



Manjari Sankurathri Memorial Foundation

(A Registered Canadian Charity)

Autumn Issue

MSMF Newsletter

November 1997

Seasons Greetings

At MSMF, we had a very busy Summer. As he does every year, Chandra Sekhar Sankurathri visited us for seven weeks. He came in time for Mrs. Lata Pada's dance performance. Later, he traveled across Canada and the USA. In several Canadian cities, he spoke about his mission, serving the rural poor, about the service providing institutions he started in Kakinada, Srikan Institute of Ophthalmology and Sarada (Vidyalayam) Education Centre and about the program, the Andhra Pradesh / Uttar Pradesh Primary Health Care and Training Project.

Chandra's travel across the country allowed him to renew old friendships and start new ones. We now have more volunteers. Also, we have welcomed a new member, Dr. Rao S. Divi, to MSMF's volunteer Board of Directors.

With the India-Canada Association of Ottawa-Carleton and several other Indo-Canadian Cultural Organizations from the National Capital Region, we celebrated the Golden Jubilee Year of India's independence.

***Deepawali (Festival of Lights)
SubhaAkankshalu ((best wishes) everyone.***

***We wish our friends, donors, volunteers,
all of you a very happy Christmas and a very
prosperous New Year.***

Chandra Sankurathri, K. S. Murthy, Marc-André Côté,
Michelle Dussault, Rao S. Divi, Sarma Vishnubhatla
Board of Directors



Chandra presenting the cheque to Ms. Pierrette Leonard of Help the Aged (Canada).

Thanks Mrs. Lata Pada

Mrs. Lata Pada, founder of Sampradaya Dance Academy, Mississauga, ON,, presented 'TRIKONA', one of her recent creations to the National Capital Region audience to raise funds for MSMF. The BharataNatyam recital took place on June 8, 1997, in Centrepointe Theatre, Nepean, ON. His Excellency Shri Prem K. Budhwar, High Commissioner of India, and his wife Shrimati Kusum Budhwar were the Guests of Honour. The Honourable Miss. Flora MacDonald was the MC. Among the audience, there were guests invited from the Federal Government Departments and Cultural, Community and Volunteer Organizations. Also, present were Dr. V. K. Raju, Ophthalmologist, President, Eye Foundation of America, Morgantown, WV. and Dr. Kjell Dahlen, Ophthalmologist, Plattsburgh, NY.

Mrs. Lata Pada and her students presented a rich cultural program, which included compositions from the traditional India to the contemporary Canada, all under the strict rules and guidelines set by the BharataNatyam code. The accompanying music, which included traditional instruments from India and some borrowed from other parts of the world to reflect the Canadian cultural blend, was specially composed for this program. It was indeed a marvelous program, well appreciated by the audience.

After the recital, the MSMF Humanitarian Awards were presented to Dr. Raju, Dr. Dahlen and Mrs. Pada. Being an Ophthalmologist, Dr. Raju saw the need for an Institute like Srikan and joined with Chandra Sankurathri to start one. Dr. Dahlen visits Srikan regularly every year and is a constant provider of service, equipment, training and valuable advice. Mrs. Pada is a tireless volunteer for many important causes. We are indeed very fortunate that she chose MSMF also to support.

We thank our Guests, the MC, the Award recipients, members of Sampradaya Dance Academy, Centrepointe Theatre Volunteer Services, Help the Aged (Canada) and the India-Canada Association of Ottawa-Carleton.

The proceeds of this fund-raiser were presented to Help the Aged (Canada), towards the Andhra Pradesh / Uttar Pradesh Primary Health Care and Training Program.

News from Kakinada ...

After Summer holidays, Sarada Vidyalayam was reopened on 19 July 1997. A new batch of children were admitted into Grade 1. This year the school has an enrolment of 63 students in five Grades.

New appointments ...

Dr. Rajendra Malviya was appointed as a Senior Ophthalmologist at Srikiran. Dr. Malviya is an experienced surgeon and worked for many years in Aravind Eye Hospital.

