



## MSMF Newsletter

# A Ray of Light

Education \* Eye Care \* Disaster Relief



New building of Sarada Vidyalayam and the Vocational School.

**Sarada Vidyalayam provides well-rounded education encouraging the physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development of the student.**

During our recent trip to India in Jan 2012, we had an opportunity to visit Sankurathri Foundation in Kakinada, India. I am from a small town in East Godavari district, about 2.5 hours from Kakinada. As our car entered the beautiful gardens of SF, our driver whispered to us "my niece from a nearby rural village studied here and now she is in college. The school principal (Ms Hema) enforces good discipline and is responsible for the success of the school". Dr. Chandra welcomed us and introduced us to his sister, Hema. Immediately, I asked Hema if she was the teacher that our driver was referring to and we all had a big laugh over this. Hema, a dedicated and humble teacher, smiled at my comment. After lunch at Dr. Chandra's house, we were given a tour of the gardens, Sarada Vidyalayam and Srikan Eye Hospital.

opportunity to go back to their families in the evening and in turn they are educating their families about cleanliness, education, healthy diet, and physical fitness. At Sarada Vidyalayam, I have seen a balanced and well-rounded educational system encouraging the physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development of the student. We have also seen the High School and the eco-friendly model village created by the students. The High School is well equipped with computers, a good library, sewing room, science laboratory and art class.

We have also walked through the Srikan hospital floors and met cheerful, dedicated staff at work trying to make a difference in the lives of less fortunate people. I am amazed to find out that this hospital provides treatment for low vision, general eye problems, glaucoma, cornea, retina and pediatric eye problems. Dr. Chandra has shown us the state of the art equipment and explained how the equipment is used. This eye hospital also conducts free eye check-up camps in rural villages. If surgery is needed, they will be brought to the eye clinic and accommodation, treatment, follow-up checkup are provided free of charge.



LtoR: Dr. Apparao and Seshu Tamirisa, Dr. Chandra Sankurathri, Papayya Pantulu and Rama Devi Vadrevu.

When we arrived at the Primary School, students were getting ready for their lunch. Some student volunteers arranged plates and water cups in rows. All

students entered the lunch room in one line, took their seats and said their prayer prior to eating. We have seen their class rooms and the crafts room. Poor students from rural villages are brought in buses to the school for education. All students are given uniforms, lunch and education. Everything is free. I have seen a very unique mix of the rich cultural heritage of India and the creative independent thinking of the west in their craft rooms. Every piece of junk (in my non-creative world) has taken a new shape in the hands of these creative children. Well thought out, value based education and a wide variety of extra-curricular activities like Indian dance, sports etc are introduced to children. These students have an

When it was time to say farewell to Dr. Chandra and the community of SF, I thought I should have planned to spend more time at SF. My visit to SF is spiritually an uplifting experience. A day trip is not enough. Dr. Chandra walked with us to our car and asked our driver the name of his niece. Immediately, Dr. Chandra remembered her, gave us some details about her and told us that she is now in College. This shows how connected Dr. Chandra is to these children. Service to humanity is indeed service to God. *[Seshu and Dr. Apparao Tamirisa live in Toronto, ON].*

**Volunteer Appreciation Day 2012.** The volunteer appreciation day took place in Ottawa on Sunday, January 22, 2012. Approximately 20 people attended the meeting. Several presentations were made at the meeting and two of them are reprinted here. At the end of the

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presentations, Goutam Shaw led a strategy session to discuss goals and tasks on hand. He said that we need new ideas to increase the awareness of the MSMF cause and to raise funds. He also said that we have to focus as an organization to achieve these goals. Suggestions included cultural programmes, picnics, fundraising dinners and awareness campaigns through workplace presentations. The group requested packages providing details of budgets, deficits and capital funding requirements. These have been delivered by SF in February to the group representatives.

### **National and International Partnership Opportunities Program (NIPO).**

Rosemary Bickerton, Vice-President of the MSMF Board, made a presentation on NIPO. This is a Ottawa Eye Institute programme. It started in 2006 based on informal relationship SIO and other organizations. The committee consists of physicians, residents, technicians and administrative and nursing support. The goals of NIPO were to partner with other organizations, exchange skills and knowledge and achieve and enhance quality eye care. Since the start of this program, more than ten staff have visited Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology (SIO) and the resident visits are continuing. During the course of the talk, Ms. Bickerton outlined some features of Phaco which is extensively used in Canada versus vs Small Incision technique that is required in the case of hard cataracts encountered at SIO.

