

EYE2EYE



Murali's Corner

March 2006, Volume 8, Issue 1

Here is your friend Murali wishing you all the best and thanking you sincerely for taking this cause forward, getting closer to 'Vision 20/20 by 2020' every day. We are touched by your trust in us. Rest assured that we will deliver. This has become a life mission for many of us at the Sankara Eye Foundation, USA.

Many of our ardent volunteers started off with Booth and Event activities without any prior experience.

Our volunteers Vatsa and Sailaja in Dallas are organizing a Light Music program, Mouli and Ravi in Phoenix are organizing an event by Dr. M. Balamuralikrishna, Prof. Dathatri and Mr. T.T. Bhat in New York are organizing a Jugalbandi by Shashank and Purbayan Chatterjee. Many such activities are planned for the East Coast, SF Bay Area, Seattle among others.

If you are still watching us, hesitating to take the next step, I have absolutely no doubt in assuring you that we are a very sincere and warm group of people in the USA and our partners in service in India are truly a God-send and the results are there for all of you to see. Please come and join us in this exciting journey today.

If you are unable to organize an event or a booth, could you please request a group of friends to become 'Founding Members' of any of our upcoming Sankara Eye Hospitals in Bangalore, Gujarat (Anand), Karnataka (Shimoga) or Guntur (Phase II)?

Wherever you are, be proactive, take the initiative, call me and tell me "Murali, I would like to do something for this wonderful cause in my city". That is all you have to do and we will support you all the way in any SEF fund raising activities (booths, events, etc.), that you want to initiate.

– Murali Krishnamurthy

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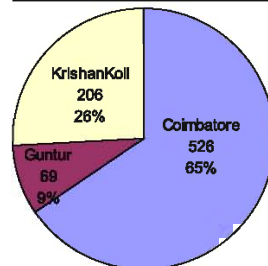
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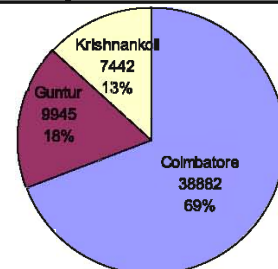
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Performance report for the Year 2005

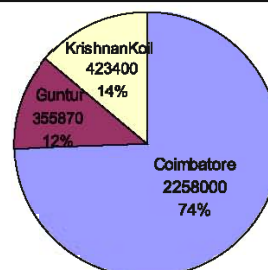
Camps Conducted - 801



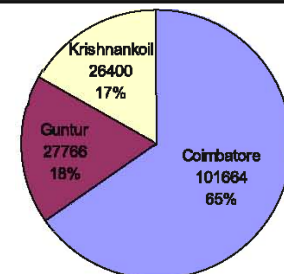
Free Surgeries Performed - 56269



Rural Population Covered - 3037270



Outpatients Seen at the Camp - 155830



Events

Grand Jugalbandi

23rd April at Sri Ganesha Temple Auditorium, Flushing, New York

Whether you love Carnatic Music or Hindustani or both, Jugalbandis are always fun. Renowned flutist Shashank and the Sitar Mastreo Purbayan Chatterjee will be performing at this Jugalbandi. There will also be a Bharatanatyam performance by Sirisha Shashank.



Contact:

Y.N. Dathatri: (631) 847-0595
A.R. Nagaraj: (718) 263-0188
Vikram Bhat: (203) 570-9083
Ravi Kamath: (203) 371-8328

Srishti

May 13th 2006,
Galvin Play House
Arizona State University



A joint event of SEF and Arizona Telugu Association

Please come and enjoy the enchanting music of the great carnatic singer Padmavibhushan Dr. Mangalampalli Balamurali Krishna and Dance Drama "Story of Krishna" by Dr. Saraswati Sundaresan & party.

Contact:

Padmaja Narla (480) 812-3934
Sriram Subramanyan (480) 361-4909

Aarohi

May 13th 2006, Coppell Middle School Auditorium, 1301 Wrangler Drive, Coppell TX 75019

Bollywood has a special place in our hearts as far as entertainment goes. This is expected to be an entertaining evening of Light and Bollywood Music by Popular Singers from India & USA and dance sequences choreographed for popular Film Songs

Contact:

Srivatsa Ramanathan: (214) 498-4353
Sailaja Seethamraju: (972) 939-4408

Walkathon

Aug 26. 2006

Shoreline Park, Mountain View, CA

Contact: Sahithya Onukuri (408) 733-3875.



