

# EYE2EYE



June 2006, Volume 8, Issue 2

## **Message from SEF and American Kannada Koota Association (AKKA):**

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Warm Greetings to all of you. As you all know, a state-of-the-art Sankara Eye Hospital & Training Center is coming up in Bangalore. The plan is to complete the construction and perform FREE eye surgeries in the year 2007.

AKKA charity foundation (ACF) raised over \$70,000 last year to meet the educational needs of the underprivileged children of Karnataka.

We are very happy to inform you all that SEF and AKKA ([www.akkaonline.org](http://www.akkaonline.org)) plan to work together to raise awareness and funds for the upcoming Hospital in Bangalore to serve thousands of our visually handicapped brethren in Karnataka. Also, our key supporter and advisor Mr. B.V. Jagadeesh will be matching up to \$100,000 of donations raised at the AKKA World Kannada Conference – 2006 during the Labor Day weekend in September in Maryland.

SEF and AKKA Charity Foundation will have a major presence at this convention. Please visit our booths at this convention to learn more about SEH-Bangalore, and donate liberally to match Mr. B.V. Jagadeesh's generosity. With its super specialty training center, SEH-Bangalore is very crucial to achieve 'Vision 20/20 by 2020' and we are depending on you.

Sincerely,

Murali Krishnamurthy,  
*Chairman, Sankara Eye Foundation, USA*  
Dr. Kudur Murali,  
*President, American Kannada Koota Association*  
Mr. M. Jayaram,  
*Chair, AKKA Charity Foundation*

## **Be a Founding Member of a new Sankara Eye Hospital – Call Today!**

Please be one of 1,000 families donating \$1,000 each to any of our new Hospitals at Bangalore, Anand, Guntur Phase-II or Shimoga. Become a founding member and have the name of your beloved one permanently etched on the Hospital 'Wall of Founders'. These hospitals will go a long way in achieving our vision.

Call us today at 1-866-Sankara (1-866-726-5272) or visit us at [www.giftofvision.org](http://www.giftofvision.org).

## **Come meet us at the AAPI, ATA, KonCANi Sammelan, and Gujarati Conventions:**

SEF will be present at several major conventions this year.

AAPI (American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin) convention  
*June 28th to July 2nd in Atlanta, Georgia. ([www.aapiusa.org](http://www.aapiusa.org))*  
ATA World (American Telugu Association) convention  
*June 30th to July 2nd in Los Angeles, California ([www.ataworld.org](http://www.ataworld.org))*  
KonCANi (North American Konkani Association) Sammelan 2006  
*July 1st to July 3rd in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada ( [www.koncani2006.com](http://www.koncani2006.com) )*  
First International Gujarati Convention  
*July 7th, 8th, 9th at Royal Albert's Palace, 1050 King George's Post Road, Fords, New Jersey 08863*



## Events

June 17th  
Tollywood Thriller.  
Huskey Union Building University of Washington, Seattle.

July 28th  
Nitin Mukesh.  
La Mirada Performing Arts Center, Southern California.  
Info: Sankar - (562) 261 5130 or sankar@giftofvision.org



August 26th  
2nd Annual Sankara iWalk.  
Shoreline Park, Mountain View, CA.

September 16th  
Euphoria.  
Central Jersey, NJ.  
Info: 1-866-SANKARA or euphorianj@gmail.com



September 23rd  
SEF Dandia 2006.  
Santa Clara Convention Center, Santa Clara, CA.

## Pull a Leg for an Eye - 2nd Annual Sankara iWalk

iWalk. Do you?

Walking is considered one of the best forms of exercise. Your walk can help a few people regain their eye sight.

Goal of iWalk: To build an entire Ward for the Bangalore hospital.  
Target: \$100K.

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

You can form a team. Team events are always fun. Have a group of friends who are interested in walking/running. Register as a team. We have a rolling shield for the top fund raising team.

To learn more, please give us a call:  
Manjula 650-533-2459  
Balaii 510-709-5581



## Champions for Vision

SEF launched a new volunteer program titled "Champions for Vision (CFV)" on April 8th, at a grand function in Santa Clara, CA. The event was attended by over 40 enthusiastic bay area volunteers and donors. Unlike our current volunteering effort focused on private donors, CFV is embarking on tapping employee communities who can also play a big role in our vision.

### Why "Champions for Vision" ?

SEF donors in USA today contribute towards 50,000+ free surgeries per year, and we have active capital projects in Shimoga, Bangalore, Anand and Guntur. This is made possible by dedicated support from over 200 volunteers across the country. However our vision is far bigger - over 20 SEF hospitals serving the needy in India !



To scale to this level, it is imperative for us to reach out to a large number of potential donors across USA through company wide initiatives.

**We already have been a beneficiary of group donations coming from employees within Microsoft, Cisco, Sun, HP, TIBCO, among others.** What's more, the employees' donations are usually matched by the respective companies!

The CFV program aims to broaden this effort and is committed to raising \$ 1 Million by the end of 2006.

### How does it work ?

CFV volunteers will be SEF ambassadors within the companies where they work and will facilitate employee group donations. Those who mobilize \$2,020 or more from fellow employees (with company matching funds, where possible), will have their names inscribed in these new hospitals.