*[Rosemary Bickerton is Vice-President of the Board of Directors of MSMF. She lives in Ottawa, Ont].*

### **Read and Speak Better Program at Sarada Vidyalayam.**

Michael Schreider, Principal, Corpus Christi catholic School, Ottawa, ON made a presentation of his visit to SF in India during the month of November. He said that the students at Sarada Vidyalayam have excellent educational habits. A new mathematics program was started in 2010 and is making good progress. His new project theme was "Read & Speak Better". Mr. Schreider said that English speaking was a weakness at Sarada. He also said that the following is needed to continue the program at Sarada.

- individuals to sponsor post secondary education for students.
- individuals to sponsor students and pay for lunches, uniforms, bags and the cost of bussing.
- funding to purchase English as a second language books (audio books

for children, computer programmes etc). This is necessary due to students lacking oral language skills in English.

The funding needed for English as a Second Language (books, audio) is about \$15-20,000. The teachers will administer the program. He said that the comprehension is excellent but speaking is very weak.

*[Michael Schreider is the Principal, Corpus Christi Catholic School, Ottawa, ON and lives in Ottawa, ON. He has visited SF a number of times].*

### **MSMF and the new Not-for-Profit Corporations Act**

The new Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act was proclaimed in force on October 17th, 2011. While continuing under the new act can be done relatively easily, there are a variety of provisions which MSMF will have to review under this new legislation and take steps to continue in the near future. We are very pleased to report to you that this matter has been dealt with in the last two MSMF board meetings and the documentation will be updated to be compliant with the new legislation early next year and well ahead of the deadline.

### **Visit to Sankurathri Foundation, Kakinada, India.**

*[This report has been compiled from a site visit review carried out by Dr. Sarma Vishnubhatla, Executive Director of MSMF in November 2011. Dr. Vishnubhatla lives in Ottawa, Ont].*

The objective of my visit was to monitor progress achieved on Education and Eye Care projects and to determine the financial support needed by Sankurathri Foundation from MSMF.

Most of my time, seven out of eight days, was spent on the Eye Care project. Except for a few hours meeting with Sarada Vidyalayam Schools' Teachers, the rest of the day was spent at the Sankurathri Foundation Executive Board Meeting.

### **Eye Care Project**

Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology (SIO) has a new Administrator, Ms. Sneha Rednam. Sneha comes to Srikiran with many years of experience in Patient Relations, Operations & Quality, Office Administration, Public Relations, Quality & Safety, etc.

Sneha and I met all most all of Srikiran's employees either individually or in groups to listen to their comments, concerns and recommendations relating to their work experience. Also, we met three of the six

consultants. While it was useful for me to understand the complexity and show my continuing interest, it was a very worthwhile exercise for Sneha, in particular, for her day to day as well as long range administration.

I found all of the employees highly dedicated to their jobs and have a good perception of the mission of Srikiran. The concerns expressed were to improve communications, logistics, patient care, etc. During our meeting with Mr. Mohan, Accounts Manager, we discussed the needs of MSMF - a monthly activity report, and a Supplementary Audit Report every year. We also talked about a comprehensive Financial Statement with requests for funds on quarterly basis. As Mohan looks after the Accounts of Sarada Vidyalayam, we requested him to send reports and financial requests for the School as well.

With Sneha and Outreach Program Coordinator, Naveen, went to see Peddapuram Vision Centre, one of four managed by Srikiran. Again with Sneha and Rajenda attended an Outreach Camp in Challapalli about a couple of hours drive from Srikiran. On another day, again with Sneha went to see the City Centre, which provides eye care services mostly to patients from Kakinada City.

### **Education Project**

In a meeting after school hours, I met teachers from the Primary School as well as the High School of Sarada Vidyalayam. I heard from them very encouraging comments about the students and administrators. They are content with their salaries and working conditions. However, they mentioned that their yearly attempts for employment in Government Schools will continue as the Government Service offers them stability and long term benefits including pension and job guarantees. The consequence is that three or four teachers will leave every year and SF will have to find teachers to replace those left.

One evening I was very happy to have had the opportunity to meet many of the students who graduated from Sarada Vidyalayam High School and are now pursuing higher education in various colleges.

### **SF Executive Board Meeting**

Eight out of the ten Executive Board Members (including the three SF Trustees) attended the Meeting. After the welcome address and opening remarks by Dr. Chandra, Executive Trustee of SF, I gave a presentation on MSMF. Administrator Sneha discussed the

organizational structure of Srikan. Rajendra, Trustee of SF & Secretary, spoke about SF and its three programs: Sarada Vidyalayam, Srikan Institute of Ophthalmology and Spandana. Rajesh Kamireddy, Member of the Executive Board, presented the progress he has made with Branding, Marketing and Connecting through Social Networks. Dr. Chandra followed with his presentation on SF's Five Year Budget and Business Plan. During and after the presentations, there was a healthy discussion.

