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Distributed By:
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www.giftofvision.org

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Edited By:
SEF Team

Dear Friends,

A very warm greeting to all of you from San Jose, California.

Thanks to your continued support, we are making steady progress in all areas. Eye camps have started in the Guntur region and eye surgeries have already begun. We are on track to perform more than 60,000 FREE Eye Surgeries at our three Sankara Eye Hospitals in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

Dr. R.V. Ramani, Mr. S.V. Balasubramaniam and Mr. Ramanishankar visited USA and were very impressed with the dedication, commitment and hard work of our volunteers. We had several planning sessions with them in which we reaffirmed our commitment to the goal of 'Vision 20/20 by 2020'.

Our next new Sankara Eye Hospitals are going to be built in the states of Gujarat and Karnataka. We are actively looking for land for the Gujarat project.

Outside of the Bay Area, we are now very rapidly expanding our reach into new areas including the East Coast, Southern California, Texas, Carolinas, Washington (Seattle) and Chicago, among others. Many of these chapters actively celebrated India's Independence day with a SEF booth at the local festivities. We continue to welcome committed volunteers to build upon our work in these areas, and if you are interested please contact us. We promise it will be a very rewarding experience.

Our phenomenal growth in the last six years is due to active community participation. Please continue supporting our cause in the key areas of 'Central Surgeries' and 'Capital Projects', as the focus teams drive planned activities through rest of this year and next. You will find additional information on these efforts in this and upcoming newsletters.

Thank you for your support and commitment to SEF.

Yours sincerely,

Murali Krishnamurthy

Dr. R. V. Ramani and Mr. S.V. Balasubramaniam invigorate SEF team with their USA visit.

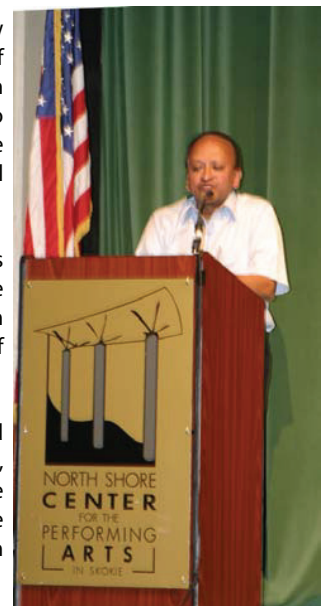
Dr. Ramani and Mr. Balasubramaniam, both pioneers in providing free eye care to the poor, visited the USA this July. Mr. Balasubramaniam is the Chairman of Sankara Eye Society (SES) and a prominent industrialist in Tamil Nadu, while Dr. Ramani is our well recognized leader driving social change in India and also the Managing Trustee of SES.

They attended scheduled events in Chicago, San Francisco Bay Area, Greensboro, New Jersey and New York. Over the course of their visit they threw light on the status of the efforts of SES in eliminating curable blindness in India, both to the SEF USA team and the larger community participating in this worthy cause. Their purpose was to raise awareness of the enormity of blindness in India while interacting with the volunteers of SEF to gather feedback and encourage them to redouble our mutual efforts.

The duo kicked off the USA tour at Skokie, Illinois, at the 30th anniversary celebrations of the Tamil Nadu Foundation (TNF), USA (a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and development of social organization in India). Mr. Balasubramaniam was feted with the "TNF Excellence Award" for his contribution to the development of charitable organizations in India.

At the awards ceremony, Dr. Ramani spoke of Mr. Balasubramaniam as a dedicated philanthropist and an old friend. He described their association with various projects, from SES to the Siruthuli water projects. Dr. Ramani also described the inner drive within Mr. Balasubramaniam which constantly drives him to make the world a little better, each day. At Chicago, they also attended the American Telugu Association event, where SEF had a booth and met with our Chicago volunteers.

Contd on Page 2



Contd from Page 1

Arriving at San Francisco, on the 4th of July they met with volunteers, SEF board, donors and the media (India West and India Post). At a festive dinner meeting attended by more than 125 energized Bay Area patrons, they extended their whole hearted support to SEF's mission of 'Vision 20/20 by 2020', truly amazed by the passion and drive of SEF volunteers and their desire to accelerate our planned programs.

On to the east coast, Mr. Balasubramaniam and Dr. Ramani were in New Jersey and New York, where they were interviewed by Namaste America TV and India Abroad newspaper. One part of the TV interview was broadcast by Namaste America all over the USA. The next segment will be broadcast in September.