For example, a CFV volunteer educates his/her colleagues on SEF and is able to mobilize \$250 each from 5 colleagues and then matched by an equal amount from the company – the CFV contribution is \$2,500 and is accorded a CFV award! So far we have over 20 CFV volunteers and are looking to add another 50 across USA by end of this year.

### How can you participate?

If you are interested in participating, please sign up! All you need is your passion to this cause and interest in motivating your fellow colleagues. SEF will support you all the way. Please contact us at [info@giftofvision.org](mailto:info@giftofvision.org) and one of our CFV volunteers will reach out to you. - Suresh Kumar

## SEF Becomes Wedding Registry!

Neha and I got married Sunday, November 27th, 2005. Neha is from Gujarat and I am from Bengal. Neha has been volunteering for SEF for over a year, and has been working hard to raise money for the hospital in Gujarat. I got to meet the Sankara team during a few meetings at our house, and attending a few events organized by Sankara. I have been very impressed by the dedication of the volunteers, and was moved by the SEF philosophy and it's goal to bring the gift of vision to all.

Although we are US citizens now, India is our country and that will never change. Every time we hear someone doing charitable work, it makes us feel good to participate in any small way we can. When Neha proposed that we request our friends and family to donate our wedding gifts to Sankara, I gladly accepted. By God's grace we already have enough to build our family. The blessings we receive from all who get the "gift of vision" from Sankara through the donation of our friends, is the best we could ask for as a newly married couple. Those blessings will remain with us for the rest of our lives. - Jay Roy & Neha Desai Roy



## SEF's 2nd Banquet raises over \$200K - "Oh! What a Night!"

SEF hosted its 2nd Banquet on March 4th at The Doubletree Hotel in San Jose, CA. Approximately 400 SEF donors and supporters attended the event and raised over \$200,000 to benefit upcoming hospitals in Bangalore, Gujarat, Karnataka and Guntur Phase II. Immaculate banquet settings along with SEF's well known hospitality enthralled the guests to an elegant evening of food, fun and entertainment!

Chairman Murali Krishnamurthy reiterated the grand vision to build 20 hospitals across India, each performing 50,000 free eye surgeries for a collective 1 million surgeries per year. To date, SEF donations have supported 275,000 free eye surgeries.



### Are you ready for a challenge?

SEF is looking for volunteer leaders in several areas including Focus-Bangalore, Volunteer Resource Management, Marketing etc.,. If you are up to it and want to make a difference in the world, please call me now! Call me at 1-408-425-1268 or email me at muralik@giftofvision.org .

The Sankara Eye Hospital & Training Center at Bangalore is an ambitious project - besides being a state-of-the art eye care hospital – the facility is expected to serve as a training center to train doctors, nurses and administrative personnel to run the planned 20 hospitals all over India. The hospital construction is ready to begin and we are looking for strong, dynamic leaders to build the Focus-Bangalore team, motivate the volunteers, empower and delegate and raise the funds to start the construction.

Wherever you live in the USA, you can immediately become a part of this great 'Vision 20/20 by 2020' by becoming a SEF Champion at your company and motivate your colleagues and others to support this cause. If you live in the San Francisco Bay Area please join our ambitious walkathon and help raise funds for the Focus-Bangalore project.

Volunteers are the backbone of Sankara Eye Foundation and as we are growing rapidly, we need volunteer leaders in the Volunteer Resource Management (VRM) area. This is similar to the HR function in a company and more. You must have excellent people skills and should enjoy working with our volunteers, helping them in anything they need. Basically recruit, train and guide volunteers. All SEF teams look to the VRM team for any volunteer resource requirements.

We are also looking for a volunteer leader with a solid Marketing experience. SEF is growing rapidly all over the USA and this leader will oversee all our Marketing including the Web, Print material, Videos, DVDs etc., and make sure our messaging is consistent.

Please come and join us today and I promise you this will be one of your best journeys in your life and together we will achieve 'Vision 20/20 by 2020' for our dear Bharat. -- *Murali Krishnamurthy*.



Many of the banquet attendees had a big hand in the success of the evening as plenty of sponsorship opportunities were available in aiding these future hospitals. Sri Jayaram Komati, Anil Lal, and Mr Daji, all generous donors and supporters of SEF, rallied everyone around the SEF vision and its impact on the progress of eradicating curable blindness in India. Heartfelt stories and experiences were shared by Chirag Patel, a medical

student, and Haarika Parigi who interned at the Coimbatore hospital in India.

Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, the Platinum Sponsor for this event, pledged to donate \$300 to SEF for every new refinancing deal. Mr. Mukesh Mowji, Vice-Chairman of AAHOA (Asian American Hotel Owners Association) pledged strong support and suggested the possibility of naming SEF as the charity of their choice. Bhindi Jewelers, Manisha Jewelers, D'mart and Prudential joined the SEF in its mission.

After the beautiful performance by Hala Dance Company, the dance floor was graced by many of the banquet attendees dancing to the fun & lively beats and sounds of Eastern winds. The crowd danced away into the night with a sense of great accomplishment and satisfaction.



## SEF Volunteer wins Presidential Volunteer Service Award

The SEF family is very proud to announce that Snehal Bhaidasna has won the Presidential Volunteer Service Award from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. The award was given to her for her volunteer service of 313 hours in 2005 for SEF. Her tireless efforts and unconditional dedication have been recognized and we are very proud to have such an amazing volunteer guide us to our "Vision 20/20 by 2020."



