

Vision 20/20 by 2020



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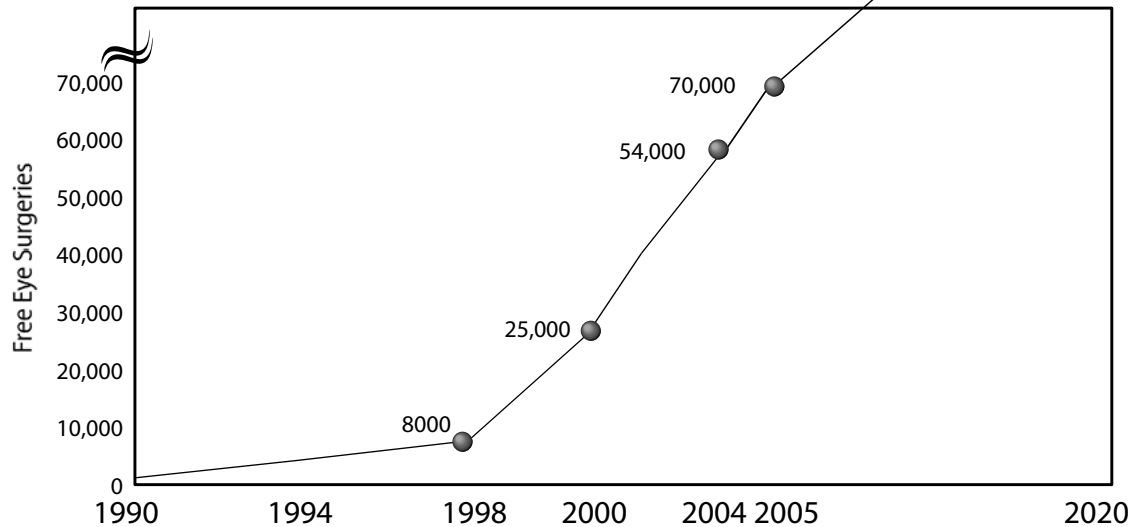
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Message from our Chairman - Murali Krishnamurthy

Dear Friends,

We wish you all a happy holiday season and a very happy New Year.

Many of you from all over the USA have been supporting our cause for several years now and thanks to your support, our progress since our inception in the USA in 1998 has been phenomenal.



1998

2004

2006

2020(Projected)

Our Goal is to build at least twenty Sankara Eye Hospitals all over the country to perform at least one million FREE Eye Surgeries per year and help eradicate curable blindness - Vision 20/20 by 2020. We are working on the Master plan for 'Vision 20/20 by 2020' and the exact locations of SEHs will become clear soon.

Our current projects are Focus-AP-Phase II, Focus-Bangalore, Focus-Gujarat and Focus-Karnataka and we want to complete these projects by the end of 2,006 and start the FREE eye surgeries soon. Please become a founding member of any of these Hospitals (Donate \$1,000 and have the name of your beloved one on the 'Wall of Founders') and help us achieve our Grand Vision for India.

By this time next year I don't want to ask you to support the construction of Bangalore, Guntur-Phase II, Shimoga and Anand SEHs, but would like to ask you to support FREE eye surgeries at all our six SEHs in TN, AP, Karnataka and Gujarat. Please help us get there by becoming a founding member of any of these Hospitals in large numbers. Please call us today at 1-866-Sankara.

Thanking you,

Murali Krishnamurthy and all volunteers of Sankara Eye Foundation, USA

Events - Girish Muckai

What a year it has been for SEF - we conducted numerous events this year and we have started holding them all over the country now. Not only have we had fun organizing them, we have learnt from you that you have had a great time being at these events. We tried out different types of events as well in 2005 - making them attractive and appealing to a broader audience.

Here is a list of events we have had so far in 2005:

- Jan 29: Jyothi 2020-An Evening of Kathak, Foothill College, Los Altos Hills, CA
- Feb 3: Evening @ Tiffany's, Valley Fair Mall, San Jose, CA
- Mar 12: TAAL - Rhythms of Indian Cinema by Zingaris, Center for the Performing Arts, San Jose, CA
- May 15: 2nd Annual SEF Golf Tournament, Cinnabar Hills Golf Course, San Jose, CA
- May 20, 21: Nigooda by Katte, Soto Theater, CET, San Jose, CA
- May 22: Tennis tournament, New York
- June 12: Walk for an Eye-1st Annual Walkathon, Central Park, San Ramon, CA
- Sep 11: Roshni Hindustani, Foothill College, Los Altos Hills, CA
- Sep 24: Rainbow, Montgomery Theater, San Jose, CA
- Oct 1: CLiPS & SEF Dandia Raas & Garba, Holy Spirit Church, Fremont, CA
- Oct 8: SEF Dandia 2005, Santa Clara Convention Center, Santa Clara, CA
- Oct 14: Charity Garba, Dearborn Field house, Dearborn, MI
- Oct 23: Gujarati Dairo, Hindu Temple of Kern County, Bakersville, CA
- Nov 5: Drishti: The Dancers' Vision, Bharatiya Temple Auditorium, Montgomeryville, PA

We are looking forward to another year full of events to keep you entertained. We are making sure that our events can be attended by people of varying interests. We are also trying to make you actively participate in many of these events - such as Walkathon, Dandia and Golf.

Upcoming SEF Events

- Jan 21, 2006 Roshni-Telugu Chabot College PAC, Hayward, CA
- Feb 2006 Focus Gujarat Banquet (Stay tuned for more details)
- April 22, 2006 Focus Bangalore Banquet (Stay tuned for more details)
- May 21, 2006 3rd Annual SEF Golf Tournament, Coyote Creek Golf Course, San Jose, CA
- Aug 25, 2006 2nd Annual SEF Walkathon, Shoreline Park, Mountain View, CA
- Sep 23, 2006 3rd Annual SEF Dandia, Santa Clara Convention Center, Santa Clara, CA
- Sep 30, 2006 3rd Annual SEF Dandia, San Jose Convention Center, San Jose, CA

We sincerely thank all the artists who performed for SEF and the sponsors who contributed generously. Please let us know ideas for events, come and volunteer, and organize them or give us suggestions on how we can improve.

Focus Bangalore has a new adviser - B.V. Jagadeesh

B V Jagadeesh is a leading entrepreneur based in Silicon Valley with strong connections to Bangalore. Besides being a very generous donor to the SEF, Jagadeesh is a strong advocate and adviser for corporate involvement with the Sankara movement. He is very passionate about India and is deeply involved in social movements (like Sankara) and education. SEF leans on Jagadeesh to seek his advice on growing our movement in US and India, and we are grateful for his continued support.