**Report from Sankurathri Foundation**

*[This report has been compiled from progress reports sent by Ms. Sneha Rednam, Hospital Administrator at Sankurathri Foundation].*

Sankurathri foundation continues to be a centre of great activity. In the past few months there has been a significant increase of volunteering activity from local groups and past students of Sarada Vidyalayam. This is a very welcome development. A Garden Party was organized for staff and families on January 8th which was attended in large numbers.

Dr. Chandra was a recipient of ASSOCHAM Social Innovation Excellence Awards at the 91st Annual session of The Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India at New Delhi on February 21st 2012. The theme of the session was "making inclusive transformation happen".

**Srikan Institute of Ophthalmology**

A cataract camp was organized at Kakinada Municipal office for the benefit of employees and to raise awareness of eye problems. Patients with refractive errors were referred to City Centre and SIO for further treatment. Camps were organized near Peddapuram vision Centre and one camp at Jaganaickpur vision centre to create awareness among the public about the vision centre. Four screening camps at schools were conducted out of which one was exclusively at a tribal school where students were pooled up from other similar schools. The needy children were provided with Vitamin A and other medicines. Some of the students were referred to the base hospital for further treatment.

State Bank of India, a major chartered bank in India offered to donate some equipment to SF. The bank donated a bus to SF few years ago. New staff appointments at SF include a Dr. Malleswari, a Glaucoma specialist and other support staff. Dr. S.V. Ramana Rao

- General Physician has also volunteered his services for inpatients, outpatients, staff and their families. Dr.Chandra Mohan, a Retina Consultant and an alumni of Aravinda Eye Hospital had made bi-monthly visits for consultation and operating Retina patients. Dr. Avinash, Medical Director at SF and Ms. Sneha Rednam, Hospital Administrator, have attended a workshop held at Lions Aravind Institute of Community Ophthalmology - Madurai on Management Priorities in Eye Care Delivery.

**Sarada Vidyalayam**

School day was celebrated on 11th Feb by conducting various competitions like sports, elocution, essay, drawing etc. Former students, Ishwarya and

Satyaveni have returned to school to teach English and Mathematics for an hour on Saturdays to students of Sarada Vidyalayam. Both students are currently pursuing degrees in Engineering after completing schooling at Sarada. Students Sai Kumari (8th class) and G. Sunitha (7th class) stood first in essay writing and elocution competition held in Kakinada on the eve of Gandhi's memorial anniversary on 30th January.

**Spandana**

On January 2nd & 4th, 25 employees from Srikan Institute of Ophthalmology went and distributed food packets and clothes to the victims of fire accidents which took place at Mayapatnam and the slum of Ayodhyanagar which left 300 and 289 people homeless respectively.

## MSMF INDIA FOOD FEST 2012

**Indian delicacies**  
**11 AM - 2 PM**  
 Masala Dosa  
 Idli with chutney & sambar  
 Vegetable pakoda  
 Chaat papdi  
 Gulab jamun  
 Kheer  
 Tea

**!!! Bring your own chairs !!!**

**Entertainment**  
**2 PM - 5 PM**  
 Music  
 Dances  
 International variety show

- \* Henna (Mehendi)
- \* Face painting
- \* Paan

*\* a token charge applies*












**11 AM to 5 PM**  
**Saturday 23rd June, 2012**  
**Andrew Haydon Park (location C5)**  
**3169 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, ON**

All proceeds go to MSMF (Manjari Sankurathri Memorial Foundation).  
 MSMF is a Canadian registered charity and donations to MSMF qualify for tax credits in Canada.

**Manjari Sankurathri Memorial Foundation**  
 Ph: 613 523 5413; E-mail: info@msmf.ca  
 www.msmf.ca

**For advance coupons:**  
 Dr. Geeta Chowdhury  
 613 833 7429 or  
 geeta@shawchowdhury.ca  
 Family (2 adults + 2 kids): \$35.00  
 Adults: \$15.00  
 Seniors: \$12.00  
 Kids (6 to 12 years): \$6.00

**At the gate:**  
 Adults/Seniors: \$16.00  
 Kids (6 to 12 years): \$8.00

## The Statistics Speak for Themselves

The statistics below provide a glimpse of what we have been able to achieve with the support of our funding partners and volunteers. Donors and volunteers are very important partners in what we do. It is essentially people empowering people.

