

# Sankara Eye Hospital, Guntur

## Project Report



# Thank You Note from Executive Chairman, SEF, USA

Dear Friends,

Warm greetings from San Jose, California! We are very happy to bring you this detailed report on the Sankara Eye Hospital (SEH) Guntur.

SEH Guntur was our first replication and as such this hospital has a special place in our hearts. Successful completion and functioning of this hospital gave us the confidence to take on more and now we have eight hospitals in India performing 100,000 FREE eye surgeries this year.

SEH Guntur would not have happened without your generous and enthusiastic support. Our partners Jayaram Komati Garu, Dr. Raja Veeraiah and Smt. Saila Kodali, Telugu Association of North America (TANA), Bay Area Telugu Association (BATA) and all of you made this hospital happen.



This hospital started with 125 Beds and we added 100 more beds last year (Phase II) to make it a 225 bed hospital – 200 beds for the FREE patients and 25 beds for the paying patients. The entire infrastructure for an Eye Bank is ready and it will start functioning after the inauguration.

We are very happy to inform you that the Andhra Pradesh (AP) Government has approved the Government. of AP employees and retired staff empanelment program. Our hospital is expected to increase workload by 10% more in OPD and the Government. will reimburse the cost of the eye care to these patients directly. This achievement will accelerate the path to Self-Sustained strategy of the hospital with more paying patients.

Since the inception of the hospital in March 2004, we have conducted 425 eye camps and performed 72,168 FREE eye surgeries at this hospital until September 2009. When we reach full capacity, this hospital will be performing 25,000 FREE eye surgeries annually.

Please support the FREE eye surgeries at this hospital. Please consider supporting the 'Open an Eye a Month' program for only \$30 a month, the 'Open an Eye a Week' program for \$30 a week or our eye camps and the associated eye surgeries. If you have any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me at [murali777@yahoo.com](mailto:murali777@yahoo.com) or (408) 425-1268.

Let me end this with my favorite song which is also our philosophy –  
'Jyot se jyot jalate chalo, Prem ki Ganga bahate chalo' [Light a lamp with a lamp, spread love]  
Please help eradicate curable blindness in India by the year 2020 – Vision 20/20 by 2020

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. M. Krishnamurthy'.

Murali Krishnamurthy

# Sankara Eye Vision from Managing Trustee, Dr R V Ramani

Dear Well Wishers and Supporters of SEF, USA,

Greetings from Sankara Eye Care Institutions India, a chain of Eye Care Hospitals established in different states of India with your support and active participation.

Today, our group has six Eye Hospitals in India directly run by us, two affiliated Hospitals and two sister Institutions. We have total bed strength of 1800 and around 1000 full time employees are involved in our day to day activities.

This tremendous growth in the field of community eye care, with the sole objective of providing a high quality eye care to every one irrespective of their socio economic status has been made a reality because of your involvement and support.



It is your institution and all of you can justifiably feel proud that totally we will be performing 100,000 surgeries per year to the poorest of the poor, providing the entire services including food free of cost.

Whether it is Sankara Eye Hospital Guntur, Bangalore, Shimoga, Anand or the Mission Head Quarters at Coimbatore, you have played a key role in the making of it.

As the demand for Sankara's Eye Care is going up year after year, the need for support towards the recurring expenditure is also being felt. For the first five years our Hospitals have to be supported for the recurring expenditure. It is like fostering a new born, make him/her stand and ultimately walk on their own. Once a Hospital becomes self sustaining, the recurring expenditure is met by the revenue generated from the paid patients. There after, your support would be required only for replacing the equipment and for newer facilities.

We at Sankara Eye Care Institutions appeal to the donors of SEF, USA to provide whatever support possible for the recurring expenditure. The whole world is passing through a financial strain. By the grace of God things would improve in the near future. At the same time our commitment to the society, our promise to the under privileged and our assignments for the visually handicapped have to go on uninterrupted.

With your support we are confident of moving forward.

We pray to the Lord Almighty;  
So long as the mountains stand,  
So long as the rivers flow,  
So long as the Sun, and the Moon and The Stars shine,  
This movement of ours should stand to serve the needy,  
With the involvement of all like minded people.

With warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. V. Ramani', with a horizontal line underneath.

Dr. R V Ramani,  
Founder and Managing Trustee  
Sankara Eye Care Institutions, India

## About Sankara Eye Hospital, Guntur





# Inauguration of Sankara Eye Hospital, Guntur

Sankara Guntur had the privilege of being inaugurated by His Holiness Sankaracharya of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam. Rashtrapathi Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam had to cancel his visit at the last moment because of the announcements of elections in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

2nd March 2004 was a turning point in the history of Sankara. The first replication of Sankara Eye Hospital outside the state of Tamil Nadu took place at Guntur. Thanks to the persistent request of SEF USA, Focus-AP team, Mr Jayaram Komati, Dr. Kodali, TANA, BATA and the timely donation of the land by Jana Chaitanya Family, ardent devotees of Sankaracharya, the hospital was successfully established at Guntur.

## Formal Inaugural Function 2nd March 2004



## "Let there be Light"



Guntur, the commercial hub of coastal Andhra Pradesh has a long traditional history. The Hospital is situated on the National High Way #5, the golden quadrilateral between Guntur and Vijayawada adjacent to Nagarjuna University.