Dr. Vinod Mootha, joined Srikiran as a volunteer for one year. Dr. Mootha got his Bachelors degree in Medicine from Johns Hopkins University and M. D. in Ophthalmology from the University of Wisconsin, USA.

Visitors ...

Ms. Meg Myers, Teacher, St. Gregory School, Nepean, ON, visited the Foundation in July.

Dr. V. K. Raju, President, Eye Foundation of America, visited in July and again in October.

Mr. Pierre Barbeau, Executive Director, Help the Aged (Canada), Dr. E. B. Sundaram, Director of NIRPHAD, Dr. S. K. Sharma, Director of DSSMCT visited in September.

Dr. Annette M. D'Souza, Ophthalmologist from New Westminster, BC, visited in October.

Ms. Meg Myers, writes:

" My short sojourn with Dr. Chandrasekhar and his colleagues in Kakinada proved to be a true highlight of my time in India.

I had seen several pictures of the children and patients who attended the Sankurathri Foundation from my comfortable environment at St. Gregory's school in Nepean, but nothing could compare to actually meeting the people behind the photo images. I visited the school where I was greeted by the smiling faces of children dressed in smart uniforms and ready to begin their lessons - despite the stifling 40 degree C heat. I was also fortunate enough to observe cataract surgery being performed at the eye hospital.

I feel incredibly fortunate to have been able to visit Kakinada and see, first hand, all the amazing work that is being done. I was inspired by the dedication of both the educators and the eye doctors who help MSMF achieve their goal of providing quality education and eye care for the poor in the surrounding area. As I left Kakinada to continue on my travel in India, it struck me that nothing less than small miracles are being performed daily in a small corner of Andhra Pradesh each day - what a wonderful thing to have witnessed! I thank Dr. Chandrasekhar and MSMF and extend my continued support."

The Andhra Pradesh / Uttar Pradesh Primary Health Care and Training Program

This three year CIDA funded program, managed by Help The Aged (Canada) and MSMF, was started in February 1997. The program objectives are to: 1) provide primary health care to rural poor, 2) develop local resources by means of a Continuing Medical Education (CME) program for the practicing professionals and a training program for nurses and 3) strengthen the local institutions. Three Non-government Organizations (NGOs), one from Andhra Pradesh, Sankurathri Foundation (SF) from Kakinada and two from Uttar Pradesh, Naujhil Integrated Rural Project for Health And Development (NIRPAHD) and Dr. Sheela Sharma Memorial Charitable Trust (DSSMCT) from Mathura are implementing the program. SF and NIRPHAD are conducting eye screening camps, performing cataract surgeries and providing the eye care as needed. DSSMCT is conducting the tuberculosis screening camps and providing treatment for those infected. The three Organizations have started the training programs for nurses. SF and NIRPHAD are conducting the CME programs. SF has a very well equipped eye care facility in Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology. NIRPHAD is also equipping its eye care facility in their new premises.

In September 1997, Mr. Pierre Barbeau, Executive Director, Help the Aged (Canada), visited the three NGOs to evaluate their programs. In Kakinada, he met the Directors of the three organizations, Dr. Chandra Sankurathri of SF, Dr. E. B. Sundaram of NIRPHAD and Dr. S. K. Sharma of DSSMCT, and discussed with them the implementation details of the Andhra Pradesh / Uttar Pradesh ... Program.

Mr. Barbeau found that as the three NGOs have on going primary health care programs in rural areas, the implementation of screening and treatment for eye care as well as tuberculosis was done very quickly. The training programs, namely, the upgrading of skills of local ophthalmologists and the training of ophthalmic nurses and public health nurses are gaining momentum.

Under this program, in October 1997, Dr. Annette M. D'Souza, Ophthalmologist, New Westminster, BC, volunteered her services at Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology.

We need ophthalmologists, ophthalmic and public health nurses, who could volunteer their services, either in Mathura or in Kakinada.. Volunteers receive excellent hospitality from our NGOs. Travel grants are available to volunteer nurses. Please write to us for more information:

MSMF, 23 Mary Drive, Gloucester, ON. K1V 1G9.