



**MISSION FOR VISION**

**SANKARA EYE FOUNDATION**



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## 2002 Year Update

Sankara Eye Foundation (SEF) sincerely thanks your continuous support towards our mission 20/20 by the year 2020 to all our country men, women and children.

"\$350,000 in donations" - a very proud accomplishment for this year. GO SEF!!!

"75 booths in North America" - great milestone thanks to all the Indian Organizations and their support.

"100,000 free eye surgeries" - we crossed this landmark milestone in January 2002.

**By November 2002, we have performed 134,723 free surgeries.**

At Sankara we follow the Olympics motto *citius, altius and fortius* and in the years ahead we hope to grow faster, spread our wings further and get stronger.



President Abdul Kalam with Dr. Ramani during his visit to the Sankara Eye Hospital in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India, in June 2000.

## Focus Andhra Pradesh



Sankara Eye Hospital, Guntur, AP

**Artist's Concept of the Hospital in Guntur (AP)**

**\$1.25 million** : required to complete this hospital.

**\$450,000** : needed by December 2002, to start the construction. We have collected \$200,000 so far.

You can help by sponsoring one of the following:

- \$4,000 for a room,
- \$10,000 for a big hall,
- \$25,000 for laser equipment,
- \$50,000 surgical theater..

**PLEASE CALL FOR OTHER OPTIONS !!**

### Andhra Factoids Compiled By Gautam G, Hema C, and Ramesh S

You have all been hearing about Focus AP from SEF! Did you know that our mission of 20/20 vision is in line with Andhra Pradesh government's "Right to Sight" initiative?

The magnitude of the problem in India and in particular Andhra Pradesh is very significant. The estimates are:

- 8 million visually handicapped in AP <sup>(1)</sup>
- 6.5 Million have significant visual impairment
  - \* 70% of the blind can be cured
  - \* Major causes are Refractive error and Cataract
  - \* 38% of visual impaired are less than 40 years old <sup>(2)</sup>
- Large rural population requiring eye care
  - \* 72% live in rural areas <sup>(3)</sup>
  - \* Need for a comprehensive rural outreach program
  - \* No major community outreach eye-care in most AP districts
  - \* Only 9 eye hospitals serving 8 Million blind in AP <sup>(4)</sup>

**Sources:**

- (1) Medical team of Apollo Health Street Ltd (<http://channels.apollolife.com/show.asp?NewAid=9495>)
- (2) AP Eye disease study done by Dr. Lalit Dandona in collaboration with Univ. of Melbourne ([http://iris.medoph.unimelb.edu.au/new/pub\\_99/5\\_99.html](http://iris.medoph.unimelb.edu.au/new/pub_99/5_99.html))
- (3) [www.andhrapradesh.com](http://www.andhrapradesh.com) (1991 data)
- (4) [www.andhrapradesh.com](http://www.andhrapradesh.com) (1999- 2000 data)

## Together we gather strength



### My First visit to Sankara Hospital in Coimbatore

By Murali Krishnamurthy

K. Sridharan, Ahmad Khushnood and I started Sankara Eye Foundation, USA (SEF) in 1998 to support the efforts of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Medical Trust - Sankara Eye Society Coimbatore (SES) in providing vision to the visually impaired. Our work here in the USA is exactly similar to a Bay Area startup with lots of excitement and work without a break. I decided to take a breather this year and went to India in June/July after a gap of almost nine years. I spent a considerable amount of time at the Hospital and also attended an Eye Camp at Mahendramangalam near Karur.

I had heard a lot of good things about the Hospital from many friends and relatives who had visited the Hospital earlier, yet it was an eye-opening, unforgettable, touching and serene experience when I saw the Hospital myself, for the first time. Extraordinary work is going on there. One would not expect a charity to be very well-kept, but the SES Hospital is very clean, tidy and full of trees.

The sight of all the blind poor simply moved me. The Hospital Staff including the doctors, nurses, drivers etc., is very kind to these patients and treat them like their own family, which is truly amazing. They all know and are very proud that they are not just part of an ordinary work-force but are part of a Mission: a Mission for Vision.

I thank God for this once in a lifetime opportunity to be a part of this divine work and urge all of you to join our movement and help us achieve "20/20 by 2020" i.e., to open all closed eyes in India by the year 2020.

### "Maithri"

In this era of jet setting and computers we seem to have lost the relevance of most national holidays and commemorative events. India celebrates 14th November every year as "Children's Day". As our commitment to the next generation, we launched "Maithri", our preventive eye care program for the less fortunate children of the orphanages around Coimbatore and for those children attending the noon meal centers.



