

EYE2EYE



SANKARA
EYE FOUNDATION

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Dear Friends,

Thanks to your solid support, your favorite charities Sankara Eye Foundation, USA and Sankara Eye Care Institutions (SECI), India have recently received immense recognition both in the US and in India.

On March 30th, 2009, SECI was awarded the prestigious "India NGO Award, 2008" for its contribution to community eye care for 2008. And not to be left behind, Sankara Eye Foundation (SEF), USA earned the distinctive four star rating from Charity Navigator for its ability to efficiently manage and grow its finances and for executing its mission in a fiscally responsible way.

All eight Sankara Eye Hospitals, including the new ones Bangalore, Shimoga and Anand, are performing exceptionally well and Sankara doctors have performed over 83,000 FREE eye surgeries in 2008 and this year the number will be close to 100,000. We need your support for all our Hospitals at least for the first five years, until they become self-sufficient and this year we need your help in raising close to \$2 Million for surgeries.

Please consider the 'Open an Eye a Month' sponsorship for \$30 a month. As you all know, our next Sankara Eye Hospitals are going to be in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. Volunteer teams have been formed and they are enthusiastically driving these two projects. Both these hospitals are expected to be operational in the next two to three years. Please become a founding donor of any of these hospitals by donating \$1,000 and have your name or that of your loved one on the hospital's "Wall of Founders".

We want to make a special appeal for the Shimoga hospital. While the hospital is operational and making great progress, we still need raise \$600K to finish funding of the construction. Please consider becoming a founding donor for the Shimoga hospital and help us get to the

finish line.

Here in the US, we are looking for volunteers all over the country to join in our mission and get involved in any one of the volunteer areas: Focus-Punjab, Focus-UP, Focus-Shimoga, Newsletter, Volunteer Resource Management, Marketing, Fundraising and many others. Please write to us at 'Volunteer@giftofvision.org' if you want to join any of these teams. Please keep up your great support and participation and be with us until "Vision 20/20 by 2020."

Yours sincerely,
Murali Krishnamurthy

Progress from 6 Sankara Eye hospitals

Coimbatore
Guntur
Krishnankoil
Bangalore
Gujarat
Shimoga

April, 2008 to Feb 2009

Number of paying outpatients seen	160,872
Number of paying surgeries performed	7,405
Number of patients seen at camps	179,875
Number of free surgeries performed	67,169



LET'S GO GREEN!

Please send email to gogreen@giftofvision.org
Indicate preference for one of two options

E-newsletter only

E-newsletter + Print

Please include your donor id and full name in the e-mail,
as seen on the address label of this newsletter

iWALK	New Jersey	Fall 2009
iWALK	SF Bay Area, Mtn View	Aug 29, 2009
SEF Dandia	SF Bay Area, East Bay	Sep 12, 2009
SEF Dandia	SF Bay Area, Santa Clara	Sep 19, 26 and Oct 3rd, 2009



iWalk - 2009



The much anticipated Walkathon and Half Marathon is back! Run/Walk the beautiful course at **Shoreline Park, Mountain View, CA on 29th August 2009 at 8AM.**

We are also offering **Free Training!!!**

Please call 1-866-SANKARA or 650-533-2459 for the details or visit www.giftofvision.org.

Awards: Sankara wins awards in India & USA - K.Sridharan

The Sankara Family was recognized for its yeomen service both here in the USA and in India for 2008. The two arms of the Sankara family work together towards their goal of Vision 20/20 by the Year 2020. The India arm, Sankara Eye Care Institutions that manages the hospitals, ably lead by Dr. R. V. Ramani, with a great staff, has been providing award-winning service to the poor. Sankara Eye Foundation, USA, the US arm, shines due to the dedication of its volunteers and has earned its donors' trust.

SECI started the year by winning the coveted Hospital Management Award in September 2008, in the category of community service. Sankara Eye Care Institutions - India was declared the winner for the "Diabetic Retinopathy Project for Rural India" project. This project aims to prevent avoidable blindness due to Diabetic Retinopathy and to create awareness about it among the rural population.