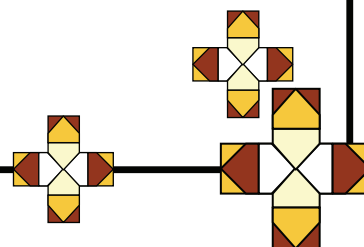
SEF's youth volunteer Sejal Dave organized a dinner meeting at Chutney Manor Restaurant in New Jersey where Dr. Ramani and Mr. Balasubramaniam addressed a gathering of about 50 people and raised around \$7,000. They also spoke at the Hindu Temple in Flushing, New York at a meeting arranged by Mr. T. T. Bhat of the North American Sankethi Association and gathered support for the Focus Karnataka project. On the way back to India, they achieved another milestone with the inauguration of SEF, Europe in London. In his parting remarks Mr. Balasubramaniam said "I am truly inspired by the zeal and commitment of the SEF USA team. This motivates us at SES to intensify our efforts to achieve our mission of vision 20/20 by 2010." Dr. Ramani added "I leave with an indelible memory of sincerity, dedication, and passion of the SEF team." We at SEF reciprocate this feeling and look forward to their next visit.

SEF Calendar

Upcoming Events

- **"Yuva Nethra Vani"**, September 25, 2004, CET Center for Performing Arts, San Jose, CA
- **"SEF Dandiya"** - October 1st and 2nd, 2004 - Bay Area
- **"Golf Tournament"**, October 29, 2004 (stay tuned for more details), San Jose, CA
- **"Jyothi 2020 - A Kathak Dance Program"**, January 29, 2005, Foothill College, Los Altos Hills, CA
- **"Cricket Tournament"**, October 2004, Harrisburg, PA
- **"Dinner @ Tiffany's"**, February 3, 2005, Tiffany's, San Jose, CA

For more information on SEF events, please visit www.giftofvision.org
Contact Muckai Girish at (925) 875-9793 or muckai@yahoo.com for sponsorship details.



Check your EyeQ

1. What is the cornea?
 - a) The black hole in the iris
 - b) The transparent tissue covering the front of the eye
 - c) The eye's white outer layer
 - d) The lens
2. The vitreous humor that occupies 80% of the eye's interior, is composed mostly of what?
 - a) inorganic salts
 - b) water
 - c) hyaluronic acid
 - d) collagen fibrils
3. A "cataract" is an opacification of which eye structure?
 - a) cornea
 - b) conjunctiva
 - c) iris
 - d) crystalline lens

More questions and answers on page 6

Sankara Eye Hospital, Guntur - Progress Update

Sankara Eye Hospital, Guntur became a reality with the inauguration of the hospital on March 2, 2004. It was made possible with the help of your generous support and donations.

Major General (Retd.) Dr. Mohan Chander was appointed as the CEO for the hospital. An experienced senior ranking officer from the Army Medical Corps, he will bring to bear upon his assignment the rich experience coupled with the army discipline that he has imbibed. The outpatient departments started functioning from 12th March, while the operation theatres, both for paying and free patients, were functional from 24th May.

On Sunday the 23rd May, the first outreach camp was conducted in Repalli village, and the second camp on 30th May was conducted in Amarthalur, the village of Dr. Raja Veeraiah Kodali, our largest donor for the Guntur hospital. Dr. Kodali visited the Guntur hospital and was happy to see the service done to the patients. Up until July 18th, nine camps have been conducted with 3,164 patients screened and 802 patients have undergone surgeries. In addition, 99 paying patients have also undergone surgeries.

The bus donated by Canara Bank has a capacity of 35 seats. Hence, we are not able to bring more than 35 to 40 patients from the camps even though we can easily perform up to 200 surgeries every week. Another nationalized bank has come forward to donate a bus and we hope to get over the conveyance problem shortly.



Every week, consultants and senior eye surgeons from Coimbatore visit Guntur and perform eye surgeries. These days, attendance at both the outpatient and inpatient wards has increased considerably.

It is very gratifying to note that within a very short time since the inauguration, the Hospital has made a mark for itself. This is made possible by your generosity, etched into history by the many donor names inscribed on the walls in the hospital premises. While we are elated about the progress of the hospital, we continue to focus on completing the hospital construction. We still need about \$150,000 towards completing Phase 1. In Phase 2, we are planning to add 150 additional free beds, as the hospital is designed to house up to 400 free beds. We cannot complete the project without your help and appreciate your continued support.