SEF is proud to announce \$100,000 donation from Mr. B V Jagadeesh (BVJ), for Sankara Eye Hospital in Bangalore. This donation comes to SEF at an opportune time, when we have just commenced plans for construction of the Bangalore hospital

As many of you are aware, BVJ has been a generous donor to other SEF projects as well, besides guiding SEF as our organisational advisor.

SEF's 200+ strong volunteers take this opportunity to express their heart felt thanks to BVJ and his family, for making this donation and paving the way for similar donations from our US wide donor community.

BVJ is a leading Silicon Valley based serial entrepreneur, who has founded string of successful companies like Exodus and Netscaler (now Citrix). He is very well known in India and US, especially for his strong community ties.

3rd ANNUAL SEF GOLF TOURNAMENT

Sunday, May 21, 2006 at NOON

Coyote Creek Golf Club

San Jose, CA

A Fundraiser to Give the Gift of Vision

Contact:

Bakul Patel: (510) 593-9240
Kiran Choudary: (650) 218-5643
Todd Gower: (925) 595-1021

3rd Annual SEF Dandia

Santa Clara Convention Center San Jose, CA

3rd Annual Dandia at Santa Clara Convention Center near Paramount's Great America. This venue can hold up to 2,000 people. There will be a lot of space to dance. Come and have a lot of fun.

Contact: 1-866- SANKARA



WELLS
FARGO

HOME
MORTGAGE

Sankara Eye Foundation thanks Wells Fargo Home Mortgage.



BATA and SEF raise \$85K for Phase II of Sankara Eye Hospital, Guntur

It was a festive atmosphere with Sankranti wishes and decoration, welcoming the audience on a chilly Saturday evening to the Telugu music show organized by Bay Area Telugu Association (BATA) and Sankara Eye Foundation (SEF).

The concert opened with a prayer song by Madhu followed by an old classic devotional song by Raju Idury, setting the tone for an excellent concert. Madhu then introduced and welcomed well known playback singer Usha to perform. Usha mesmerized the audience with her soulful rendition of "Manohara". This was followed by new and old hits by performed by Arathi, Gayatri, Raju Idury, Prabhu, Sridevi, Kavitha, Ravi and Madhu. The attendees were warmed up with melodious tunes to get into the mood for enjoying the evening.

Usha encouraged the kids to come onto the stage and dance to a song from Geethanjali. Vijaya Aasuri encouraged parents of the children dancing on stage to dedicate the song to their kids by opening up their hearts and donate. The parents responded to this plea and donations started pouring in big numbers. A song which was played by a blind orchestra in the movie "Naa Autograph" brought in donations of around \$15,000. Murali Krishnamurthy, chairman of SEF shared the SEF vision and thanked the community for their support.

After the dinner break of hot idlis, dosas and tea, the attendees were served by the song, "Vivaha Bhojanambhu" from the film Maayabazar by five year old Saketh, who performed like a true professional. The pleased audience rose to cheers and donated close to \$10,000 for this song. These generous donations came in song after song.



Usha and Vijaya proved to be a very effective fund raising team working in tandem to get donations. Usha praised Bay Area Telugu community for their largesse in donating to the first phase of the hospital. Donations of about \$15,000 were made for the song "Ne Toli Sariga" which won Usha many awards. Chiranjeevi fans came to life with whistles, cheers and their dances as Chiranjeevi songs were performed and donated close to \$10,000.

The music team of Vara, Nagaraj, Raj, Farhan, Magesh, Venky, Anjan, Ravi and Ravi Gutala led by Madhu strived for perfection as they delivered song after song creating romantic moods and sometimes inspiration to help the fund raising efforts. The music ranged from the old tunes creating nostalgic memories down the memory lane to the latest fast numbers which got the younger crowd dancing away to the beat.

Sri Jayaram Komati pledged \$12,500 and agreed to match the funds from the audience. The donation amount, \$1,116 became a common occurrence in the evening. It is a testament to what few talented musicians, a team of energetic and dedicated volunteers from BATA and SEF, and most of all the generous audience and sponsors can come together to exceed expectations and raise \$85,000. This event was sponsored by Ravi Tax Preparation Services, Hyperion Solutions, Foresters and Wells Fargo Home Mortgage.