**HOSPITAL
MANAGEMENT
ASIA 2008**

THE PREMIER LEARNING CONFERENCE
FOR HOSPITAL MANAGERS

On February 27, 2009, Sankara Eye Foundation, USA received the coveted 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent evaluator of charities. Receiving four out of a possible four stars indicates that the organization excels in successfully managing the finances of the organization in an efficient and effective manner. This rise in an organization's rating is an exceptional feat, especially given the economic challenges many charities have to face during these trying times.



On March 30, 2009, Sankara Eye Care Institutions, India received one of the highest honors an NGO can receive in India, the NGO of the Year Award, for its contribution to community eye care in 2008. The India NGO Awards seek to promote good standards and practices in resource mobilization, accountability and transparency. It recognizes and celebrates the excellence in the non-profit sector. Their aim is to create examples and inspiration for other non-profits and promote cross-regional learning and thus promote the overall credibility of the non-profit sector for long-term sustainability.

Tanker Foundation Love for Service Award: Tanker Foundation is a Chennai based Foundation involved in providing free renal dialysis for kidney patients. Every year they identify an individual and award him / her with Tanker Foundation "Renny Abraham Love for Service Award." This year it was awarded to Dr. R. V. Ramani, Founder and Managing Trustee of Sankara Eye Care Institutions. The Governor of Tamilnadu and one of the Union Ministers were present on the occasion to give away the Award. All our volunteers and supporters can celebrate the performance and the recognition of the dedicated work of the Sankara doctors and staff in India. These awards are just small milestones in our path towards eradicating curable blindness in India - which is the real big award that motivates all of us to progress. Together, we can make it happen!!



Events: Sankara celebrates with community - Hema Chamraj

HOLI KE RANG – UPMA pledges \$100,000K for UP

Sankara Eye Foundation (SEF) and Uttar Pradesh Mandal of America (UPMA) joined forces to raise funds for the construction of Sankara Eye Hospital, UP. To mark the beginning of this collaborative effort this year, SEF and UPMA started the tradition of celebrating Holi together with the Bay Area's diverse community. This was an auspicious beginning of the fundraising activities for Sankara Eye hospital, Uttar Pradesh. UPMA organization pledged \$100,000 towards the hospital construction. IIT Rookie pledged the support to help SEF in the fundraising activities. SEF and UPMA organizations are forging a strong partnership to make the UP hospital a reality and help the rural poor in UP.



SEF ROSHNI TELUGU 2009

Sankara Eye Foundation (SEF) and BATA (Bay Area Telugu Association) continued the tradition of celebrating Sankaranthi with the Telugu community. It was the fifth annual BATA fundraiser for the Phase II extensions of the Sankara Eye Hospital at Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. Venkat Maddipati, the co-coordinator of the Guntur hospital talked about the Phase II extensions to the Guntur hospital to include a Lasik unit as well as an OCD unit, which requires \$400,000 in funds. The event exceeded expectations by generating around \$25,000 in donations. It is a testimony that the donors believe so much in the SEF cause, that they came forward with donations even in these challenging economic times.



Where there is a WILL: V.G. Yatri

Of the five senses, vision is considered the most vital! Rightfully so, one can survive and function reasonably well with loss or sub-functioning sense of hearing, taste, smell and touch. Just for a moment, think of one born with visual loss resulting in not knowing what light or darkness is, what color is, or what a flower, sun, moon, food or drink looks like! The immediate needs for poorer population's visual care are proper nutrition, cataract surgeries and provision of eyeglasses. Further, education on control of diseases like malaria, availability of clean water supply, sanitation, and correction of malnutrition in the poor are also needed. With economic progress, these will be corrected in the upcoming decades. However, the visual problems are likely to remain for all ages requiring easily accessible and well-equipped hospitals, and research facilities. This is the vision I see. However, while living with a modest family income, one can only donate a small amount of money to Sankara Eye Foundation (SEF). But I realized that there is a way out! Compared to us, who came to the US with two suitcases and a few dollars to make it to this level, our children are way better equipped educationally, economically and opportunity wise. They do not need to look towards us for a large inheritance especially if one considers the huge estate tax that will change by year 2011! With increasing life expectancy in the US and ever increasing health care, one needs to hold on to their assets until the death of both spouses. However, should the left over assets, particularly large sums, go to the needy instead of taxes? With this vision, it makes sense to name SEF in one's Will and Trust as a beneficiary. -"V. G. Yatri"