Here are some of sponsorship details for your donations, which entail your name and your loved one's name to be inscribed in the hospital premises:

- ★ Donate \$1000 and become a founding family of the hospital.
- ★ Donate a room with two beds for \$10,000 or half of this room for \$5,000.
- ★ Dining Hall and Canteen is completed and functional.
- ★ Sponsor these buildings for \$100,000.
- ★ Cellar of the hospital can be sponsored for \$40,000



Young Volunteer's Corner

Fourteen year-old ninth grader Chetan Surpur is no stranger to contributing for a good cause. As a summer project in his 5th grade, he collected a database of potential donors, created brochures, and sent appeals to people, in a drive to raise awareness and funds for SEF.

Chetan spent the last two years at Chinmaya Mission International in Coimbatore to get a more direct exposure to Indian culture. This summer, he and his cousin Spurthi decided to spend 10 days at the Sankara hospital, helping out in any way they could. Because of their young age, and language barriers, they were not allowed to directly work with the patients, but they helped out in making case sheets, and in doing computer work. "I like volunteering, and helping poor people," says Chetan. Together they wrote an interesting article on their experiences at the hospital, which was much appreciated by Dr. Ramani.



Chetan



Spruthi

An avid volunteer, Chetan will be helping with Ekal Vidyalaya's upcoming concert, and will also make a website on Yoga for HSS. Not surprising, considering his parents. Ashwini and Anil Surpur are avid volunteers themselves. Anil's pet project is Yoga Bharati, while Ashwini is involved with FISI (Friends of India Society International), and SEF.

Chetan's future plans are to pull together a team of teenagers, to raise awareness about SEF, and also to provide much needed manpower for upcoming booths and events. We thank him for all his efforts and hope that many others will be inspired by him.

Hi Youth Volunteers!

I hope you've all had an excellent summer and are ready to get started on an all new Youth chapter of Sankara Eye Foundation. I would firstly, like to commend you all for showing your interest toward supporting this cause.

A little about myself: My name is Anagha Vaidhyanathan and I'm currently a sophomore at Monta Vista High school in Cupertino. My involvement with Sankara Eye Foundation began in 5th grade, when I attended a light-music concert organized by Sankara Eye Foundation. After seeing the great efforts made by SEF to raise funds for such an incredible cause, it struck me: here I was enjoying watching television, going on the computer, and pouring through books, while millions were suffering in India without the gift of vision. I soon encouraged my family and friends to begin making donations regularly. Over the past year, I have been actively working with the SEF group in San Francisco Bay to raise money through a series of events and booths as well as coordination efforts.

I recently made a trip to San Diego, CA to attend a 3 day seminar of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) as a representative for SEF. The trip was an enriching experience which gave SEF a chance to meet generous doctors and potential donors, as well as an opportunity for me to gain great exposure in marketing. I'm currently an active member and officer of two large business associations at Monta Vista.

The events are definitely the highlight of volunteering for Sankara. They aren't necessarily limited to Classical music concerts or dance performances. Events range from Golf tournaments to Bhangra and Garba Nights! In the past, I've had the pleasure of designing VIP tickets, creating fliers, updating websites, and even performing tasks such as Souvenir Coordinator. I can guarantee that volunteering with Sankara will not only give you an opportunity to put forth the gifts and talents you have been given, but also a chance to meet other promising youths like yourself and have an excellent time.

*Sincerely,
Anagha Vaidhyanathan*



Anagha

Souma

Souma Kundu is a 10 year old 5th grader. An industrious and conscientious one, you might add. Her parents Tapan and Susmita Kundu tried to instill in her good values. Active volunteers themselves, they came across SEF when they donated some money at one of SEF events, two years ago. They were impressed with Sankara's professionalism. "The money you donate, you really see the results, you see who you help", says Mr. Tapan.

This really caught Souma's eye, and when she saw some fund raising being done in her school, she decided it would really be worthwhile to do her own fund raising for SEF. With the help of SEF Volunteer Kala, and a librarian and counselor at her school (Dilworth Elementary in Cupertino), she organized a six week fund raising campaign there. She used the opportunity to raise awareness among her friends regarding SEF's mission.