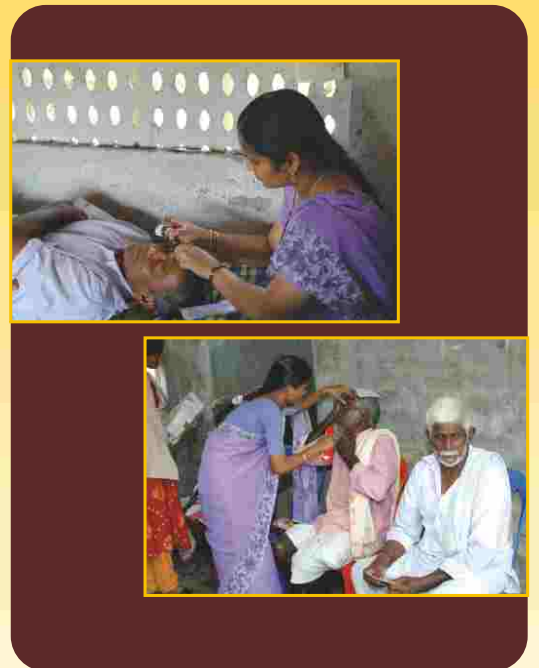


# Guntur Hospital Operations



Buildings and equipments alone would not make an Institution. The human resource is the key for the successful program. Around seventy five girls were selected in 2002-2003 and they had intensive training by way of a University recognized Vision Care Technicians course at Coimbatore and they are now serving the people of Andhra Pradesh. These girls have been selected from the villages surrounding Guntur, from economically backward families after ascertaining their aptitude. They had spoken English coaching classes before commencing the course. No capitation fee was charged, nor tuition fee was levied but at the same time all of them received stipend every month with free accommodation at the MHQ. We have successfully created career opportunities to so many young people from the villages of Andhra Pradesh. Similarly, the Doctors and the Administrative Staff were also identified from Guntur and the surrounding region. They had the initial training at MHQ before getting posted at SEH Guntur.

Mr. Vaidyanathan is the Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Sudhakar Potti is the Chief Medical Officer and Ms. Tripura is the Senior Administrator.





# Gift of Vision

## Rural Outreach - Total Solution

*A follow-up Visit*



*A Journey to Vision Begins*



*Village Camp*



*A Journey to Vision Ends*



*Patients at camp*



Total Care



*Post Operative Care*



*Surgery*



*Eye Checkup*



*Eye Surgeon Checkup*



*To the Base Hospital*



*Counseling*



*Physical Checkup*



## Out Reach Camps In Andhra Pradesh



### Our Target Area

Gift of Vision rural outreach Eye Care program at Sankara Guntur serves the coastal Districts of Andhra Pradesh namely, Guntur, Krishna, Nalgonda, Warangal, Khammam and Prakasam.

Camps at Guntur are so popular and successful that people from surrounding villages throng the camp site in large numbers. Sankara camps select 75% of patients that are screened for surgical procedures compared to 20% at other camps. The demand for Gift of Vision camps by Sankara Guntur is ever increasing as more and more villagers experience the high quality eye care services provided with compassion and empathy. Apart from camps conducted at the request of TANA Foundation, regular monthly programs are scheduled in the three Districts. Thanks to our organized approach, camps are fixed 2 months in advance.

In India our services come under the National program for Control of Blindness, the state project cell and the individual District blindness control society. Only after the prior approval from these Agencies we can conduct a free eye camp in any of the villages, anywhere in India.



Pediatric Eye Care Services



Support Services

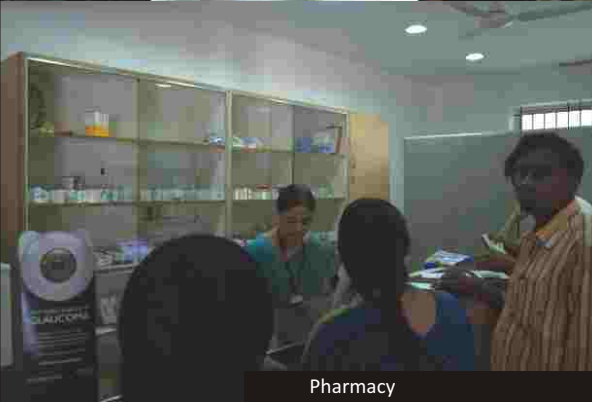
Registration



Refraction



Patient Counselling



Pharmacy



Opticals



Central Stores

**Arogyasree:** Recently, Government of Andhra Pradesh has recognized SEH Guntur for this program. Specific ID cards have been issued by the Government to below poverty line patients. These patients can approach Sankara for surgeries and treatments like Vitreo Retinal surgeries, lasers, Glaucoma etc and the expenditure will be borne by the Government.

**Sustainability:** Sankara Eye Hospital Guntur is a classic example of a replicable and sustainable model. In the 5th year of operation the Institution has approached self sufficiency. The paying out patients number on an average around 150 a day and the paying surgeries are around 250 a month. All sub specialties of Ophthalmology namely Cataract, Cornea, Glaucoma, Retina and Pediatric Ophthalmology have been made available at this Hospital.