BATA on the occasion of Sankranti made a special announcement of "Andhra Bhavan", a community center for Telugu people of the Bay Area, which could be used for conducting classes, meetings and community events. They announced that \$100,000 has already been raised towards the project.

-Hema Chamraj

Focus Gujarat - Momentum Builds

Thanks to hard working core group volunteers and generous donors the fund raising is going strong. The Gujarati community has risen to our objective of collecting \$800K in order to start the hospital construction later this year. Land negotiations are continuing and we are hopeful to resolve this soon.

Meanwhile, people across US have given a wonderful gift of vision by sponsoring four operating theaters, a pediatric ward, nine patient rooms, main lobby, eye bank building, pharmacy, refraction department, temple and a specialty clinic.

The hospital now needs your support in getting the two general wards and the wall of founders funded. We would love for small groups to band together and sponsor these areas. The general wards require \$100K each while our goal for the wall of founders is 1,000 families contributing \$1,000 each. Open your hearts for Garvi Gujarat and let's build this hospital together.

- Naushik Desai

Diabetic Retinopathy

Diabetes is a problem that is more prevalent among people of South Asian origin. Eye care is especially important for people with diabetes because they are at increased risk of developing eye complications from the disease. In fact, diabetes is the leading cause of blindness in adults age 20 to 74.

Diabetic Retinopathy is the most common ophthalmic complication of diabetics. It is an eye condition that affects people with diabetes who have high blood glucose, or sugar, over a prolonged period of time. Too much blood glucose can destroy the blood vessels in the back of the eye, preventing the retina from receiving the proper amount of nutrients it needs to maintain vision.

In the early stages of Diabetic Retinopathy, called nonproliferative retinopathy, these blood vessels leak fluid and distort sight. In the more advanced stage, called proliferative retinopathy, fragile new blood vessels grow around the retina and in the vitreous humor (a clear substance that fills the eye). If left untreated, these blood vessels may bleed, clouding vision or scar detaching the retina.

Anyone with diabetes — both Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes — is at risk of developing Diabetic Retinopathy. However, the type of diabetes a person has, how often their blood glucose fluctuates, how well controlled the sugars are, and how long a person has had diabetes, all affect his or her risk.

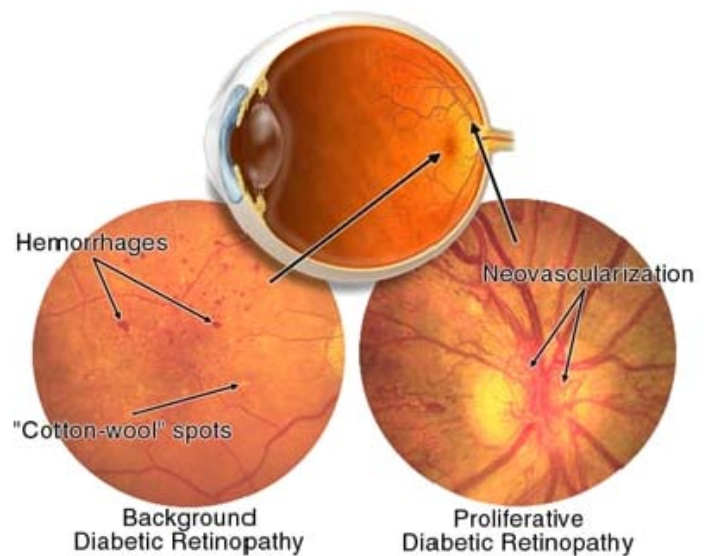
The better you control your blood sugar levels, the lower is your risk. There are often no early signs of Diabetic Retinopathy and sight may not be affected until the condition is severe. Sometimes loss of central vision when reading or driving, loss of the ability to see color, and blurriness of vision are the only signs of Diabetic Retinopathy.

Small spots or floaters may also indicate blood vessel leaks and may clear up in days, weeks, or even months. But, because bleeding often occurs more than once, it is important to have an eye exam each year, and immediately if you experience any of these symptoms



Ram Veeraman of Audubon, PA was selected as "Sankara Reader of the Quarter". He will receive a free SEFT-shirt.

You can win one too. Tell us what you like and what you dislike about our newsletter. Please send your feedback to newsletter@giftofvision.org to enter the contest.




