

Vision 20/20 by 2020



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Message from our Chairman - Murali Krishnamurthy

Dear friends,
Warm Greetings from San Jose, California.

Our Sankara Eye Hospitals (SEH) in Coimbatore, Guntur and Krishnan Koil are performing very well and the SEH in Guntur is progressing beyond our expectations. In addition to performing around 1,000 FREE Eye Surgeries a month, this Hospital is also attracting many paying patients and it is well on the road to self-sufficiency within five years. As this Hospital is already running up to its capacity, we are planning to raise funds to start the second Phase of the construction to add more beds, build the staff quarters, roads etc., SEH-Guntur Phase II will be launched at the TANA-2005 convention in Detroit this July.

We are planning to build three more Sankara Eye Hospitals in the states of Karnataka and Gujarat. Prime land of 4 ½ acres near the Airport in Bangalore has been acquired and the construction of SEH at this site can begin as soon as we raise at least 50% of the funds required to complete the construction. SEH-Bangalore will also serve as our prime Research and Training facility to develop the Human Resource required for the other new SEHs across the country.

A group of Doctors and others in the Badravathi/Shimoga area in Karnataka are keen on building a new SEH in Shimoga to serve the visually handicapped poor and they have already raised the funds to buy the land. It is a beautiful 4 ½ acres of land on the outskirts of Shimoga City on the Solapur-Mangalore highway. We are now awaiting approval of the State government to acquire the land and expect it to be done by May 2005.

SEF, USA will be collaborating with the Kannada Koota of Northern California, other Kannada Kootas across the country and the North American Sankethi Association to garner support for building the new SEHs in Karnataka. We also hope to mobilize support in the Bangalore and Badravathi/Shimoga areas.

Unfortunately, we have not been successful in acquiring a donated land in the State of Gujarat in the last year or so to build a SEH in Gujarat. We are looking for 4 ½ to 5 acres of land in Anand, Ahmedabad or Baroda Cities on a highway with good visibility from the highway, abundant supply of water and electricity, proximity to good schools, colleges etc.,

I kindly request a big-hearted donor from Gujarat (or anywhere) to come forward and either donate such a land or donate funds to buy the land. Please feel free to call me on my cell at (408) 425-1268. We are ready to start the construction of the Bangalore Hospital as early as September of this year if we can raise fifty percent of the required funds by then.

One of the popular sponsorships at our Sankara Eye Hospitals is 'Founding Member'. For a donation of \$1,000, the donor can have the name of a beloved one etched on the 'Wall of Founders' at the Hospital. As we are working aggressively towards 'Vision 20/20 by 2020' for India, we need more volunteers all over the USA and of course we would appreciate donations also. Please help the visually handicapped poor of our dear Motherland.

Sincerely,
Murali Krishnamurthy

Our Performance in 2004 - Free Service

	Coimbatore	Krishnan Koil	Guntur	Total
No. of Camps Conducted	541	115	34	690
Population Covered	2,489,320	281,015	126,500	2,896,835
Screened at Camp Site	118,920	16,355	14,663	149,938
Free surgeries performed	43,230	3,925	4,822	51,977
No. of Pediatric Surgeries	378	0	1	379

Our Performance in 2004 - Paid Service

Number of Out patients	39,849	18,592	14,917	73,358
Number of Surgeries	2,106	314	395	2,815

Upcoming Events

- "2nd Annual SEF Charity Golf Tournament", May 15, 2005, Cinnabar Hills, San Jose, CA.
- "Nigooda(Mystery)", Kannada Play, May 20th and May 21st 2005, CET, San Jose, CA.
- "1st Annual Walk for an Eye", June 12, 2005, Central Park, San Ramon, CA.

For more information on SEF events, please visit www.giftofvision.org
Contact Muckai Girish at (925) 875-9793 or muckai@yahoo.com for sponsorship details

2nd ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT- WELLS FARGO, PLATINUM SPONSOR

Riding on the success of last year, SEF is moving up to the next level this year with its 2nd annual golf tournament. The new location is the Cinnabar Hills golf course in South San Jose, where the San Jose Sharks hold their annual golf tournament. The course is in a beautiful setting of lush greens and a mountain backdrop that belies the challenges of an 18-hole, wind-influenced, golfing beauty.

