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# Manjari Sankurathri Memorial Foundation

( A Canadian Registered Charity )

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**Summer Issue**

**MSMF Newsletter**

**August 1996**

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Editing & Layout : Sarma Vishnubhatla

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## **Chandrasekhar visits Ottawa ...**

**Chandra Sankurathri**, President of MSMF and Executive Trustee of Sankurathri Foundation (SF) of India, was here on his yearly tour of North America. He traveled to Toronto and Montreal seeking support from the community. He went to Morgantown, WV, to meet with Dr. V. K. Raju, who is a co-founder of Srikan Institute of Ophthalmology. Also, he visited Dr. Kjell Dahlen in Plattsburgh. Dr. Dahlen is a regular volunteer Ophthalmologist and Surgeon at Srikan and Advisor. In Ottawa, Chandra met his friends and well wishers at an open-house and briefed them on the progress he has made with Padmavathi Education Center and Srikan Institute of Ophthalmology.

K. S. Murthy

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## **St. Gregory's support to Padmavathi..**

For the fourth consecutive year, the children and staff of St. Gregory School, with the support of Mr. Pat Jennings, Principal, raised \$800.00 during Lent '96. Before Easter, the students were invited to do some chores at home to earn money that they wanted to share with less fortunate children in Kakinada. With that money, they played a short game of "Lento" (Bingo), which was also fun. Little Jonathan gave all of \$10.00, a present from his grandmother. Another boy donated his earnings from the paper route. Madame Danielle had a draw of her beautiful, home made candles. The basket ball game arranged by Mr. Bruno for fund raising was very exciting. All that made everyone at St.Gregory a little bit more aware of other's needs. Thank you for your generosity.

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Michelle Dussault

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## **St. Gregory's Kakinada Project ...**

In May '96, the Carleton Roman Catholic School Board teachers under the direction of Mr. Basil Tomlinson, Principal, Pope John XXIII School, shared their ideas on making students aware of multiculturalism. There were presentations of folk songs and dances, displays about how the program is being taught. **St. Gregory School presented Kakinada Project, it's support to SF's Padmavathi Education Center, as a way of helping less fortunate children in a distant country and learning about another culture at the same time.**

Michelle Dussault

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## **OECTA (CU) recognizes St. Gregory's Kakinada Project ...**

An Educational Aid Committee from the Carleton Unit of Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association was formed this year with the goals of developing awareness of social justice issues and providing support for both local and international projects. The Committee recognized St.Gregory's Kakinada Project and donated \$300.00 to Sankurathri Foundation in June.

Michelle Dussault

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**Park Avenue Elementary School of Nanaimo, BC,** continues to support Padmavathi Education Center. Under the supervision of Principal Mr. Brian Pettit, sponsor teacher Mrs. Cathy Eck, the Students' Council and the students donated \$200.00 and personal hygiene kits to the students of Padmavathi.

Moneca Pabbies

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**News from Kothuru (Kakinada)...**

The primary school, **Padmavathi Education Center**, was reopened in July after summer holidays. This year, instruction began in grade 5. The students, who graduated from grade 4, were enrolled in grade 5. Twenty children were accepted into grade 1. The school now has a strength of 70 students in five grades taught by five regular teachers, two volunteer teachers and a volunteer principal. With two buildings, it has enough classrooms, a teachers' common room, principal's office and a nice dining hall.

The monthly **General Medical Camps** are conducted mainly by volunteer doctors and staff to provide free medications and advice on health and hygiene. During the past four years, over 7200 received this free service. For unknown reasons, the attendance at recent Camps has declined. The reasons are being investigated and corrective measures will be taken to continue to deliver this service effectively.

The eye care center, **Srikan Institute of Ophthalmology**, is gaining popularity. This year the number of cataract surgeries could reach the 3000 mark. Currently, over 65% of the cataract surgeries are done with IOL (Intra Ocular Lens) implantation. Also, 75% of the patients are non-paying, while the rest pay whatever they can. Srikan is striving hard to become self-supporting. The Institute now employs three Ophthalmologists, twelve Nurses and twelve support staff members.

**The community out-reach** program is receiving a lot of support from non-governmental organizations such as Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, Banks, etc. These weekly screening camps for eye ailments are arranged in different locations as far away as 50 km from the Institute to provide the poor, access to state-of-the-art eye care at no cost to them. This going-out-into-the-villages does need a strong commitment from doctors, nurses, support staff and volunteer members of helping Organizations. Attendance at these camps varies from a couple of hundreds to a couple of thousands. Delivering care at their door step is the only effective way to help the rural poor.

Chandra Sankurathri

**New Directors Elected to MSMF...**

For personal reasons **Dr. Anantaraman** resigned from the Board but will continue to support the programs.

**Santosh Chari** moved from Ottawa; therefore, he could not continue as Treasurer.

**Both, Dr. Anantaraman and Santosh Chari, worked very hard and contributed significantly to MSMF. We thank them and wish them well.**

Two new directors, **Mme. Michelle Dussault** and **Mr. Marc-André Côté** were elected to the Board. Both, Mme. Dussault and Mr. Côté have known MSMF well and have been supporting its programs. Mr. Côté visited the Foundation in India in 1989.

**Chandra S Sankurathri (President), K.S. Murthy (Vice-president), Marc-André Côté (Vice-president), Michelle Dussault (Director), Sarma Vishnubhatla (Secretary & Treasurer)**

**APPEAL**

Give a gift of knowledge and sight,  
And make a significant difference in someone's life.

Please become involved -- Please give generously.

Your donation to MSMF in Canada, EFA in the U.S. and SF in India qualifies for Tax consideration.

For more information please contact:

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