



# Manjari Sankurathri Memorial Foundation

(A Registered Canadian Charity – BN 89002 4995 RR 0001)

**Autumn Issue**

**MSMF Newsletter**

**October 2003**

## ***Greetings from MSMF***

As we pass through Thanksgiving and Diwali, and falling leaves and flying snow, it is time to recount and reflect.

We have been having a good year. This summer, picnics and food stalls have become important activities to raising awareness and funds. Also, many more are finding that they could donate to MSMF via the United Way campaign. Thanks to your generous support, the education and health care programs are making excellent progress.

The education program at Sarada Vidyalayam has crossed a milestone this year. Those first eleven who entered in grade one in 1992 completed their high school and joined in junior colleges this year. We are excited.

Under health care Srikan Institute of Ophthalmology is providing quality eye care with compassion. The blindness prevention programs funded by CIDA, Help the Aged Canada, and MSMF are achieving significant results. Recognizing the impact on community ophthalmology, in their recent Annual Meeting held in Halifax, NS, the Canadian Ophthalmological Society (COS) offered free booth space for a display on Srikan. We thank COS, for giving us this excellent opportunity to meet ophthalmologists, nurses, and exhibitors from pharmaceutical companies and ophthalmic instrumentation manufacturers.

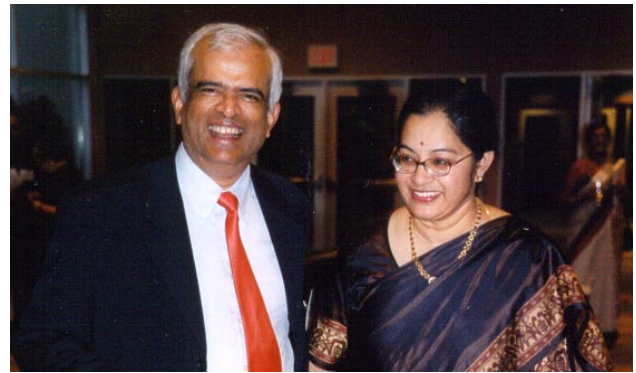
Volunteers are the backbone of MSMF, and they have played a very significant role in everything that is being done to raise awareness and funds. We thank them all.

## ***Best NGO Award for Srikan***

For the 2nd year in a row, Srikan received the Best NGO Award from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Srikan received this award for the highest number of sight saving surgeries performed. We wish to recognize this fact and congratulate the Srikan Staff and Management.

## ***MSMF Humanitarian Award***

The MSMF Humanitarian Award was conceived to recognize the devotion of our volunteers and donors to the humanitarian cause of MSMF. We are very happy and proud to bestow the 2003 Award upon Mrs. Shashi and Dr. Eswar Prasad Somayajula, Collingwood, ON, Canada.



Eswar started Sensor Technology Limited in 1983. Eswar, Shashi and Employees of Sensor Technology Limited have put Collingwood on the high tech map of the world, and celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in October. We congratulate them and wish them continued success in their endeavors.

## ***St. Gregory & Sarada***

In June, Dr. Chandra Sankurathri visited St. Gregory School in Ottawa. He met the grades 1 to 6 students in small groups and presented the latest videotape made at the school in Kakinada. They were interested learning about the activities the children fulfill over there. They had many questions directed to Chandra. That visit improves the relationship that has been developing between the two schools for more than a decade. St. Gregory will support Dr. Sankurathri's project in India again this current year. Thank you St. Gregory for your faithfulness.

Michelle Danis, Director, MSMF

**News from Kakinada, India.**

## Education Program – Sarada Vidyalayam

The school, Sarada Vidyalayam, was reopened in June after summer holidays. The eight grade seven students from last year passed the entrance examination in first class and enrolled in grade eight in prestigious high schools. This year, 23 new students were admitted into grade one. There are 17 students in grade two, 13 in grade three, 13 in grade four, 14 in grade five, 12 in grade six, and 13 in grade seven, for a total of 105, girls 55 and boys 50.

We are continuing to mentor and monitor those who have moved from Sarada into high schools and this year for the first time into junior colleges. There are eight in grade eight, 10 in grade nine, 15 in grade 10, and 11 in the first year under graduate level.

As in the past, education will be completely free for those enrolled at Sarada and for those who have moved on to high schools and colleges, support will be made available as much as possible on the basis of need.

**Eye Care Program**

## Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology

Dr. M. Avinash, M.D., F.R.C.S., trained in the very prestigious All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, has joined as a consultant.

The CIDA-Help the Aged Canada, project: Progressive Elimination of Avoidable Blindness due to Cataract and Glaucoma will be completed and reported by December 2003. A follow-up project: Blindness Prevention Program – Sustainability, was launched in April 2003.

The CIDA-MSMF project: Childhood Blindness Prevention Program is making excellent progress.

The construction of the new building for the Institute is behind schedule but it will be ready by December 2003.

Dr. Otis Paul, Pediatric Ophthalmologist from San Francisco, California, visited Srikiran from May 19 – 24. Dr. Paul participated in the

Hospital Based Program for training Pediatric Ophthalmologists at Srikiran sponsored by ORBIS International. At the same time, Dr. G.V. Rao and Dr. Preeti Singh from ORBIS India office also visited Srikiran. We are looking forward to joint projects with ORBIS.

Mr. Srinivas (Naren) Sankranti has joined Srikiran as Financial & Personnel Administrator in May. Naren worked for three years at MVP Foundation, a popular NGO in Hyderabad, India, dealing with eradication of child labour and rehabilitation of children through education. Earlier, he was an Officer at the Punjab National Bank for 20 years. Naren will be an asset to the growth and development at Srikiran. His wife Lakshmi is lending a helping hand with teaching at Sarada Vidyalayam and with management of the campus canteen.

Ms. Darlene Bhavnani, a microbiology graduate from Montreal, Canada, is a CIDA – Help the Aged Canada youth intern. She is at Srikiran on a six-month term to set up a microbiology laboratory for monitoring and identification of bacterial cultures and to provide training to Srikiran technicians.

Dr. Madhavi, a Senior Consultant from Srikiran, was invited to present her Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery technique at a conference on Small Incision Cataract Surgery at Mumbai in August 2003. In November she is attending the American Academy of Ophthalmologists in Anaheim, California, and at that time she is planning to visit us in Canada.

***Please support MSMF generously ...***

*We urge you to support our education, eye care and disaster relief programs. Donations to MSMF qualify for tax credits in Canada. Donations to our partner organization, Eye Foundation of America (1460 Anderson Avenue, Morgantown, WV, 26505), qualify for tax exemption in the USA.*

***Thank You.***

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