### Did You Know?

You can donate your car to SEF. For details, send an email to [cargiving@yahoo.com](mailto:cargiving@yahoo.com)

## UPCOMING SEF EVENTS IN 2003

**Roshni By Penn Masala - A musical Event in Chicago organized by the mid-west volunteers at DePaul University on January 24.**

(<http://www26.brinkster.com/iluzion/roshni>)

**Thillana - A Tamil Lite Music Program in Bay Area at DeAnza College, Cupertino on April 26.**



### Orbis USA & Sankara

Glaucoma, as a disease, has over the years been recognized as among the major causes of progressive irreversible blindness. It is thought to afflict around 3% of the Indian population.

The institution is in the process of strengthening itself in this sub speciality of ophthalmology. To keep abreast of the latest advancement in the diagnostics and management of this condition, we liaised with the international NGO ORBIS International.

Under their aegis Dr Micheal Warren Field, one of the stalwarts of ophthalmology from USA, a specialist in glaucoma stayed at Sankara Hospital, Coimbatore, for a week from 29th September to 3rd October and trained our surgeons in *non penetrating filtering surgeries* for glaucoma.

He was impressed with the commitment of the movement and said "The skills of the ophthalmologists in Sankara Eye Center are excellent. I was really impressed with the results of glaucoma surgery (trabeculectomy) done at your Institute. The infrastructure provided and the preoperative and postoperative care for the patients at Sankara Eye Center is laudable."

### Dr.Karan Singh's visit to the Sankara Eye Society



On August 9th, 2002 Dr Karan Singh, Member of Parliament, India visited the campus. Dr. Karan Singh, a scholar, a philosopher and former prince of this country was very much impressed with what he saw at Sankara. He said "I am most impressed with the range and depth of the activities of the Sankara Eye Center. In particular, their rural outreach and facilities for the poor patients are most impressive.

My warm commendations and good wishes for the continued success and expansion of this esteemed undertaking".



**Gift Of Vision, SES's rural outreach program has become a benchmark for all institutions involved in community eye care. The success of this program is not only because of the quality of service provided by us at Sankara but also due to the partnership of various grass root voluntary organizations and groups across our target area. To get valuable feed back and to interact with all our camp co sponsors we organized a one day workshop on 11th August 2002.**

**ROSHNI -TELUGU**  
By Anupama Iyengar

SEF hosted its 2nd fundraising event for 2002, ROSHNI TELUGU, on 21st of September at Smithwick Theater Foothill College, California. This event was organized in association with the Bay Area Telugu Association, BATA. It was a full Telugu light music program featuring melodies from Telugu movies of yester years to the most recent ones, and was received with great enthusiasm by the local audience.

A unique idea to collect funds was put together for this program by Ms.Vijaya Aasuri of BATA, who was the Master of Ceremonies for the event. The idea was to auction a few songs and the audience could bid for them. She executed this idea wonderfully and the audience enjoyed every bit of this friendly auction process. The event was covered by *Eenadu* in Andhra Pradesh and by *India Post TV* in the Bay Area.

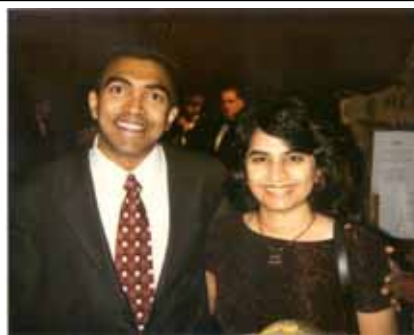
This program, a result of the hard work by the BATA and SEF volunteers, once again proved that teamwork and dedication to a worthy cause can go a long way.

The artists spent long hours practicing, making sure the program would be a memorable experience for everyone. SEF would like to thank them for their dedication and effort.

Finally, SEF would like to thank the audience and our donors for their continued support. It is support like this that keeps our spirits alive and gives us the courage to aim high.



**VOLUNTEER PROFILE**



*"The immense dedication of the SEF team and the incredible support of the donors continues to motivate us to work towards SEF's mission"*

**Sandhya & Girish**

**Years in SEF : 2**

**SEF Role: Booth Co-ordinators (75 booths this year!!!)**



*"After observing SEF, the service, its volunteers and their dedication for 3 years, we proudly joined the SEF family as volunteers.."*

**Narayana Kala & Family**

**Years in SEF : 1 (+3)**

**SEF Role: Volunteer and Focus AP Champion**

**Fire!! Fire!! It's Wild Fire!!**

By Ram Dutt

Yes, I am talking about the spirit of Sankara Eye Foundation (SEF). I am proud and excited to be a part of this organization that truly cares about those who do not have the gift of vision.

Several months ago, I wanted to get involved in a charitable organization and SEF was always in the back of my mind. So I called Jawahar who is a volunteer at SEF. He was very responsive and welcoming. During the first month, I got involved in their concert preparations called "Roshni".

During that time I learnt and experienced the respect SEF has in Bay Area. Soon I was a believer and started contributing more and more towards SEF's activities.