**Sankara Eye Bank:** Recently, Government of Andhra Pradesh has sanctioned permission for Sankara Eye Bank at our Guntur Hospital. The building and the equipments are in place. Formal inauguration of Sankara Eye Bank Guntur will be scheduled shortly.

**Diabetic Retinopathy project for rural Andhra:** This highly deserving project is waiting to be launched. We are looking for a Donor to patronize this program. Diabetes is no more a disease of the rich. Even in the villages at a relatively younger age many are being detected with diabetes. The World Health Organization has warned that by 2012 India would be the diabetic capital of the world. Every 4th diabetic in the world will be an Indian. As a complication, diabetes affects the eye and the vision, diabetic retinopathy. Early detection and timely treatment would save the vision of the effected person. Under this new project diabetics in the villages would be screened for retinopathy and proper treatment would be provided free of cost or at subsidized charges depending on the economic status of the patient.

**Internships:** Most of our donors in USA are sending their children to volunteer their time at Sankara Eye Hospital, Guntur during their annual vacation. All those families have developed a sense of attachment and ownership to the services at Sankara Guntur. It is indeed highly gratifying to see the younger generation getting involved in this humanitarian Mission for Vision.

**Tactical support from the Mission Head Quarters:** The functional managers from MHQ in terms of surgical theatre, wards, OPD and the Camp Department, periodically visit Sankara Eye Hospital Guntur to provide the necessary guidance. Similarly our Director of HR and Marketing apart from the Technical team of Senior Consultants visit the Hospital regularly. SEH Guntur is connected with the MHQ and all other Sankara Units through broad band connectivity and video conferencing facility

## Case Studies

Ray of Hope  
Devprasannaraju

Seven-month old Devprasannaraju of Andhra Pradesh, India could have been like most children his age-- carefree, innocent and a joy of his parent's life. Instead, when his mother, Rani, was seven months pregnant, she suffered from sudden high fever which was treated by routine medication as there did not seem to be anything out of the ordinary. As it turned out, Devprasannaraju was born with extremely delicate health and had to be kept in the incubator and on oxygen for ten long days.



Within two months of his birth, he was diagnosed with Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS) in addition to Acyanotic Heart Disease. CRS is a group of physical abnormalities that develops in an infant as a result of infection with rubella virus during pregnancy. The most common congenital defects are heart disease, sensorineural deafness and mental retardation, cataracts or other eye anomalies - all of which have a high propensity to lead to blindness.

When he was five months old, a pronounced white spot was visible in both his eyes. It was only after the parents brought this to the attending doctor's notice that the baby was diagnosed with congenital cataract and immediate surgery was advised. After much persuasion, the parents took the baby to Sankara Eye hospital where Dr. Mahesh examined the baby and informed the parents that unless surgical procedure was performed, the baby would only be able to perceive light and lose clear sight. There was risk associated with the surgery since the child also suffered from a heart condition.

The surgery, although challenging due to the baby's heart condition, was a success and thankfully there were no major post operative complications. The change in Devprasannaraju was astounding. A very emotional Rani says, "For the first time he noticed the fan rotating above him and chuckled with glee. He grabs at the toys his "Bahma" holds out to him. For the first time, my son has started to hold his own milk bottle and drink milk!"

Dr. Mahesh went beyond his call of duty to also consult with a heart surgeon in the Government Hospital about this boy's case. Within a month, the child is expected to be operated free of cost under the Regional Cell for Children with Heart diseases at Government Hospital. Had the little boy, Devprasannaraju not been attended, he would have been left to destiny of misery. In his mother's words, "We named our son as 'Devprasannaraju', which means God's gift in spite of these medical conditions, God gave our son a ray of hope as well in the form of Sankara".

*India today, shoulders the highest number of blind children in the world. The prevalence of childhood blindness is as high as 0.8 per 1000 children, 40% of which is preventable or avoidable. It is estimated that about 50,000 children are born blind from congenital cataract every year in India, of which at least 25% are due to maternal rubella.*



Smt Kanne Guttemma, a 60 years old female resident of Gogulapalli Village.

Gogulapalli is a remote village located at dry land and hill area with no proper amenities. It is around 200 Km away from Guntur. People here are unaware of going to a doctor or PHC in case of illness. Due to her innocence, she lost her husband and elder son. At present she is residing with her second son. Her second son is a tractor driver living in a small hut with his wife and two children. Due to the dry land and hilly area, he goes only few days in a month to the work and leading his life with difficulty. Guttemma was helping the family by her earnings. Due to decrease in the vision, she was unable to move out side and became a burden to her family.

When we conducted a camp at Kanigiri , she was brought to the site by her son. The doctor at the camp diagnosed that her diminishes vision was due to CATARACT, and the surgery was advised to her for the left eye.

She was very much scared and rejected to come to the hospital for surgery, and she had a belief that because of her known or unknown sins, god had punished her and she has to accept it. Our camp people explained and after proper counseling she accepted.

