



## MSMF Newsletter

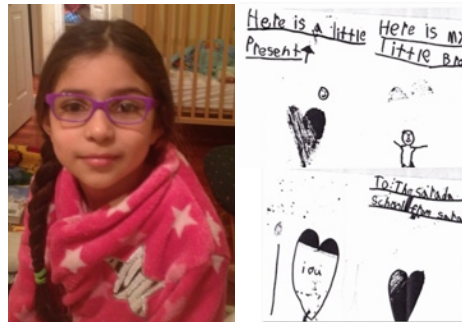
# A Ray of Light

Education \* Eye Care \* Disaster Relief



Srirama Mangapuram Thanda Eye Camp, February 19, 2013.

## Young donor likes to help Sarada Vidyalayam



Sarada McKim was eight years old when she met Dr. Chandra in St. John's last year (2012). She has been saving from her pocket money and birthday gifts and wanted to provide a little present to a school in India. She also continued to save and made another contribution recently together with a card to be sent to Sarada Vidyalayam.

Sarma Vishnubhatla thanked Sarada and for her generosity and her parents Drs. Aaron McKim and Santhi Murthy for inspiring Sarada.

### Residents from Ottawa Visit Srikiran - A Report by Drs. Karanjia and Baath.

Residents, Drs. Karanjia and Baath, spent approximately 3 weeks at the Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology in December 2012.

### General Description and Objectives

The main objective of the trip was to become familiar with small incision cataract surgery. The extracapsular technique of cataract surgery is a dying art form in North American training programs and has largely been replaced with Phacoemulsification. The technique provides excellent outcomes in the right hands and provides trainees with a set of skills which are extremely beneficial for ability to manage and deal with complications and challenging cataract cases. We had the opportunity to discuss our objectives with Dr. Avinash Mahindrakar and Dr. Chandra at the start of our visit and we were encouraged to see disease pathology which we may not see in North American society. We were also exposed to the differing treatment algorithms in place to manage patients in the face of social and economic challenges.

### Clinical Exposure

During the three weeks we spent most of our time with Dr. Avinash Mahindrakar. Dr. Mahindrakar is a highly skilled surgeon and a knowledgeable and motivated teacher. Having spent time in Australia he was familiar with the postgraduate medical system we use in North America. Each day he would have a small clinic where he set aside patients for us to see with him which had been referred to him from the other physicians at the clinic or outside. Some of these patients had pediatric, strabismus or oculoplastics issues, which is his area of specialty. Other patients were specifically sent to see us as they were specific teaching points or disease management skills we could learn from these patients.

Other members of the team including Drs. Thulasi, Satyanarayana, Mohan, Padmini, Satish and Rajyam were very welcoming allowing us to attend their clinics and referring interesting cases they were managing to Dr. Mahindrakar for us to see if we were in clinic with him.

This process allowed us to see things that we would not ordinarily see in Canada including several fungal keratitis, advanced diabetic retinopathy, Morgagnian cataracts, phacomorphic glaucoma, Waardenburg syndrome, and phacolytic glaucoma. We also had the opportunity to observe the surgical treatment of some of these patients from glaucoma procedures including trabeculotomy, PVR membrane peeling, scleral buckling, removal of orbital foreign body, skin cancer removal, corneal tattooing, DSEK, DMEK, PKP and DALK and rotational corneal grafts for cornea scars. The centre provided a full complement of subspecialty services which one would expect in a tertiary care centre in Canada with the possible exception Neuro-ophthalmology. Dr. Mahindrakar was providing support in this role and is well equipped to do so.

### Surgical Exposure

During our stay in Kakinada we had the opportunity to go to the operating room on a daily basis. Initially we were there to observe small incision cataract and other surgeries. We were fortunate to go during a lull at harvest time which afforded the surgeons more time to assist and teach us as the patient volumes were significantly reduced.

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Please Get Involved.

Thank You for Caring.

Having said that they were still performing over 300 cataract surgeries a week, which is more than are typically performed at the Riverside and Eye Institute combined each week.

Our initial hands on surgical exposure was with Dr. Mahindrakar. Time was set aside in the afternoon, after the bulk of the surgeries were preformed where the OR with staff was made available for our learning. Dr. Mahindrakar had arranged to obtain a second teaching scope for a pair of Zeiss microscopes for our visit. This allowed both Jas and myself to view surgeries in stereo either simultaneously (as both scopes could be attached to one microscope) or individually with two different surgeons. This also facilitated our teaching as the surgical instructor could observe through the side scope while we operated and provide guidance as required.