Jagadeesh is Group Vice President and General Manager at Citrix. Prior to his tenure with Citrix, Jagadeesh served as President and CEO of NetScaler, Inc. acquired by Citrix in 2005. Jagadeesh was also Co-Founder and CTO for Exodus Communications, a company he led through an IPO, and Fouress Inc. Jagadeesh has also held various management and engineering positions at Novell and 3Com.



Sankara Eye Foundation thanks Wells Fargo Home Mortgage. Our Platinum Sponsor for the SEF- Garba and SEF- Golf events



Magic of light touches Bangalore - Dr.R.V.Ramani

On Friday the 28th of October 2005, the much awaited Bhoomi Pooja - Brick laying function of Sankara Eye Hospital, Bangalore went off very well.

Thanks to the enormous efforts put in by our chief patrons Dr.Bagilthaya and Mr. Venkat Reddy, a beautiful piece of land on a prime locality -(Airport Whitefield Road) has been acquired by our Trust for putting up the next Sankara Eye Hospital.

In preparation for the Bhoomi Pooja, the entire land was cleared and the building area was marked. One week prior to the function there was a cyclonic depression which brought heavy rains to Bangalore and the surrounding areas. The torrential rain dramatically stopped on Thursday night and it was all clear on Friday morning. It was a salubrious weather for the auspicious function to proceed as per schedule.

A sizable number of invitees, around 250 turned out for the function at 8.00 in the morning on Friday. Between 7.45 and 8.15 A.M, the Bhoomi Pooja was performed by our chairman Dr. S.V.Balasubramaniam accompanied by Dr. Bagilthaya, Mr. Venkat Reddy, Mr. S.G. Murali, Mr. Ashank Desai and Dr. R.V.Ramani.

From Coimbatore, a few doctors, administrators and staff drove to Bangalore to participate in this function. Between 8.15 am and 9.00 am, the invitees were treated to devotional songs by Ms. Raksha and Mr. Arun Madhavan of the Art of Living Foundation. At 9.00 A.M, Mr. Jayendra's latest film was presented to the invitees and it is needless to mention that the response was overwhelming.


At 9.30, the Governor arrived along with his motorcade. His Excellency Sri. T.N. Chaturvedi, Governor of Karnataka went through the photographic exhibition arranged by Sankara Eye Care Institutions. The exhibition depicted the past performance and future goals.

The press and the media gave a good coverage and there is a wide awareness about the hospital coming up at Bangalore. In short, it was an auspicious beginning for our Mission at Bangalore. It is indeed a land mark day for Sankara in India, US and Europe, having taken up the first step for a long journey in the state of Karnataka



Wall Of Founders - Naushik Desai

Participating in the "Wall of Founders" program is the best way to remember and cherish one's loved ones - parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts and even others who have loved and inspired you (a teacher perhaps who was instrumental in your success).



**45
MILLION
INDIANS**

**ARE VISUALLY
HANDICAPPED**

**DO YOU HAVE IT IN YOU
TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE ?**

We invite you to proudly partner with us
and eradicate curable blindness in India.

Donate \$5,000
and become a corporate founding
member and have your name inscribed on

"The Wall of Corporate Founders"
at the upcoming "Sankara Eye Hospital &
Superspeciality Training Center" in Bangalore.

**YOU CAN
MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

For \$1,000 not only can you achieve this everlasting memory, but you also do so much more. You make a difference in the lives of millions of visually handicapped. By giving them their vision back to lead normal lives, you also give them everlasting memories.

When the Focus AP team first conceived this idea for the new SEF hospital in Guntur, their motivation was to have a broad participation from the community in this noble effort. Their target was \$1M for the first phase and it made sense for 1,000 families to contribute a modest sum of \$1,000 towards the hospital construction effort. When completed the hospital would have a "Wall of Founders" where names of the cherished ones would be inscribed. The result was a modest success with over 350 families participating.

Now with new hospitals in Karnataka and Gujarat, the SEF team has set its sight on doubling the success of Focus AP. The advantages are many: Broad community buy-in, several easy payment options (\$50 - \$100 per month on your credit card or transferred from your bank), matching contribution from your employer (makes your contribution go even further) and finally of course FULL TAX DEDUCTION (SEF is a registered non-profit organization and will send you a quick receipt for your tax records).

So why wait. Send your pledge now. When the hospitals are built, your loved ones will be cherished and when your kids (or relatives) visit the hospital not only will they fondly see the loving names but their eyes will really light up when they see some one walking out of the hospital and able to see a whole new world.

The 200-bed hospital in the heart of Gujarat is all set to go with your support. Hospital location is - three kms from "Chikodra in Chokdi" towards Baroda, in Anand, Gujarat. We are in the final phase of acquiring 5 acres of land, located on a highway, well connected and with easy access to everyone. We need \$800,000 to start the construction of Eye Hospital in Anand and \$1.8 million to complete the construction. We have different programs under which you can associate yourself or your loved one with this hospital. For more information you can visit www.focusgujarat.org.

Teams of volunteers have been formed in San Jose, Bakersfield, New York, Detroit and Los Angeles to achieve our goal of raising \$800K to start the construction of Eye hospital by early next year. If you would like to become a part of the team, then please email us at focusgujarat@giftofvision.org. Recently we organized very successful SEF Garba events in San Jose and Detroit, and an awesome Dairo Event at Bakersfield.

How you can help

Become a founding member of the Sankara Eye Hospital in Gujarat by donating \$1000. You can dedicate your donation to a name of your choice on the 'Wall of Founders'.

Spread the word among your your friends and relatives.

Volunteer your time by organizing events in your area.

Sponsor rooms, clinics or equipment. Visit <http://www.focusgujarat.com> or <http://www.giftofvision.org> for details

CLips - SEF Dandia

Thank you for attending the first ever joint CLiPS (Charotar Leua Patidar Samaj of Bay Area) / SEF Navratri Garba. This Navratri Garba was held on October 1st at Holy Spirit Church in Fremont, CA, to support Sankara Eye Foundation and the Anand, Gujarat Hospital. The event was sold out with 500+ people dancing to glorious music throughout the evening from the CLiPS and SEF communities. The event was a success for both CLiPS and SEF. Seventeen people pledged \$18,184.00 to SEF. This event showed that two organizations with different goals can work together to achieve something that is dear to the hearts of both communities. <http://www.clipsbayarea.org>

"Dholi Taro Dhol Baaje" - Snehal Bhaidasna

With the drums beating steadily and vocals belting out favorite Gujarati Garba songs for over four hours, the gathered crowd of over 1,300 of this sold out extravaganza clapped their hands and feet (not to mention the dandiya) to the rhythm of the night. It was a night to dance, a night to celebrate Navaratri, and a night to help the visually handicapped of India by giving them the gift of vision.

