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Sankar T

Dear Friends,

Warm greetings from San Jose, California.

This year has been very tough year for us in the United States, so we are working harder to achieve our targets. We are focusing on cutting down expenses more than ever.

Our Sankara Eye Hospitals in India are doing very well – we performed close to 50,000 free eye surgeries in the first six months of the year. Our new hospitals are beginning to pick momentum. Our goal is to perform around 100,000 free eye surgeries this year and we'll need your support to achieve this goal.

Our projects 'Focus-Punjab' and 'Focus-UP', to build state-of-the-art eye hospitals in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh to serve the visually handicapped poor of that region, is taking off gradually. We want to start the construction of the Punjab Hospital by January 2010 and complete it by December 2010. We want to complete the construction of Uttar Pradesh Hospital by the end of 2011.

The cost of the Punjab Hospital construction project excluding land is over \$2.5M. We are currently trying to acquire two or three acres of donated land in or around Ludhiana for this project. Please contact me at 408-425-1268 or murali777@yahoo.com if you or someone you know can help. We are also looking for Punjabi speaking volunteers to join the Focus-Punjab project in the San Francisco Bay Area, Southern California, Seattle and in the New York, New Jersey area. Please consider the 'Open an eye' sponsorship by donating just \$30 now. If possible, please support our 'Open an eye a month' sponsorship that you can direct to any of the following Sankara Eye Hospitals – Anand,

Bangalore, Coimbatore, Guntur or Shimoga. One of the most popular sponsorships for our Hospital construction projects is the 'Founding Donor' program. By donating \$1,000 (only \$500 if your company matches donations), you become a founding donor of your Hospital and have your name or your loved one's name on the Hospital's 'Wall of Founders'. We raised 1,000 such donations for our Anand, Gujarat Hospital Construction. Can the Focus-Punjab project do better than this? I am sure it can.

Organizations or individuals who donate directly or raise \$100,000 to become 'Partners-in-service' will be duly recognized at the Hospital.

We have a grand vision of building at least one Sankara Eye Hospital per state and playing a major role in eradicating curable blindness in India by the year 2020 – Vision 20/20 by 2020. We have come a long way with your consistent and strong support and we are counting on you to help us realize our goal of Vision 20/20 by 2020. Please join our movement and help us in any way possible to get there. Regardless of where in the US you live, we will support you with any initiative – large or small – to help this cause.

Jyot se Jyot jalate chalo, Prem ki Ganga bahate chalo
[Light one lamp with another lamp, spread the love]

Sincerely Yours,
Murali Krishnamurthy

The Morals within...

There are times when age is not a barrier. We occasionally come across young people who set a fine example by reaching out to help the less privileged. Most of us have the desire to help. We have also seen many campaigns including some on Facebook, Orkut and other social networking sites which ask us for donations to raise funds for a charitable cause. But how many of us actually make the effort to donate to causes we believe in. Of course, it's easy to provide assurance to help. But, what really makes a difference is not just the desire to help, but an ability to take the necessary initiative to fulfil such desire. One little angel did just that – she took it on herself to make a difference. She is innocently inspiring us all. This is a story worth telling. This is the story of Miss Meenaxi.

Meenaxi, a 10 year old studies in 5th grade. She lives in Unites States of America. One day she told her mother: "Mom, I don't want to celebrate my birthday this year". Surprised, the mother asked why she didn't want to celebrate her birthday. Meenaxi said: "I'd like to donate the money I would otherwise be spending on my birthday. I want to help someone restore his or her eyesight."

Her desire is driven by her own condition. Three years ago she suffered from Astigmatism and Near Sightedness. That has somewhat hampered her abilities to swim and play. With glasses though, she is able to see perfectly.

Says Meenaxi: "I feel bad when I see people suffer. I have been to Sankara many times before for my check up. When I see these poor patients I feel my problems are nothing when compared to what these people have. There are people who have more problems than I do."

This year she donated \$100 to Sankara Eye Centre, Coimbatore. This is the money she had saved by not celebrating her birthday. She says she will visit the hospital again.

Someone once said: "We become big from our deeds and not age". Little Meenaxi's noble deed just strengthened my belief in the old saying. May be next time, we can take the initiative to do something to help the less privileged. May be we can become the inspiration for someone else to support a good cause.



Event Calendar

Bay Area Events:

Pooja Chirala Bharatanatyam Dance Recital dedicated to SEF, USA
 Aug 2, 2009 3:00pm, Ann Sobrato Performing Arts Center, Morgan Hill, CA 95037 US

iWalk 2009: Walk a mile - Open an Eye

August 29th 2009 at Shoreline Park, Mountain View, CA.
 Register right away at <http://www.giftofvision.org/iwalk>

SEF Dandia 2009 - The Biggest & The Best Dandia of Bay Area!