Overall our surgical experience was outstanding. Both Jas and my self preformed 21 surgeries from start to finish. I saw a few things I hope never to see again like my first Argentinean Flag sign but I was provided with guidance on how to manage it and completed the case myself. The posterior capsule was intact and a sulcus IOL was placed and the patient had POD1 vision of approximately 20/40 if I remember correctly.

As all patients were admitted, we had the opportunity to see our Post-op patients the next day in the morning prior to the selection of cases for that day. This was a valuable experience as you could see where things could have been improved in your technique and how you could do things differently which you could incorporate into your next case. It was also rewarding to see patients who were CF go to 20/30-20/40. Reminding one why we do this type of work.

### Eye Camp Exposure

The eye camps were typically conducted three times a week. We did have the opportunity to attend a small camp on the first weekend we were in Kakinada. The camp we attended was organized by a local youth group so we had an opportunity to see a rural Indian village and were shown where and how the patients were triaged and educated about their vision maladies. It was a relatively short camp as most of the farmers were harvesting crops at that time of the year.

Teaching given and received  
There was no formal didactic teaching during our time at Sriikiran. We were instructed in one on one and it was a more collegial and informal. This was entirely appropriate as there were only two of us and as such we would discuss interesting cases and go over surgical cases and steps we had difficulty with as they came up. There were two ophthalmology residents at

Sriikiran who were in their second year of training. This provided us with an opportunity to teach and learn from each other and review and prepare for the royal collage.

The institute is well equipped with subspecialists in all major fields and there is very little we would add by giving formal lectures to them. We gave some of our own presentations on interesting topics and cases which we had encountered during our training. But again these were probably more beneficial for the residents than the staff ophthalmologists.

### Recommendations

For future years I would suggest that the same time period be selected as it represents a lull in our training program and a lull in the cases load at Sriikiran. Having two residents going together is entirely appropriate and it worked well from our perspective. As both Jas and myself were operating simultaneously I don't feel that having only one resident at a time would significantly add to the case numbers but it would impose more on our hosts. The staff are very well versed in the surgical and clinical techniques and we as residents would have very little to add to their repertoire. Overall it was a worthwhile experience and I strongly encourage future residents to go. Sincerely,

[Dr. Jasrajbir Baath and Dr. Rustum Karanjia are Ophthalmic residents with Ottawa Eye Centre, Ottawa Hospital].

### Shri Krupa Dance Company raises funds in honor of MSMF - Sahana Sripadanna

During Dr. Chandra's visit to California in November 2012, he met Guru Vishal Ramani, a well known Indian Classical dance teacher. Guru Vishal Ramani is the founder of Shri Krupa Dance Company, the oldest Bharatanatyam school in the San Francisco Bay Area and hosts a series of annual performances in honor of her late mother, Smt. Saraswati. This year MSMF was selected as one of the nonprofit foundations to be honored. For this event, Guru Vishal choreographed a wonderful performance by dancers of all ages entitled "Poetic Visions of



Left to right: Sasi Murthy, Mrs. Lakshmi Murthy, Dr. K.S.R. Murthy, Kavita Ramani, Guru Vishal Ramani, Sejal Sripadanna, Sahana Sripadanna

Glory," on January 27, 2013 at Woodside High School Performing Arts Center. It was a stunning array of color and music depicting different scenes representing temples in India.

Guru Vishal was touched by the incident that turned Dr. Chandra's life in a different direction. Guru Vishal and Dr. Chandra share great vision and the special ability and dedication to move towards that vision - they are determined to make a big difference. As Guru Vishal's student, I had the pleasure of participating in this special event. I am amazed, as was the audience, that one man could make such a difference to so many, even after such a tragedy. When I heard I was to participate to help this charity, I was thrilled. I have been a student of Guru Vishal's since 2007 and have experienced her dedication, drive and her talent. I have also learned much more than the art of Bharatanatyam from Guru Vishal, I am learning that you should always have confidence in your abilities, and never be afraid to voice your opinion, and to always find ways to participate in helping others in any way you can. I also know of Dr. Chandra and his work through my grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. Murthy, in Canada and their close friendship and support of him and of MSMF over the last 20 years. His work and his personality inspired everyone at the concert, especially the dancers. The concert ended with Guru Vishal presenting Mr. Dilip Kuchibhatla a check for MSMF. Performing in this concert was a big honor, and I am so proud that I helped to make a difference while doing something I love.