The tournament is a four-person best-ball, which works more like a team event. All four players tee off and the team decides the best shot. From that spot all four players once again hit the next shot, and so on until the ball drops into the hole. To even things out amongst the teams, each foursome is accorded a handicap. In normal tournament play the handicap is the official Northern California Golf Association handicap.

Since we realize a few of the players do not have official handicaps, we use the Blind Bogey Handicap system. This enables even the most difficult of golf courses to be tamed and won by novices. So as long as you have an interest in golf, come on out and have fun.

This year we have some great volunteers in the SEF team with a background and interest in golf. Combine this with the number of volunteers who did a super job in contacting the many players last year, we are poised for a fine turnout.

The success of any event and a golf tournament especially, is dependent on our generous sponsors. Wells Fargo is sponsoring this year's Golf Tournament at the platinum level.

Walk for an Eye

When: 2nd Sunday of June at 8:30 A.M

Where: Iron horse trail starting from Bollinger canyon

One or Two hours of exercise and you have just saved an eye!

"Walk for an eye" has been designed to allow people of different fitness levels to enjoy a good workout on the iron horse trail while saving an eye. The run and walk will begin and end at the same location, which will be convenient with plenty of parking and many facilities. When the whistle is blown at the count of five, you will hit the trail running or walking,

Impact

SEF's mission is to realize the goal of 20/20 vision for the people of India by the year 2020. We initiate and drive community eye care activities in India by working with eye care organizations such as Sankara Eye Society. Through these fundraising efforts, SEF, USA has played a significant role in increasing the number of free surgeries several fold to its current annual rate of around 52,000.

For just \$30 a month, you can open an eye by sponsoring a cataract surgery every month. Sponsor now and bring light to the needy. You can also walk for 3 eyes with \$90, 5 eyes with \$150 and 10 eyes with \$300.

Distance

How far you walk or run is up to you. Walk for an eye is a 5K or 10K run or walk starting at 8:30 am. The total distance is your choice. You can change your mind along the way and walk back to the starting location whenever you choose to.

Support at every step

All along the route, you'll find regular stops for water, food and snacks. We'll also have medical aid stations to take care of anything from muscle cramps and sore knees to blisters. You can also expect lots of encouragement from well wishers along the way. Your participation in the Walk really does benefit everyone, so don't be surprised at the gratitude you'll get in return.

Make it a Family Affair

Invite your family along for the walk to make this a fun and memorable experience. If the children are not keen on walking, the staging area is a park with plenty of distraction. There will be stalls and entertainment for the family to help you celebrate the run/walk.



Walk for an eye



Ravi Radhakrishnan is currently a fourth year medical student at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. He will be starting his medicine internship at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, NJ in July 2005 and entering his ophthalmology residency program at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City in July 2006. He visited the Sankara Eye Center (SEC) in India last summer. Following is a summary of his observations.

Wednesday: Day 1

I am given a tour of the remarkable facilities. After the tour ends, I watch a DVD on the goals of the SEC.

Thursday: Day 2

At 8.00 am, I am at the Journal Club, where doctors exchange ideas. Today's topic is the use of topical anesthetics versus the conventional retrobulbar/ peribulbar block. At 9:00am, I enter the Assessment corridor where 5-6 ophthalmologists will examine some 160 patients. A call comes in about an accident and I join Dr. Kaushik to see the harvesting of the corneas. I am mesmerized by the enucleation and intrigued by the placement of a sterile environment, the removal of the conjunctiva, and the cutting of the six eye muscles and optic nerve.

Friday: Day 3

I spend the morning in Assessment. At about 2pm, Dr. Kaushik, five nurses, and yours truly board a van for a five hour journey to Madurai, where Eye Camps will be conducted.

Saturday: Day 4

At about 9am, we arrive at a youth hostel in Tirunapur, where a line has already formed. The nurses set up the stations at the camp. Visual acuity and registration is done outdoors and the building is used as the doctor's office and for IOP readings. The camp is divided into post-op and pre-op patients. The roughly 120-130 post-op patients are seen first. The doctor screens for post operative infection, inflammation, decrease in visual acuity, increase in IOP, etc and determines who needs to return to SEC. Then come the turn of the pre-op patients. Dr. Kaushik uses a flashlight, ophthalmoscope, and the patient's vital signs to determine which eye would benefit the most from surgery and their priority. In only a few hours, the team screens close to 250 people. Each time Sankara goes to these villages, there seems to be an avalanche of patients.