This is what the President's Council had to say:

"Every day, millions of Americans volunteer, using their time, talents, and compassion to make a difference in the lives of others. Americans are helping to foster a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility for generations to come. It is through these acts of kindness and decency that we are able to demonstrate the true character and compassion of our country. Recognizing and honoring volunteers sets a standard for service to others. It encourages a sustained commitment to civic participation and inspires others to make volunteering a central part of their lives. The President's Volunteer Service Award is a Presidential recognition program for Americans of all ages, who contribute a significant amount of time to volunteer service over a 12-month period." Congratulations Snehal!!!

- Sangita Mody

## Dallas Kicks off with the SEF Cowboys

The first SEF fundraiser in Dallas featured a multi lingual light music show by Aarohi, a Dallas based Indian light music group. The event was held at the Coppell Middle School Auditorium. Aarohi, which had performed for SEF in the Bay Area a few years back, enthralled the audience with various memorable golden oldies, favorite Bollywood hits, romantic ghazals and South Indian hits. A few local groups added variety to the show with seven beautifully choreographed dance sequences interspersed between the captivating songs.

The SEF-Dallas team, propelled by Sailaja Seethamraju and Srivatsa Ramanathan, excelled in publicity and targeted local radio advertisements in addition to advertising in local grocery stores and other event booths. Four to eight volunteers helped coordinate the various activities during the event, the attendance for which was around 350.



Murali's speech before the intermission was extremely motivational. His patriotic song immediately after the speech and Aarohi's multi lingual show echoed the unity in diversity among the participants.

The highlight of the show was in response to the screening of the inspirational SEF Video. One of the attendees, highly impressed by the dedication of the SES/SEF teams and extremely touched by Sankara's outreach programs in India, instantaneously pledged to match all contributions received during the event. The patron has also approached SEF to conduct an eye camp in his ancestral village in Andhra Pradesh.

## New Happenings

### Unitek College

When Unitek College employee, Navraj Bawa and Founder Paul Afshar, both past donors, contacted SEF, the organization had no choice but to seize the opportunity to raise awareness for the incredible cause. After an initial presentation on February 9th by Bakul Patel, Murali and Bakul returned to Unitek on April 25th and spoke to 35 employees. Paul and his wife Shiva alone donated \$3,000 and a total of \$3,750 was raised. Unitek College, located in Fremont, California is a "cutting-edge private company dedicated to creating skilled professionals" in the medical field and is run by a team of 80 employees.

Rotary Club  
With the help of the Afshars, and an invitation from Lila Bringham, president of the Mission San Jose Rotary Club, K. Sridharan and Bakul Patel presented the SEF vision and purpose to about 30 Rotarians. The Sankara Eye Center in Coimbatore has a history of working with the Rotary International organization in India and SEF has plans to start a similar initiative in the United States by contacting other Rotary Clubs in the Bay Area and conducting vision and purpose presentations. SEF fits into the Rotary Club's goals nicely to help with hunger, humanity and health.

### Chabot College

When Shwanika Narayan saw Oprah Winfrey recognizing Sankara Eye Society's accomplishments on television, she was instantly hooked. Impressed with the cause and the work of volunteers across the nation, Narayan immediately contacted Murali Krishnamurthy and began planning an event to be held at Chabot College with the help of her student government. On April 18th, Narayan and Krishnamurthy made a presentation at the college to make the students at Chabot, as well as the community, aware of the organization and the noble cause it represented. "The event was phenomenal," said Narayan. "It was powerful and most importantly it helped spread the word." With her initiative and eloquent presentation skills, the student government donated \$300 to SEF. Chabot College is planning to repeat the event again this fall. The ecstatic young fundraiser is truly an inspiration for students across the nation.

- Anagha Vaidhyanathan



## Gala Event of Classical Music in Arizona

Srishti (Creation) was the first mega project for SEF in Arizona. This delightful program was jointly co-organized with Arizona Telugu Association (AZTA) and Fine Arts Association of Arizona (FAAA). This sold out show was held in the Arizona State University's Galvin Play House auditorium on May 13th and had two sessions.

In the first session, Padmavibhushan Dr. M. Balamuralikrishna entertained the gathering with carnatic vocal music. He was supported by Sri. Vittal Ramamurthy on the violin and Sri. Ramakrishnan on the Mridangam. In addition to a self composed Varnam and a Thillana in his own ragas, Dr Balamuralikrishna presented a not so common Swaramala in the Ragam Tanam Pallavi piece set to Thodi Ragam. Dr. Balamuralikrishna also sang a few old songs which were in vogue half a century back, giving the music lovers a treat that is rare in the current concerts. Altogether, the audience enjoyed both the rich music and the informative session and gave a standing ovation as an appreciation to Dr. Balamuralikrishna's sterling performance.

Sundar Radhakrishnan, from SEF-Bay area, addressed the audience. His speech and the inspirational SEF video drew 18 new donors. Sundar also distributed prizes for the raffles.

In the second session, Dr. Saraswati Sundaresan's students namely Priya Sundaresan, Poorva, Bhassavarajayya and Dr. Sridhara performed a dance drama on the story of Lord Krishna. Dr Saraswathi is a veteran artist and has been awarded Kalaimamani, the highest conferred award on an artist by the Tamilnadu Government.