In planning for over a few months, the event was geared to raise money for a new 200-bed Eye Hospital to be constructed in the city of Anand, in the state of Gujarat, where over 500,000 are in the need of free eye surgeries. The venue they chose was ideal for this Navaratri dancing, with over 22,000 square feet of dancing space and free parking at the Santa Clara Convention Center in the heart of Silicon Valley.

Another masterstroke was to have Rhythm Master Dimple Patel and his talented group to get the crowd of over 1,300 young and old on their feet and dance the night away. The 50+ volunteers of SEF had the event well organized to the appreciation of all (the tradition of SEF events starting and ending on time was once again visible to all). The evening started with the traditional garba dances in all their varieties (two and three taals) and in between the youngest participants enjoyed their own "railgaadi" dance. After the time-honored Aarti, the evening came into its own as the hall reverberated with the sounds of dandiya sticks beating to the rhythm of traditional and disco songs. The evening closed with awards for best dressers and best dancers.

Apart from all the fun, the extravaganza also succeeded in raising over \$25,000 for the new hospital. Three generous donors pledged \$5,000 each, in the memory of their loved ones with the contributions designated for deluxe rooms for the patients. Additional support was given by Wells Fargo Bank who was the platinum sponsor for the event (who had also supported the Annual SEF Golf Tournament) and generously contributed towards the costs of the event. Amex Mortgage was a gold sponsor. The local Indian businesses also pitched in for raffle and award prizes. With this warm and generous community support, the SEF team is already planning for a bigger and better show next year.

In seven short years Sankara Eye Foundation (SEF) has come a long way in realizing its dream of achieving 20/20 vision by year 2020 in India. Today, SEF is run almost entirely by a group of over two hundred plus (and growing) energetic volunteers across the USA.

The result is phenomenal. Since its inception, SEF has increased the number of free surgeries from 8,000 a year to current rate of over 70,000 this year. Efforts continue to raise the remaining funds required to complete the hospital in Anand. SEF provides extensive feedback to its donors on how their money is used which has resulted in a large number of repeat donors. For more information on how you can contribute to this worthy cause [visit www.focusgujarat.org](http://www.focusgujarat.org). Thank you Bay Area for keeping the Indian culture



Roshni Hindustani - An extravaganza - Suhanya Ramakrishnan



Roshni Hindustani, the title of this SEF event was coined, intending to lighten the audience with Hindustani music? Or was it to show light(Roshni) to the blind all over Hindustan? SEF doesn't have a precise answer. Nevertheless both mean well and the event was true to the title in either sense. After shuffling events a whole lot, and wanting to display SEF abilities to the SES folks, Dr. Ramani and Dr. S.V. Balasubramaniam, SEF was keen on hosting an event whilst their visit to the Bay Area. The artists Nachiketa Sharma, Ravi Gutala, Narendra Joshi and Gargi Panchangam graciously agreed to perform for the cause of SEF. And hence, Roshni Hindustani took place at Foothill college, Smithwick theatre, from 5:00 p.m to 8:00 p.m on Sunday, Sept 11th, unsetting the date's notoriety.

Following a brief introduction to SEF and the artists, the concert took off, almost instantly immersing the audience in its mellifluous divinity. In a pleasing and simple decorum, with a dancing Ganapathy idol adorning the stage, the course of the concert was no bacchanalia, but a divine afflatus. The harmonious rhythms emanating from Ravi's tabla left the quorum of attendees mesmerized. It was a pleasure to watch Gargi on stage, completely engrossed and relishing the music with her eyes closed, while still playing the tambura. Not surprisingly, the audience became utter sybarites, basking in the pleasure of Nachiketa's descant.

SEF also took the opportunity to launch Focus Bangalore, and kick started the Eye hospital and Training center to be at the Indian Silicon Valley. Murali's brief talk and Dr. S.V. Balasubramaniam's and Dr Ramani's inspiration added to the 'Roshni' of the event.

On the whole, it was a pleasant evening with SEF patrons donating to the Wall of Founders and signing up as volunteers at the SEF booth. To the attendees, it was a relaxing, inspiring, peaceful, entertaining, engrossing, blissful, and memorable evening. The canorous music lingered on and many left the theatre humming bits and pieces of Nachiketa's repertoire.



Sankara Eye Foundation Marches Right through Madison Avenue - Sumanth Rajagopal

On a bright and sunny mid-August Sunday, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg opened what is by far the largest Indian parade in the United States. The India Independence day celebrations got off to a grand start. Originating at 45th and Madison Avenue, 40 floats and twenty-some groups show-cased the diverse and rich cultural traditions of India, parading along the Big Apple. A gathering of around 100,000 people witnessed the gala along Madison Ave and in Madison Park, where the parade culminated and other festivities continued. Waving bright placards, were 20 energetic volunteers, participating in Sankara Eye Foundation's first parade ever.

These volunteers joined others who were manning the Sankara booth since earlier in the day and distributed brochures and talked to visitors about the Foundation's vision. That a good 20-25% of these people had already heard about Sankara Eye Foundation, is testament to the profound impact of the mission.

The weekend was set in motion the previous day with volunteers from across the country getting together over lunch at a pizza parlor and then setting up a booth later in the evening at the State Theatre in Brunswick, New Jersey at a Bollywood Musical concert. The day after the parade the three day festivities concluded with a banquet at the Royal Albert Palace in New Jersey, where Murali Krishnamurthy of Sankara Eye Foundation addressed the gathering, expounding on the magnitude of the curable blindness problem in India and seeking community support and involvement in eradicating it.



Several local community leaders in the tri-state region, like Rameshbhai Patel, Albert Jasani, Jayeshbhai Patel, Manharbhai Patel and others continue to fully support our mission for vision. The weekend also saw various TV stations interviewing Sankara Eye Foundation volunteers about the various on-going activities in the organization. The enthusiasm of the volunteers in this region towards the cause is unmistakable!

Charity Navigator - SEF Rated 4 Stars

Sankara Eye Foundation, USA has received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent evaluator of charities for allocating and growing our finances in the most fiscally responsible way possible.