Sept 12th, Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton
 DimplePatel and Group, Time: 7 PM – 12 AM

Sept 19th, Santa Clara Convention Centre
 DimplePatel and Group, Time: 7 PM – 12 AM

Sept 26th Santa Clara Convention Centre
 Preety Sha and Troupe, Time: 7 PM – 12:30 AM

Oct 3rd Santa Clara Convention Centre
 Preety Sha and Troupe, Time: 7 PM – 12:30 AM

Punjab Banquet

November 2009 - SEF Banquet for Sankara Eye Hospital in Pujab!
 Contact Raj Panchapakesan at raj@giftofvision.org / 408-230-4698

New York/New Jersey (Tentative)
 iWalk in September, Young professionals event NYC sept ,
 Banquet October / November



SEF Dandia 2009

Join us on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=30532426665>

facebook

Statistics

	Coimbatore	Guntur	KK	Bgl	Shimoga	Anand	Total
Outpatients Seen	32260	20599	16132	19153	10626	8598	107368
Camps Conducted	238	77	112	110	50	59	646
Patients seen at camps	38923	36033	11641	14006	12256	8737	121596
Surgeries done	19093	12786	5393	5224	3181	2695	48372



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

NL0809

Date received:

Eye camp in Akhil Bhartiya Netrahin Sangh, New Delhi

Mr. Anil Lal is a community leader for the Punjab Project. His vision and support for Sankara have helped us greatly in forwarding our cause. Mr. Lal who donated \$25,000 to each of our Hospitals is requesting all the invitees to his son's wedding in India to donate to Sankara. Mr. Lal had in the past placed a similar request to invitees to his older son's wedding.

Besides being a community leader, Mr. Lal is committed to making the Punjab Hospital project happen and is connecting us to other leaders to support this cause.

Mr. Lal's daughter-in-law to-be, Ruchika Arora, and her best friend, Vaishali Ahuja, volunteer at Akhil Bhartiya Netrahin Sangh, a school for the visually challenged in New Delhi. They had a keen desire that Sankara visit the school to help with restoring eye sight to at least one child. With Dr. Ramani's help, the special eye camp was conducted. Dr. Kaushik from Bangalore and our overall senior Optometrist Dr. Goyal went to New Delhi to screen these patients. See the email correspondence below to get an idea about the outcome of the camp:

-Murali



Email from Anil Lal to Murali Krishnamurthy

Murali Bhai,

Thanks to your persistence and the support of Dr. Ramani, the eye camp was a total success.

45 children were screened by the doctors. Of the 45, we are able to make a difference in the lives of 21 children.

7 need corrective glasses and with these they will be able to go to regular schools.

9 need devices called Telescopic Glasses. Though a bit cumbersome, with these the children will be able to see.

5 need surgical intervention. Restoration of vision is possible for 4 but one will need a glass eye to alleviate her constant pain. Though we cannot restore her sight, we can help to stop the constant pain which she is currently experiencing.

Murali Bhai, that means almost 50% of the children in this blind school will benefit to some degree due to the efforts of Sankara. I can't tell you what a wonderful feeling the girls (Ruchika and Vaishali - a fellow volunteer) and I are having just knowing that we were able to do something to help them see again.

The seven children who simply need corrective lenses will be able to lead a normal life now. These children should never have been placed in this school in the first place. Without our intervention, they would have continued passing their childhood assuming that this was their destiny.

Murali Bhai, thank you very much for your help and support. I just can't express how happy this experience has made me.

Sincerely,

Anil Lal
India Arts, LLC

Email from Ruchika and Vaishali (a fellow volunteer) to the doctors

Hello Dr. Ramani/ Dr. Kaushik/ Dr. Goyal,

We really want to thank you, Dr. Kaushik and Dr. Goyal for following up on our request and making this event a successful one. We really appreciate the efforts made by Dr. Kaushik and Dr. Goyal in conducting the eye camp very smoothly. They worked tirelessly despite the heat and humidity in New Delhi. Due to their efforts, we realized that several children do not need to be in this school for the visually challenged.

It was distressing to find out that children who could manage their lives normally with just glasses were studying in this school due to their parents ignorance and due to lack of screening. And it is really nice to get in touch with an organization like Sankara which is making efforts to generate awareness and eradicate preventable blindness. The next step for us that will make this initiative fruitful is to convince the parents of these children (both - in surgery category and glasses category) that there is a cure. I know there will be challenges but I am sure that we can start with small steps in making this happen. And as Uncle Anil always says "Making a Difference...One Child at a Time", I think we can really make it happen.

And I want to thank Uncle Anil for getting us close to this cause and to you all. His inspiration and motivation has helped this happen.

We will be taking our next steps as soon as we get the reports of the screening from Dr. Kaushik and Dr. Goyal.

Thanks,
Ruchika and Vaishali