This event was a grand success purely because of the volunteers from SEF, AZTA and FAAA who worked as one family for many months right from the planning stage until the final execution of the event. The SEF Arizona team would like to extend a special thanks to Mouli Subramanian for all his efforts in organizing this event and raise awareness for SEF in Arizona. This event has given SEF Arizona, the experience and strength to conduct several such events in the future. -Ravindran Balakrishnan & Mouli Subramanian

# SANKARA EYE CARE ACROSS THE GLOBE

Sankara Eye Care Institutions have a track record of over two decades in community eye care services. Having started eye care activities in different parts of India through its program, "Vandematharam Bharath Vision", Sankara Eye Centre is helping other nations. Cambodia, Nepal and Nigeria have already benefited. Impressed by this track record of high volume specialty eye care, the Government of Seychelles invited Sankara to help tackle their problem of curable blindness.

Seychelles is a tourist's paradise with immaculate, uncrowded beaches of powder soft white sands, a glorious tropical climate and warm turquoise waters caressing 115 diverse and tranquil islands, a kaleidoscopic array of untouched forests, bird sanctuaries and exotic holidays.



Unfortunately it has a very high percentage of its population with curable blindness. A large proportion of the visually impaired suffer from refractive errors, cataract, glaucoma and diabetic eye disease.

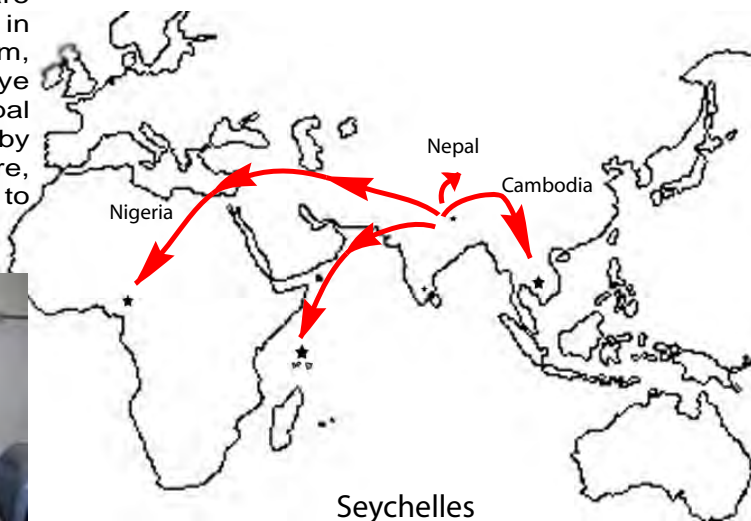


We deputed a team adept at high volume quality eye care to help the Government of Seychelles tide over this precarious health problem. The program was coordinated by Dr Ramdoss, Special Advisor, Ministry of Health, Government of Seychelles.



Sankara sent a team of 2 eye surgeons, Dr Y Umesh and Dr Kaushik Murali, who during the course of their stay there performed 107 surgeries, dispensed over 350 prescription glasses and completed over 950 consultations. A variety of eye diseases from refractive errors to cataracts and glaucoma were diagnosed and treated. A few rare conditions, like a patient suffering from sarcoidoses, were also diagnosed.

President His Excellency James Michel appreciated the gesture of Sankara Eye Care and commended the work of the surgeons. He hoped for a permanent relationship which would help establish protocols and procedures and would regularly send personnel to target specific eye ailments.



Republic of Seychelles  
President's Private Office

*The Secretary of State*

25<sup>th</sup> April, 2006

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The President, the Government and the people of the Republic of Seychelles would like to thank most sincerely the Sankara Eye Care Institutions of India for their spontaneous and selfless gesture to help us in combating curable blindness in Seychelles.

I would like to express our gratitude to the organisation for deputising their eye surgeons to operate on patients suffering from cataract and other eye diseases, and also prescribing spectacles.

During the course of their stay, they have treated medically over 800 patients and operated on 107 others.

We have all been impressed with the professionalism and enthusiasm of Dr. Y. Umesh and Dr. Kaushik Murali; they have contributed tremendously towards establishing procedures and protocols in the Ophthalmology Department at Victoria Hospital.

On behalf of the Government and people of Seychelles I wish to express, once again, our thanks to the Sankara Eye Care Institutions of India, and to wish them continued success in their endeavour to help rid the world of curable blindness.

We look forward to a continued association with them.

  
Alain Butler Payette

P O Box 55, State House, Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles  
Tel: (248) 224155 – Fax: (248) 224 864

## Interview with Mr. B V Jagadeesh

The following is an email interview conducted by Suresh Kumar with Mr. B V Jagadeesh (BVJ), VP of Citrix and our biggest donor and advisor.

*Suresh: Please tell us a little bit about your self and family*

BVJ: I was born in Bagalur village about 20 miles from Bangalore to a middle class family where education was the top most priority. Currently I live in the Bay area with my wife Anuradha and our 2 sons - trying to bring them up with the same principles and values that we both have been blessed with.



*Suresh: Please tell us about your involvement with SEF? When, how and why?*

BVJ: I have been associated with SEF since the beginning - ever since Sundar (SEF Board member) made that touching presentation during one of the musical events. We have also performed and raised money through Kannada orchestra Raaga several years ago.

