

eyelights



Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust Inc.,

**Sankara Nethralaya
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Small acts of kindness 2013 at Dallas, Texas

OM Trust spreads the spirit of compassion in Southern California





Sankara Nethralaya Ophthalmic Mission Trust

In this edition of Eyelights America, we profile new trustees who have lent unstinting support to Sankara Nethralaya's initiatives and is always exploring newer ways of raising funds to support Nethralaya's cause.

Murthy Rekapalli

Trustee, SN OM Trust

Shri Murthy Rekapalli is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Orasun Technologies Inc, a consulting firm specializing in Oracle technologies, based in Georgia. A highly public spirited person with a strong commitment to helping the underprivileged, especially the physically challenged, he founded 'NayaIndia' with an objective of working towards a happy new India as suggestive of its name. Shri Rekapalli's NayaIndia played a critical role in alleviating the suffering of the visually impaired students living in hostels in the State of Andhra Pradesh by providing them with clothes and nutritional supplements. As an institution serving the visually impaired, Sankara Nethralaya drew his attention and interest and he made substantial contributions from his organization NayaIndia towards Sankara Nethralaya's cause. Shri Rekapalli was actively involved in fund raising initiatives for Sankara Nethralaya for the past several years in the Atlanta area and joined as a Trustee of the SN



S.N. Prabhu

Trustee, SN OM Trust

Shri S.N Prabhu more popularly known as 'Singer' Prabhu is an IT architect/Manager by profession and a singer/musician by passion, a man endowed with a mellifluous voice and blessed with a large heart to leverage the versatility of his talent to garner support and awareness for noble causes. Shri Prabhu is at ease with all the south Indian languages and also Hindi and various genres of music. His concerts and albums have helped to collect significant funds for various charity and service organizations in the USA, Canada and India. Shri S.N. Prabhu is blessed with a family which shares his passion for service through the language of music, he joined the OM Trust as a volunteer along with his family (Lalitha Prabhu (wife), Shruthi Prabhu and Sahana Prabhu (daughters) and has supported the Sankara Nethralaya since 2011 by helping to spread awareness about its activities in the Dallas area and other U.S. cities. He became a Trustee in 2013, Shri Prabhu and his family members have helped organize highly successful fundraising events in Dallas and Los Angeles that have mobilized significant funds for Sankara Nethralaya.



The Xth Mrs. Nagamani Dharmapuri Endowment Lecture



Dr Mohan Rajan, Secretary, Madras City Ophthalmological Association, Dr.T.S.Surendran, Vice-Chairman, Sankara Nethralaya, Professor Frank Martin, Visiting Ophthalmologist, Children's Hospital, WestMead, Sydney, Dr. T. Janardhana Rao, former Honorary Consul General of India in Melbourne, Dr.S.Bhasakaran, Chairman, Sankara Nethralaya and Dr.K.Ravi, President, Madras City Ophthalmological Association

The Xth Nagamani Dharmapuri Endowment Lecture was held at the Sri VD Swami Auditorium on the 24th of January 2013 to recall, honour and add value to the contribution of two dedicated doctors to the cause of pediatric ophthalmology. Speakers recalled the concern and dedication of world renowned neo- natology expert Dr Vidyasagar Dharmapuri and his wife Dr. Nagamani Dharmapuri, a world renowned pediatric cardiologist in whose name the Endowment was instituted by him to the field of pediatric ophthalmology.

Dr Sumitha Agarkar, Deputy Director, Squint and pediatric ophthalmology Department gave an interesting account of the expanding and exciting scope of pediatric ophthalmology. Speaking on the occasion Dr Sandeep Mark Thirumalai, Consultant, General Ophthalmology traced the genesis of the pediatric ophthalmology department, citing it as the brainchild of Dr SS.Badrinath. The guest of honour of the day Dr. T. Janardhana Rao, former Honorary Consul General of India in Melbourne, an old friend of Sankara Nethralaya was introduced by Dr Kavitha Kalavani, Consultant, Squint and pediatric department.

Delivering the Guest of Honour address Dr Janardhana Rao emphasized that the huge number of patients being screened and treated everyday at Sankara Nethralaya gives it an unmatched clinical expertise, which it could share with the West for the great benefit of medical science. This was followed by a most interesting Chief guest's address by Professor Frank Martin, Visiting Ophthalmologist at the Children's Hospital at West Mead, Sydney, he emphasized that concern, love and care were paramount to the success of pediatric ophthalmology. The function ended with a warm Vote of Thanks by Dr Mohan Rajan, Head of the Rajan Eye care Hospitals.

Small Acts of Kindness 2013



Artists' at the "Small Acts of Kindness 2013" music extravaganza at Dallas

When a good-natured notion transforms into a valiant process, it is impossible to match. When a thoughtful idea turns into an insightful project, it is impossible to fathom. When a good intention becomes a remarkable action, it is indeed impossible to describe. It was exactly this that was done during the "Small Acts of Kindness-2013" performance for Sankara Nethralaya on March 30th, 2013 in Dallas, Texas.