Sunday: Day 5

The layout of this Eye Camp is not as ideal as the day before but we make do. As I become accustomed to using the flashlight and ophthalmoscope for screening, I begin to screen patients under Dr. Kaushik's supervision.

Monday: Day 6

I am back at SEC. The patients that were prescreened at the rural eye camps have been brought here and screened for possible surgery later today. I continue to work in Assessment Center through the morning and then visit the operation theatre (OT). The surgeries are incredibly fast. I time one of the surgeons. It takes 6 minutes from putting on gloves to taking it off after surgery. This fast turnover contributes the amazing number of IOL implantations that can be done in one 9-hour day. I appreciate the cost effective use of the materials in the OT. Unlike in US, many products are re-used through use of sterile technique and the constant changing of needles to prevent cross contamination.

Tuesday: Day 7

I begin the day in Assessment. I spend the afternoon in the OT and continue to marvel at the surgeons. The evening is spent at SEC's City Center in Coimbatore. This is a satellite outpatient clinic for paying customers. Many of the patients coming in today were for general eye health check ups.

Many of the patients have brown and mature cataracts causing them to see only hand motion and light perception. Most of the ailments I saw were treatable and your dollar can help make a difference between light and darkness in a life.



Things I appreciated from my stay at SEC

- ◆ Living quarters and canteen food were excellent
- ◆ Many of the patients had a wide variety of ocular pathology.
- ◆ Cataracts (brown, black, mature)
- ◆ Keratopathies
- ◆ Opacifications
- ◆ Marcus Gunn pupils, APD, etc
- ◆ Pupillary capture
- ◆ Squint (strabismus)
- ◆ Nystagmus
- ◆ Eye Camps
- ◆ Appreciated the use of very limited means to assess and screen numerous patients in a few hours
- ◆ Operation Theatre
- ◆ Impressed with the surgical skills of each Surgeon
- ◆ Impressed with the number of surgeries each day and the time it takes to complete each surgery
- ◆ Sterile, cost effective use of surgical supplies for each patient
- ◆ Exposure to ECCE and small incision with hydro-dissection
- ◆ Assessment
- ◆ Numerous patients screened in the morning hours for surgery that same day
- ◆ Sisters were very helpful in assisting the ophthalmologists
- ◆ Patients were very appreciative of their doctors for helping them see better
- ◆ Everyone was friendly, caring, and supportive of my needs

Things I Felt Could Be Improved

- ◆ An additional 90D for the assessment room
- ◆ Possible Internet Access for PG

Booth an Experience - Saugata Chatterjee

It was at a BATA event in Smith auditorium, Foothill College that I first helped out at an SEF booth. We got to the place half an hour or so before the event started, and pulled up an empty table and went to work. Out came a beautiful sari from the SEF booth kit, which was to serve as our tablecloth! On top of this we laid out all the material, the informative brochures about SEF, donation forms, volunteer signup sheets, several copies of the previous newsletter, small take away souvenirs like bumper stickers and magnets and other odds and ends. Alongside the table on a couple of stands, we put up a couple of cardboard posters about SEF.

Slowly people started coming in for the event. As they were milling about idly outside before the event started, some came over to our booths, perhaps drawn by curiosity or the colorful brochures or the friendly smiles of the SEF volunteers. We explained to people the basic mission of SEF, how it began, how it works, and how easy it is to make an immeasurable difference in the lives of countless blind people in India. Some people made donations, some people signed up for volunteering, but all of them surely left the booth knowing that a small gesture on their part can help restore the lost eyesight of so many people back home.

That is the mission of the booths, to raise the awareness about SEF's vision, spread our message and to serve as SEF's marketing and publicity front. The tireless volunteers of SEF find out about local events and programs, call the organizing committee, and get permission to set up a booth. Sometimes they are welcomed to set it up for free; sometimes a nominal fee must be paid. But the immense visibility granted us by the booths, the ability to reach thousands of people about our organization makes it a very important slice in the big pie of SEF's motto: "Vision 20/20 by 2020".

The energetic and enthusiastic volunteers on booth duty convey the essence of SEF's ideals to people in a very effective way. For me it was a wonderful experience to be part of the booths, and I learnt a lot from working with the more experienced volunteers. But the biggest pleasure is seeing that spark in people's eyes when we are talking to them about SEF and they realize that they can make a very tangible difference to the lives of so many unfortunate others, and how easy it is to do so with the help of SEF.