She was operated on her left eye and after the surgery on the second day her post operative vision was 6/9 unaided. She was surprised to see the world, which she could not imagine even in the dreams. With her sparkling eyes she said “I can go to the fields and help my family and I am not dependent on any body”

Sankara Eye Hospital brought changes in the so many lives like Guttemma, and fighting against curable blindness to bring lights in the poorest of the poor – bringing them the real 'DEEVALI’





Mr Kommu Venkaiah, a 60 year old man, resides at Uppalapadu, just 7 km away from our hospital. He is an example of neglected old man by the younger generation. He had eight children aged between 26 years to 1 ½ years. His elder five sons & daughter are married and staying away from him. He is a poor street samosa seller and staying with his wife & two sons. Sixth son is 13 year old and studying 7th standard in government school and his youngest son is 1 ½ year old. His 55 year old wife is helps him make the samosas. He is leading his life with lot of difficulties with little earnings. Adding to his troubles he suddenly found his vision was reducing day by day. He did not know that his vision can be restored with a small surgery. After becoming hyper mature cataract in the both eyes his vision was suddenly dropped and found redness and watering in the left eye. Immediately according to the advices of the local people he came to our Hospital for check-up on paying side. Our doctors noticed the endanger situation and advised him to admit immediately for operation.

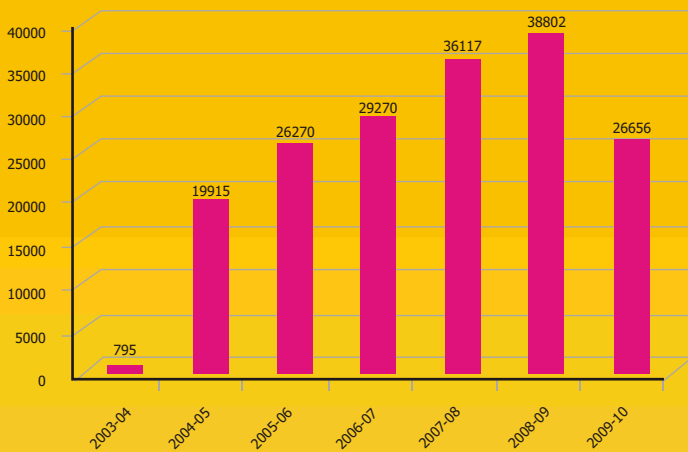
Poor old man, explained his pathetic condition to the doctors. Our doctors sincerely responded to his situation and admitted in the Camp Section for immediate treatment. He was admitted in the camp ward and advised immediate surgery for the Left Eye.

He attended for review and was surprised to note that his vision was 6/9 with ph 6/6. He could not speak due to anxiety and just touched the doctor's foot with full of gratitude and said "No body else can take care like this, expect Sankara. This hospital is a God's gift to this Region"

Thus Sankara Eye Hospital is serving to excel to bring the light to the neglected old generation, by providing not only vision, but also helping in regaining their self esteem & Self confidence.

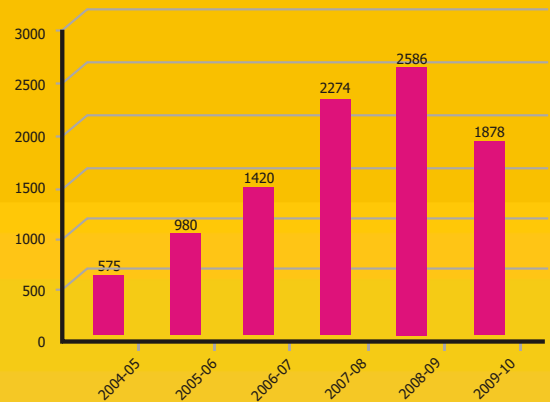
# Report

## Out Patients - Paying



■ Out Patient - Paying

## In Patients - Paying

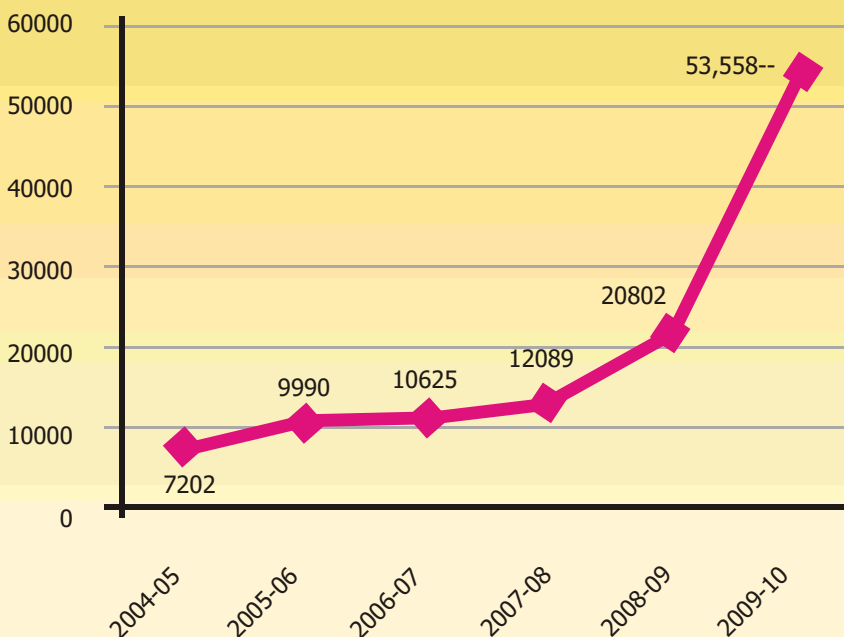


■ In Patients - Paying

We have in letter and spirit completed our project successfully and it is in full steam. We need support for the recurring expenditure by way of camp and surgical sponsorships as well as sponsoring food for the patients.

