



Sankara Eye Foundation

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SEF is a non-profit organization that was started to cure blindness in India. Founded in 1998, SEF's first eye hospital was established in Coimbatore, Tamilnadu, India. Dr. Ramani and his wife, Dr. Radha Ramani, were the founders of Sankara Eye Hospitals. Today, there are 10 of their hospitals around 7 states. India has the largest population of the blind.

The goal of the SEF in the USA is to raise funds and support the provider, SEF, India. Their main target is people in India from rural areas and who are not affordable to pay for their blindness. The struggles that blind people face is something that cannot be explained, it can only be experienced. They don't know how they look, how their parents look, or how anything in this world looks. Can people who have 20/20 vision even imagine that? The money that is collected from events and donated money from others are all sent to cure blindness in India.

SEF follows 80:20 like 80% of the patients are given free surgeries with the money that is collected and provided from funds and donations. The other 20% are patients who can afford the money and do pay.

I'm sure that everyone knows about Dandia, right? It is widely known in the north part of India. SEF organizes Dandia every year to solicit money. There are many youth volunteers, including me, that collaborate with SEF and support them in all the astonishing things they do. The perspective of how someone looks at events like this can completely change the value of it. As a volunteer, I have seen how active everyone participating works for the setup of everything. They do all this foreseeing for nothing, but the happiness of one's vision coming back. This year, Dandia was extraordinary. This is my first year with SEF. From such a short experience with them, I realize how hard working each and every one of them is in providing their complete support to cure blindness. They make sure everyone volunteering and arriving have a conspicuous time while raising the funds for SEF, India. Even though a lot of work had to be put in, I personally enjoyed the whole time I helped. During Dandia, we roughly sold 2500+ tickets in Austin only. \$30 can open a single eye. Just imagine the number of people who can retain or get vision with that money. This brings satisfaction to everyone who made Dandia happen.

We also fix stands at crowded places. This creates a higher percentage of visibility of SEF. The reason I had a great time with SEF is because of the goal they want to achieve. SEF is aiming to do 1 million surgeries in India to give vision.. In all, participating with SEF and attending events can be a great cause for those who are blind in India. I also encourage others to join our journey to make someone's life beautiful. To learn more about us or to donate or help, please visit www.giftofvision.org.

SEF is striving for one goal, the gift of vision.

