

The cold and rainy weather did not stop the Indian community from converging on to the serene premises of Jain Bhawan, Milpitas to enjoy the music. It was a packed auditorium with folks waiting in line before the start of the event. The Roshni Jugalbandi concert was a treat for music lovers of all ages with Nachiketa Sharma in Hindustani and Ragavan Manian in Carnatic, blending the music tunes.

The duo of Ragavan Manian, a disciple of "Padma Vibhushan" Dr. M. Bala Murali Krishna and Nachiketa Sharma, a disciple of Pandit Basavaraju Rajguru together created an enchanting evening with their singing and with the amazing collaboration of their instrumentalists. The Hindustani team with vocal by Nachiketa Sharma and accompanied by Ravi Gutala on Tabla and Abhijit Patil on Violin delivered duet classical melodies synchronized with the Carnatic team of Ragavan Manian on vocals, Karthik Gopalratnam on Mridangam and Hemmige V.Srivatsan on violin. They delivered compositions from poets like Jayadev from the 12th century and Purandaradasa. The crowds were swaying in concert with the music renditions. The musicians took a short break while the audience enjoyed some South Indian delicacies. The program resumed to feature more enchanting tunes.

Venkat Maddipati, the SEF coordinator for the Guntur hospital, provided an update of the hospital accomplishments and requested support for Phase II construction. We have reached out to

more than a million needy individuals and



performed 25,608 free eye surgeries (till Dec 2006) since its inception in March 2004. The Phase II project consists of adding 100 free beds and an eye bank which is estimated to cost a little over \$500,000. Venkat informed that SEF has raised about \$400,000 so far and still needs to raise about \$100,000 to finish the construction at the earliest. Both Nachiketa and Raghavan made a passionate appeal to the audience to support SEF's cause which is very close to their hearts.

We raised \$10,000 from this event. Bay Area based Hyperion Solutions has sponsored the event as a Grand Sponsor.

BATA president Yugandhar Reddy Karakala assured BATA's continued support for the Guntur hospital and thanked the artists and the audience. He also thanked BATA and SEF volunteers who worked very hard for this event. Bay Area's well known Vijaya Aasuri compeered the event.

Become a Founding member today and get the name of your loved one etched permanently on a The Wall of Founders.

Sankara Eye Hospital Republic Day Celebrations - Run for Sight Event

On the occasion of the 58th Republic Day, Sankara Eye Hospital Guntur conducted a RUN FOR SIGHT event.

The Run started at 7AM sharp, flagged off by Mr Marreddy, Director, Oxford School, from NTR stadium and wound through Lakshmi-puram, Mother Theresa's statue and back.

There was an overwhelming response with 500 students from various schools including Oxford, St. Ignatius Girls High School, and South Indian Public School participating. All the participants were given Certificates of

appreciation. This entitles the students to a free eye checkup.

The run focused on creating awareness among the Gunturians about the need to take care of their eyes and the importance of timely checkups.

Refreshments were served to all and Major General Mohan Chander, the CEO of Sankara Eye Hospital, Guntur thanked every one including the press for their support. He also acknowledged the contribution of Orbis International and Sankara Eye Foundation U.S.A.

Shimoga Hospital Gets a Boost from VSNA-Manjula Jonnalagadda

"Save one \$, Save one I, Save one L" says Sada Hebbal the president of VSNA-NC Veerashaiva Samaja of North America - Northern California). His plan is "There are 200 VSNA-NC families in Bay Area and each family donates \$1 a day = Total \$200 / day = \$75k per year." VSNA-NC is working towards becoming a partner in our Shimoga(Shivamogga) hospital. People of VSNA believe in dasoha which means surrender to community service.

VSNA-NC members are not new to the cause. Many of them have been our longtime donors. Last year under the presidency of Ravi Handyal, they raised \$2,000 for Bangalore hospital. Our volunteer Rekha Shivappa, who also is a VSNA-NC member, introduced us to Sada and Provin. Sada came to our banquet dinner and was very motivated by the cause. He also met Dr. Ramani and learnt more about the work done in India. Many residents of Shivamogga region are Veera Shaivites. Current VSNA-NC members are determined to make the hospital a reality.

As a first step VSNA-NC organized a New Years' Eve party which was also a fundraiser for SEF. It was a great party with games, food, DJ and dancing. Children were entertained by a clown, games and movies. SEF Chairman Murali presented the cause to VSNA members. The party raised \$2,000 dollars. Some of the SEF volunteers also attended the party and enjoyed it thoroughly.