Tapan and Susmita are avid volunteers themselves, who have helped out in ILP, and SEF. Tapan hopes to see more participation from Eastern India, where he is from, as the campaign goes more national. Having grown up poor, they see it important to instill value for money, and charity, in their children, especially in a land of plenty. Souma plans to continue her good work, and as she gets ready to move to middle school, she hopes to hand the torch to other youngsters at Dilworth Elementary.

Go Souma!!!

Generous Gesture

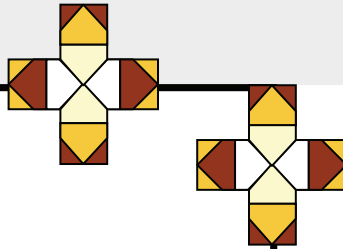
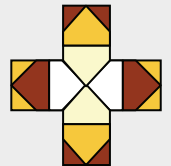
Dear Murali,

It is with great pleasure that I have the opportunity to communicate with you about how excited my family and friends are about the proposed hospital to be built in Gujarat. The love and dedication that you and those associated with Sankara Eye Foundation have shown is truly commendable. I will never forget the simple slogan: 20/20 by the year 2020. Though the words are very simple, the meaning is profound. The idea of being able to give sight back to a child whom we may never know is truly heart warming for all of us.

As you know, my son, Ravi Lal was married to Shima Saini (daughter of Malook and Marena Saini) on July 3rd 2004. Instead of customary gifts for my son and daughter in-law, we requested our guests to make monetary contributions to Sankara Eye Foundation. I am proud and honored to present Sankara Eye Foundation with checks totaling \$25,000. With God's blessings a free pediatric wing will be built and named "The Ravi and Shima Lal Pediatric Ward". It is our hope that thousands of little children will be given the gift of vision through this contribution.

As the celebrations of my Son's wedding are winding down, I wanted to take this moment to say thanks. Thanks to God for giving us the strength and means to make a difference. Thanks to my children for wholeheartedly supporting this project. Thanks to all those kind souls who make up Sankara Eye Foundation.

Sincerely,
Anil Lal
On behalf of the Lal and Saini Families



Meera Rajyagor

To: MURALIK@GIFTOFVISION.ORG
Sent: 7/21/04 8:10 PM
Subject: -Hello from Meera

Hello,
I'm a student from Southern California and I just graduated from high school this year. I just started working this summer and I thought that it would be nice to donate some money from my first paycheck.

I donated to this particular foundation because I noticed many ads on tv as well as in magazines. When I was younger, I always told myself that one day I would donate to your particular foundation. I am glad in doing so.

Thank you for helping so many lives gain their sense of vision. You are truly changing lives. I am glad that people are so willing and kind to take out time from their everyday lives to help others especially from our home country... "Mother India".... I am glad that we can unite as Indian-Americans to help people in our country.

This reminds us of our duty to protect our roots and culture.

Thank you for your efforts,
Sincerely,
Meera Rajyagor.

Pooja Nair

My name is Pooja Nair and I have been raising funds for Sankara Eye Foundation through my creation of a program for recycling ink cartridges from local businesses and families. I have enclosed a check for \$14.69 as well as a check for \$90 from my family.

I hope that I will have continued success in my friends and will be able to further assist Sankara. I really believe in the mission of achieving 20/20 vision by the year 2020.

Sincerely,
Pooja Nair.



Ashraf is 2 years old and was treated for cataract at the pediatric ward, SEF, coimbatore in July, 2004

Past Events

Sirivennela in Seattle

May 8, 2004 @ Ingraham High School, Seattle, WA by Gopal Alamuri and Suveen Vuppala

The SEF volunteers of the Seattle area sprang into action with yet another event in May 2004 to spread the message of SEF – this time it was a Telugu Light Music show. The show was named Sirivennela 2004. “Sirivennela” in Telugu means golden moonlight. The idea of a music show for SEF was conceived in December 2003 by a popular local Telugu band named eSwara. eSwara put together a team of energetic and enthusiastic singers, instrumentalists and percussionists, all with a charitable bent of mind. With a strict schedule in place the band started to meet weekly once for over three months practicing the choicest list of twenty scintillating songs for the show.

The event was organized at Ingraham High School in Seattle. The show was started symbolically and sentimentally with the song “Sankara” from the Telugu movie Sankarabharanam. It was a three-hour show with complete entertainment including comedy tidbits between songs, by some extremely talented entertainers, which sent the spectators into raptures. There was a dinner break where boxed dinner prepared by volunteers was sold.