[Sahana Sripadanna is a student of Guru Vishal and lives in Saratoga, California]

### A Vision for Vision - Report on Srirama Mangapuram Thanda Eye Camp, India

During a visit to India in August 2010, Naga Mudigonda travelled with his parents to the beautiful coastal Andhra Pradesh region in South India. He was aware of the CBC documentary about MSMF and being in that region a thought suddenly prompted them to visit the hospital and the school. Although they stayed at the Foundation only for a few hours, but it was one of the best experiences of their life and they were deeply touched by Dr. Sankurathri's humility and his unassuming nature. During Dr. Sankurathri's visit to Calgary, Canada, in 2012, Naga Mudigonda explored with him about the possibility of organizing an eye camp near his village in Khammam District, Andhra Pradesh, India. Dr. Sankurathri encouraged the idea and discussed the logistics and associated expenses. His father, Mr. Chalapathi Rao Mudigonda, who regularly works on promotion of cleanliness and animal protection issues in Indian villages, offered to provide logistical support

in India for the organization of the camp. His brother Viswas Mudigonda (Dallas, Tx) offered to spread the message in the US communities for support. Thus the seeds were planted for what would become one of the most successful eye camps ever organized by Sankurathi Foundation on February 19, 2013 in Srirama Mangapuram Thanda village.

“When we take one step towards accomplishing a good cause, the divine grace materializes in several different ways to help us succeed in our mission” wrote Naga Mudigonda in a letter to MSMF. “My father, who initiated the efforts in India for the eye camp was tremendously supported by Mr. Ramdas, a local police officer. Together, they formulated a team of volunteers who worked with great commitment for about two months in spreading the message about the eye camp in the surrounding villages” he said. All along in their efforts, the organizers received excellent support and guidance from Sankurathi Foundation. They used several means to spread the message including publications in local news media, door-to-door campaigning, publicity through schools, and community centers such as temples, churches, public places etc.

As the camp day approached, the campaign was intensified using special audio messages recorded in the local Telugu language in an attempt to reach out to the poor and needy people in several surrounding villages. These efforts really paid off. People turned out to the camp in large numbers far exceeding the expectations of the organizers. Sankurathi Foundation later commented in its report that the size of this camp in terms of the number of cases examined and treated was roughly equivalent to the cumulative size of five camps that they usually conduct. Out of about 600 people examined, around 250 patients were diagnosed and selected for cataract surgeries. The selected patients were transported by Sankurathi Foundation to the Srikiran Eye Institute, Kakinada, in three separate groups over a period of three weeks following the camp. In each group, about 70 - 80 patients were operated in the hospital for cataracts. The love and professionalism with which Sankurathi Foundation staff conducted themselves in organizing this large eye camp and the unwavering commitment displayed by the local organizers represented perfect examples of the indomitable human resolve for achieving greater good.

This noble accomplishment would not have been possible without support and wishes from generous donors. Soon after we communicated the eye camp plans to people in Canada and USA, several friends, family members, non-profit organizations, and even some financial institutions offered donations. The payments were processed

through registered charities, MSMF in Canada and Kruti-Dhata in USA, who provided great moral support for the organization of the camp. The generosity with which people responded to our call for support was extremely inspiring. “We are deeply grateful to the donors and salute them for their commitment to serve fellow humans. The philanthropic activities spearheaded by Sankurathi Foundation thrive on your generosity and collective spirit. We sincerely wish that Sankurathi Foundation continues to receive your support to carry forward with their most noble mission of providing free education and health to the poor and needy for many many decades to come”, concluded Naga Mudigonda.

[Naga R. Mudigonda lives in Calgary, AB]

**Data consultant from Ottawa helps Srikiran in Outreach Efforts**

As a young medical student doing an elective in Ottawa in Ophthalmology, I came across a resident in her last year of training at the Ottawa Eye Institute. She was giving a presentation about the Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology. I knew that if I were fortunate enough to be able to train at the Ottawa Eye Institute, that I wanted to be a part of the amazing work being done there.