As promised, we will make the Hospital self sustaining in 5 years period.

## Gift of Vision - Free Surgeries



◆ Gift of Vision

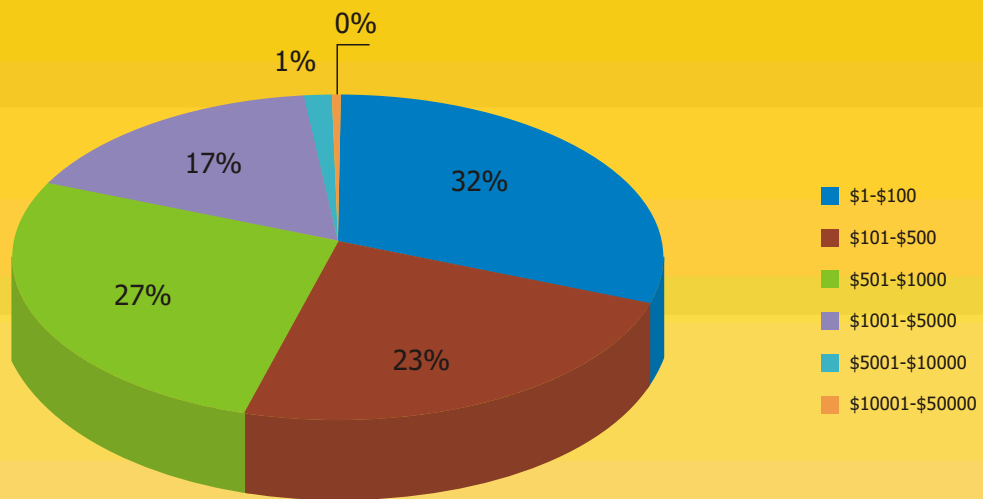
To all those donors who made our project a reality we say a big Thank you!

With a sense of fulfilment, we invite all of you to visit the Hospital during your next trip to India.

## Financial Data

**Phase I : Approx \$1.45M raised**

**Donations Guntur - Phase II (USA)**  
**Total : \$831,784**



Focus AP - II			
Range	Count	Total	Percentage
\$1-\$100	302	\$18,524	2%
\$101-\$500	217	\$56,971	7%
\$501-\$1000	263	\$252,839	30%
\$1001-\$5000	164	\$360,306	43%
\$5001-\$10000	12	\$87,644	11%
\$10001-\$50000	3	\$55,500	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>\$831,784</b>	



## Achievements and Awards: Sankara wins awards in India & USA

The Sankara Family has been recognized for its services both here in the USA and in India for several years now. The two arms of the Sankara family work together towards their common goal of Vision 20/20 by the Year 2020. The India arm consists of the Sankara Eye Care Institutions that manages the hospitals, ably lead by Dr. R. V. Ramani along with the great staff, and has been providing award-winning service to the poor. Sankara Eye Foundation, USA, the US arm, shines due to the dedication of its enthusiastic volunteers and generous supporters. With its impeccable reputation, SEF, USA has earned its donors' trust.

### FICCI Healthcare Excellence Award



On 15th September 2009, Sankara Eye Care Institutions, India won the prestigious “FICCI Healthcare Excellence Award” in the category of “Best Community Driven Healthcare Program”. The FICCI HEAL 2009 was organized by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, The award recognized the contribution of health care providers from public sector, private sector and the civil society.

The Award was presented by the Honorable Minister for State for Health and Family Welfare, Sri.Dinesh Trivedi and Ms. Shabana Azmi, Honorable Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Actor and Social Activist. The function was attended by over 200 invitees. SECI was lauded for their humungous efforts in the field of community eye care since last three decades. Their Gift of Vision Community Outreach Program was the unanimous choice of judges for the sheer volume of more than 500,000 free eye surgeries done so far.

The Honorable Minister specifically mentioned about SECI's 80/20 strategy of self sustainability and expressed desire and will to replicate it to other organizations.

## The Hospital Management Award

In September 2008, SECI was a proud recipient of the coveted Hospital Management Award, 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.



## SEF, USA receives 4 star rating

And here in the US, on February 27, 2009, Sankara Eye Foundation, USA received the desired 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent evaluator of US 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.

## NGO of the Year Award

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 nonprofit sector for long-term sustainability.



### **The Tanker Foundation's "Renny Abraham 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's "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 Tamil Nadu and one of the Union Ministers were present on the occasion to give out the Award.