All in all, Sirivennela 2004 provided very high quality entertainment to an audience of about 200. Sirivennela 2004 is Seattle SEF’s second event with the first one being Sankara SummerFest '03, which was an extremely well received picnic .



Jyothi 2020 by Padmabhushan K. J. Yesudas

August 28, 2004, Glenbard High School, Lombard, IL @ 5:30 PM

SEF's Chicago chapter in partnership with the Chicago Tamil Sangam put together this unique Tamil and Malayalam light music concert by the maestro Padmabhushan K.J Yesudas and Troupe.

The goal of this fundraiser was to give the gift of vision by supporting the surgeries performed at the Sankara hospitals.



Festivals of India

August 7, 2004, Luis B. Mayer Theater, Santa Clara, CA

Presented by Madhavi Cheruvu, Nandita Sriram, & Anuradha Sivaram of Lasya Dance Company, this event depicted some of the major festivals of India, such as Ganesh Chaturthi, Sivaratri, Navaratri, Janmashtami, Deepavali, Onam, and Pongal. The young dancers accompanied by a live orchestra enthralled an audience of about 500. With impeccable grace and beauty they portrayed the essence of each festival, dancing to lyrics in various Indian languages. The goal of this fundraising program was to open 300 eyes.

Check your EyeQ

4. Which eye structure determines a person's eye color?

- a) cornea
- b) conjunctiva
- c) iris
- d) crystalline lens

5. In which eye disorder does too much intraocular pressure damage optic nerve fibers?

- a) blind spot
- b) optic neuritis
- c) papilledema
- d) glaucoma

Answers :

1b, 2b, 3d, 4c, 5d

Yuva Nethra Vani - September 25, 2004, CET Center for Performing Arts, San Jose, CA @ 6:30 PM

SEF, along with Lalitha Gana Vidyalaya is proud to present 'Yuva Nethra Vani', which is the kick off event for the Karnataka hospital project. It is a carnatic vocal concert by Pallavi Sriram, junior at Mission San Jose High School. She is the grand daughter of Sri Rajagopalan and has performed at various events in Bay area and in Chennai. Pallavi has been participating in the Cleveland Thyagaraja Aradhana. She is learning music from the age of 5 and is also an accomplished Bharata Natyam dancer. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 from this event.

Tickets:VIP and Patrons \$50 (50% Tax Deductible), General: \$15, Seniors/ Children \$12
Contact Information: R. Balaji, (510) 709-5581, rpvbalaji@cuddaloreonline.com

SEF Dandiya - October 1st & 2nd - Bay Area, CA

SEF presents its first ever Dandiya Raas & Garba by singers Sharvari Dixit & Troupe on October 1st & 2nd.
Contact Sona Pandya at (510) 551-5606 or visit www.giftofvision.org for more information.

Cricket Tournament - October 2004, Harrisburg, PA

For the love of the game of cricket and to help SEF, the members of the Harrisburg Cricket Club (HCC) are engaged in a joint venture with SEF to organize a Charity Cricket Tournament in the central PA region. The HCC Championship Tournament involves six participating teams with 15 league matches. Semi-finals and a finals will be played under lights. The tournament concludes with an awards ceremony on October 2nd 2004, which is expected to be attended by all the playing teams and their families. Goal of this tournament is to raise \$2,000 and create awareness about SEF.

Contact: Ramachandran_venkat@msn.com for more details.

SEF Golf - October 29, 2004, San Jose, CA

This fall, SEF presents a golf tournament in San Jose. 100 players will be invited to participate in this unique event. Please stay tuned for more details.

Contact Information: Sumanth Addgarla, (925) 964-0210, sumush@yahoo.com

Jyothi 2020 - A Kathak Dance Program - January 29, 2005, Foothill College, Los Altos Hills, CA @ 5 PM

Rhythms from India and Japan - A musical feast.....

Bringing intricacies of north Indian classical dance KATHAK and folk music from India and Japan.

Featuring a combination of Japanese and Indian kathak dancers from Ruchika kathak academy, Japan. The program will be choreographed by Nalini Toshniwal who is also the main artist and the founder of Kathak Academy.