*Suresh: The vision of SEF is 20/20 by Year 2020. What does this mean to you?*

BVJ: It is always good to have a vision to reach a massive goal, within a reasonable amount of time. I do believe SEF will drive towards this cause and hit the classic hockey stick curve over the next 6-8 years to achieve this huge task. The greatness of this vision will be supported by many people as well as many organizations to help accomplish such a noble cause.

*Suresh: Please tell us what made you contribute generously to SEF? Why SEF?*

BVJ: I do believe that any key project needs an anchor and Bangalore being my home place made me feel it is my utmost responsibility to be part of such a wonderful cause. I also feel fortunate sometimes that I get opportunities like this at the beginning of a project itself.

*Suresh: What drew you to get involved with SEF as an advisor?*

BVJ: It is the openness, willingness to listen, the enthusiasm and the positive attitude of the team to make a difference to the society. I am extremely impressed with the dedication and commitment of the team and it is a great inspiration to all of us to learn from this team as to how to take on a big project and methodically accomplish the final goal with a great set of volunteers.

*Suresh: Are you involved with any other charitable organizations? Do you have any advice for SEF in imbibing some of the best practices that you have seen?*

BVJ: I am involved with India Literacy Project and One School At A Time. We have our own Jagadeesh Family Foundation where we are actively engaged in many projects both in the US and India for the upliftment of education, values and quality of life.

Those who want to get involved in any philanthropic work need to have patience. Things may not move at the speed that we want to see - but that doesn't mean there are no results.

*Suresh: Please tell us about the role of Corporations and employees in contributing to community based social causes (like Vision 20/20), and how SEF can engage them for the greater good.*



BVJ: Every corporation that does business in a particular location MUST get involved in social causes of that city/town/state/country. For an employee, it is important to give back to the society that gives basic roots (home country) and also to give to the community where he/she lives that's providing a career. Obliviously, people are bombarded with many requests to help and it is hard to differentiate what is genuine and what is not. SEF should articulate in the messages how it is helping people getting vision and the economic impact to the region.



## Interview with Mr. B V Jagadeesh - Continued

*Suresh: You have visited Sankara Bangalore site. Please share your thoughts/impressions on Bangalore hospital/ training center and its potential social impact.*

BVJ: First of all my sincere thanks to the donor of such a beautiful land in the heart of Bangalore which is less than 2 Kms from the current Bangalore airport - especially given today's land prices. The place is extremely serene and very ideal for a noble cause such as SEF. There is plenty of space to build the core infrastructure and training facilities to support many SEF hospitals through out India.

*Suresh: What role do you think US Indian community organizations such as KKNC and AKKA can play in making Vision 20/20 a reality?*

BVJ: I strongly believe that providing vision to those who don't have is a life changing experience. What ever people can do to help achieve this cause will help the lives of millions of people. American Kannada Koota organizations should take pride in a project like this and make every effort to communicate to its members and each organization should take responsibility towards one room in their name.

*Suresh: Any message / advice for 200+ SEF volunteers across the country?*

BVJ: All of you are embarking on a great cause of making a difference in some one's life in a very big way. The impact of this is not simply providing the vision to millions of people who don't have it - but making an impact in the society by improving the economic climate of the entire country. What you are doing today will change the lives of hundreds of millions of people in the long run. I believe there is no substitution to getting the satisfaction of making an impact to build a better and brighter society.

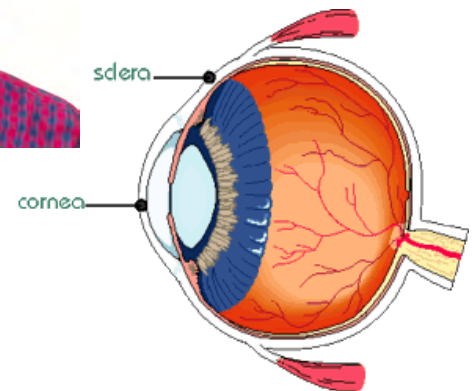
## Pioneering Eye Care Solution From Sankara Eye Hospital

The cornea is the clear window at the front of the eye that provides physical protection to the eye and is part of the eye's focusing power required for sight. In certain diseases the cornea becomes opaque affecting the vision of the person to varying degrees and resulting in functional blindness.

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that corneal blindness affects more than 10 million people worldwide. For patients with opaque corneas, Corneal Transplantation (Corneal Grafting) restores the vision. However in certain diseases like severe dry eye, chemical injuries and vascularised corneas, the corneal grafting carries a poor prognosis with high rate of failures. Efforts are made to restore vision in these blind people by means of implanting artificial cornea called Keratoprosthesis.

There are many models and designs under development in different parts of the world. In general the Keratoprosthesis called Kpro surgery is associated with high rate of complications and very limited success rate of restoring vision.

Under the IMPACT program, Sankara Eye Hospital, Coimbatore, we had taken up research in this area six years ago. We designed and tested a very unique model Kpro called T-Kpro, which is an integrated design of Titanium support and PMMA (medical grade plastic lens used in intraocular lens) optic. We started implementation of this model two years back. So far 15 patients have received the T-Kpro. The success rate in the short follow up period is 90%, and the post operative complications are very much less than reported with any other model of Kpro



Cost does play a role. Current models of keratoprosthesis cost anywhere from \$1,500 to \$2,500, our model will cost around \$250.