**Tanker Foundation Love for Service Award:**



### **Achievement Award from NRI Global Summit**

The NRI Global Summit, 2009 was organized by NRI Institute, a New Delhi-based nonprofit, that honored Indian Achievers and expressed gratification for the pioneering work done by chairman of SEF, Mr. Murali Krishnamurthy and presented an Achievement Award to him for his leadership in eradicating curable blindness in India. The NRI Institute has a nearly 30 year history of recognizing Pravasi (non-resident) Indians and people of Indian origin. The award was delivered on Oct 24th, 2009 at NRI Global Summit 2009 in Milpitas, CA. The other awardee included Vijay Amritraj, Deepti Naval, B.V Jagadeesh, and Vinod Dham. SEF is deeply touched by the honor bestowed on them.

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***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!!***

## Meet our Partners

Any individual, family or an organization donating or raising \$100K (Rs. 50 lakhs) or more towards a Sankara Eye Hospital will be considered as a Partner in Service for that Hospital.

Towards this recognition, their names will be displayed prominently and permanently at the hospital.

US based partners will also be recognized in the SEF newsletter and the website. They will be invited & honored for the inauguration of the hospital. The partner will also receive a plaque recognizing their contribution to the cause.





## Dr. Raja Veeraiah and Smt. Saila Kodali

Dr. Raja Veeraiah Kodali and his family attended TANA 2003 Convention in San Jose, California where they came to know about Sankara Eye Hospital near Guntur. They decided to donate \$100,000 toward the free ward at the Guntur hospital. Their donation was the single largest donation SEF had received to date.

The single most important reason is the poor elderly people in the villages who can not work because of the vision, who are being neglected and ignored by their own families because they cannot earn. We are also impressed with the organization with so many dedicated workers, and it is going to be there several decades serving these unfortunate people. We have been looking for this kind of organization for a while and watching the results for the last two years confirms our decision.



## Telugu Association of Northern America (TANA) and TANA Foundation

Mr. Jayaram of TANA organization heard about SEF in early 2000 and made a visit to the Sankara hospital, Coimbatore. He was very impressed to see such a high quality institution serving the rural blind and made up his mind to champion a similar hospital in Andhra Pradesh. He was very instrumental in promoting SEF in TANA 2003 Convention and raising funds for the Guntur hospital. Telugu Association of Northern America (TANA) and TANA Foundation helped raised funds for the hospital as well. TANA foundation sponsors camps through Guntur hospital - 2 camps per month

"I see SEF as an organization that unites all the Indian communities to work together. The region of the hospital being built was not the focus for the volunteers as they came from all communities collaborating to make the hospital happen like the SEF team focusing on the Andhra project in the beginning was made up mainly of non-Telugu speaking people. This was a clear reflection of the focus of the organization to eradicate curable blindness for all of India. I am encouraged by the continued response of the people from every region of India- because the cause is so good, and the spirit of the volunteers which drives this true service to the people."

Sri Jayaram Komati, President of TANA



*Jayaram and Vijaya*

## Bay Area Telugu Association (BATA)

Bay Area Telugu Association (BATA) championed the cause to the Telugu community and walked with Sankara team on every step of the Guntur hospital fundraising activity. The relation that strengthened during TANA 2003 under the support of the TANA 2003 Convener, Jayaram Komati and TANA 2003 Cultural Chair and BATA representative, Vijaya Aasuri and Veeru Vuppala continued well beyond the hospital inauguration. SEF and BATA organized several events in bay area and raised significant amount of funds for the hospital. SEF is truly honored to have BATA as a key partner in this journey



When SEF team informed us of the efforts to build an Eye Hospital in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh to help the poor who do not have eyesight, Bay Area Telugu Association (BATA) immediately agreed to be part of this noble cause. The plan laid out by the SEF team in making the hospital self sufficient in 5 years and the exemplary work done by SEF in previous projects made it easy decision for the BATA team.

Bay Area Telugu community has always been generous in providing support and help to the unfortunate in Andhra Pradesh and BATA programs have served as platform for such efforts. We were overwhelmed by the response of the community to our appeals for raising funds for the Guntur Eye hospital. The fund raisers that SEF and BATA have done through the years were well received by the community and channeled the community's desire to help by raising over \$200K for the construction of the Hospital. BATA is proud to have been part of this noble cause with SEF.

**Vijaya Aasuri**  
**Advisory Board Member BATA**



I am very impressed with the SEF's dedicated group of volunteers. The repeated donations from the same donors are a testimonial to the dedicated work of SEF. In addition, I am impressed with the efficiency of SEF and SECI institutions. Donors are informed how each penny of the donation is being spent. Making hospitals self-sufficient is an excellent program, which helps make these hospitals run independently without depending on the external funding

**Veeru Vuppala**  
**Advisory Board Member**  
**BATA**





# Testimonials

Over 30 years ago, I began a mission to make a difference in the lives of underprivileged children. My first encounter with SEF came several years ago through a volunteer interaction at a booth. It was a simple table set up at the entrance to a cultural event. I stopped to chat with the young man and learned that response from attendees was not too good.

However, I was surprised to see his upbeat attitude and smile in spite of all. This first encounter inspired me to want to learn more. 20/20 by the year 2020 is their goal and having interacted with many more volunteers and feeling their dedication, I know they will succeed. The rest, as they say, is history.



I am proud to be a donor and intend to donate to each hospital built by SEF. SEF has made it possible for me to realize my ambition of making a difference in the lives of needy children.