Now VSNA-NC is working towards building a partnership between central VSNA and SEF. As a part of this, Sada Hebbal arranged a meeting with Mr. Doddamane, the chairman of central VSNA. In that meeting Sada and Ravi introduced SEF and its work to Mr. Doddamane. Murali and Girish gave him details about sponsorship opportunities for that the project. Mr. Doddamane was very impressed. He said "We are 3,000 families. Even if each family donates \$100, we should be able to raise \$300K. I am sure many people will donate more". Now with the help of Sada, Provin, Ravi and others, we are well on our way to building a solid partnership with central VSNA.

Bangalore Hospital – Closer to reality and set to open!-Kumar Rajan

Earlier this year, I had the good fortune to visit the Bangalore hospital's site and experience the progress first hand.



It was my last work day in Bangalore, and I was set to leave the next day. The meeting was running late, and my one chance to visit the hospital site before sunset seemed to be slowly slipping away. The

meeting was finally over and when I exited the building, it was still light, but I only had about 30 minutes to before night fall. I had no real address – just an approximate idea that it was somewhere on the long Airport-Whitefield Road. Luckily, I speak decent Kannada, having lived in Bangalore during my college days. So I jumped into a rick (still the fastest mode of transport if you know the side roads) and asked the driver to take me "there". He was quite skeptical that we would even find it with no street address, but I wanted to give it a shot. I guess he knew that I had to be dropped back in town so his main concern was allayed.

We got going and started to whiz past familiar landmarks – the airport, HAL, etc. That gave way to the bustling Marathahalli area. Think of Marathahalli as Gilroy - only with about 10 times more crowd and traffic. There are a lot of big "outlet" stores nearby. It is very busy and active and there are already road expansion projects underway there. We finally crossed the last main landmark - railway bridge - and we still had not found it. Most locals have not heard about "Nava Jeevana Nilaya" – the trust that donated the land to us. And so we plugged on, and by now it was nearly sunset.

Then suddenly to my left, I saw the sign! I literally ran in to make sure we had the right location – and soon discovered that I had. It

was buzzing with activity, with the foundation for A and B blocks complete. The concrete pouring was to happen at 8:30 PM. The construction workers were toiling hard and everything was running like clockwork. I was personally received by the foreman, Mr. Basavappa, and he proudly showed me the progress they



had made. He was very enthusiastic and he has internally visualized all the next steps to get the building up. We are going to build the ground floor plus one upper floor, but the foundation is

rated for up to 4 floors. The lot itself is very big and he gave me a full walk through. He is confident that we can be up and operational in 6 months. According to him, all the tedious parts are done, and the next steps will be relatively more routine.

This is a great area - it is literally a 15 minute drive away from the edge of the current airport runway, and you may be able to see the site at takeoff or landing.



I am sure the Focus AP folks have been through all this excitement before, but this was a first for me. So there you have it - it is real, and I have no doubt that the building itself will be there waiting for us in about 6 months.

EyeQ - by Sridhar Rajagopal

1) Which animal has the largest eyes?

- a) squid
- b) owl
- c) cow

2) What is the average lifespan of an eyelash?

- a) a week
- b) two months
- c) five months

3) If you go blind in one eye, how much of your vision do you lose?

- a) one fifth
- b) one third
- c) one half

4) How many eyelids do camels have?

- a) one
- b) two
- c) three
- d) four

5) How many of its own feet can a donkey see at the same time?

- a) two
- b) three
- c) four
- d) none

6) Snakes keep their eyes open when they sleep.

- a) true
- b) false

7) Which animal's eye is bigger than its brain?

- a) Penguin
- b) Giraffe
- c) Capybara
- d) Ostrich

8) Which animal has rectangular pupils?

- a) cow
- b) cat
- c) dog
- d) goat

Did you know?

The eye of an ostrich is larger than the smallest bird in the world, the bee humming bird.

The average human blink lasts about 50-75 milliseconds.

1a, 2c, 3a, 4c, 5c, 6 True, 7d, 8d.

Pull a Leg for an Eye – 3rd Annual Sankara iWalk

Distance: 13.1 Half Marathon (Run only) /10K/5K (Walk or Run)

Target: \$100K.

Come run the first ever half marathon at Shoreline Park. If you are not a long distance runner walk 10K or 5K or just come have fun at the carnival. Your participation can help a few people regain their eye sight.