Maha Namasankeertanam - Padmapriya Parameshwaran



Thiruvaiyaru Sri Krishnan and party's Grand Namasankeertanam on December 5th, 2004 was a one of a kind fundraiser event. The program was unique in that it integrated musical forms by saint authors from all over India as well as both the Carnatic and Hindustani musical styles. The spirit of the program was truly devotional and embraced participation from the audience, making it a rare event for the attendees.

In addition to rendering a wholesome presentation of the Dakshina Bharata Pracheena Patthadhi, Sri Krishnan presented numerous elements that integrated the Southern classical repertoire with musical repertoires of Northern India. The first half of the program included traditional invocatory pieces, Jayadeva's celebrated Ashtapadhis and kirtanas on various Hindu Saints. Every kirtana was followed with a soulful naamaavali which elicited spirited participation from the audience. During the second half of his program, Sri Krishnan included rare abhangs in Marathi by Tukharam and Namdev, dhuns and bhajans by Kabir, Meerabai, Surdas and Tulsidas to name only a few saint authors, in various dialects, including older forms of Hindi and other Indian languages. The technical and soulful depth of the music, combined with the colorful repertoire of pieces (complete with the juxtaposition of the songs and commentary) rendered by Sri Krishnan kept the audience enthralled throughout the three-hour program. Sri Krishnan, together with his disciples who provided vocal support, Hemmige V. Srivatsan on the violin, Vadiraja Bhatt on the mirudangam, and Ravi Gutala on the tabla – presented a formidable team: the dynamism of the team was evident in the musical exchanges witnessed on the stage and in the enthusiastic responses of the audience.

B.V. Jagdeesh, the founder of Exodus Corporation was the chief guest for the event. He spoke some inspiring words about SEF. The program was highly noteworthy in its fundraising success and a memorable calendar year-end event for SEF.

An Evening of 'Taal' for Focus Gujarat....



Zingaris is an award winning Indian dance troupe based in Northern California. Their mission is to increase awareness of India's rich tradition of dance, by staging high quality dance performances and in the process raise funds for worthy charitable causes. They presented a Bollywood production called "Taal, Rhythms of Indian Cinema" on March 12th 2005 at San Jose Center For Performing Arts. Part of the proceeds from this event will be donated to Sankara Eye Foundation for the "Focus Gujarat" project.

Through 'Taal', Zingaris presented an ensemble of Bollywood dances, including Bharatnatyam, fusion, Afro-Brazilian, salsa, hip hop, jazz and folk dances. The dance line-up for the three-hour program offered an eclectic mix of performances. The volunteers of Sankara Eye Foundation greatly appreciate the kind gesture of the troupe: 'Thank you Zingaris for a colorful and scintillating show...Zingaris will be etched on the Wall of Founders of our Gujarat Hospital'.



KATTE (MYSTERY)

Niggoda - See page 7 for details



SEEING IS BELIEVING. A Trip to Guntur Hospital - Srinivasa Rao & Aditi Ghosh

Finally it was the day, which was already marked in Srini's almanac, Nov 30th 2004. Despite the hectic schedule in his short 2-week trip to India, Srinivas, an active SEF volunteer couldn't afford to miss the alluring opportunity of visiting Sankara Eye Hospital in Guntur. Located in the vast expanse of 4.5 acres land in the serene outskirts of Pedakakani village on Guntur-Vijaywada highway, the hospital's majestic building was a sure eye-catching glimpse. It was around 5pm when Srini and his family (2 sisters, 1 sister-in-law and their kids) reached the hospital. Handicapped by a "Bandh" and Rastha Rokos, they had hardly any option to reach there early.



Accompanied by Mr. Venkata Raman of Sankara Eye Hospital, Guntur, Srini started his visit inside the hospital. The first thing that amazed him is the extreme cleanliness of the building. Everyone who enters the hospital has to leave the footwear outside of the hospital to prevent unnecessary infections. Srini talked to a few doctors and enquired about their routines and handling of the patients. After visiting the wards, Srini and family along with Mr. Venkata Raman proceeded to the canteen to have a cup of coffee. Canteen was located just behind the hospital main building. The canteen supplies meals and snacks to patients as well as to the staff. With 100 free and 20 paid beds, 10 efficient doctors, around 50 trained nurses, 25 support staff, specialized instruments solely for cataract treatments, and last but not the least the follow-up counseling service, Guntur hospital is a self proclaimed state of the art facility. Unfortunately, Srini did not have enough time to chat with the patients as it was past 6.30pm

Mr. Venkata Raman was friendly, courteous, and patient and really appreciated what SEF has been doing for a great cause. It was a great feeling of satisfaction, and a sense of achievement to see scores of poor people being helped.