Over the past 2 years we have modified the design based on our experience and today we are happy to see the 12 patients, for whom we have implanted the prosthesis, carry out their day-to-day activities and even use the computer independently.

This March, at the ASCRS (American Society Of Cataract And Refractive Surgeons) meeting in San Francisco, we presented the technique and design of T-kpro.

We received very encouraging feedback and enquiries for this new design and surgery. The design is at present patent pending. - *Dr. J.K. Reddy, Asst. Director, Sankara Eye Hospital, Coimbatore.*

## On Par - SEF 3rd Annual Golf Tournament – Coyote Creek Golf Club

“Rain or Shine, lets volunteer without a whine”, decided all the enthusiastic volunteers when the overcast sky loomed over the 3rd Annual Golf Tournament held on May 21st at the Coyote Creek Golf Club (Tournament Course) in San Jose, CA. 95 players participated and completed the 18 holes despite intermittent rain throughout the day - Spirits were not dampened!!! The participants and the golf course employees were extremely impressed with the overall coordination of the event.

This event was sponsored by two wonderful organizations, without whose support this event would not have been a success. Wells Fargo Home Mortgage located in Milpitas, CA was the Platinum Sponsor with \$5K and Charles Schwab located in Cupertino, CA was the Bronze Sponsor with \$1K.

This event also would also not have been a success without the SEF volunteers working tirelessly over the past three months and on the event day. The smoothly run registration counter, the synchronized coordination between the last minute banner deliveries and the banner display at vantage positions, the eye catching lunch boxes and goodie bags, the patiently sitting volunteers at various holes to sell Mulligans, Vegas hole and Hole-in-1 tickets were some of the well executed tasks by the volunteers. Everyone had a good time.

The event generated \$9K. -*Bakul Patel*



These great achievements have been made possible by our generous donors and we need their continued support to complete Phase II of the hospital construction. This will add 100 additional beds and enable us to perform 20,000 free eye surgeries every year.

Please contact 1-866-SANKARA or Venkat Maddipati at 408-421-6372 or visit our website [www.giftofvision.org](http://www.giftofvision.org) for information about the Phase II project - *Hema Chamraj*



### Focus AP Update

The Sankara Eye hospital at Guntur just completed its second anniversary on March 1st. Even though it is just 2 years old, its accomplishments are significant. The hospital has screened around 642,500 people and performed around 19,000 free eye surgeries. Many of our donors from US and UK have visited the hospital and have expressed extreme satisfaction with the progress. Dr. Kodali Rajaveeraiah and his family from Pittsburgh, US visited the hospital on Feb 18th and expressed their excitement with the achievements.

The eye screening of School Children under our RAINBOW program in collaboration with ORBIS International commenced in August 2004. The ORBIS team evaluated the RAINBOW program on 21st & 22nd February and the hospital received an impressive feedback about the program from the superintendent of the team.

The Rotary team from UK comprising of university lecturers, childcare development experts and optometrists visited the Guntur hospital. They remarked that hospital has an exceptional facility and praised the services by the hospital team.

## Grand Jugalbandi Event at the Ganesh Temple, Flushing, NY

Three months of hard work by Vikram Bhat, Mani Manthana, Sona Pandya, Prof. Dathatri and four other volunteers from the Tri-State (NY/NJ/CT) area culminated in a fantastic Jugalbandi on 23rd April between Vidwan Shashank on the Flute and Maestro Purbayan Chatterjee on the Sitar. The event was held at Sri Ganesh Temple Auditorium, Flushing, NY. Around 400 Hindustani/Carnatic music enthusiasts attended. Proceeds from the event grossed ~\$40K and has helped push the efforts towards Focus Bangalore and Focus Karnataka (Shimoga) one step forward.

Preparation for the event was not an easy task. Excellent coordination by the dedicated volunteers regularly through weekly conference calls overcame the physical distances between the various spread out east coast cities. Fund raising was targeted in four major areas: Sponsorship, Event tickets sales, Event brochure advertisements and Donations and was driven by SEF Volunteers and their friends. Volunteers from the west coast pitched in their part in brochure design and event publicity.



The combination of the rich quality of the music program together with the enthusiasm and flawless execution by the SEF volunteers made one patron donate \$5,000 on the event day towards Focus Gujarat and subsequently another \$3,000 towards Focus Bangalore. Altogether eight patrons donated \$1,000 or more and became founding members for Focus Karnataka.

Dr. Mandava was honored during the event for hosting successful fund raising banquets for SEF. The SEF Tri-State team also recognizes and appreciates the efforts of Dr. Kancherla in hosting successful fundraiser banquets.

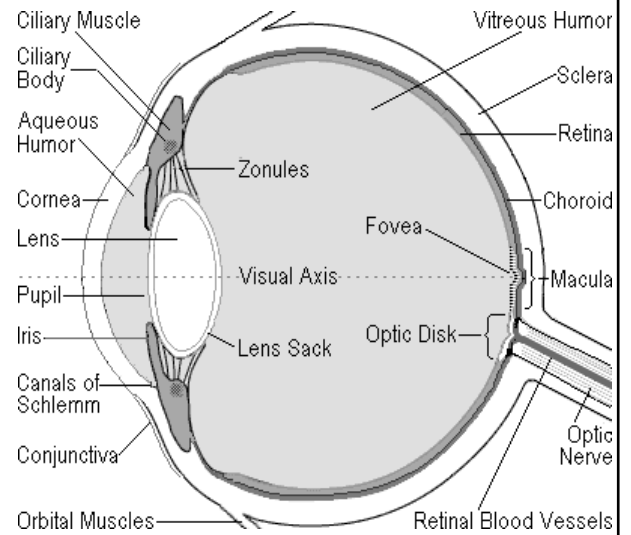
Congratulations SEF-Tri-State. The SEF-US community is looking forward to the next big event in September. We look forward to the support of the tri-state community for the success of all SEF projects in the future as well.