As luck would have it, I was accepted as a resident in Ophthalmology at the Ottawa Eye Institute and within my first few months of training, set out to contact Dr. Chandra to organize a visit to Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology. Since I was so early in my training, I could not provide much expertise or help in the way of eye medicine or

**MSMF ANNUAL PICNIC, 2013**



- Indian Vegetarian Food  
(Served from 11am - 2pm)
- Masala Dosa
  - Idli
  - Vegetable Pakoda
  - Chaat Paapdi
  - Kheer
  - Gulab Jamoon
  - Shikanji
  - Tea

**Entertainment**  
2pm - 5pm

**MSMF Facts to date**

- Children educated - 1,930
- Eye surgeries performed - 178,805

For more information, please check [www.msmf.ca](http://www.msmf.ca) or contact [info@msmf.ca](mailto:info@msmf.ca)

**Annual Fundraiser Picnic**  
Saturday, June 22, 2013  
Andrew Haydon Park, 3169 Carling Ave, Ottawa, ON.

Food Tickets	Advance	At Gate
Family of Four	\$35	NA
Adults	\$15	\$16
Seniors	\$12	\$16
Children (6 - 12)	\$6	\$8

**For Advance Tickets, please contact**  
 Dr. Geeta Chowdhury (613) 833-7429 / [geeta@shawchowdhury.ca](mailto:geeta@shawchowdhury.ca)  
 Ms. Kauser Simran (613) 859-0881 / [simkauser@gmail.com](mailto:simkauser@gmail.com)  
 Mrs. Lakshmi Vishnubhatla (613) 523-5413 / [info@msmf.ca](mailto:info@msmf.ca)

## 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 1990-2013	2013 Jan - 2013 Feb	Statement of Expenses of MSMF (2012)	
			Expenses (To be audited)	2012 Jan-Dec
Out Patients Treated	1,8872,483	23,360	Projects	149,277
Surgeries Performed	183,659	1,843	Credit Card Fees	1,814
Vision Centers	4	0	Fundraising	5,104
Eye Screening Camps for Adults	1,872	22	Professional Fees	8,394
Eye screening Camps for Children	971	5	General	3,320
Medical Personnel Trained	345	1	<b>TOTAL</b>	167,909
Support Staff Trained	110	1	<b>Support Provided in 2012.</b>	
CME Workshops Conducted	55	0	Sarada Vidyalayam	Approx. \$ 57,368
Children Educated	1,930	0	Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology	Approx. \$ 91,909
Scholarships Provided	336	37		
School Children Screened	312,402	3,443		



### Sarma Vishnubhatla Visits Kakinada

Going to Kakinada, India, in February, is a welcome escape from Ottawa winter. But, the good reason for the visit is to spend a few days with Chandra and his sister Hema, and also to follow up on the Blindness Prevention Program at Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology and Children's Education Program at Sarada Vidyalayam School, both funded by donors from all across Canada.

Highlights of this trip are – the Schools 21st Anniversary Celebration, the huge Eye screening Camp in Srirama Mangapuram Thanda in Khammam District, and the visit to one of Srikiran's patients who had her Cataract surgery done recently.

Sagireddy Nagaratnam is 70 years old, with cataracts in both eyes, not being able to see, was going about in the house holding walls and hardly ever getting out. When I went to visit her, which was about 6 months after the



cataract surgery in one eye, she looked very confident and full of life. Neighbours commented that she is now

separating stones from rice before cooking for her family. Nagaratnam has a son and two daughters and five grandchildren. Such is the transformation after a 10 minute cataract surgery!

**Request** – It's time to retire one of the old buses and a replacement costs approx \$30,000. If you would like to direct your donation to "Bus Replacement Fund", please mark it on your donation Form. Thank you.

[Dr. Sarma Vishnubhatla is the Executive Director of MSMF and he lives in Ottawa.]

surgery. I instead provided another set of expertise to the Institute: my skills as a former data consultant.

In November of 2012, Dr. Chandra and Dr. Avinash hosted me for a two week stay at the Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology. After working with their database staff, I was able to provide a report detailing demographic information of patients, outcomes after cataract surgery and disease distribution. The goal of this report was to provide a snapshot of the progress being performed by Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology, and to help identify geographical or demographic areas which could benefit from added outreach efforts. Some of the results we found were so interesting, that we plan to eventually present it at our national conference next year.

During these 2 weeks, I had the opportunity to learn more about the amazing work being done in Kakinada and at the outlying satellite camps, the hard work and dedication put in by all the staff to keep the Institute and camps going, and the incredible impact this work had on patients and their families.

I left the Institute with very fond memories and a further re-affirmation of my interest in International Ophthalmology. I hope to one day return there and to help continue their noble efforts.

[Dr. Stephanie Chan is a student at Eye Institute and Eye Care Centre, The Ottawa Hospital.]

### 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).