You can help protect yourself from Diabetic Retinopathy by having your eyes checked at least once a year by an ophthalmologist. Women who have diabetes and become pregnant should have a comprehensive eye exam during the first trimester, and close follow-up with an eye doctor during pregnancy (this recommendation does not apply to women who develop gestational diabetes).

You can also help slow down the development of Diabetic Retinopathy by keeping your blood glucose and blood pressure in check.

You can find out more information on Diabetic Retinopathy on the web, at such sites as WebMD.com, National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse (NDIC), DiabetesSuffolk.com and/or by talking to your doctor.

- Sridhar Rajagopal



On October 23rd 2005, Jagjit, Sania and Sandeep Dass celebrated their mother Satya Dass's birthday at Shodelands Art center in Walnut Creek, CA. Over 200 people were present on this occasion. Instead of gifts, the Dass family accepted donations to SEF. Everyone donated generously, including the Dass family. Total Collections were 2,001 Dollars. In this amount 1,000 was donated to Focus Bangalore Project, 500 to cataract surgeries and 501 for the rainbow project.

The Dass family is very thankful to all their friends and the family for their generous donations. A special thanks to Jagjit, Sania and Sandeep from their parents for organizing this wonderful event.

Focus Karnataka Update

Bhoomi Pooja for the upcoming Sankara Eye Hospital in Shimoga was performed on the 9th of March. The formalities regarding conversion of the land into Non-Agricultural land have been completed

The local families have so far raised around Rs. 35 Lakhs with which the land was purchased and other developmental activities are in progress. Their target is to raise Rs.1 Crore locally. Considering the size of the town this is a great effort.
- Murali Krishnamuthy

Focus AP (Phase II) Update

We inaugurated our Sankara Eye Hospital, Guntur on March 1st, 2004 with a hundred bed capacity. It was designed to expand upto 400 beds and envisioned to service entire Andhra Pradesh. We started the rural out reach eye camps in May 2004 and since then we have covered a population of about 500,000 and performed about 15,000 free eye surgeries. With the existing capacity of 100 beds we can only perform about 200 surgeries every week.

To reach out to the needy across the breadth and width of the Andhra Pradesh sooner we plan to expand the hospital by adding 100 additional beds by the end of 2006. The cost for this is \$500,000. Fund raising was launched at TANA 2005 held in Detroit in July 2005. We got very good support from the Telugu community. Dr Neil Mandava and Dr Ram Kancharla organized a fund raiser for this project in New York in October 2005, when Dr R V Raman and Dr S.V. Balasubramaniam from India visited the US. It was well attended and raised about \$85K.

Recently, we organized Roshni Telugu event, an exclusive Telugu Light Music concert and raised about \$85K. So far we are at the halfway mark and need your help so that we can do about 20,000 free surgeries every year in Andhra Pradesh.

- Venkat Madipati

Focus Bangalore update

The countdown to the construction of the Bangalore Sankara Eye Hospital and Superspecialty Training Center has begun. A grand Bhoomi Pooja ceremony was held in late October 2005 and since then SEF has been seeing great support from donors wanting to participate in the hospital's '1000 dollars, 1000 families' Wall of Founders program. A similar Wall of Corporate Founders program is also underway, opening the doors to corporate partnership in this Metro project.

The location for this Hospital is indeed impressive - 4.5 acres of valuable land on Airport Road has been gifted to Sankara (see a panoramic view of the grounds, below, which will soon see a magnificent structure rise up and start operations by the end of 2008!) Some of the Focus Bangalore team volunteers -Suniti, Vimal and Nat - recently visited Coimbatore to see the first Sankara Eye Hospital firsthand, and were astounded by the efficiency with which the hospital was run and the compassion with which the poorest of poor patients was cared for. They cannot wait to see the new Bangalore hospital come up and rival the Coimbatore hospital in every activity. In the meantime, a lot of training activity is going on.

About 50 paramedical staff are being trained at Coimbatore. Additional, specialist Eye Surgeons are also being trained.