Finally it was time for Srini to say "good-bye" to SEH Guntur. He felt bad that his wife Valli, who is also an active SEF volunteer, could not join him in this visit, but she said she will make it next time for sure. Although, it was a great feeling to see the hospital functioning smoothly, still more things need to be done at SEH, Guntur. Additional funding will help adding another 200 beds and 3X more blind people could be helped. Go SEF and let's work together for the vision 20/20 by 2020

SEF Events - Girish Muckai



The past four months saw a great deal of activity in the events arena. We did A Grand Naama Sankeertanam on December 5th, Jyothi2020 – An Evening of Kathak on January 29th and TAAL by Zingaris on March 12th. These would not have been successful without the participation and immense support from the community.

We plan to continue this momentum in the coming months by organizing different types of events and in other geographical areas such as Chicago, New York/New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Seattle. A broader volunteer base, with myriad areas of expertise, has allowed us to embark on this path. Events planned include the 2nd Annual SEF Golf Tournament on May 15th, Nigooda (Kannada Play) on May 20th and 21st and the 1st Annual SEF Walk For An Eye on June 12th. You can find more details of the above in this newsletter. Our youth volunteers are working side-by-side their adult counterparts to organize these events.

We invite you to participate in these events and also thank you in advance for passing the message onto your friends and family. We encourage you to volunteer and help organize the above activities. Moreover, if you have any ideas for interesting and suitable events, we would love to hear from you. We welcome you to join us in this exciting journey towards our Mission: Vision 20/20 by Year 2020.

KATTE (MYSTERY)

KATTE is a non-profit Kannada Amateur Theater group in Bayarea, CA. A sincere attempt in producing a high quality Kannada theatrical is their motto. Their previous productions- 'UDBHAVA' and 'HUDUKAATA' were major successes in the Bay Area and other places.

KATTE in association with Kannada Koota of Northern California & Sankara Eye Foundation, is presenting its current production, 'NIGOODA!'(mystery), at CET San Jose, on March 20th and 21st 2005. 'NIGOODA!' is an extremely interesting, gripping detective Kannada play with an intriguing mystery plot happening in a heavily raining Malnad region of Karnataka. This play is written by Rajendra Karantha and directed by Ashok Kumar. The proceeds from these shows will be donated to Bhadravati-Shimoga project of Focus Karnataka project of Sankara Eye Foundation.

Please visit <http://katte.niketana.com> for more information and tickets.

Contact: Chaya Kumble-510-745-7615. Vijaya Joshi-925-934-9919, Tejaswi 408-366-1492, 1-866-SANKARA

Date& Time: Friday, May 20th @ 8.30pm and Saturday, May 21st @ 4.30pm.

Venue: Anthony Soto Theatre, CET, 701 Vine St, San Jose, CA

Jyothi2020-Sankara raises funds for Tsunami.... - Usha Kizhakekara



Dha Dhin Dhin Dha | Dha Dhin Dhin Dha | Na Tin Tin Ta | Ta Dhin Dhin Dha ... Beautiful Japanese and Indian dancers, attired in colorful and vibrant costumes danced for three hours in perfect harmony!

The objective of the dance was to help Tsunami victims rebuild their lives. The dance troop led by Nalini Toshniwal and her seven students from the Ruchika Kathak Dance Academy in Japan, crossed the Pacific for just the weekend. Sankara Eye Foundation partnered with VIDE, Volunteers for India Development and Empowerment, to host this benefit concert for tsunami relief. All the proceeds by way of sponsorships, tickets and donations are on their way to the tsunami hit areas viz Nagapatnam and Port Blair to rehabilitate those affected by the 26th December killer waves.

Over 800 people sauntered into an auditorium in the Foothill College of Los Altos Hills, California on the 29th of January, to enjoy a wonderful evening of dance.

The performance commenced with an invocation to Lord Ganesha, followed by Kathak in Teentaal. Nalini Toshniwal in this solo performance bewitched the audience with very elaborate and amazing footwork.



The program also included three Japanese dances. The first slow and graceful dance with Japanese fans, was followed by a heart pumping festival dance. The last of the three Japanese performances, the fishermen dance, a fusion of Indian Kathak and traditional Japanese, was rendered by the dancers in feminine Kimonos and masculine Happi coats. The fantastic rendering of the rhythmic patterns through great footwork and graceful movements was truly A-mazing.