Select whether to walk or run. Select the distance; select your fund raising goal. Register for the iWalk. Tell your friends and colleagues about Sankara and ask them donate to the cause. We will help you at every stage. If you are the top most fundraiser you will win a prize.

You can form a team. Team events are always fun. Have a group of friends who are interested in walking/running. Register as a team.

To learn more, please give us a call:

Manjula: 650-533-2459 Balaji: 510-709-5581 Usha: 925-487-1031 JP: 408-329-0566

1-866-SANKARA or visit www.GIFTOFVISION.org

SEF Proudly Presents **'Roshni-2007'**
A musical extravaganza with the very Melodious
Alka Yagnik & Kumar Sanu.

At Flint Center
21250 Stevens Creek Blvd. ,
Cupertino , CA 95014



On
22-June-2007 at 7:30 PM

For more info visit : WWW.giftofvision.org Or Call: 1-866- sankara

Some trivia about the Artists

- *Alka Yagnik has 3 Filmfare Awards and 2 National Awards to her Credit.
- *Kumar Sanu Holds a record for singing maximum number of songs(28) in one single day.
- *Kumar also holds a record for the longest string of film fare awards. He won every year from 1990 to 1994 equaling Lata Mangeshkar.
- *Both Alka and Kumar are born in Calcutta .
- *Both of them sang their first songs for the first time in 1979.
- *Alka's career breakthrough came with Tezaab in 1988 and Kumar Sanu's with Ashiqui in 1990.
- *Alka's mother is a classical singer and so was Kumar's father.

AAHOA – Third Time A Charm - Naushik Desai

When we first heard that this year's Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA) annual convention was to be held in Charlotte, North Carolina it came as a bit of disappointment as Las Vegas had hosted the event last year (not that we spent a moment outside the convention center and our hotel in Vegas. Honest!). But we were even more excited as we headed to Charlotte (the gang this year included yours truly, Smita, Anju, Divyogi and Rajesh) since we felt that this was our moment to give the Gujarat Hospital a major boost -- as AAHOA had chosen SEF as their Charity of the Year.

And we were right! The response to our hard work was awesome. Thanks to the earlier efforts of the executive team of AAHOA (together with strong support from Chairman Mukesh Mowji) we were made a part of their 'passport program'. To win the grand prize the attendees had to get their event passport book stamped at select booths on the exhibition floor and SEF was one of the booths that had the required stamp. Had we known the number of folks that



would come our way, we would have gone for a larger booth and more volunteers (we were saved on the latter front by Dhirukaka who was made an instant SEF volunteer).

We raised over \$13K at the event, but more importantly, over a thousand members and their families are now very up to speed on the Anand Hospital and our goal of eradicating curable blindness. With their hearts and minds synched to our cause their support will follow. This was the third time we were attending the annual AAHOA convention and as they say "third time is the charm". We spent all our time at the convention center and our hotel (a new tradition I hope not!) and did not get to see the beautiful city of Charlotte. Some of us did enjoy the wonderful entertainment organized by AAHOA including the best ever kathiawaadi gujarati folk music 'Dairo' (so good that we are trying to bring them on a second tour of USA to raise funds for SEF).



Even though tired from the long days and evenings of being on our feet, we felt energetic and excited (at least in our minds if not our bodies) as we headed back to San Jose ready to seize upon the opportunity to keep working with the large AAHOA family to make our dream come true. Thanks AAHOA from the bottom of our hearts for your support, your generosity, and among all, your warm hospitality. See you all again in Chicago next year.

Sankara: A Family – Roopa Krishnan

I know I am not the writer in my family. So, when I was asked to write a self-profile, I agreed with a certain amount of trepidation and reluctance. But, when I started tackling the subject of why one should volunteer for SEF, it stopped being so daunting. After all, you become part of a huge SEF family and it is not too hard to write about one's family, is it?



When my husband Gopal and I saw the SEF ad in Namaste America in early 2002, we called Murali and

All Volunteer's Meeting-

The Fun Begins Again-Anu Sumanth

"Amma, Amma wake up, it is late! I need to go play with Aniketh, Naren, Vaishna, Vineeth and Shyam' my daughter Arthi tugs my blanket and sings out loud. I rub my eyes and jump up from bed thinking, "whose birthday is it today? I don't have a single gift at home!" Ah! It is Saturday, February 24th-The Sankara All Volunteers' Meeting is at noon. I sent her back to bed saying it is only six in the morning!

