



MSMF Newsletter

A Ray of Light

Our 25th Anniversary Issue



Mehendi was very popular at MSMF Annual Picnic in Ottawa this summer.

Telugu Literary Society of Manitoba reflects on its 25 year Association with MSMF

Congratulations to Manjari Sankurathri Memorial Foundation for 25 Years of Selfless Dedicated Service. On behalf of the Telugu Literary Society of Manitoba I take great pleasure in conveying our hearty felicitations for its noble service in restoring eyesight through cataract surgery and educating the rural poor.

We salute Dr Chandra, the founder of this noble institute, for turning his personal tragedy into service to humanity, and showing the rest of us how to dedicate our lives in service to humanity.

We in Winnipeg are very fortunate and proud to be associated with MSMF, almost from the beginning.

That fateful event in June 1985, took the lives of 329 innocent people who were on board Air India Flight 182, touched the entire country of Canada from coast-to-coast. No wonder today, MSMF is known all across Canada for its selfless services that was born out of personal tragedy.

In 1998 our younger daughter Nagu spent six weeks volunteering in Kakinada. Dr. Chandra visited Winnipeg the following year that gave us a first-hand glimpse of the mission and the man behind the mission. Since then several individuals (Veni & Venkateswara Rao Adduri, Kameswara Rao Chavali, and Prasad & Rukmini Kota) have visited Kakinada with very encouraging news about the MSMF activities. Each year we receive enquiries from others to go to Kakinada and see the facilities first hand for themselves.

The Telugu Literary Society of Manitoba made modest contributions to MSMF in the initial years through generous personal donations, and to make it a sustainable source of revenue we have been organizing the "dosa" stall at the annual Hindu Society of Manitoba "Diwali Mela". The expense and labour in making dosa are provided by the members of the Telugu Literary Society, and majority of the revenue is sent to MSMF. We started with a modest 300 dosas at the start and have reached over 1000 dosas in recent years. It has become a very popular event at the Diwali Mela. Through this and other similar activities MSMF and its cause are now known

Thank you for 25 years of support.

Manjari Sankurathri Memorial Foundation (MSMF) is celebrating 25 years of service to rural poor in India through Eye Healthcare, Education and Disaster Relief programs!

On this occasion, we thank all those who have provided us with leadership, inspired us with compassion & dedication and persevered with us under all situations during this endeavor!

We want you to celebrate with us and lead us forward to the next twenty five years, which is only possible with your continuing commitment!

Board of Directors

Manjari Sankurathri Memorial Foundation.

in the wider community in Winnipeg. In addition to this, several individuals have started making donations on a regular basis for which we all feel very proud.

In 2004 we arranged a classical Bharatanatyam performance, at which close to 700 attended, and publicized the services that MSMF has undertaken and started other initiatives in supporting the organization.

In 2010 we organized an Appreciation event, during Chandra's visit to Winnipeg, at which over \$50,000 were collected. Our members have been spreading the noble services MSMF is providing wherever they go. In 2011 while on a visit to St. John's, Newfoundland, one of our members spoke about MSMF and how we are supporting it in Winnipeg. Following that, Dr. Chandra was invited to St. John's the same year and spoke about MSMF which touched the hearts of those in attendance. The following year 2012 Dr. Chandra was invited to St. John's and was awarded Honorary Doctorate, for his selfless service, by the Memorial University of Newfoundland. We in Winnipeg were very thrilled for the recognition conferred by his alma mater.

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Thank You for Caring.

Chandra and MSMF have become household names in Winnipeg. Chandra has been making regular visits and keeping us abreast of the developments at MSMF in Kakinada. We wish Dr. Chandra good health in leading MSMF as an internationally recognized noble institute in serving the less fortunate.

[Sreenivasa Rao Atmuri, Telugu Literary Society of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba]

It is a place to recharge my batteries - Site visit report.

I completed my annual visit to Sankurathri Foundation from October 2, 2014 to October 18, 2014. One of my first meetings at SF was with the Accountants who have done a great job documenting and maintaining the records.

Juvvalapalem Project / Vision Centre

A donor from Ottawa has been looking at the possibility of establishing a Vision Centre in Juvvalapalem, similar to the Vision Centres we have in other locations. As an initial study it was agreed to hold periodic screening camps to determine needs, etc. The donor has been really looking for a long term commitment and a draft proposal has been prepared for the donor.