Since her childhood Nalini took keen interest in classical music and dance. She started learning Indian classical dance KATHAK at the age of 11 from Guru Manak Dutt Jodhpuri. She completed her Masters course in KATHAK called "VISHARAD" from the Chandigarh University. She has given performances of KATHAK in places like Nagoya, Kobe, Wakayama, Toyama, Sapporo, Nishinomiya and Osaka in Japan and in Leicester, UK. Her dance performance has also been telecast by NHK - the Japanese national television network. For more information, please visit artist website: <http://www.kathakschool.com/main.htm>. The program is dedicated to volunteers and doctors who are working sincerely to bring light to the life of visually unprivileged. This event will be a fundraiser for the Gujarat Hospital.

Contact Information: Ritesh Tandon / Zurica Dhar: (408) 365 3248, rtandon2004@yahoo.com, zurica@comcast.com

Dinner @ Tiffany's - February 3, 2005 @ 7 PM

Tiffany & Co. (<http://www.tiffany.com>), the Jewellery Company renowned for its quality and craftsmanship, inspired by SEF's commitment and dedication, will host a banquet dinner on 3rd Feb 2005 for the first 75 donors in the year of 2004 who donated over \$1000. This event will pave way for future alliances with Tiffany, in our quest to eradicate curable blindness.

Contact Information: Sneha Bhaidasna, (408) 247-9611, sneh_bhaidasna@yahoo.com

Conjunctivitis - Prevention and Cure

Conjunctivitis is also known as pink eye. In India, it is also called Madras Eye. Conjunctivitis is an inflammation of the conjunctiva tissue, the clear membrane that covers the white part of the eye and lines the inner surface of the eyelids. This tissue keeps the eyelid and the eyeball moist. Inflammation of this tissue is a fairly common condition and usually causes no danger to the eye or vision.

The inflammation can have many causes, the most common of which are infectious, allergic, and irritant. Infectious conjunctivitis can be caused by bacteria, viruses, or sexually transmitted diseases like gonorrhea and chlamydia. Allergic conjunctivitis is caused by dust or pollen, or a special type of allergy that affects contact lens wearers. Irritants such as shampoos, dirt, smoke, and pool chlorine can also cause problems.

The symptoms include:

- ★ Redness in the white of the eye or inner eyelid,
- ★ Increased amount of tears,
- ★ Itchy, burning eyes,
- ★ Discharge,
- ★ Blurred vision or
- ★ Increased sensitivity to light.

Infectious conjunctivitis is contagious. To prevent spreading it, wash your hands often with warm water and soap, especially after touching your eyes. Do not share eye drops, tissues, towels, washcloths, or pillowcases with other people.

Bacterial conjunctivitis can be treated by antibiotics, in the form of eye drops, ointments, or pills. Viral conjunctivitis, like the common cold, must run its course. If the problem is caused by irritants or allergies, removing the cause of the irritation, or treating the allergy should cause the symptoms to improve. You can find more information on Conjunctivitis on such sites as WebMD.com, and KidsHealth.org.

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Selvi - Success Story

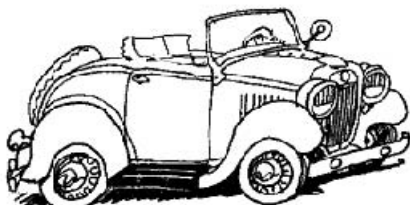
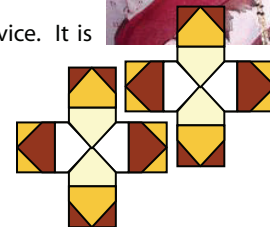
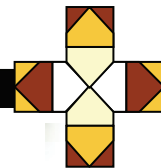
Mrs. Selvi, a 28 year old mother of two daughters (10 years and 6 years old), hails from Elangadu village near Vandhavasi in Tamil Nadu. She is the only earning member of her family and she works as a daily coolie.

Three years back Selvi developed infection in her left eye and gradually lost her vision. After her vision loss, her husband left her helpless and alone. Being a single parent, it was a daily struggle for the past 3 years to earn and provide daily food for her and her daughters. On many days she lost her daily coolie job because of her vision in only one eye. On such days Selvi was depressed and was scared of her daughters' future.

Selvi's mother was operated at Sankara for cataract one year back. Because of her, Selvi attended our rural out reach eye camp at Vandavasi where she was advised that her vision can be regained if she underwent corneal transplant.

Thanks to the regular inflow of donor eyes at Sankara Eye Bank, corneal transplantation was performed successfully on Selvi's left eye on 20th April 2004.