<http://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm/bay/search.summary/orgid/9979.htm>



Ambulance

A well wisher of the hospital decided on a 'GIFT' for his wife on her birthday on 30th October, 2005. He placed a new Maruti Ambulance at the hospital on 29th October. On the 30th, he brought his wife along with their family to the hospital and announced a surprise to his wife - A birthday Gift to her as a donation of an Ambulance to the Sankara Eye Hospital, Guntur.

She was moved by his gesture. At a simple ceremony she handed over the keys of the Ambulance to the CEO.



The first use for the Ambulance came on 8th November.

Malla Reddy, a four-year-old boy, was brought to the Hospital on the 8th, with an injury to his right eye. Urgent surgery was needed to be performed under general anesthesia (GA). During the pre-anesthetic checkup, it was detected that the boy had a heart ailment, and therefore needed some tests by a cardiologist to be declared fit for GA. While the surgical team waited, the child was rushed to a Cardiologist in Guntur city in the new Ambulance. Upon clearance by the Cardiologist, he was rushed back, and operated on the same night to save the eye and his sight.

We are sure the parents of the patient appreciated the quick response by the hospital in management of this case. Also the donors would feel satisfied on their thoughtful gesture in donating this ambulance.

OUR GREATFUL THANKS TO THE DONORS Smt TULABANDULA SUBHA SAI & Sri T. RANGA SAI.



Dhristi : Opening an eye in Philadelphia!

Nov 5th 2005 @ Bharatiya Temple Auditorium, Montgomeryville, PA by Anwsha Dutta and Hemang Desai.

Anwsha Dutta, a gifted dancer and the founder of Nava Nritya Dance Academy, along with her fiancé Hemang Desai conceived the idea of Dhristi (a dance event). Nava Nritya is a dance form that is a contemporary synthesis of classical dance forms, martial arts, yoga and ballet. "Dhristi" means Vision, a Dancer's Vision and a "Gift of Vision" for Sankara Eye Foundation.

Having done many events while as students in Drexel University, Anwsha and Hemang wanted to take their philanthropic activities to the next level. They had heard about the good work of SEF back in India and saw the SEF ad on Namaste America. As donors, they were extremely impressed with the certificate that each donor receives as an acknowledgement of the donation made. This combination of great work and professionalism made them decide to donate the proceeds of "Dhristi" to SEF.

An amazing amount of hard work went into the planning and execution of "Dhristi". Once they finalized the date and location of the event, they approached local businesses for sponsorships, re-designed the website (<http://www.navanritya.org>) and spread the word about the event thru friends, co-workers and students.

Anwsha and her students practiced arduously to make the event a big success. During the event they had Nava Nritya performed by 23 students of different ages. Murali Krishnamurthy (Chairman, SEF) spoke during the event about SEF and played the SEF video.

Everybody's hard work truly paid off...
...And indeed the event was a HUGE success!
They raised more than \$4600 for SEF!
Way to go Anwsha and Hemang!



Independence Day Booth in SoCal - Priya Sankar

This year, FIA of Southern California had organized the 58th Indian Independence day Celebrations at Los Angeles, on August 7 th, 2005 at Pioneer Boulevard in Norwalk. We had a separate booth for SEF and there were around 80 booths arranged. The function started slowly with people trickling in, until the booth became flooded with interested donors by sunset.

It was very interesting to note that most of them were aware of SEF through the Namaste America program Advertisement, and were interested in getting more details on SEF. It was very heartening to see the response and generosity of many of them. Some of them made donations in the stall immediately, and the rest were ready to contribute over the internet. A handsome collection was made. Few noticeable people who visited the booth include the Mayor of Norwalk City and Indian Actress, Mahima Choudary. But, the most interesting and welcome part was the few folks who volunteered to join us.



World Sight Day Celebrations-Sankara Eye Hospital Guntur

On World Sight Day we invited school students to visit the Hospital. Exhibits about the eye and various eye related ailments were displayed. A welcome speech highlighting the significance of World Sight Day was made. Students were taken around the hospital and given an insight to our functioning. Our senior doctors made a power point presentation about the anatomy of the eye, the various diseases, and care and precautions to be taken to prevent those diseases. The visit was concluded with sumptuous refreshments. The events of World Sight Day have been posted on the website.

Please visit the following website for more details.
<http://webspace.ricmail.com/webspace/sankaraap/worldsightday.html>



NY Marathon - T T BHAT

Dear Friends and SEF volunteers,

With great pleasure, I would like to announce, and at the same time congratulate our new East Coast volunteer Mr. Manish Doshi for successfully completing the 26.2 mile New York marathon run on 6th November.

Not only did Manish accomplish a major personal goal that he had set for himself about a year ago, but also in the process raised around \$6,000 for Sankara Eye Foundation!! Manish is very delighted with what he has accomplished and here is a brief note on what he has to say about the whole experience -

Quote:

"I was touched by what the Foundation does for the people back home and in its mission to Eradicate Curable Blindness. Running the Marathon was a personal goal that I had set myself a year ago and was inspired to raise money for Sankara while achieving my goal.

I was committed to complete the Marathon and set myself on a regime to get in shape for the distance. There were times during the Marathon when I had a chance to reflect on how lucky I am to experience the beauty of life and god-given chance to help people. This for me is the best way to give back. The support of my family, friends & well wishers helped me in getting across the finish line. I would like to thank you all for your support and wishes in helping me achieve this goal."

Unquote:

Indian Express - North American edition covered the Marathon in their latest newspaper that came out on November 7th, and specially referred to Manish's efforts to raise funds for SEF. They have also published Manish's photograph in their newspaper with a nice article.



A Memorable visit to Sankara on the other side of the Globe - A pilgrimage to SEF USA -Dr. Ramani & Mr. S.V. Balasubramaniam



Goals and Vision driven by compassion and commitment are highly contagious. Both of us realized and experienced this phenomenon when we visited Sankara Eye Foundation, USA between 7th and 15th of September, 2005.

Though our relationship with the SEF Family is not a new one, though our personal acquaintance with all of them is quite old, every time we visit them we get a new experience, new inspiration, more motivation and a sense of fulfillment. If good efforts and humanitarian mission can bring people together and create a wonderful bondage, life becomes more meaningful.

The moment we landed at New York on 7th of September, we were warmly received by Murali, Divyogi, Yogini and Ravi Kamath and taken straight to the Flushing Ganesh Temple. It was Ganesh Chaturthi day. What an auspicious beginning for a purposeful visit! From then on till the end of the programme we could see the remarkable energy in Murali, Divyogi and Yogini.