A little about the dancers - Nalini Toshniwal was born in the state of Kashmir in India. She started learning KATHAK at the age of 11. She perfected it and started her dance academy RUCHIKA in Osaka and Kobe, to provide a platform for cultural exchange and teaching Kathak. Her students include: Maya Kunugi who is a high school student, Takako Hasegawa who works for a textile company, Kimiko Yamishita who works in a shoe designing company, Riya Jhaveri who is a high school student, Sachi Jhaveri the promising young dance student, Miyako Shirai who works at an elementary school and Hiroko Kawamoto who works in Kobe. It was a truly refreshing sight to see non-Indians performing an Indian classical dance.

SEF was going to dedicate all the money made from this concert to the Gujarat eye hospital. But after the Tsunami, SEF decided that it was more urgently required by the victims who were hard hit by the worst cataclysm of all time.

Dha Dhin Dhin Dha | Dha Dhin Dhin Dha | Na Tin Tin Ta | Ta Dhin Dhin Dha. Life is too short to stop dancing...

Next Project
SANKARA EYE HOSPITAL
in Gujarat



Focus Gujarat is our next major step to provide quality eye care to the state of Gujarat, as part of our vision: 20/20 by the year 2020. It entails building a state-of-the-art community eye care hospital in Gujarat.

This facility will be similar to the campus and hospital at Andhra Pradesh and Coimbatore – adhering to the highest quality standards in service delivery, buildings and equipment.



Sponsorship Opportunities

- \$1,000 wall of founder
- \$4,000 for room
- \$10,000 for double room
- \$10,000 for temple
- \$25,000 for operation theatre
- \$100,000 for Entire Free Patient Ward

The picture shown above is Sankara Eye Hospital, Guntur



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS – India Activity 2004

2 January - Bhajans performed with Mr. Arun Madhavan from Art of Living Foundation, Bangalore.

8-12 January: AIOS, Varanasi - The annual convention of the All India Ophthalmic Society was held at the holy city of Varanasi. Our doctors presented research papers and video presentations in cataract, pediatric ophthalmology and cornea.

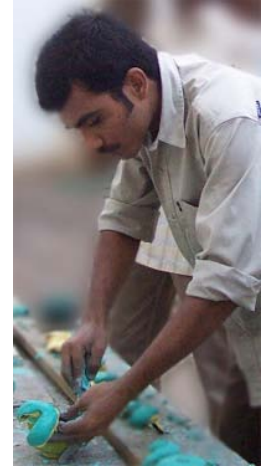


23 January - Pooja was performed at Krishnankovil Sankara Rural Eye Hospital.

4 February: "Krishna Arpanam", Sankara Rural Eye Hospital, Krishnankovil
Sankara Rural Eye Hospital was inaugurated to provide quality eye care to the Southern Tamil Nadu. Sri. Vijay Kumar, Collector of Ramanathapuram District, and Sri Mohamed Aslam, Collector of Virudhunagar District, were the Guests of Honor. Shri Dasi Bhudrani and Mr. S V Balasubramanian presided over the function. The institute will operate from the renovated hospital handed over to the trust by Dr Vivekananda Raja and Family.

14-15 February: "Neo-Dent", Free Denture Fitting Camp
Sankara Eye Centre in association with Sri Meenakshi Ammal Dental College, Chennai organized a free denture fitting camp from which over 35 patients benefited. The project was coordinated by Dr Bellie, Head of Dept of Dentistry.

1-2 March: Inauguration, "Sankara Eye Hospital, Guntur"
Project Andhra Pradesh, an exclusive eye hospital built to benefit the rural poor of Andhra Pradesh, was formally inaugurated by HH Shri Jayendra Saraswathi, Sankaracharya of Kanchi. This super-specialty eye hospital has been built with extensive support from Sankara Eye Foundation, USA, Telugu Association of North America (TANA), and philanthropists from Andhra Pradesh. Speaking on the occasion Sankaracharya aptly pointed out that, "This hospital is being built to benefit the rural poor of the state and all of you have to come together and supported this ambitious project. It is not my hospital or any other individual's hospital but the people's hospital. Only with the support of the people of Guntur, and those from Andhra, both here in India and in the USA, can this institution become a centre of excellence."