Interviews

Overall Srikiran students have done well after leaving school. However, here are others who have no direction, no guidance, etc. We felt that it is important to have a person on staff dedicated to mentoring the students and provide career guidance. Chandra and I interviewed two candidates and selected one.

We visited a first Post-Op camp held in a nearby village. It was an extremely rewarding experience. There were about 60, more women, every one very happy, bubbling with energy, talking way, wearing their sunglasses in that near afternoon time sunlight. It was quite a sight, very satisfying to speak with some of them and hearing their stories – families, children, grandchildren, their visit to Srikiran, surgery experience and after the surgery, etc. That was incredible! (We were even treated to fresh coconut water!)

Meeting with SIO-MSMF Volunteers

About 10 Srikiran Employees, call themselves MSMF Volunteers, are providing relief at times of need to those in need. And one of those situations was the Cyclone Hudhud, which hit hard the coastal areas of Andhra and Orissa. It touched ground about 100 km from Kakinada. There was a lot of flooding and lot of fisherman who lost their houses and livelihood. MSMF volunteers provided groceries and other help to the victims.

Pediatric Ophthalmology Clinic.

I spent a morning in the Pediatric Ophthalmology clinic where Dr. Avinash Mahindrakar was examining the patients. One came with eye infection, which Dr. Avinash said could be treated with medication. Second, a young boy, whose right eye was not developed and has a cataract! Dr. Avinash mentioned that surgery may not provide any improvement in the vision. Next, a six year old who had cataracts removed earlier was examined. He is doing well, wears glasses and in Grade 1. The fourth case was again difficult one – young man developed double vision after a motorcycle accident.

Corporate social Responsibility (CSR)

Ramprakash is responsible for both CSR and HR at SF. When I went to see him he was dealing with some matters related to the accreditation board in India. – good news is that Srikiran has accreditation for another three years (extension)! There are currently two candidates enrolled.

Ramprakash mentioned that CSR initiative produced several leads – with Mr. Pallam Raju (MP), Schlumberger (Oil Exploration), Coromandel Manufacturing & Fertilizers, ONGC (Oil and Natural Gas Company), etc. In 2014, the revenue from CSR was ~CAD5,000. He anticipates that it will increase in the future to CAD45,000.

He left an impression on me that good opportunities exist to raise funds for Srikiran through CSR in India.

Sarada Vidyalayam

Although, I always would like to spend more time with students and teachers, I did not get around to having that opportunity. The High School students were writing mid-term exams. I had a meeting with the teachers – from both Primary School and High School. We talked about, English teaching, computer literacy, mentoring, and create opportunities (and prepare students) to succeed. We are fortunate to have such a great team of teachers at Sarada.

Another day I attended the assembly for all students from Primary & High schools. During that assembly, I observed in particular, a mention was made of this year Nobel Peace Prize winners – Malala Yousafzai and Kailash Satyarthi.

Srikiran Staff Meetings

Srikiran staff met every Saturday morning and I was there for two. On the first Saturday, I followed the progress presented by various department heads. Then I had time to speak about our (Lakshmi & I) recent Arctic Expedition (North West Passage) with slides. Later in the evening we showed a documentary on the Arctic. On the Second Saturday, Lakshmi and I had

only time to thank all of the Staff and take leave. It is always something we look forward to every year – visit to Sankurathri Foundation – it's kind of time & place to recharge our batteries to last for another year with MSMF! Lakshmi and I thank our gracious hosts Hema and Chandra.

[Sarma Vishnubhatla is the Executive Secretary of MSMF. He lives in Ottawa, Ontario]

University of Ottawa Eye Institute Residents to Visit Srikiran.

University of Ottawa Eye Institute announced that three residents have opted for Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology Electives and will be visiting SIO for three week rotations. The residents are Dr. Niranjan Vijaykanthan, Dr. Nima Noordeh and Dr. Peng (Paul) Yan.

Dr. Niranjan Vijaykanthan was a recipient of Witelson Memorial Prize. He said that "Glaucoma is one of the leading causes of blindness worldwide, but there can be effective treatment with early diagnosis." Dr. Nima Noordeh's work titled "Genetic analysis of BBS1 in a Canadian Population with Bardet-Biedl Syndrome," earned her the best Annual Research Day Paper award. Dr. Paul Yan's presentations include "Sight threatening aqueous misdirection induced by atopy-related eye rubbing" and "Patient acceptance and tolerance of semi-scleral contact lenses"

MSMF Humanitarian Awards

From time to time, MSMF gave humanitarian awards to recognize the devotion of its volunteers and donors to the humanitarian cause of MSMF. The recipients of the award in the chronological order are: Dr. V.K. Raju, Dr. Kjell Dahlen, Dr. Matthew Farber, Mrs. Lata Pada (all in 1997), Dr. Vinod Mootha, St. Gregory Catholic School (both in 1998), Mrs. Deepti Gupta (2002), Mrs. Vimla Dube (2002), Shashi & Eswar Prasad (2003), Mr. Noordin Madatali (2008).