The entire four day visit of the Tri-state was a great experience. The brief meeting with the friends at New Jersey on the 7th evening, the get together at Manhattan, Bombay Palace on the 8th evening, the Hindu Temple programme at Albany on 9th and the Banquet of Mandavas at Long Island in the evening - each one of them was an experience by itself. The TV interview at Namaste America and the Grand Rounds at New York Eye and Ear Infirmary went off very well. The love and hospitality of Dr. Ravi Kamath, Mrs & Mr. Seetharam Balusu, Dr. Ram Kancherla, Mandava Family and Mrs & Mr. T.T Bhat were of very high order which we would always cherish.

From New York to San Jose, right across the country, it was a long haul. But the very feeling that we were going to meet the extended family of SEF made us look forward to it. The Tea Meeting at Mrs. Anjuben's residence was followed by the Foothill College programme of Mr. Nachiketa. It was a well organized programme, thanks to Girish, Nat, Suhanya and the entire team. One should see to believe the perfection.



Thanks to Jayanthi's marathon efforts, that night dinner at Sridhar's house was like a Kalyana Samayal Sadham. Literally it was like a wedding get together where the entire dear and near would meet and exchange pleasantries. The interaction at Sundar's house over the breakfast with the Board of Directors of SEF gave us an insight into the future course of action.

The volunteers' meet at the Mayuri Cuisine in Santa Clara was a memorable one. Emotions were very high when all the family met. It was a wonderful reunion. When one of the volunteers came and whispered to us, with full of emotion - asking us that we should take care of ourselves for the sake of every one of them - it was indeed the height of love and affection. What more can you ask for?

The interview at India West went off very well and we all proceeded to Microsoft at Seattle, Washington.

Suveen Reddy, Ram Dutt and Vasu Pai were there to receive us at the Airport. Vasu Pai in the absence of his wife turned out to be one of the best cooks. Even back home in India, we had not tasted such wonderful Sambar and Rasam. We are making this statement even risking the wrath of Soundaram and Radha. (Editor's Note - Dr. SVB and Dr. Ramani's wives, respectively)

At Microsoft, though it was a modest group, at the end of the day, we felt that Suveen's hands had been strengthened with another 10 more enthusiastic volunteers. The proof of the pudding was the request the very next day from Microsoft for an article for their newsletter to be circulated to all the 50,000 employees.



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A red eye flight took us from Seattle to Houston across the time zone. Mr. Ganesan of NASA was there to receive us. We started the day with the visit to Meenakshi Temple and that evening the get-together at Asiana Cuisine was very well attended, including some medical students. It was organized by Shankar Perumaalla, Sridhar Chintala and other SEF volunteers. Mr. Ganesan with his extensive contacts in Houston will be a great addition to SEF Chapter in that region.

From Houston, we took leave from dear Murali, went on to Greensboro in North Carolina for a night's stay with Dr. Radhakrishnan and Jagan and proceeded to New York en-route to London and India.

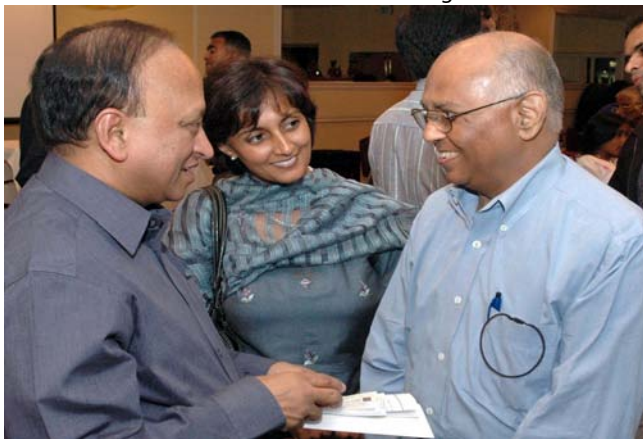
The hospitality of SEF did not spare us even during the last few hours. Mr. Divyogi's cousin Mr. Harshad Patel aka Pakkaji took care of us at NY before we left from JFK that evening.



Since 1998 we have been in very close touch with Murali, Sridhar, Sundar and Divyogi. After a year or two we became very close to Padma, Jawahar, Kumar, Sumanth, Sundar Vedaraman, Niranjana and some more friends. The next couple of years brought us closer to Girish, Sandya, Prabhu, Venkat Maddipati, Venkat Tanikella and many more friends from Andhra Pradesh. During the last year we have come to know few hardworking SEF members like Yogini, Nat, Amit and Naushik.

Sankara doesn't believe in family planning and the number is increasing day by day. It was fascinating to see how Tamils, Malayalees, Andhras, Kannadigas, Gujaratis, Punjabis, and Bengalis, all coming together in one fold. All of them have their own qualities and tradition. Yet they are distinctly Indian. Today, SEF brought in a magic of roping every one of them in a humanitarian Mission for Vision - Unity in Diversity - that is what apna bharaat stands for.

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The empathy and eagerness to serve the mother India has brought us all together and the outcome is phenomenal. Yes, together we are all working for a bright future - Vision 20/20 by the year 2020.

9 days of hectic touring, Red Eye Flights, long hauls, the bonus of 2 to 4 hours of night sleep, every bit of the trip, believe us, we did enjoy. It is not just the golden voice of Murali and an equally inspired voice of Divyogi Patel in his chaste Tamil, but meeting each and every one of the Sankara Family, getting closer and closer to them and realizing that all of us have been bonded together in a great cause made us feel the great experience.

Murali is a passionate human being. The real soul in Murali was discovered by none other than his Chithappa(uncle) Mr. Balasubramaniam. But over the years the drive and dedication in Murali has been nurtured and fostered by none other than dear Kala - the silent worker, the woman behind the successful man, the forceful sakthi.



We are indeed privileged and fortunate to be a part of such a wonderful Sankara Family.

UK Visit on the 17th and 18th went off very well. SEF EU Board Members and volunteers did a good job in organizing the first ever fundraiser - Natya Dristi - a fusion of Bharathanatyam and Kathak at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Auditorium on 17th Sep, Saturday. The 290 seater auditorium was full and the performance and our SEF USA Film was very well received by the audience, a good beginning for an organisation which is in its infancy.

On 18th we interacted with the Board of Directors. Since there is a very good precedence for them in SEF USA, following the footsteps methodically would make SEF EU reach similar heights over the years. SEF USA is a perfect model for them to emulate. We met two of our partners Mr. Waney and Mr. Budhrani who spontaneously came forward with a contribution of Rs.1 crore to Bangalore and Rs.1 crore to Shimoga.