A lot more funding and donor support is needed to make this dream a reality, but the SEF 'Focus Bangalore' volunteer team is convinced it will all happen. They are going full steam ahead with organizing a Corporate Banquet in the Bay Area - scheduled for June- to spread awareness amongst businesses with connections to Bangalore and a vision to give back to the community from which they benefit so much. As for the Banquet itself, the team promises that this will be one absolutely enjoyable evening and yet another events milestone for Sankara. *- Nat Narayanaswamy*



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Case Study

The picture you see here is that of the bubbly Ramya with her mother Suryakala. The 2 year old tiny tot hails from AT Agraharam, a moffusil area of Guntur town. Her father is a rickshaw puller and her mother Suryakala works as a domestic help.

It was Deepavali, the festival of lights, and the family of Ramya were in the midst of the celebrations, when a sudden burst of crackers, threw up some splinters, which as ill luck would have it, struck the face of Ramya.

Her smiling face transformed into a picture of agony. The wailing of the toddler brought in the neighborhood and the parents. The time was 10:30 pm.

Ramya's eyes had reddened and a swelling was discernable. It was late night and the parents and their friends were at a loss as to what to do. Panic set in. The casualty department of the Govt. Hospital was the only recourse for people like Ramya's parents—who live below the poverty line. But the child, who was in agony, did not get any attention. There was no staff at the hospital due to the deepavali holidays and the ones present were in no mood to help Ramya. The parents had to beat a hasty retreat. The forlorn parents were a dejected lot and braced themselves to wait for the next morning.

But, as the saying goes, there is always a silver lining. In Ramya's case the silver lining turned out to be the lady at whose house Suryakala worked as a domestic help.

The lady worked as a teacher at a school that was covered under the Sankara Orbis Paediatric Ophthalmology Program. It so happened that she was one of the teacher volunteers for the school screening. Our good job had been well appreciated and had created a groundswell of goodwill for the hospital. She wasted no time in advising the parents to take Ramya to the Sankara Eye Hospital, at Guntur.

Ramya came into the hospital at stroke of midnight. The doctor on call attended on her immediately and medicated and dressed up the eye. The following morning, Dr Mahesha, our ophthalmic surgeon, found abrasions in the child's cornea. Medicines were dispensed for the healing the abrasions. The corneal abrasions healed and every thing was fine.

Two months passed by. One day the parents noticed a white spot in Ramya's eye. They rushed her to Dr Mahesha, who on examination found that a cataract had formed. She had total cataract. In that state, Ramya could have only perceived light and could not have seen anything else. She was irritable and could not open her eyes. Ramya has now been operated upon for the cataract and an IOL has been implanted. Her parents are gleeful that Ramya can see well and that she is back to her bubbly self.

They showed up at the hospital and showered heaps of praise for the free treatment given by the hospital, Dr Mahesha for his considerate care and the lady teacher, who guided them to the hospital.

And yonder, we could see a cheerful and boisterous Ramya playing with the toys in the paediatric ward PLAY PEN. **- Naushik Desai**





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: _____

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, USA
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San Jose, CA 95148

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info@giftofvision.org
Fax 408-531-1544

Thank you for your support

Michael Jackson Jr. - A Sankara Star In The Making



Malla Reddy is a four year old kid, full of energy and mischief. His father is a farm laborer who ekes out a living out of daily wages and leads a life of penury.

Last November he was playing with an iron rod in his village of Narsaraopet. Unfortunately the rod struck him in his right eye. His parents took him to Vijayawada where he was advised to use eye drops. His parents did not have money for further examination of his damaged eye.

Fortunately a Good Samaritan from Narsaraopet, advised his father to take Malla to the Sankara Eye Hospital at Guntur. It turned out that this gentleman who advised the father was himself operated for cataract surgery, free of cost, at our hospital and held a high opinion about our services (As an aside, our eye camps at Narsaraopet have been a roaring success - we have rendered 1,000 free surgeries -from the two camps held there).

On 08-11-05, Dr. Kamala examined the child. Malla had an open globe injury and was advised Corneal Tear Repair. Being a child, the surgery was performed under general anesthesia.

The saga did not end there. During examination, it was found that Malla had a murmur and a cardiac opinion was needed. It was 5pm in the evening. The boy was rushed to the cardiologist in our Ambulance - the first time our brand new ambulance was put to use. The surgery was completed at 8.30 pm.

Malla Reddy is fine now. Cherubic that he is, he is a rage with the hospital staff. He now proudly sports around the dark goggles and his photo easily explains why he is nicknamed here as Michael Jackson Jr.