**The reason for my passion for SEF is that the vision is not limited to a small part of the country, but to serve our motherland wholly without any discrimination whatsoever.**

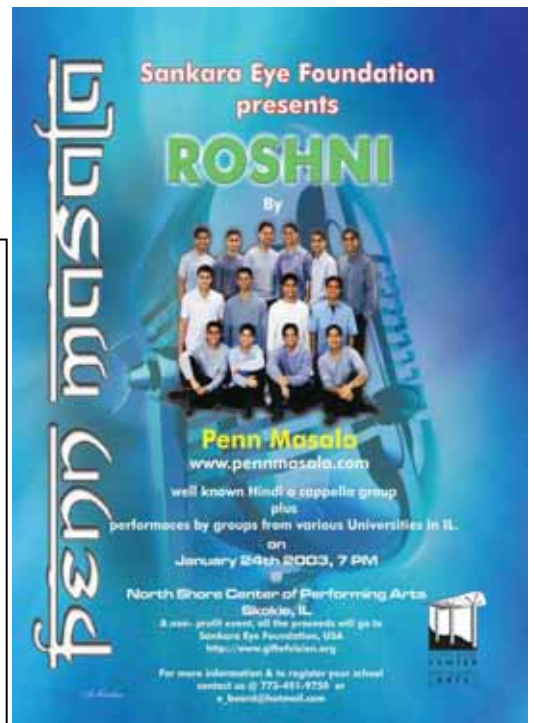
Once you talk to one of our volunteers at SEF, I can assure you that you also will be a part of our vision - **"20/20 by year 2020"** .

So I urge you to get involved and make this vision a reality!!

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**GIVE THE GIFT OF VISION!!**



**SAIN FOUNDATION AND SEF**

By Sudhakar Vadapalli

When one of our dearest friends Biswajit Sain passed away, we wanted to come together to join our thoughts, memories and prayers with each other in a concerted effort to support a charitable cause.

We formed Sain Foundation with an intent to achieve this by pooling monetary resources from everyone who wished to contribute to a charitable cause in Biswajit's memory. This was our way of sharing with someone in need the warmth, affection and happiness that Biswajit brought into our lives.

After talking to the representatives of various Indian organizations, we decided on Sankara Eye Foundation for our charitable donation.

1. SEF gave us the flexibility to pool funds from India or United States.
2. They were extremely responsive.
3. They have various projects listed on their web sites and we can choose the one we prefer depending on the total amount of money contributed by our group.
4. They provide tax deduction paperwork to contributors located in the US as well as in India.
5. They have offices in India and US.
6. They agreed to give us a full report on the funds utilization.
7. We could associate the name of Sain with some of the projects they already ran.

Finally we could collect around \$3000 from all the friends in US and India, but still fell short of the figure of \$5000 that would have allowed us to dedicate a room in the Coimbatore hospital.

Some of the SEF volunteers came to our aid and raised the rest of the amount.

Finally, we were able to dedicate the Microbiology Lab at the Sankara Eye Hospital, Coimbatore in the name of our dearest friend Biswajit.

The experience was very enriching and personally I was very impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm of the the volunteers.

**SPONSOR A ROOM IN THE ANDHRA PRADESH HOSPITAL FOR JUST \$4,000**

**SANKARA EYE FOUNDATION, USA**

501 (C) (3) Non Profit Organization, EIN: 77-6141976  
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- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Focus AP          | <input type="checkbox"/> Eye Surgeries    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One Time Donation | <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly Donation |

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

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

If donating by credit card:  Mastercard  VISA

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Donate online at [www.giftofvision.org](http://www.giftofvision.org).

**Other ways to donate:**  
 Appreciated Stock Donations, Vehicle Donations, etc. Please contact us for more information.

Please make all checks payable to:  
 Sankara Eye Foundation, USA

Please fill out this form if you are donating by check or credit card. SEF will mail you a receipt for the same.

If you are an employee of Microsoft Corporation, Cisco Systems, Southern California Edison, you can donate every month through your paycheck.

If you have questions, please contact us at 1-866-SANKARA or email us at [info@giftofvision.org](mailto:info@giftofvision.org).

**How did you hear about us?**

- Namaste America  
 Word of Mouth  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

**SEF, USA thanks you for your kind donation.**

**SEF Thanks our Partner Organizations**

1. AIA-NY - Association of Indians in America
2. BATA - Bay Area Telugu Association
3. Bihar Samaj, San Jose, CA
4. Naatak - Bay Area Indian Theater & Independent Film
5. SCIA USC - Souther California Indo Americans
6. TASC - Telugu Association of Southern California



"Savithri Waney Wing"

**A new ward to house 150 free patients with all in built facilities has been just completed in the Coimbatore hospital. Totally donated by Mr. Arjun Waney, this wing will probably be the best of its kind.**

**SEF Thanks our Roshni -Telugu Sponsors**



- Kumud Groceries
- Taj Mahal Imports
- Winvision
- State Bank Of India
- Deep Bazaar
- Mrs & Mr Avvari
- Epairs
- Swagat
- Coconut Hill