Noordin Madatali receiving the Humanitarian Award in 2008.

Success Stories - Sarada Students Write.

Renuka Ganga

I completed my B.Tech in Petrochemical Engineering from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Kakinada in 2014. I have got campus placement in a software company named Capgemini. I couldn't have done all this without support from Sarada Vidyalayam.



I come from a joint family. I joined Sarada Vidyalayam in second standard in the academic year of 1999-2000. In addition to Dr. Chandra and Mrs Hema, I was mentored by Dr. Shyamala and Mrs. Ramani. I was also provided financial assistance after I left Sarada. In particular, I received Michelle Mukherjee Fellowship from MSMF to complete my Engineering Degree. I would like to thank everybody for their help and encouragement throughout my education, especially MSMF for enlightening my life. I have taken an oath that I would help some students with their education in my life.

Padala Murali Krishna

I am a Mechanical Engineer with the Indian Space Research Organization, thanks to the mentoring of Dr. Chandra, help and assistance received from SF and Sarada Vidyalayam. I am very proud to say that I maintained consistently high academic grades through out my school years and had a GPA of 9.3 (out of 10). I was invited to a special convocation at the Andhra University and received several memorial prizes and merit certificates.



I was born in Thammavaram village about 15 km from Kakinada. I come from a joint family which consists of 7 members, my father, mother, two elder brothers, two sisters-in-laws and myself. My father was a vegetable vendor and my mother was a housewife.

Right through my school days, I received constant mentoring, guidance, inspiration and encouragement from Dr. Chandra for which I am eternally grateful to him. I also started to give a helping hand to the financially backward students. Now that I am settled well, I provide financial support to my friends for their studies and also

Towards Self Sustainability (Editor's Note)

This year we have asked alumni of Sarada to write back to us and tell how they are doing. The response has been overwhelming. We printed a few responses in the last newsletter and three more follow this time. The students have done well and have become engineers, scientists and other professionals. They are working for some very prestigious organizations such as Indian Space Research Organization (the NASA of India). From all these letters a common theme is emerging. Dr. Chandra has been the poster of this organization for obvious reasons. These letters paste an entirely different picture of him. Chandra has always been kind and gentle with the children but he also spends a lot of time with them mentoring, supporting, challenging, provide career guidance and even financial help to make sure they advance and prosper. Most importantly, these disciplined and humble children are returning to support their roots. They are pledging support to others who need such opportunities. A very welcome effect.

saving a little amount in my monthly salary for poor children's education.

Ramaganga Gollapalli

I am presently working as a software Engineer at Kony Labs Pvt. Ltd in Hyderabad India. We are developing mobile apps using Kony platform in our company.



I was born in Thammavaram village near Kakinada. My father is a farmer and my mother is a home maker. I had my schooling at Sarada Vidyalayam followed by AP residential school, Sri Chaitanya Junior college. I finally graduated from Aditya Engineering College with a degree in Computer Science & Engineering.

In recognition of the help I received I donate 5% of my income to charities every month. I am just one of the thousands who got opportunity to make my dreams come true with the help of Dr. Chandrasekhar.

MSMF awards Post Secondary Scholarships

During a recent visit to Sankurathri Foundation, Dr. Sarma Vishnubhatla distributed scholarships to 25 students. These scholarships were sponsored by MSMF and went to students pursuing post secondary education. The awards took place on Oct 4, 2014. Shown in the picture

In the current Indian climate, post secondary education guarantees good careers. Sarada's students have been graduating with exceptional scores and it is only logical to make sure our investment in this society is protected.

This year MSMF gave 25 scholarships. Typically \$400 will keep a student in the University for a full year. A total of \$1,600 will cover their entire four year degree programme. Presently a number of endowments and donations are making this possible. We need about \$25,000/yr to fund all students in the post secondary programs. It is the hope of MSMF to raise \$500-750,000 in endowments, so that all graduating students of Sarada can be supported in post secondary programmes. Your support will go a long way towards this. If you wish to discuss an endowment or a gift, please contact Sarma Vishnubhatla. Let us hope the mission will flourish for a long time to come and eventually, the organization will become self sustaining on its own strengths.