| Facts                            | Cumulative<br>1990-2012 | 2012 Jan -<br>2012 Feb | Statement of Expenses of MSMF (2011)  |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------|
|                                  |                         |                        | Expenses (To be audited)  | 2011<br>Jan-Dec   |
| Out Patients Treated             | 1,747,069               | 17,557                 | Projects  | 202,328           |
| Surgeries Performed              | 173,818                 | 1,223                  | Credit Card Fees  | 1,543             |
| Vision Centers                   | 5                       | 0                      | Fundraising   | 10,569            |
| Eye Screening Camps for Adults   | 1,759                   | 18                     | Professional Fees   | 6,650             |
| Eye screening Camps for Children | 945                     | 4                      | General   | 3,392             |
| Medical Personnel Trained        | 332                     | 7                      | <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>224,482</b>    |
| Support Staff Trained            | 102                     | 3                      | <b>Support Provided in 2011.</b>  |                   |
| CME Workshops Conducted          | 55                      | 0                      | Sarada Vidyalayam   | Approx. \$ 57,000 |
| Children Educated                | 1,778                   |                        | Srikan Institute of Ophthalmology   | Approx. \$145,000 |
| Scholarships Provided            | 336                     | 52                     | For detailed information on 2010 expenses, please follow the link:<br><a href="http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/ebsci/haip/srch/basicsearchresult-eng.action?s=registered&amp;k=Manjari+Sankurathri+Memorial+Foundation&amp;b=true&amp;p=1&amp;f=25#pageControl">http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/ebsci/haip/srch/basicsearchresult-eng.action?s=registered&amp;k=Manjari+Sankurathri+Memorial+Foundation&amp;b=true&amp;p=1&amp;f=25#pageControl</a> |                   |
| School Children Screened         | 301,933                 | 535                    |   |                   |

### Visitors to Sankurathri Foundation

Dr. Bhavani Prasad a Critical Care Doctor from New Jersey, USA has once again organized a session on emergency management of pediatric patients and CPR for children and adults. He also brought few items from the US which are necessary for CPR. Dr. Vinod Mootha, Cornea Specialist from South Western University, Dallas, Texas, USA was at SF, from 13th to 30th Jan. During his visit, Dr. Mootha organized several information exchange sessions with SF consultants, students and technicians. He also trained Srikan doctors in techniques of PHACO emulsification and cornea transplants. Dr. Mootha's research interests are in genetic disorders. He also collected blood samples and trained a microbiology technician in such work.

Ellis and Murray Hiebert visited SF from Calgary, AB for one month and taught spoken English to the employees and students of Sarada Vidyalayam. Rama S. Chavali from Kruti Dhata, Houston, USA also visited SF during this period. Mr. Chandrakant Lad and his wife Parvathi from Calgary, Canada went for a brief visit. They have been supporters to SF activities for the past 6 years. Seshu and Apparao Tamirisa from Toronto, Ont have visited SF recently.

### We would like to hear from you.

A Donor wrote to us in December 2011 and said, if available, I would be happy to receive the newsletter by e-mail. I read every word ! You are on my "giving list" because you report what is happening and appear to keep administrative costs low for very effective work. Blessings on your work at this joyous season.

The Diviner (a publication of Church of St. John the Divine, North Bay, ON) published a two page article by Theresa Kryski, titled "A Ray of Light - When ordinary people do extraordinary things". She quotes from a CBC News publication the words of Dr. Chandra. "Forget and forgive, and you get on with your life", Sankurathri says, "Don't be, you know, vengeful and you wanted to see that, you know, somebody should get punished. By doing so, you are so preoccupied in that and we cannot do anything in life. You know, 20 years has gone by (since the Air India tragedy). If I didn't do this, I'd be sitting there waiting for something to happen for those criminals." Ms. Kryski is an active volunteer with MSMF.

### Sarada Vidyalayam gets Audio-visual equipment.



Sarada Vidyalayam got state of the art audio-visual equipment thanks to the generosity of Sylvia and Surendra Mehta of Toronto, ON.

"A Ray of Light" is the Newsletter of MSMF and is published in Spring and Fall of each year. The newsletter is edited (from contributions) by Dr. S. Eswar Prasad <[seprasad@bell.net](mailto:seprasad@bell.net)>. He lives in Collingwood, Ontario.

### Thank you for Caring

We are very grateful to you for supporting MSMF and its programs in eye care, education and disaster relief. We would not have achieved this level of success in eye care and education programs without your generous support. In these difficult economic times, your continued support is more than ever needed and appreciated. MSMF remains dedicated to provide the most outstanding service and care possible.

You can donate to MSMF in three ways: with a cheque or credit card information sent directly in mail to MSMF, online through ([www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org)), and through the United Way campaign. Some organizations and employers match donations of their employees.

A Ray of Light, is published by MSMF twice a year from contributions and reports sent by its volunteers. Please send your comments or suggestions to [info@msmf.ca](mailto:info@msmf.ca) or call us.

If you need more information, please call us at 613 523 5413, or visit our website, [www.msmf.ca](http://www.msmf.ca). Our mailing address is: MSMF, 23 Mary Dr., Gloucester, ON, K1V 1G9, Canada. Email address: [info@msmf.ca](mailto:info@msmf.ca).