Listening to 'Old MacDonald had a farm', we arrive at the Mayuri Banquet Hall in Santa Clara. Dozens of volunteers with their families slowly trickle in. Kala Murali warmly greets them and makes sure every one has lunch. Shruti, the MC for the afternoon, cheerfully urges all the new volunteers to introduce themselves while her daughter Megha makes sure everyone has a name tag.

Murali, our Chairman, begins his presentation with some important announcements. There is a big round of applause when Girish Muckai is nominated to the board. Girish and his wife Sandhya work tirelessly for the Sankara cause and everyone agrees that there cannot be a better choice. Rajavelu Balaji is appointed a leader of Focus Bangalore and Focus Karnataka. Beware! Balaji's enthusiasm and energy is contagious!

Harshad Patel is nominated a leader of SEF, Southern California and Murali praises him for his solid support. Venkat Maddipati and Ritesh Tandon continue to be leaders of Focus AP and Focus Gujarat respectively.

A video message from Mr. S.V. Balasubramaniam and Dr. Ramani from Coimbatore follows. They appreciate our efforts and pledge their support for all the upcoming hospitals.

As I hover in the back of the hall, with the other moms, dads and

decided to make a \$30 donation towards a cataract surgery. Little did we know then that it would be the beginning of our induction into the SEF family. Murali spoke to Gopal for close to an hour about SEF thereby convincing us (almost forcibly?) to start volunteering.

Since then, we have been volunteering for various activities like ticketing for events, compiling donor lists to be sent to India, helping with newsletter labels, mailing certificates etc. At this juncture, it is quite critical that I acknowledge my mother Meena, who has helped in almost all these activities sometimes to the extent of doing the whole thing herself.

In the middle of all this, Gopal and I have become an integral part of SEF that is constantly growing. We have met several people, some of whom are our close friends. Our son, Shyam, who was born last year, has been embraced with open arms into this family. We meet very often in the name of an event meeting which involves awesome food, lots of jokes and friendly banter. At the end of the day, this is the team that still gets the work done, pulling off amazing feats towards raising money for the various projects.

In summary, there are so many personal goodies that you get when you volunteer for SEF, most important being the feeling of contentment and warmth towards contributing for a noteworthy cause.

Editor's note:

Roopa and Gopal have been volunteering for SEF since 2002. They recently made a contribution of 25K towards Bangalore Hospital.

kids; I hear Murali mention that Sankara has raised about 2.5 Million dollars in 2006. This is one amazing feat! He sets a goal of 3.5 Million dollars for 2007 and motivates all the volunteers to rise up to the challenge. After an update of all the Focus projects, Murali invites Padma and Nilesh to present the financials for 2006. Padma effortlessly whizzes through the slides analyzing revenue and expenses. Nilesh urges all the volunteers to submit invoices on time for reimbursement.

Rajesh Ramani, the booth co-ordinator gives a quick summary of past and future booths and invites all volunteers to participate actively in this important SEF task. Representatives from other organizations like BATA, VSNA, CliPs and AAHOA vouch their support for Sankara.

The afternoon quickly draws to an end with the presentation of awards to volunteers who have served the cause for five years or more.

With one hand on my wriggly one year old Arjun, I turn around to see Naushik and Manjula from the Newsletter team walk towards me. They ask me if I am ready to be back on board writing and editing articles for the newsletter. Inspired by all the other moms that I met today, I agree and here I am finishing up my first assignment!

I would like to invite all the moms like me, to pick up the phone and call 1-866-SANKARA or send an email to volunteer@giftofvision.org and offer to volunteer at least a few hours a month. I promise you, it is as rewarding as an uninterrupted night's sleep!

Thanks Rajeev, Kalyani and everyone else in the VRM team for organizing this great afternoon and thanks to Kumar Iyengar for being the event photographer.

\$200K+ Raised at Bangalore Founder's Dinner- Hema Chamraj

SEF fundraising event at the Santa Clara Marriott Hotel Nov. 17, 2006 organized to raise funds for the building of its new hospital in Bangalore was a stunning success. Dr. R.V.