I am humbly grateful to SEF and all its volunteers for helping rescue thousands of children from darkness and making possible a brighter tomorrow.

**Anil Lal-India Arts, LLC**

My wife Visala and I have been volunteering for this great organization since 2002 and we are glad that we have associated with such a well run organization which aims to eradicate curable blindness in India by year 2020, if not sooner. Strength of our organization mainly comes from our dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly towards the noble cause of "Vision 20/20 by 2020". Then our asset is our donors who like what we do and the feedback we provide and continue to support our mission of eradicating curable blindness in India. We always get re-energized going through the case studies of how we are making a difference in the lives of many under privileged people who otherwise couldn't afford to get proper health care. Visala and I, and now our 3 yrs son Siddhartha love to volunteer for SEF in the years to come till we eradicate curable blindness in India.

**Venkat Maddipati**  
**SEF Volunteer**  
**Co-coordinator of Guntur Hospital Project**

A truly wonderful experience knowing how our volunteer work translates into huge impact of helping the many rural blind. It is the perfect combination of volunteer dedication, award winning eye care and the driving ambitious goal that is contributing to the continued success of Sankara

**Hema Chamraj**  
**SEF Volunteer**  
**Co-coordinator Guntur Hospital**

I have been volunteering for Sankara for the last 6 years. It was an amazing experience when you think of the results. This is a great cause! I think vision is the most important thing one can donate. Period! I visited Vijayawad-Guntur hospital and was impressed by the work Sankara is doing. SEF also went to my village which is 90KM away from Guntur and did eye camps. That was very important to me by giving something back to the community.

**Suveen Vuppala SEF Volunteer**  
**Seattle Coordinator**

This is a wonderful organization. Sankara Eye Foundation is working hard day and night to make a difference in the lives of the (blind) people. I am proud to be part of such esteemed organization

Volunteers that I met here are dedicated, hardworking friends and works as a family. Huge tasks are achieved easily with a smile on face and perfect team work

**Srinivas Rao**  
**SEF Volunteer**

There is a high level of emphasis on ethics, integrity and accountability both when admitting new members or for sources of money. Financials of the organization are organized with utmost integrity and care. Volunteers work together as one family towards a common cause. While the organization is primarily based in San Jose there is a very active attempt to grow the organization beyond Bay area into Texas, East Coast, LA, Seattle and other areas.

**Chetan Gorur**  
**SEF Volunteer - Dallas**

I have been associated with Sankara Eye Care Institutions from 1986. I had the privilege to be a part of the Sankara youth wing through which we would visit villages to conduct eye camps every Sunday. I have attended more than 150 eye camps personally. I am part of Sankara Eye Foundation USA since 2001. I feel very passionate to put my time and effort for this organization. I like the detailed orientedness of the organization the way we plan our events, meetings etc. Sankara is being run on the lines of a corporate company

**Prabhu - SEF Volunteer**

The founders, volunteers and the entire organization are so sincere, dedicated and committed. Quite notably they work for this cause with a great sense of humility. I have had the opportunity of visiting the hospitals in India and I thought I was in a private hospital. When I first met with them there was just one hospital and look at today! I am honored to be associated with the SEF family and an ardent fan and a donor.

**B Sundar**  
**SEF Volunteer - Detroit**

From the hand painted display board decorated with stuff from Michaels to the TV Ads for Dandia, SEF has come a long way in 10 years. And it has been a great journey. I have coordinated events, designed brochures, posters, banners and designed the SEF newsletter. On the way I have made a lot of connections that helped me professionally in my career and a lot of friends. I have seen results from my donations right in front of me, when the pediatric-ophthalmologist Dr. Kavita called me back to let me know the sight has been restored for the little girl called Ramya, whose surgery I sponsored a few days ago. This is a great cause that has made significant change in the quality of life for many people.

Sankar  
SEF Volunteer - SoCal

## Board and volunteers

### SEF Volunteers

Volunteers who made this project happen:

Each volunteer of the SEF pitched in very actively to raise funds for our maiden hospital and got it inaugurated in March 2004. It wouldn't have been possible without the countless hours of contribution by volunteers. Some volunteer memories captured in the pictures below



# Meet the SEF, USA and SECI, India Teams

## Sankara Eye Foundation, USA



**K. Sridharan**  
President



**Divyogi Patel**  
Board Member



**Sundar  
Radhakrishnan**  
Board Member



**Girish Muckai**  
Board Member



**K. Muralidharan**  
Executive Chairman



**Sasikala  
Muralidharan**  
Office Manager



**Padma Jawahar**  
CFO

## Sankara Eye Care Institutions, India



**S V Balasubramaniam**  
Chairman



**Dr. R V Ramani**  
Founder & Managing Trustee

### Managing Trustee

Dr. Leela Meenakshi  
Dr. P G Viswanathan  
Dr. S R RAO  
N Natraj  
Dr. S Balasubramanian  
J. M. Chanrai  
Murali Krishnamurthy