Sankara Eye Hospital, Punjab - *Raj Panchapakesan*

After the successful completion of four hospitals with your unwavering support, we are very elated to announce our next project in Punjab. This facility will be a super specialty, state-of-the-art hospital, similar to other campuses – adhering to the highest quality standards in service delivery, building, and equipment. Ludhiana being in the centre of Punjab, has been identified for establishing the next Sankara Eye Hospital. The hospital would cater to an area of 150-200 kms around Ludhiana, including Jalandhar, Nawanshahar, Fatehgarh Sahib, Sangrur, Mogha, Kapurthala, Rupnagar, Patiala, Bathinda, Amritsar, Firozpur and Mansa districts. The plan is to start construction by the beginning of 2010 and become operational by Dec 2010. The estimated cost of the hospital is \$3.5 million. We have a very aggressive goal to raise \$2million in 2009 alone and we cannot do it without your support. We have full faith in our esteemed donors to make it a reality and help us eradicate curable blindness in Punjab and all over India. Here are a few ways you can help.

1. Help us in procuring the land free or for a very nominal cost at the earliest.
2. Encourage your company, various organizations or yourself become a Partner in Service by donating or raising \$100K.
3. Become a Founding Donor of the Sankara Eye Hospital, Punjab. Join our "1000 Families \$1000" program. Donate \$1000 and have your name or name of your choice on the 'Wall of Founders' at the hospital.
4. Every contribution counts! Please donate generously and encourage your co-workers, friends, and family to participate.
5. Volunteer and encourage your friends to join the focus Punjab team and the SEF movement to make a difference.

Thank you, for your continued support. For more info, please call Raj @ 408-230-4698 or e-mail sef_focus_punjab@googlegroups.com or visit <http://www.giftofvision.org/focuspunjab/FocusPunjab.htm>

Sankara Eye Hospital, Uttar Pradesh - *Raghavendra Gandadi*

Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state in India with a population close to two thirds of United States. It also has one of the largest blind populations in India. With extreme poverty in certain parts of the state, blindness has severe socioeconomic implications. With your continued support and blessings, we have set on an endeavor to raise funds to build a 225 bed super specialty eye hospital in Uttar Pradesh which will cater to the needs of our economically challenged brethren in that state.

In this journey, we are much honored to be joined by Uttar Pradesh Mandal of America (UPMA). They have pledged to raise \$100K for the hospital and are committed to walk with us until this hospital becomes a reality. On March 8 2009, in association with SEF and IIT-Roorkee Alumni association, UPMA organized a very energetic and colorful event - HOLI KE RANG. On May 31, UPMA is organizing Kavi Sammelan with performances by eminent Indian poets. We are equally honored and excited to be joined by UPANA (Uttar Pradesh Association of North America) in this vital movement.

We are actively looking for land. Like the Bangalore hospital, getting a donated land in a good location would boost and accelerate the project. We urge you to help with procuring land at a minimal cost. Besides the land cost, the net estimated cost of the project is \$3.5 million. Of this, at least \$2 million need to be raised by the end of next year in order to start the construction. The hospital will be completed and inaugurated by Dec 2011.

Donors and volunteers are pivotal in making projects like these successful. In the past, several volunteers have turned into donors and several donors have turned into volunteers. This is because of the incredible trust and vision that we share. It would be lovely to see the trend continue. Please get in touch with us if you would like to volunteer for this project. Your participation shall make a world of difference.