Ramani, the managing trustee for Sankara Eye Hospitals in India was one of the speakers for the evening and he shared a message of heartbreaking simplicity that unnecessary blindness in India must, and will, be vanquished in our lifetimes. Today, one fourth of the world's blind population lives in India; two million new cataract cases are added every year, noted Dr. Ramani. The reasons cataracts are on the rise are fourfold, he said: Diabetes is on the rise in India; the tropical weather is believed to be a factor; there is an excess of harmful UV rays; and Indians are believed to be genetically predisposed. "The World Health Organization says that by



2015, one in four of the world's diabetics will be in India," he said.

The other speaker for the evening was Mr. B.V. Jagadeesh, one of the Sankara Eye Foundation's largest donors with a pledge of \$100,000 at the Nov. 17 gala alone. A cofounder of



Exodus, he now serves as a group vice president for Citrix, a global leader in application delivery infrastructure.

"Just like education, eyesight is fundamental," Jagadeesh said.

"That's what triggered

the excitement about Sankara for me. "It's not just the social aspect of it, but the socio-economic aspect that is interesting. People who get their vision back get back to work, and start to earn money, helping other people, instead of being dependent."

Jagadeesh hailed the huge economic benefit SEF is making towards India's GDP by bringing more people into the workforce by relieving their handicap.

In addition to the interactive discussions with Dr. Ramani and the inspiring speeches, audience enjoyed the Hindustani concert by Nachiketa accompanied by Ravi Gutala on Tabla and Vivek Datar on harmonium. The successful event left the audience and the volunteers who worked hard to organize the event more energized about the cause.

"We would like to keep you informed of our exciting progress towards 'Vision 20/20 by 2020'.

If you had moved in the past two or three years then we may not have your correct mailing address, eMail and phone number. Please give us your contact information by eMailing us at donorcare@giftofvision.org or calling at 1-866-Sankara (1-866-726-5272)."



Volunteers

"We are looking for volunteers all over the USA to manage our exciting growth towards Vision 20/20 by 2020.

We need volunteers who can keep Booths, Organize Events and Coordinate Volunteers.

Please call us today at 1-866-Sankara (1-866-726-5272) or eMail us at volunteer@giftofvision.org"

Volunteers

Donors Cornor - Ashim Mehta

Born on October 1st 1950 to a High Court judge in Madhya Pradesh, Nayna Seth was truly a gift from God to every one who came across her path. A vivacious child, she was extremely fond of singing and dancing. In March 1969, newly-wed Nayna turned down an opportunity to sing on the All India Radio network and immigrated to USA with her husband Rohit Seth. Upon Arrival in New York, Nayna worked at various odd jobs to augment the family income. In 1972, Nayna and Rohit left for California, where Rohit began his career as an engineer.

In 1980, Nayna developed gestational diabetes- a disease that affects roughly 4% of pregnant women. Though the disease often goes away after child-birth, it did not in Nayna's case. Nayna also suffered from osteoporosis and blindness. On July 18th 2006, Nayna died from complications caused by recurring infections. Despite the pain and problems in her life, Nayna was a source of joy and delight to all who came across her. Her conversations always focused on the well being of her visitors rather than on her own difficulties. As her daughter Nila says, "My mother was the light of our lives that shone on us and will now shine through us." Upon her demise her son-in-law Ashim Mehta created a web-page (<http://www.giftofvision.org/donate/NaynaRSheth.htm>) through which the family hopes to collect donations for Sankara Eye Foundation. Nayna is survived by husband Rohit, daughter Nila and sons Milan and Sanjog.



God's Mercy across all Religions-Naushik Desai

S. K. Saleem is ecstatic. Brimming with newfound confidence, his enthusiasm is infectious. He cannot believe his luck. It is as if he has been freed from the shackles of darkness and dreary times - literally.

He is 42 years old and lives with his parents, wife and two children in a rural community in Govindapuram. For quite some years he had been working as a welder in the village. Unfortunately, two years ago he lost his sight in one eye and his job too. Although he began driving an auto rickshaw, his failing vision only made matters worse, resulting in frequent accidents.



Forced to give up this means of livelihood, Saleem had no choice but to sit at home. To make ends meet his wife was compelled to work as a housemaid. Meanwhile,

Saleem contacted eye surgeons near Guntur (no facilities are available near his village). Upon diagnosis, cataract was detected in his right eye with a poor vision of 3/60. Surgery would cost Rs. 5,000, he was told. But such a sum was out of reach to him, given his financial conditions. No progress was made and a desolate Saleem, once the breadwinner of the family and now dependent on his wife's meager earnings, was reduced to a state of helplessness.