17 April: General Practitioners' Meet at Hotel Residency

25 April: Graduation Day Ceremony, NICO

In the benign presence of HH Sri Jayendra Saraswati, Sankaracharya of Kanchi, and presided by Dr Rajvardhan Azad, President of the National Board of Examinations and N Jaya Sankaran, Vice Chancellor, Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati Viswa Mahavidyalaya, the first batch of Eye Care Managers and Vision Care Technicians were awarded their certificates. Emphasizing that service to God as well as service to people was essential to life, the Acharya blessed the successful candidates. The Vice Chancellor urged the new graduates to serve the society with renewed vigor. Dr Azad commended the human resource development initiative of the trust and was impressed by the knowledge and dedication of the graduates.



21 May: Foundation Day - "Gift of Vision" rural outreach camp was launched at Guntur and surgeries for the free patients began on 28th May.

5-6 June: Rainbow Krishnagiri - Eye screening program for the students of Krishnagiri District inaugurated.

17 July: Inauguration of Sankara Eye Foundation, Europe.

After successful partnership with service organizations, philanthropists and corporations and along with Sankara Eye Foundation USA, Sankara Eye Foundation, Europe was proudly launched by our Chairman Sri.S.V.Balasubramaniam in London. This effort further involves more like-minded people in this crusade against curable blindness. The inaugural function was at the Cochran Theatre, and featured a dance ballet "The Divine Vision" by Mrs. Padma Murali and her troupe. The board members of this not for profit initiative were introduced to the audience and our partners from the Tulsi Chanrai family, Shri Dasi Budhrani and the Savithri Waney Charitable trust shared their experience of working in partnership with Sankara in this, "Mission for Vision".

3-16 August: Orientation to Teacher Volunteers from Krishnagiri.

23 August: Orientation to PMOAS from Krishnagiri

Continued on Page 8 ...

Dinner @ Tiffany's - Usha Kizhakekara

The famous clock supported by the mythological Atlas came into our view as we circled the Valley Fair Mall in San Jose on February 3rd 2005. The unmistakable and lambent TIFFANY & CO beckoned.

We stepped out of our cars like Maharanis and the smart valets whisked away our cars.

The "dinner" not breakfast at Tiffany's was hosted by Tiffany & Co for all the Sankara Eye Foundation patrons. Brian Neel, director of the Tiffany's at Westfield Shoppingtown Valley Fair, and Murali Krishnamurthy, chairman of SEF, welcomed 75 donors who had contributed \$1,000 or more in 2004.



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Ann and Annie in trendy and beautiful Indian dresses, were modeling Tiffany's flawless diamonds and precious gems set in gold and platinum. Beautiful strains from the sitar player filled the air with a surreal Indian ambience. The food bearers teased our taste buds with mouthwatering hors d'oeuvre and wine. The copious flow of chai in the corner beckoned tea lovers like me. Some people met long lost friends and acquaintances. The others went from strangers to friends in two hours. Eminent people from all walks of life exchanged tidbits on diamonds and life.

It was my first time at Tiffany's. I discovered to my amazement that Tiffany was not into just diamonds but also into dinner sets, flatware, flawlessly crafted vases and dishes. People tried on pretty jewelry and became firm believers in Tiffany & Co. Murali made a short speech and reminded us of SEF's vision for the poor sighted in India.

The evening replete with twinkling diamonds, brilliant people, scintillating conversations and sparkling SEF gems will be one to remember for many years to come.

Continued from Page 7 ...

25 August – 8 September: Eye Donation Fortnight

Can you imagine waking up in the middle of the night surrounded by darkness? Groping in the dark even for two minutes is arduous. August 25 to September 8 is nationally observed as the Eye Donation Fortnight. Many are not even aware of the needs and benefits of eye donation; and many myths are being disseminated rapidly. We at Sankara are conscious of our duty to enlarge knowledge on eye donation. We addressed various groups from residents of senior citizen homes to school children. It was amazing to note the enthusiasm and inquisitiveness amongst the young children about the various aspects of this emotional issue.

10 September: Sankara City Centre

It has been our commitment to provide high quality affordable eye care to all. In continuation with this philosophy, we moved to a renovated city centre at Saibaba Colony in the heart of Coimbatore city.