Please contact us at
1-866-SANKARA or focusup@giftofvision.org



★ Current Hospitals
★ New Hospitals Planned Punjab-2010 and UP-2011

Sankara Student Ambassadors : Leaders of next generation - Sejal Dave

The Sankara Student Movement, originated in Tri-State is now in full swing. With nearly 800 members on Facebook and 5 interns at Rutgers University, we are on our way to being recognized as a formal Student chapter at Rutgers. Our interns successfully participated in the 2009 East Coast Asian American Student Union and were accepted to present two Sankara Workshops. These students promoted the Sankara cause, designed and sold t-shirts to raise funds and encouraged other students to start Sankara Chapters at their own schools. In April 2009, Rutgers will host a Basketball Tournament and a Bhangra Fundraiser to support SEF's cause. The Sankara Student Movement is powerful, creative and the response has been amazing. We hope to have this model replicated throughout the country and to encourage students across the country to come forward and get involved. For more details, please contact Sejal Dave at sejaldave@gmail.com



Volunteer update: Sankara family grows across US - Rajeev Narasimhan



SEF annual volunteer meeting was held on Mar 14, 2009 at TIE Hall in Santa Clara, CA. In light of the economic situation, the volunteers across the USA met via video conferencing instead of a face-to-face meeting. Teams from the Tristate, Boston, Dallas, Seattle and Bay Area participated to discuss fundraising plans for the new projects and volunteer activities around marketing, event management, foundation grants, finances etc. The goals of this meeting were to share successes and challenges from 2008, update goals and plans for 2009, provide a common platform for volunteers across the country to connect, celebrate volunteer

involvement through team building and recognize volunteers for selfless service.

Around 120 volunteers from SF Bay attended this event in person. Nearly 30 volunteers from Seattle, New Jersey, Dallas and New England areas joined the Bay area team via web and audio conference channels. We intend to explore newer volunteer engagement models through innovative ways to sustain the volunteer momentum, which is a cornerstone for SEF's success.



Sankara Eye Hospital, Shimoga - Hema Chamraj

The first surgery at the Sankara Eye hospital, Shimoga was Performed on Nov 10, 2008. A child with congenital naso lacrimal duct obstruction, that causes tearing of eyes was the first patient to benefit from the surgery at this hospital. The child was operated on by Dr Kavitha, our pediatric ophthalmologist. Today, the hospital performs over 400 free eye surgeries per month, serving the rural poor in Northern Karnataka. Shimoga Hospital needs your help! Though the hospital is already operational, we still need \$600K. With Karnataka ranking third among the states in blind population, it is necessary to get community eye care to all parts of Karnataka.

First Operation at SEH Shimoga by Dr. Kavita



Sankara Eye Hospital, Guntur - Venkat Maddipati



The Sankara Eye Hospital, Guntur celebrated its sixth birthday on 11 March 2009. On that day Long Service Awards were presented to the colleagues who served for our mission and contributed to our efforts in providing eye care. The important milestone of 2008 was the start of a new wing with 100 more beds and a guesthouse facility for the visitors. An eye bank which was built as part of the phase II expansion, was also inaugurated. This eye bank will help in performing corneal transplant to the needy at Guntur hospital.

Sankara Eye Hospital, Anand - Smita Patel/Anju Desai

Sunday, 23rd November 2008 was an emotional day for all of us. We held our very first camp of Gift of Vision Rural Outreach program at Chikhodra, Anand District. 421 patients were screened at this camp and 53 patients were identified for surgeries - Punambhai Panchal from Chikhodra village was the first patient to undergo surgery at our Anand hospital. In the last four months, 47 camps have been conducted in Anand, Kheda, Ahmedabad and Vadodara Districts – and 7,800 villagers have been screened and 1,700 cataract surgeries have been performed!

Sankara has also started working to help the children of Gujarat! The Rainbow program, to screen school children, was initiated in the Khambhat Taluka of Anand District. So far, 23 primary schools - with a total of 4,986 children have been screened and 125 children have been treated as needed.



With your support 20,000 surgeries will be performed in 2009 and many more Punambhais will have a better vision! If you would like to have more information about Anand Hospital please contact Anju Desai 408-307-8885 or Ritesh Tandon 408-623-2623

Sankara Eye Hospital, Bangalore - Hema Chamraj

Bangalore Hospital is making great progress since the inauguration in March 2008. Already in its inaugural year, Bangalore Hospital has conducted 203 camps and completed 6,615 free eye surgeries. The word about its quality eye care has spread wide and more paying patients are seeking services at the Bangalore hospital; enabling a faster path towards self-sufficiency. I-care walkathon held at Cubbon Park was a great success with prominent people like Anil Kumble, Ashwini Nachappa participating in the event.