However, his fortunes changed when his wife's employer who was aware of Sankara's work at Guntur, recommended it to Saleem. At the same time, in God's scheme of things, Sankara held a camp at Govindapuram on the 31st December of 2006. Saleem came to know about it through announcements. Things fell in place - Saleem was selected for cataract surgery, picked up by the Sankara bus and surgery was carried out on January 10th, 2007. His post-operative vision dramatically improved to 6/9.

Now, Saleem envisions a bright and promising future ahead of him. To Sankara, his parting words will always be close to our hearts - "Allah will bless you all."



SANKARA
EYE FOUNDATION

Sankara Eye Foundation, USA: Donation Form

501 (C)(3) Non Profit Organization, Tax id: 77-6141976

3175 Arcola Court, San Jose, CA 95148.

www.giftofvision.org

www.giftofvision.org

Contact Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email address: _____

I would like to volunteer, please contact me

Donate in several ways:

Cash: Check: Credit Card: Amount Enclosed: _____

If check, make it payable to: Sankara Eye Foundation, USA

If Credit Card, enter Credit Card #: (Only Visa and Master Card)

_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|

Expiry Date: _____

A One time donation: Monthly Donation (Open an Eye a month):

Company Name: _____

(Helps us find if they match your contribution.)

For used car donations, contact SEF at cargiving@giftofvision.org

Sell an item on ebay and donate proceeds. Go to <http://givingworks.ebay.com/>

and select Sankara Eye Foundation as charity

Visit www.giftofvision.org for stocks, payroll, bank transactions or online donations.

Capital Projects	Central Services	
	Surgeries	Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Focus AP - Phase II	<input type="checkbox"/> Cataract Surgery (\$30 each)	<input type="checkbox"/> Food for patients (\$200 a day)
<input type="checkbox"/> Focus Karnataka	<input type="checkbox"/> Corneal Transplant (\$100 each)	<input type="checkbox"/> Medical Staff Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Focus Gujarat	<input type="checkbox"/> Cataract Endowment (\$300 each)*	<input type="checkbox"/> Entire Service activities of the hospital (\$400 a day)
<input type="checkbox"/> Focus Bangalore	<input type="checkbox"/> Corneal Endowment (\$1000 each)*	

*Endowment: 1 surgery every year for 10 years

Special requests: _____

(E.g. Donate "In the name(s) of" / "In memory of" a dear one and/or preferred date of surgery/food for patients.)

If first time donor, how did you hear about us? _____

Mail it to:

Sankara Eye Foundation, USA

3175 Arcola Ct

San Jose, CA 95148

For more information, or to volunteer your time for this noble cause, please call us at 1-866-SANKARA (1-866-726-5272) or (408) 528-9570 or write to us at info@giftofvision.org.

If you have any other comments, please write to us. We really appreciate and value them.

Sankara Eye Foundation
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Thank you for your support

What a Wonderful World-Naushik Desai

Yesu Mary and Koteswararao's offspring is the beautiful boy in this photo.

This four-month-old, still to be named, was welcomed into this world with open arms by Koteswara Rao and his wife Yesu Mary. Their elder son (at a tender age of four) too was excited to have a baby brother. However, this moment of joy was shattered when the boy's parents noticed that the child was neither seeing them nor was he following the movements in front of his eyes. On close scrutiny of the eyes, they found small white spots in the child's eyes.



Immediately they rushed to the nearest eye clinic in Mangalagiri and were told that the child had cataract in both the eyes. Surgery was a pressing requirement. However, Rao who works as a mason, residing in Chinakakani (15 kms from the hospital) was not in a position to afford the expenses of the surgery.

The parents were advised by neighbors and friends, who had themselves undergone treatment at Sankara, to take the little infant child only to the Sankara Hospital in Pedakakani. Both of them had heard about the hospital's work and the fact that it was talked of as a good eye hospital for children. And they held their faith in Sankara. Without wasting any time they sought the services of the hospital, where doctors confirmed cataract in both the eyes.

Arrangements were made to perform the surgery under general anesthesia and on January 10th, 2007 the cataract in the right eye was successfully removed. Since the child is less than a year-old, his vision will be aided by glasses. After a year or two, the IOL (Intra Ocular Lens) will be implanted in his eyes.

The beaming parents are more than happy. Their tears of gratitude reflected, in ways that no words could have, of the love and experience they had at the hospital. For now, they are eagerly waiting to return after 15 days for the surgery on the left eye.

Join Sankara in Our Mission For Vision