Selvi is now happy with her vision in the left eye, and with tears she thanked Sankara for our service. It is indeed amazing to see the total transformation of her life.



Donate your old Vehicle to SEF!!

For more details please send an e-mail to cargiving@giftofvision.org

Contact - Kalyani

SEF, USA Tax Free Donation Form
501 (C)(3) Non Profit Organization, Tax id: 77-6141976
3175, Arcola Court, San Jose, CA 95148

Contact Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
 Spouse Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Phone Number: _____ Email address: _____

Donate in several ways:

Cash: Check: Credit Card: Amount Enclosed: _____

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

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

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Expiry Date: _____

A One time donation: Monthly Donation (Open an Eye a month):

Company Name: _____
 (Helps us find if they match your contribution.)

For used vehicle donations, contact SEF at cargiving@giftofvision.org

Visit www.giftofvision.org for stocks, payroll, bank transactions or online donations.

Capital Projects	Central Services	
	Surgeries	Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Focus AP	<input type="checkbox"/> Cataract Surgery (\$30 each)	<input type="checkbox"/> Food for patients (\$200 a day)
<input type="checkbox"/> Focus Karnataka	<input type="checkbox"/> Corneal Transplant (\$100 each)	<input type="checkbox"/> Medical Staff Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Focus Gujrat	<input type="checkbox"/> Cataract Endowment (\$300 each)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Corneal Endowment (\$1000 each)	

Special requests: _____

(E.g. Donate "In the name(s) of" / "In memory of" a dear one and/or preferred date of surgery/food for patients.)
 Note: Preferred date is applicable only for surgeries and food for patients and not for any capital projects.

If first time donor, how did you hear about us? _____

Mail it to:
Sankara Eye Foundation, USA
3175 Arcola Ct
San Jose, CA 95148

For more information, or to **volunteer your time** for this noble cause, please call us at 1-866-SANKARA (1-866-726-5272) or (408) 274-1443 or write to us at info@giftofvision.org.
 If you have any other comments, please write them at the back of this form. We really appreciate and value them.

Open an Eye

According to the survey conducted by the National Program for Control of Blindness (India), it is estimated that 80% of blindness in India is curable. Of the total, 80.1% are blind due to cataract. The distribution of the remaining is 7.35% refractive errors, 4.69% aphasic blind, 1.70% glaucoma, 1.52% central corneal opacities, 0.39 % trachoma and the remaining 4.25% suffer from other causes. In more than 4 out of 5 cases cataract is the main cause of blindness. About 10 million persons are blind due to cataracts. Given this, any efforts to reduce prevalent rates of blindness have to concentrate on the reduction of cataract cases.

This alarming problem that is rapidly on the increase is hampered by:

- * Lack of awareness that their blindness is curable
- * Inability of the poor to afford quality treatment
- * Lack of facilities to perform surgeries in remote rural areas

Sankara's Involvement

With three hospitals serving Southern India in the cities of Guntur, Coimbatore and Krishnankovil, Sankara Eye Society is the pioneer in community eye care providing state-of-the-art treatment in top notch facilities. Among its services are latest suture-less, no injection phaco surgeries for cataracts and LASIK operations for correcting refractive eye problems.

SES has conducted over 3,200 rural outreach camps, with more than 200,000 surgeries done so far. Number of Free Eye Surgeries performed is ever on the increase, with over 45,000 during the year 2003. With the inauguration of the Sankara Eye Hospital in Guntur, it is forecast, that SES will exceed 60,000 free eye surgeries during the current year 2004.

How you can help ?

Sankara USA has a target of signing up 1,000 "Open an Eye A Month" sponsors over next 6 months. 1,000 sponsors support 12,000 free surgeries a year.

It only costs \$30 a month or \$1 a day to perform a cataract surgery. Open an eye a month and give the gift of vision. The donation is tax deductible.

Celebrate- Be a "Vision-ary" Family

A welcome tradition seen among many donors is choosing to give the "Gift of Vision" on occasions such as birthdays, weddings, anniversaries etc. For instance, Atul & Alaka of California chose to sponsor five surgeries on the first birthday of their son Sivam.

Make a donation of \$120 for 4 surgeries a year to be performed on dates meaningful to your family and friends. Your "Vision-ary" gesture opening up somebody's life to light makes a lasting impression for the occasion.

Please sign up today for Open an Eye A Month -program

SEF coimbatore