On 19th Sep we returned to India with a sense of fulfillment.

!! GO SES & SEF GO !!

Darkness Dispelled – Ayyapa

Master Ayyapa is a six year old boy from the village of Nagarajapalli, Mattur Mandal in Prakasam District about 70 kms from our hospital. He stays with his mother Rachamma who has been deserted by her husband. Rachamma is a farm laborer, living on meager earnings, which are dependent on the vagaries of the farm labor market.

One day Ayyapa had a sudden bout of pain in his right eye. The eye turned red and local medication was of no avail. He was taken to Chilakalurpet (a town 45 kms from Guntur), was examined by Dr Parasuram Aditya and was suspected to have had a foreign body embedded in the right eye. The mother was asked to rush the child to the Sankara Eye Hospital in Guntur. We are pleased that the Sankara Eye Hospital, Guntur has become a popular Referral Hospital for all eye ailments.

Rachamma brought her son to our hospital and he was examined by Dr Kamala. It was discovered that a splinter of wood was stuck in the eye. Most probably the child must have been hurt while playing. Dr Kamala immediately mobilized the operation theatre staff and under general anesthesia the foreign body was removed.

This is what the mother Rachamma had to say: "I was scared about Ayyappa's eye condition. The sudden flare up and pain made me nervous. I had nobody to depend upon. The hospital is very beautiful and well kept and I was scared - I thought that such a hospital may be costly and I had no money. However, the hospital staff was very kind and they informed me that everything was free.



Thank God We Came To SANKARA"

Independence Day Booth in Houston - Sridhar Rajagopal

India's 58th Independence Day was celebrated in a big way by the India Culture Center and other major organizations at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston. Sankara had a booth at this venue to spread its message of eradicating curable eye diseases in India by 2020. Veteran volunteer Shankar Perumaalla, and youth volunteer Krishna Patel managed this booth.

It was fortuitous serendipity that brought 16 year old Krishna to Sankara at the AAPI convention earlier in the year. Krishna was in the adjoining booth, and was impressed by Sankara's goal and efforts, and will be a welcome addition to our Houston volunteer base. Several people passed by the Sankara booth, including people that were already familiar with Sankara's work, and came to encourage us to keep up the good work. Children enjoyed bouncy balls, magnets, and mango juice while learning about the problems facing the poor in India, and Sankara's work.

Krishna felt that not enough people passed by the non-profit booths, which were all positioned in one section of the convention center. If the booths were interspersed with the commercial booths, there would have been a far greater exposure to the non-profits. It is definitely something to keep in mind in trying to convince convention organizers about better booth arrangements. We also need to find the right way to grab people's attention and pull them toward us.

Both Shankar and Krishna expressed the need for more volunteers, and for there to be more Sankara events, like in the bay area. They also felt that there is a lot of potential in the Houston area with its big Indian population. We need more dedicated volunteers like Shankar and Krishna to help us achieve our lofty goal! If you are in the Houston area, and would like to learn more about Sankara, and volunteering opportunities, please contact 1-866-SANKARA.

Independence Day Booth in Seattle - Sridevi Tummarakoti

India day was celebrated in Seattle by the Indian Association of Western Washington on 20th August. About 200 people attended the event. There were about 10 booths setup out of which half were from non-profits.

We have about four volunteers in SEF Seattle. Of these Vasu Pai, Suveen and I were present at the booth. There were about 20 visitors to the booth over a span of four hours. All those who visited were very happy about our contributions to the society. Not many people had many questions however.

When people were standing in line for the food, we took the opportunity to distribute Sankara newsletters to the ones who showed interest. Overall, we were a little disappointed at the turnout at our booths, but will brainstorm about ideas that help attract more people to us next time. Please do share any helpful tips on conducting booths that help attract the crowd. If you are a resident of the Seattle area, please join us for this noble cause!

3rd Annual Sankara Eye Foundation Golf Tournament

Riding on the success of the first golf tournament, SEF moved up another notch for the 2nd Golf tournament. The new location - Cinnabar Hills golf course in South San Jose - is set midst the lush greens and mountain backdrop of San Jose. The beauty masked the challenge of this 18-hole, wind-influenced golf course.

For the 2nd tournament, we had an exceptional turnout of 86 players on May 15, 2005. The weather was perfect and the course setting picture perfect. The players got into their golf carts and teed-off at 1:30pm. For five hours, the 86 players were challenged by the two 9-hole courses - Mountain and Lake. The best-ball format enabled strategists to do well, playing to the strengths of their foursome. In the final analysis, it was the Wells Fargo foursome led by Mariah Kang and Jas Sohal who won the tournament.

Our sincere thanks to the corporate sponsors-Wells Fargo Bank, Citibank NRI and Sun Microsystems - for their support. We look forward to their continued support and the patronage of other corporations in 2006.

We are planning our next tournament - yes, the 3rd SEF Golf Tournament ! We are looking to get a well-known golfer to join us that afternoon. The tournament will be held on Sunday, May 21, 2006 at the Coyote Creek golf course at noon. We hope you can join us then.

Roshni Telugu

SEF and Bay Area Telugu Association (BATA) present Roshni Telugu - A Sankranthi Event and Fundraiser for Phase II of SEF's Guntur Hospital

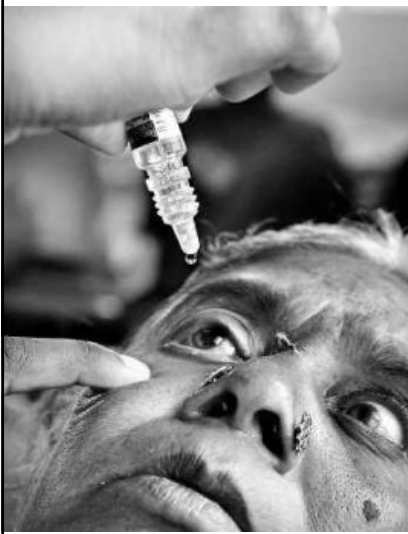
The SEF Hospital near Guntur, AP was inaugurated in March 2004 with a capacity of 100 beds and is currently conducting 10,000 eye surgeries a year. We plan to double the capacity of the existing hospital at Guntur by adding 100 beds to enable us to perform about 20,000 free eye surgeries a year. This expansion project is expected to cost \$500,000 and is planned to be operational by the end of 2006. We launched fund raising efforts for this expansion project in July 2005 at TANA 2005 in Detroit. To fund this initiative, SEF and BATA (Bay Area Telugu Association) are organizing Roshni Telugu on January 21, 2006 at 5.00pm, at Chabot College Performing Arts Center in Hayward, California. This concert will feature popular playback singers from India and the US along with talented local artists.