## Vision 2020 Team

**Dr. R. Radha Ramani** - Co-Founder & Hon Director of HRD

**Dr. P. Janakiraman** - Hon Advisor

**Dr. J. K. Reddy** - Director Technical

**P. Balasubramaniam** - Hon Advisor

**C. N. Srivatsan** - Hon. Project Director



# Sankara Eye Hospital: From a dream to reality

- Hema Chamraj & Venkat Maddipati

Sankara Eye Hospital, Guntur is a creation resulting from an amazing collaboration among SEF donors, volunteers and the community organizations like BATA and TANA. The journey for the AP hospital began with land being finalized at Pedakakani, Guntur. SEF kicked off awareness programs for the AP hospital through booths and events. However, it was in the fall of 2002, that the serious fundraising activity started. A small core team named "Focus AP," led by Ramesh Subramaniam took up the task of strategizing and creating a plan to raise 750K. The team decided to reach the Telugu community through the convention held by the Telegu Association of Northern America - TANA 2003, which was fortunately being held in San Jose that summer. This turned out to be an excellent opportunity with 7,000 attendees from all over the US coming to San Jose, the home of SEF! Mr. Jayaram Komati, the TANA 2003 convener became the champion for the Guntur hospital, as an ardent supporter of the cause, he had promised to provide SEF a platform for promoting the SEF mission to the Telugu community. SEF and TANA team members worked together to promote the need for rural eye care to needy poor in Andhra Pradesh. The promotion worked and many convention attendees expressed interest to learn more about the hospital project. One of them was Dr. Raja Veeraiah Kodali and Mrs. Saila Kodali who talked in detail of the hospital with Dr. Ramani, the Managing Trustee of Sankara Eye Care institutions and were convinced to become a Partner-in-Service of the Guntur hospital by donating \$100K; becoming the largest donor for the Guntur Eye hospital.

With the promotions during the TANA conference and the help of the BATA committee members led by Vijaya Aasuri, Veeru Vuppala, and Ramesh Mandalapu SEF crossed \$500K within a year. TANA Foundation played a key role by promising to sponsor 2 camps per month in the Guntur hospital. There were many other fundraising events including the banquet, held in partnership with BATA to raise the remaining funds. The excitement spread beyond Bay area with Dr. Kancherla and Dr. Mandava teaming up to drive fundraising in the east coast to raise \$150K. The auspicious day for the hospital inauguration arrived on March 2004. The hospital was supposed to be inaugurated by the President of India, Dr. Abdul Kalam but due to the election announcements, he was unable to make the inauguration. However, the inauguration took place successfully in the presence of representatives from TANA, BATA and donors such as Mr. Raja Veeraiah Kodali and his family, the donors of the land and SEF team. The names of the "Wall of founder" donors graced the hospital premises as a reminder of their incredible support to make this dream a reality.

The Phase I construction of the Guntur hospital, with 100 beds for free patients, allowed for 1 camp per week and to complete 10,000 free eye surgeries. The demand for more beds due to increasing surgeries necessitated additional beds and hence Phase II was begun in 2005. Now, the hospital conducts 2 camps per week and completes 25,000 free eye surgeries per year. In addition, the eye bank was an addition in the Phase II project. The continued support from the donors and the relationship with BATA helped drive successful fundraising for Phase II. The Phase II was inaugurated on Sep 11, 2008.

It is hard to believe that it is now close to 5 years of the hospital creation and the hospital has achieved many milestones. The important of them is the self-sustainability of the hospital as the hospital is generating increasing revenue from paying patients to help offset the costs for free surgeries. We received government empanelment, which allows for cost of surgeries to government employees to be covered by government funds. The Eye bank is starting up and will make a real impact going forward. We are motivated to continue the hospital operations to the highest caliber and plan to add state-of-the-art equipment in the hospital. In that regard, we need to raise around \$150K to supplant new equipment to the hospital.

SEF wishes to thank you, the donors for your unwavering support in this endeavor. We request you to please continue with us on our journey until we achieve Vision 20/20 by the year 2020. You can also sponsor an eye camp in your village by donating \$1000 or more. If you have any questions about the hospital, eye camps, or equipment sponsorships, please contact Venkat Maddipati at 408-421-6372 or send an e-mail to [vmaddipati@gmail.com](mailto:vmaddipati@gmail.com)





### **Sankara Eye Foundation, USA**

1851 McCarthy Blvd, Street #218, Milpitas, CA-95035

Phone : 1 866-Sankara (726-5272)

e mail : [info@giftofvision.org](mailto:info@giftofvision.org)

web : [www.giftofvision.org](http://www.giftofvision.org)



### **Sankara Eye Centre** (Mission Headquarters)

Sathy Road, Sivanandapuram, Coimbatore-641 035.

Phone : +91 422 266 6450, 423 6789

Fax: +91 422 266 6460

e mail : [sankarai@md3.vsnl.net.in](mailto:sankarai@md3.vsnl.net.in)

web : [www.sankaraeye.com](http://www.sankaraeye.com)



### **Sankara Eye Hospital**

Guntur-Vijaywada Expressway,

Pedakakani, Guntur - 522509

Ph : 0863-2293903 / 905

Fax : 0863-2293904

e mail : [guntur@sankaraeye.com](mailto:guntur@sankaraeye.com)

web : [www.sankaraeye.com](http://www.sankaraeye.com)