[S. Eswar Prasad is the Editor of this newsletter and lives in Collingwood, Ontario.]

are two recipients, Tatapudi Saikumari and Guthurthi Anusha.

A number of endowments have enabled us to do this. Those contributing to this year's scholarships are listed below. The number of scholarships provided are shown in parentheses.

- Lynn Mehta Memorial Scholarship (1)
- Maniben Mehta Memorial Scholarship (1)
- Michelle Mukherjee Scholarships (3)
- MSMF Scholarships (6)
- Prasad Family Foundation Scholarships (3)
- Raj Kumar Gambhir Scholarship (1)
- Rajni Sanicher Scholarships (6)
- Saraswati Scholarships (2)
- Shibhani Das Scholarships (2)



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 1990-2014	2014 Jan - 2014 Oct	Statement of Expenses of MSMF (2013)	
			Expenses (audited)	2013 Jan-Dec
Out Patients Treated	2,113,071	93,466	Projects	207,751
Surgeries Performed	203,984	8,216	Credit Card Fees	1,573
Vision Centres	7	1	Fundraising	6,705
Eye Screening Camps for Adults	2,088	85	Professional Fees	8,540
Eye screening Camps for Children	995	11	General	6,645
Medical Personnel Trained	352	3	TOTAL	231,214
Support Staff Trained	117	4	Support Provided in 2013.	
CME Workshops Conducted	60	1	Sarada Vidyalayam	Approx. \$ 62,000
Children Educated	2,223	143	Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology	Approx. \$ 146,000
Scholarships Provided	450	23		
School Children Screened	325,4791	5,018		

Progress Report from Sankurathri Foundation

Sarada Vidyalayam

Children are well settled in to their routine after summer holidays. The new batch of Grade 1 is slowly integrated in to the regular school routine. All the students received three sets of new uniforms.

The school was selected in a Science fair competition with the theme "Natural Energy Resources". A total of 34 exhibits selected in District level.

The independence day of India (August 15) was celebrated with a flag hoisting. The students also celebrated Teacher's Day (September 5). A primary School teacher, Mrs. Seetaratnam was honoured for more than 10 years of her service to Sarada Vidyalayam.

Dr.S.V.Ramana Rao, General Physician has conducted medical examination of all the children in the school and most of them are doing well, thanks to the nutritious food they receive at the school.

As a part of the Bala Vikas program, some children from the school has visited the nearby Old Age Home and entertained the residents.

At the time of Vinayaka Chavithi, a major Hindu Festival, the children have prepared the clay idols under the supervision of the teachers and distributed to all the staff members in order to raise awareness about the pollution caused by the colored idols. They have prepared about 162 idols with lots of interest and enthusiasm.

Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology

Srikiran work has been progressing continuously, not only in cataract surgeries but also in all specialties. This is a new development at the eye hospital and we receive referrals from East and West Godavari District ophthalmologists. During this quarter Srikiran has performed 775 cataract surgeries under MSMF banner.

Some noteworthy developments:

Retinopathy of Premature baby (1 ½ month age) was carried out on 9th September, 2014, first time this type of case in Coastal Andhra Pradesh.

Conducted a camp in Lakshmipathipuram, Gadimoga sponsored by Reliance Industries Limited under CSR program on 31st July, 2014

Organized a screening Camp at Green Field School for Blind children on 8th August, 2014 and all the children were referred to the base hospital for further testing.

Spandna

We have been able to provide timely help to the family (staff of Sankurathri Foundation) of fire accident on 20th September, 2014 in Spandana Program. Due to the fire accident the family lost all their belongings and have to procure everything slowly. The staff of Sankurathri Foundation collected some money immediately and handed over that to them so that they can slowly settle down again.

Direct Deposit and Pre-Authorized Debit Information

Now you can donate to MSMF through direct deposits and pre-authorized debits. The following information will assist you in making such donations.

TD Canada Trust

Manjari Sankurathri Memorial Foundation

Transit 32936

Inst No 004

Account No 0650566.

Your support is always much appreciated. We are very proud to say that we strive to keep the administrative costs to a very minimum and most of your donations go to support the cause.

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), 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 or call us.

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