Please come to the show and enjoy an evening of melodious Telugu songs.

For Tickets/Sponsorship details, please contact:

Venkat Maddipati: (408) 421-6372, vmaddipati@gmail.com
Ramesh Mandalapu: (510) 585-8182, vrmandalapu@yahoo.com
Muckai Girish: (925) 875-9793, muckai@yahoo.com





I went to India when I was 6 weeks old to visit my grandparents. That visit turned into 7 years as I ended up being raised by my maternal grandparents in a small town called Rajpipla in Gujarat. My Dadaji (grandfather) was an Ophthalmologist and a very well known and respected doctor in the area. My fascination for eyes started at a very young age as I often accompanied him to his office and observed many eye surgeries. My Dadaji was a very caring and loving man who although has passed away, continues to inspire me and guide the decisions that I make. He dedicated his life to serving people and I wanted to dedicate a part of my life in honoring his memory.

I had always seen advertisements for Sankara Eye Foundation on Namaste America but never thought that I could play a role. A friend of mine had gone to a Sankara meeting and told me about it and thought it might be something that I might be interested in. I became a part of the Sankara family in January 2004 and about 18 months ago became an active volunteer for the Focus Gujarat team with a goal of helping build a hospital in Anand, Gujarat. I figured that if I can help make this possible, I will have honored my Dadaji's memory in some small way, near an area that he dedicated his life.

The story comes full circle now that I have two small children. I see their love and dedication to their Ba and Dada (my husband's parents) and it again reminds me of my childhood. My father-in-law is also an Ophthalmologist who has become a very important part of my children's lives.

In a way, I feel like I am honoring many generations with becoming a part of Sankara. In fact, my In-laws attended a volunteer meeting last year and were extremely impressed and moved by the vision of the cause and dedication of the volunteers. They were so compelled by Sankara that they have donated \$10,000 for the Gujarat Hospital for a Retinal specialty clinic in the name of my father-in-law's parents. His mom suffered from Macular Degeneration and this was his way to support a great cause and honor his parents.

Life really is a full circle and there is so much good in giving, whether it is time or money. The impact we can have on the lives of people we do not even know is unmeasurable and something we will remember for the rest of our lives- giving them vision and the hope to live life to its fullest. I hope in doing this and dedicating my time and effort, I continue the circle of life and hope that someday my kids will find their inspiration and decide to give generously their time and money for an effort so worthy.

Rainbow - Jaishree Chandrasekar

On September 24th, Jaishree Arts & Entertainment put together a fun-filled evening show 'Rainbow' at the Montgomery Theater, San Jose, CA with the objective of donating the net proceeds to the Sankara Eye Foundation.

The well-attended show was co-sponsored by Tirupati Bhimas. Its chief guest was Ms. Suhasini Maniratnam, a prolific actress in South Indian Cinema. A creation of Jaishree Chandrasekar, herself a former Tamil Actress and now a Bay Area resident, it included a fashion show, musical and dance numbers, a rendition of Vande Matram by children, and a reading of 3 letters by Ms. Maniratnam. The 'letters', intelligently authored by the renowned Tamil- writer Sujatha, narrated the anguish and the final cold advice of a mother in India to her daughter in America, tormented by her unfaithful husband. Ms. Maniratnam's presence and the zest of the participants made this a memorable evening indeed.



The following day there was a banquet dinner at Tirupati Bhimas, in which Suhasini Maniratnam participated.

World Sight Day - V. Krishna Moorthy

Vision is the gift of God. The endeavor of the Sankara Eye Care Institution has been to provide affordable and quality eye care to those affected with curable blindness in India. World Sight Day is an annual event celebrated on October 13th focusing on the widespread issue of global blindness; it aims to raise public awareness around the world about the prevention and treatment of vision loss. 45 million people in the world that are blind and 135 million suffer from impaired vision. 90% of them live in developing countries. Due to steadily growing populations and ageing, these numbers are expected to double by the year 2020 making a colossal human tragedy even worse, stalling development and denying a basic human right.

At the Sankara Eye Foundation base hospital at Coimbatore, a variety of events were organized to reach out to various demographic groups. Hoardings with messages campaigning for eye donations and yearly preventive screenings have been displayed in prominent areas of the city with the approval of the City Police Department and Municipal Corporation. As a tribute to our senior citizens, a screening program for all inmates of the Sheela Senior Citizen home was conducted as well. Southern Railway has joined hands in our Mission for Vision and held a booth at the city railway station to educate the public about eye diseases. The response was excellent and many people evinced interest in knowing about eye diseases and preventive measures. Low vision aids play an incredibly important role as a part of rehabilitative eye care services. On this apt occasion, the Sankara Low Vision Clinic, will be established in association with Sight Savers International.

Today, Sankara Eye Society is a premier post graduate training institute. As a part of its continuing medical education program, a talk by Dr. Krishna Vekateshwaran, about The role of the Pathology Lab in Ophthalmology, was organized at the hospital seminar hall. In essence, the annual World Sight Day provided an amazing opportunity for attendees to become more aware and committed to ensuring the right of vision for all.

DAIRO

Nilaxi and Harshadbhai helped organize the first SEF Dairo event at Bakersfield, on October 23rd. Dairo is an event in which the artist sings folk songs and tells jokes in between the songs. It was performed by Gujarati artist-Chetan Gadhavi (Harmonium & Vocal), Sonal Shah (Vocalist), Dinesh Gadhavi (Tabla) and Anil Desai - Shehnai.

Nilaxi and Harshadbhai organized this event with the help of family members and friends. This was a huge success considering that this was the first event ever done in Bakersfield for SEF. About 125+ people attended. Free food was sponsored by Rasthal Restaurant of Anaheim. People enjoyed Kichdi, Kadi and Khaman with great music.

Muraliji, Dajee, Ishwerbhai (President of the Hindu Temple of Kern County) each gave a great speech during the intermission. People were impressed by activities of SEF and were inspired by the SEF video. The Hindu Temple of Kern County, Bakersfield, helped us by reducing the rent and providing the volunteers, who worked hard to setup the sound, tables, food, etc.

