



Manjari Sankurathri Memorial Foundation

(A Registered Canadian Charity)

Autumn Issue

MSMF Newsletter

December 1996

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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Joyeux Noël / Bonne année

Killer Cyclone at wind speeds 150 kph devastates coastal Andhra ...

Most affected were the East and West Godavari Districts. MSMF is raising funds for Cyclone Relief. Please send your donations to MSMF and mark cheques clearly for cyclone relief.

MSMF thanks India-Canada Association of the National Capital Region, Telugu Cultural Association of Greater Toronto, Andhra Cultural Association of Ottawa-Carleton, Maharashtra Seva Samithi of Ottawa, St. Gregory (Nepean, ON) and Park Avenue (Nanaimo, BC) Schools, all of our volunteers, donors and well wishers.

Congratulations ...

This year, **Dr. V. K. Raju**, MD, FRCS, FACS, President, Eye Foundation of America (EFA) and Co-Founder of Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology (Kakinada, India), received an honour award for the Advancement of Ophthalmology from the American Academy of Ophthalmology. He also received an award from Heart and Hand for the Handicapped, an organization in New Jersey, USA, in recognition of his work with handicapped children.

Dr. Raju visited Srikiran in October. He took along with him a YAG Laser, which is a very valuable addition to the list of modern equipment available for eye surgeries at the Institute.

Dr. Raju organized a workshop at the Institute on "Recent Advances in Cataract Surgery", which was attended by 20 doctors from all over India. This "hands-on" workshop using the lab facilities available at the Institute was very successful.

Dr. Dahlen, MD, FACS, Eye Physician and Surgeon, Eye Care for the Adirondacks, Plattsburgh, and Advisor and Volunteer, Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology, writes ..

"Rotary International has approved funding for a new Zeiss OPMI MDU Operating Microscope for Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology. This instrument will be used to train the Institute's eye surgeons in small incision cataract surgery. The advantages of small incision cataract surgery are: a) A quicker rehabilitation for patients, with immediate resumption of physical activities one day following surgery, b) A reduced incidence of operative and post-operative complications, c) A reduced need for post-operative eye drops, and d) A reduced operating time, with resultant ability for one surgeon to perform more cataract operations per day.

The operating microscope allows an assistant to have binocular visualization of the surgery. This is useful for demonstrating new techniques to other surgeons and allows experienced surgeons to assist operations done by surgeons in training.

The microscope is also equipped with a video camera, so that surgery can be recorded and later used for teaching and for surgeons to review and critique their own surgical methods.

In addition to donating the microscope, Rotary International is sponsoring 31 cataract operations per month for one year, for patients who are unable to pay.

The Kakinada Rotary Club members will continue to organize and run cataract screening camps with Rotary banners, signs and public announcements making the public aware of Rotary involvement."

Andhra Pradesh / Uttar Pradesh Primary Health Care and Training Program

The Andhra Pradesh / Uttar Pradesh Primary Health Care and Training Program is a three year project submitted to **Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)** for matching grants by **Help the Aged (Canada)** and **Manjari Sankurathri Memorial Foundation (Canada)** in partnership with **Sankurathri Foundation (Kakinada, India)**, **Naujhil Integrated Rural Project for Health and Development, NIRPHAD, (Delhi, India)** and **Dr. Sheela Sharma Memorial Charitable Trust (Mathura, India)**.

The project is a follow-up to many years of health care projects organized in India by Help The Aged (Canada) and sponsored by CIDA through the South Asia Partnership and Ontario International Development Program.

The project will focus on the development of local resources in the fields of eye care and tuberculosis treatment. In its three year term, Canadian medical volunteers will train 432 ophthalmologists / surgeons / physicians and 576 nurses. The training will be provided by means of workshops and term fellowships to new medical graduates.

The training provided to local medical staff, the new equipment and supplies purchased through this project and the revenues raised from medical fees to non-project patients who can afford treatment programs will generate sufficient income to ensure sustainability.

During this three year process, 135,000 poor people will be screened in rural areas for eye afflictions and tuberculosis and receive

instruction on basic health care. An estimated 18,000 patients will receive treatment and/or surgery.

Patients benefiting from eye surgery and tuberculosis treatment will once again become productive members of their families and communities. The tuberculosis component will reduce the number of secondary infections within the patients' families and communities. The basic health training program will educate the poor concerning disease symptoms and prevention and care of common illness through proper sanitation, use of clean water, etc.

Our three Indian partners have previous experience with primary health care programs and will coordinate the programs in rural areas of East Godavari and Mathura. While eye care and related training are available at all of the three locations, namely, Delhi, Mathura and Kakinada, Tuberculosis treatment and training are provided at Mathura only.

This project will be continually monitored, evaluated and controlled by Help the Aged (Canada), Manjari Sankurathri Memorial Foundation (Canada) and the visiting Canadian medical staff in consultation with the participating Indian NGO's and project beneficiaries.

Seasons Greetings

MSMF Board of Directors

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 exemption.

For more information please contact:

MSMF, 23 Mary Drive, Gloucester, ON, K1V 1G9, (613)523-5413.

Thank you.