SEF Tri-State is growing at a rapid pace and needs more volunteers to cope with the increasing number of activities.

To learn more about SEF Tri-State, please join "[sef-tri-state@yahoo.com](mailto:sef-tri-state@yahoo.com)" or get in touch with one of the volunteers below:

Mani Manthana - [mani\\_manthana@yahoo.com](mailto:mani_manthana@yahoo.com)  
Prof. Dathatri - [dathatyn@farmingdale.edu](mailto:dathatyn@farmingdale.edu)  
Sona Pandya - [adv\\_sona@yahoo.com](mailto:adv_sona@yahoo.com)  
Vikram Bhat - [ttbhat@rocketmail.com](mailto:ttbhat@rocketmail.com)

- 1) What structure of the eye has no blood vessels?
  - a) Retina
  - b) Cornea
  - c) Iris
  - d) Optic Nerve
  
- 2) What part of the eye is actually made from brain tissue?
  - a) Retina
  - b) Cornea
  - c) Iris
  - d) Optic Nerve
  
- 3) What is the name of the phenomenon that causes many people to sneeze in bright daylight?
  - a) Photochromic Syndrome (PS)
  - b) Photophobic Retinal Sensitivity (PRS)
  - c) Corneal Sensitivity Syndrome (CSS)
  - d) Autosomal Dominant Compelling Heliophthalmic Outburst Syndrome (ACHOO)
  
- 4) What well known American inventor created bifocals?
  - a) Wilbur Wright
  - b) George Washington Carver
  - c) Eli Whitney
  - d) Benjamin Franklin
  
- 5) What part of the eye is used like a fingerprint to positively identify individuals?
  - a) Iris
  - b) Pupil
  - c) Cornea
  - d) Retina



Answers:

1) b). The cornea is the primary structure focusing light entering the eye (along with the secondary focusing structure, the crystalline lens. The transparency of the cornea is due to the fact that it contains hardly any cells and no blood vessels (although blood vessels can creep in from around it if it is constantly irritated or infected). On the other hand, the cornea contains the highest concentration of nerve fibers of any body structure.

2) a). The retina is actually a direct extension of brain tissue, and transmits the visual information through the optic nerve to areas of the brain which process it into vision.

3) d). No kidding! ACHOO syndrome is a generally benign condition characterized by sudden, uncontrollable sneezing after viewing a bright light. It is thought to be inherited in an autosomal dominant pattern. This means that only one copy of the abnormal gene needs to be present for the syndrome to occur. If one parent has the condition, their children will have a 50% chance of also having the syndrome. There are no specific treatments for the ACHOO syndrome. Common measures, such as wearing sunglasses, can help people who are severely affected.

4) d). Franklin proved the old adage "Necessity is the Mother of Invention" with his creation of the bifocal lens. Unfortunately enough to be both myopic (near-sighted) and hyperopic (far-sighted), Franklin was frustrated that he had to constantly switch his pairs of glasses, depending on what he was trying to focus on. He longed for the ability to see both near and far with a single frame. In order to accomplish this, Benjamin had the lenses of two pairs of spectacles cut in half and put half of each lens in one sole frame. Today, millions of individuals take advantage of Franklin's bifocals, giving people a convenient way in which to correct their vision for both distance and reading.

5) a & d). The blood vessel patterns of the retina and the pattern of flecks on the iris both offer unique methods of identification. The iris is so unique that no two irises are alike, even among identical twins, in the entire human population. Retinal recognition is said to provide the most stable means of biometric identification over time. Orientation problems are minimized because the eye naturally aligns itself as it focuses on an illuminated target, but it is more intrusive than iris scanning.

## Focus Bangalore - Momentum Building

Focus Bangalore is a key SEF project, calling for a \$2.5M community Hospital and Super Specialty Training Center. Construction should begin soon – with the Bhoomi Pooja completed last year and with the final approvals on the architectural plans awaited, it is only a matter of time before a beautiful hospital begins to rise up on Airport Road as testament to community initiative. The clock is ticking and the countdown has begun.

This project recently got a shot in the arm when Shri B.V. Jagadeesh, a well known Silicon Valley leader and philanthropist, pledged a personal gift of \$100,000 – a magnificent gesture that wowed the entire Sankara community. Thank you Shri Jagadeesh for believing in Sankara's mission. Many others have come forward to make contributions to this capital project by sponsoring patient rooms (\$5,000 each) and clinics (\$10,000 each). The hot seller still is the "Wall of Founders" program wherein 1,000 families can contribute \$1,000 each, raising \$1Million.

Our volunteers are now fundraising with renewed vigor. Bakul Patel and his magnificent team of golf nuts organized a Golf Classic tournament event in May, to raise funds exclusively for this project. All those avid golfers who signed up to play – we thank you. And all those who couldn't be there, call us and let us know how else you want to be part of this Sankara revolution. Come join the '2nd Annual Sankara iWalk' SEF Walkathon that's coming up.