Kant, his wife Renu and their two daughters helped in organizing the event. Kudos to Ishwerbhai and Harishbhai, Ajitbhai (husband of Nilaxi), Naynaben (wife of Harshadbhai) and the whole of Dajee's family for making this event a grand success.

Nilaxi is planning another SEF event in March 2006 as a fundraiser for Focus Gujarat. We collected donations of about \$5,500 at this event.

Sankara Eye Foundation Detroit - Sangita Mody

Sankara Eye Foundation has been making its way across America spreading the message of eradicating curable blindness in India. We have had successes all over the country and Detroit was no exception. Venkat Tanikela and I attended the Independence Day celebrations in Detroit from the Bay Area and held a booth over the weekend of August 26th - 28th, 2005 in downtown Detroit. We were met there by Roopa Vas who is one of the newest volunteers of SEF and the only one in the Detroit Area at that time. The event attracted a steady flow of people and the rain showers were a blessing in disguise. Our booth was under a tent and when it rained, it poured a number of people on to our booth! Everyone that stopped by at the booth was curious to learn about SEF and seemed to be moved by the cause. We obtained an extensive list of people interested in anything from obtaining more information, to donating, to volunteering for SEF in Detroit.

Our biggest impact in the Detroit area was in attracting approximately 5 to 7 people who really wanted to volunteer for SEF and had a variety of ideas for fundraising and spreading the word in the area. Tarun Desai, who signed up at the booth to become an SEF volunteer, approached us after we returned from the trip, and wanted to organize a Dandia/Garba for Navratri as a fundraiser for SEF. I am happy to say that the Garba was well organized and it was SEF's first event in the Detroit area. We were also very fortunate to have made a presentation to the President of the Gujarat Samaj in Detroit. He continues to provide us with support and encouragement in promoting our cause. Overall, a very successful first trip and hopefully the first of many to come!

SEF shines at Austin's 2005 ICC-Independence Day Event

Sankara Eye Foundation (SEF) volunteers have been conducting booths at ICC events for the past three years. The SEF booth at the ICC-sponsored Independence Day function held on Aug 29, 2005 was the largest and most attention-garnering booth with two large tables and many great visuals. A video played continuously on a laptop while powerful speakers and a projector enhanced the AV presentation. The stand had as many as 10 volunteers- a far cry from the days the stand was hosted by a single volunteer- Srinu Chintala. Several kids, some as young as 3 years old, participated at the booth distributing SEF flyers as well.

The ICC-Independence Day event virtually became an SEF event. SEF Austin sponsored a music band "Orbichan from Dallas" to sing five songs on stage. SEF essentially had 20 minutes of stage time out of the 150 minutes.

For each song, SEF displayed one slide, lasting close to five minutes, on the large screen. While the band was playing, the audience was able to read the slide, learning more about SEF. Displayed slides included SEF's background, Focus Gujarat, Focus Bangalore, and many more. After each song, the master of ceremonies, Mr. Kiran Chukkala, explained SEF's goals and donation opportunities. Right after the SEF program, several people approached the booth and signed up to donate in varying amounts. Dr. Pramod Mahajan, professor of UT Business School and Dean of International Business School, India, gave an impromptu and inspiring speech about SEF in which he stated that real independence comes when each of us participate in such great causes.

A special thanks to Mr. Syama Poluri, the lead volunteer in Austin and to Mr. Chukkala who made the event such a spectacular success.



Harshadbhai, Daaji and Nilaxi



SEF Austin Booth

Central Services

Contact Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email address: _____

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)

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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

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

Central Services

Surgeries

- Cataract Surgery (\$30 each)
- Corneal Transplant (\$100 each)
- Cataract Endowment (\$300 each)*
- Corneal Endowment (\$1000 each)*

Other

- Food for patients (\$200 a day)
- Medical Staff Education
- Entire Service activities of the hospital (\$400 a day)

*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) 274-1443 or write to us at info@giftofvision.org.

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



www.giftofvision.org

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

Capital Projects

Focus Karnataka, Focus Bangalore, Focus Gujarat and Focus AP, Phase II: capital projects initiated this year as we stride towards providing quality eye care to the needy of India, as part of our vision: 20/20 by the year 2020. It entails building a state-of-the-art community eye care hospital in each of these places. In addition to a hospital a top research and training center is also planned for in Bangalore. Each of these hospitals will be similar to the campus and hospital at Coimbatore – adhering to the highest quality standards in service delivery, buildings and equipment. As part of Focus AP, Phase II, the eye hospital in Guntur is being expanded to add 100 more beds. The projected project cost is \$2.5 Million for Bangalore, \$1.5 Million for Shimoga, Karnataka, \$1.8 Million for Anand, Gujarat and \$500K for Focus AP, Phase II.

How you can help us in this project?

o Be one of 1,000 families donating \$1,000 each and become a founding member and have the name of a beloved one on the Hospital 'Wall of Founders'.

o Please contact us for more information about other sponsorships.

Enroll as a volunteer for any of the Capital Projects

Need more Information? Please visit our web site @ www.giftofvision.org or call us @ 1-866-SANKARA

Contact Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email address: _____

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: _____

Bangalore:

Gujarat:

Karnataka:

AP Phase II:

Company Name: _____

(Helps us find if they match your contribution.)

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

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

Mail it to:

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

Sankara Eye Foundation, USA
3175 Arcola Ct
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Fax 408-531-1544



Thank you for your support.



Darkness Dispelled – Poomathi

Baby Poomathi is a 22 month old female child from a village called Semmedu who lives with her parents and grandparents. Her parents Mr.Rangaraj, a coolie (Daily wage earner) and Mrs.Radhamani were the happiest ones since she was normal in all aspects like any other child. They had had a consanguineous marriage. Alas! fate was cruel to Poomathi.



Since 3 months of age, she could not see distant objects and she experienced decreased vision in both eyes (since 5 months of age).She was confined to the house and she could not do any thing without the assistance of others.

This was brought to the notice of our field worker when he was undertaking a field survey in that village . The field worker promptly informed Poomathi's parents about our hospital and the facilities.

The baby was brought to the hospital on 8th September 2005, for a detailed examination. The diagnosis was "Adsorbed Cataract with Nystagmus in both the eyes and a squint in the left eye. Cataract surgery was advised with Anterior Vitrectomy under general anesthesia".After regular tests and ascertaining physical fitness, surgery was performed on 20th September, 2005 in the left eye and on 20th October, 2005 in the right eye. She was discharged after her second surgery on 22nd October,2005.



Now Poomathi enjoys excellent vision. We see joy and hope in her eyes. She is playing and walking like any other child of her age without any assistance.