Sankara Eye Foundation Donation Form
501(C)(3) Non Profit Organization Tax ID 77-6141976
1-866-SANKARA www.giftofvision.org

NL1108

Join the mission to eradicate curable blindness in India
Donate for Surgeries or Donate for Hospital Construction

Cataract Surgeries & Other Services

- \$30** Open an Eye (One Cataract Surgery)
- \$90** Open 3 Eyes (3 Cataract Surgeries)
- \$200** Food for patients for one day
- \$360** Open an Eye a Month for one Year (12 Cataract Surgeries)
- \$1,500** Open an Eye a Week for one Year (50 Cataract Surgeries)
- \$3,000** Open 100 Eyes for a Whole Day (100 cataract surgeries)
- Other** \$

Want surgery done on a special day like Birthday, Anniversary? Please let us know and where possible, we will try and accommodate your request. **Special Request:**

Capital Projects - Hospital Construction

- \$1,000** Become a **Founding Donor** and get your name inscribed on the **"Wall of Founders"**
*Visit www.giftofvision.org for latest information on each capital project.
 \$5,000 and up --- Sponsor a room in the hospital of your choice.*
- \$5,000+** Become a **Facility Donor** and **Sponsor a room** --- get a **Personal Plaque Facility:**
- Other** \$

Choose the Capital Project

- Punjab (New!)** **Uttar Pradesh (New!)** **Shimoga, Karnataka**
- Bangalore** **Guntur, Andhra Pradesh** **Anand, Gujarat**

Special request - eg in name of - We will contact you to get details for the names:

Payment:

I would like to donate by: **Cash** **Check** **Credit Card** **Amount enclosed: \$** _____

Make checks payable to **Sankara Eye Foundation, USA**

Credit Card # (Visa or Master Card only) _____ Exp Date: ____/____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

My employer will match my donation. Employer: _____

I would like to volunteer

Online Donation: www.giftofvision.org **Car Donation:** email to cargiving@yahoo.com

Stocks, Payroll, Bank Transaction etc: contact SEF at info@giftofvision.org or 1866-726-5272

How did you hear about us? Newspaper/Magazine: ___ Online: ___ TV: ___ Other: _____

Mail to: Sankara Eye Foundation, 1851 McCarthy Blvd. # 218, Milpitas, CA 95035

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Thank you for your support

Case Studies

Name: Mrs. Shantaben Atmaram Serva
Age: 60/F, Cataract Surgery
Camp place: Kasindra
Sankara Eye Hospital, Anand, Mar 2009

Mrs. Shantaben's husband suffers from paralysis and is completely bedridden. Shantaben works in the fields and earns only Rs.25 (Half Dollar) per day. She suffered from decreased vision and was having difficulty in doing the household work. Her situation left her with no choice but to keep working and deal with her problems until she attended the Sankara Eye camp. In the first camp, cataract surgery was done in her right eye. This was followed by a cataract surgery in her left eye during the next camp. With good vision in both eyes, she is happy now and is able to cope with her situation.



Name : Muzamil Basha
Age: 15 yrs, Retinal Detachment
Sankara Eye Hospital, Bangalore, Mar 2009



Bangalore is an IT capital and a corporate city. So, we often forget that there could be many in the metropolitan city who cannot afford health care. The past year has been a revelation to us at Sankara Bangalore. We have reached out to over 6,500 beneficiaries from the rural and urban poor. Muzamil Basha, a 15 year old hails from the slums of Lingarajapuram. His father Basha is a construction worker and mother is a home maker. He had been silently suffering from diminished vision for the past seven years. They visited various hospitals across Bangalore for the treatment but could not afford it. Sankara eye camp in their area came as a blessing. He was diagnosed with Retinal Detachment in both eyes and underwent a retinal detachment surgery under general anesthesia. Postoperatively, he has regained good vision, is extremely happy, and is waiting to go back to school from the next academic year.