12 September: Salem City Ophthalmic Association

Dr J K Reddy and Dr Vijay Shankar, our consultants in the Glaucoma Services were invited to address practicing ophthalmologists of the city of Salem on Medical and Surgical Management of Glaucoma. Dr Vijay spoke on the practical aspects on medical management of glaucoma, while Dr J K Reddy covered the intricate steps of trabeculectomy, phaco-trabeculectomy and the implantation of glaucoma drainage devices.

14 October: World sight day celebrations



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

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

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

Would you like to designate your donation for a specific purpose? Donations to Central Services go to a common pool and we distribute it to Sankara Eye Hospitals as per their needs. Donations to Capital projects support Hospital constructions and the donor can choose AP, Karnataka or Gujarat.

Capital Projects	Central Services	
	Surgeries	Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Focus AP	<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 Gujrat	<input type="checkbox"/> Cataract Endowment (\$300 each)	<input type="checkbox"/> Entire Service activities of the hospital (\$400 a day)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Corneal Endowment (\$1000 each)	

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.)

Note: Preferred date is applicable only for surgeries and food for patients and not for any capital projects.

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 them at the back of this form. We really appreciate and value them.

Sankara Eye Foundation, USA

3175 Arcola Ct
San Jose, CA 95148



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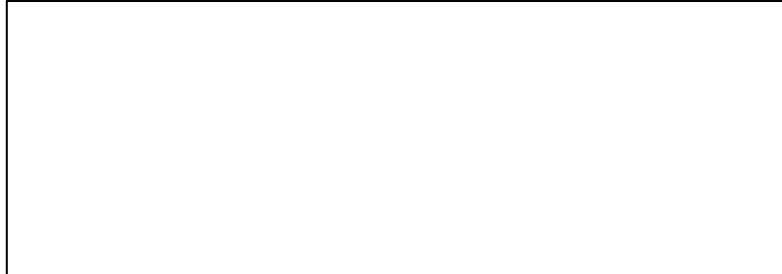
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Open an Eye Every Month. Give the Gift of Vision



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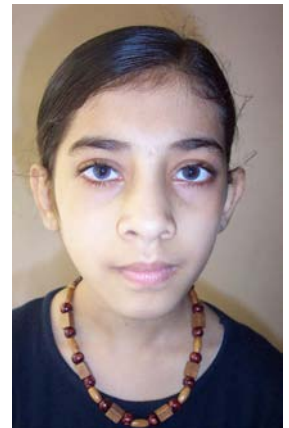
Thank you for your support.

Darkness Dispelled – Basila

Basila, a 12 year old girl from Kannur, Kerala was noticed to have defective vision since she was born. Her parents consulted a local eye doctor who referred her to the Manipal Hospital. Her cousin had the same eye problem and was operated with a corneal transplant procedure at a teaching hospital. Unfortunately the surgery had to be repeated thrice and even then it was not successful.

Basila's parents were skeptical about surgery and did not go to Manipal. Later, when she was 4 years old, she was referred to a tertiary eye hospital at Madurai . Her parents were not comfortable with the prospect of post operative visual outcome and again refused surgery.

When her parents consulted Dr. Vinod, one of the earliest doctors trained at our hospital, he was able to convince them about the risks and benefits of a transplant procedure. Finally, at the age of 11 years, she was operated at Sankara Eye Centre, Coimbatore undergoing keratoplasty (corneal transplantation) in both her eyes. The successful surgery gave her vision and she is now able to continue her school education and lead a fruitful life.



Impressions

Dr. Raj K. Singla, M.D., Texas visited Coimbatore on 8th January, 2005

"I am an ophthalmologist practising in Texas for the last 28 years. Before that I practiced ophthalmology in Kurnool, India. I am quite familiar with eye care in Texas. After visiting Sankara Eye Hospital in Coimbatore, I was pleasantly surprised to see the excellent quality in care, cleanliness, atmosphere and happiness on the face of almost every employee and patient. I have not seen this quality and attention to details anywhere in India and many places in United States. I wish them great success in taking of the great mission".

Dr. Ibrahim Khali, Dept. Of Psychological Medicine, (UCH-London) , Middlesex UK visited Guntur on 4th September, 2004

"This is the demonstration of nothing else but Manava Seva Madhava Seva (Service to the humanity is service to the god) . I felt really inspired".

Ms. Elizabeth Kurian, Deputy Regional Director, Sight Savers International visited Coimbatore on 24th October, 2004

"This was an excellent visit. What an inspiring institution – with high quality eye care services driven by a committed team under the dynamic leadership of Dr. R.V. Ramani".