Samanvitha Rao and her peerless team of energizer-bunny volunteers are also at it; they have initiated a grassroots-Corporate program called "Champions for Vision" wherein champion volunteers within corporations and businesses in the US can team up with like-minded individuals to raise \$1M (a "Quarter (million) each Quarter") in 2006.

Bangalore, here we come! - *Nat Narayanswami*

## Gujarat Update

### **Land Acquisition In Progress. Next Milestone-Construction!!**

The Sankara Team, led by Divyogi Patel, Dr. Ramani, Abhay Tandon, Kiran Patel and Tina Patel, after intense effort, identified the land for SEF's premier Eye Care Hospital in Anand.

The hospital five acre land is located approximately 2.5 miles from Chikodra Ni Chokdi in Anand, Gujarat on the old Ahmedabad-Baroda highway. The initial land agreement papers have been signed and a down payment of 25% has been made. Total cost of the land is 90 Lakhs Rupees (approximately \$200K), including the cost of converting the land for Non-Agricultural use. This conversion process has started and it will take approximately six months to complete.

SEF architects in Coimbatore have initiated the detailed project plan for the Hospital. Human resource planning has begun. Doctors and medical staff will be hired from Anand and nearby locations and will be trained at Coimbatore for a year.

During his visit to Anand, Divyogi Patel had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Doshi, a very well known doctor there. Dr. Doshi has been running a "miracle" eye hospital in Gujarat for the last 30 years. Divyogi Patel spent quality time with Dr. Doshi at his hospital and also met with Dr. Nagpal, one of the top eye care doctors from Ahmedabad. Dr. Doshi was impressed with our initiative and blessed the efforts to build the hospital in Anand. The local support is very motivating for the SEF volunteers.

Focus Gujarat team's goal is to start the construction of Gujarat Eye Hospital by the end of 1006. The total cost of this hospital will be two million dollars (including the cost of the land). We need to raise at least one million dollars to start the construction. To date we have raised \$600K in pledges and donations. We are very close to realizing our goal, which cannot be achieved without your support in raising the required \$400K to start the construction and another million to realize the dream of completing the construction.. More information about focus Gujarat can be found at:

[www.giftofvision.org/focusgujarat/FocusGujarat.htm](http://www.giftofvision.org/focusgujarat/FocusGujarat.htm)



## SEF Brings Sunshine to the North West

"It would be my pleasure to serve as a volunteer for SEF in the Seattle area!" said Atul Hirpara, President of Seattle Gujarati Cultural Society during the Holi Garba event in April 2006. About 500 Gujaratis heard about SEF during the event and showed significant interest in the Hospital at Anand. This led to the "birth" of "Seattle Focus Gujarat Group" with nine dedicated volunteers full of enthusiasm and hope. The group has weekly meetings to discuss fund raising ideas. In addition, the group is actively working on plans for a banquet dinner and "Sankara Garba Nights" in Seattle. Stay tuned for the next Newsletter to see the achievements!!

# Sankara Eye Foundation Presents India's beloved music group **EUPHORIA**



Come to this show and Rock'n'Roll to the beats  
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Enjoy Indian Music With Euphoria!  
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 **EUPHORIA**



**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

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## Contact Information

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer, please contact me

### Donate in several ways:

Cash:  Check:  Credit Card:  Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

A One time donation:

Monthly Donation (Open an Eye a month):

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Helps us find if they match your contribution.)

For used car donations, contact SEF at [cargiving@giftofvision.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:info@giftofvision.org).

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

Sankara Eye Foundation, USA  
3175 Arcola Ct  
San Jose, CA 95148

Return Service Requested

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Fax 408-528-9540

Thank you for your support

## Children see Rainbows



At Sankara, "Rainbow" is one of our key valuable outreach programs, where we screen school children for visual defects. We want our future generation to have a bright future that is not limited by their handicap, so we provide a cure at no cost to them. In this issue of Eye2Eye we profile two instances where we have made a difference.

At our screening of the government middle school in Booluvampathi, we identified nine year old A. Surya Prakash, currently in the 4th standard, who had defective vision in both eyes since birth. Although a private hospital had operated on his right eye when he was seven months old, there was no improvement. He only had 4/60 vision in his right eye and none in his left. His parents are both daily workers and cannot afford the time required to help Surya Prakash with his increasingly demanding studies as he moves to higher grades.

He was falling behind at a devastating rate. Our diagnosis after the screening was micro cornea with absorbed lens in his right eye and physical in his left. So now we have assigned a special Braille teacher to help him to overcome his disability and continue his learning.

Master Silambarasan was identified as a cataract patient after a screening at the P.U. Elementary School, Madvarayapuram in the Thondamuthur block. His mother told us about the problem in his left eye since birth. It gave him difficulties at school, especially in reading the blackboard. He is second of their three boys, eight years of age, and in his third standard. His father is a day laborer earning 1,500 rupees a month.

He was brought to the Sankara Eye Centre for a detailed examination. Cataract extraction and intra-ocular lens implantation surgery was advised for his left eye. After regular tests and ascertaining physical fitness, surgery was performed.

The parents were advised to bring the boy for regular follow-up. He is now recovering and ready to start an easier and more enjoyable new school term.