As a sequel to the first "Small Acts of Kindness" program that took place in October 2011 in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, this year's performance was targeted at a broader variety of people, hence The programme included songs in Malayalam, Tamil, and Hindi. A highly talented group of music lovers and performers Prabhu Shankar, Manoj Krishnan, Shruthi Prabhu, Sahana Prabhu, Anjali Varghese, Sumithra Prabhu, Aarthi Giri,

and Sankara Nethralaya OM Trustee "Singer" Prabhu joined together this time around to make this program a huge success. The singers were accompanied by yet another exceptional group of performing musicians Joe, Shino (from Chicago), Isaac & Eugene who truly entertained the ecstatic crowd of about 200 people who gave reviews that were never less than astounding.

Incorporating songs such as "Oru Murai," from Mani Chitra Thaaazhu, "Deewangi Deewangi," from Om Shanthi Om, and "Nenjukkulle," from Kadal, the lively, bubbly crew put together an unforgettable performance that never failed to get the crowd on its feet, asking for more. The program was described by a plethora of spectators as "incredible," "one of the best concerts of the year," "astoundingly lively & interesting," & "memorable." The "Small Acts of Kindness-2013" effort collected a net sum that could assist to the tune of about 65 free surgeries at Sankara Nethralaya- Chennai, India. There was a multitude of other magnanimous volunteers from the Metroplex that assisted in the smooth conduct of the event.

If anything is certain from this event, it is the fact that this will not be the last effort of this multitalented group of people. Dedication goes a long way, and most definitely, there will be many more wonderful performances in the months and years to come to entertain the DFW crowd and other cities to assist Sankara Nethralaya in Chennai.

OM Trust spreads the spirit of compassion in Southern California

Through a single act, a life can be changed. Through a single operation, a world can be opened. And through a single program, a chain of good deeds can begin.

These were the thoughts floating through the minds of those who organized and performed in the light music program for Sankara Nethralaya in Los Angeles on January 12th, 2013. SN OMTRUST joined hands with the Southern California Tamil Association (SOCAL) and presented "Jan'il Jollee" a Tamil Light Music program, by FUN MuzikLovers, RiffsNRAagas, TREAT and Sangamam. From Texas were special guests "Singer" Prabhu and his daughter, Shruthi Prabhu, who had performed for Sankara Nethralaya in the past.



Artists' at the "Jan'il Jollee" music program at Los Angeles

The program started on an auspicious note with a Ganesh Pooja by founder of SOCAL, Shri Padmanabhan Iyer and a brief introduction by Shri Subbu Shanmugam, the president of SOCAL. Shri Santhanam Mullur a trustee of SN OM Trust gave a brief introduction to the objectives and activities of the Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust and explained the noteworthy service being provided by Sankara Nethralaya towards vision care to indigent patients in India and made an emphatic appeal to support cost free eye care to the needy through donations. The musical event by FUN MuzikLovers Balaji, opened with the song "Mukunda Mukunda" by the kids Amruthaa & Rumeysa, followed by many songs with "Vision" as the underlining theme.

The response to this program was indeed great. This was a first time event for Sankara Nethralaya in Southern California, and helped greatly in creating awareness on the noble objectives of the charitable organization in this region. The song, Ovvoru Pookalume, was rendered by Ms Shruthi Prabhu after an informational video presentation on the activities and background of Sankara Nethralaya. The theme of the entire concert touched the hearts of all the attendees as well as entertained them with the wide variety of Tamil songs that were rendered. Feedback from the crowd was overwhelmingly positive and indicated that Jan'il Jollee has helped, Sankara Nethralaya gain another city of supporters.

Nethralaya has been offering vision care for the poor and needy for the past thirty five years. Being deprived of eye care due to lack of financial resources is a pity. People have to recognize this and contribute to this noble cause. Volunteers of Sankara Nethralaya, SOCAL and the performers from California and Texas put their hearts and souls into effectively communicating this message to the audience and promised to continue their support to this wonderful charity in the days to come.

Sankara Nethralaya Academy conducts a niche, high power seminar on Hospital management

The seminar on Hospital Management organized by the Sankara Nethralaya Academy was held on the 5th of January 2013 at the Sri VD.Swami Auditorium. Shrimathi Akila Ganesan, Senior General manger, Sankara Nethralaya and Registrar of the Sankara Nethralaya Academy flagged off the day's deliberation with a warm welcome address. This was followed by an introduction of Professor Bala Balachandran who was delivering the Key note address by Dr KS.Vasan, Managing Director, Sankara Nethralaya.

The daylong seminar witnessed some highly engaging and in-depth talks viz, USA., Best Practices, Next Practices and Excellence for Ever in Health Care by Prof. Bala Balachandran, Founder & Dean, Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai, India. J.L. Kellogg Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Accounting and Information Management Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, USA.



Mr.Ranjit, Lion's Vision for Sight Hospital, Ratnapura, Sri Lanka, along with participants at the seminar

Putting the patient first : Patient safety and customer focused services by Dr.Clive Fernandez, GM Quality & Special Projects Apollo Group Hospitals, India, Consultant JCI & NABH Assessor.

The sessions were of a highly interactive nature with participant even finding solutions to specific issues they were currently facing through direct engagement with the eminent speakers.

How to donate in the United States of America...



Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust Inc.

9710 Traville Gateway Drive, No. 392, Rockville, MD 20850, Phone : (301) 529 7377
www.supportsankaranethralaya.org

Tax Exempt ID No. 52-1611548

For additional details, feel free to contact S. V. Acharya at (301) 529-7377



Donating online at Omtrust.org - All your donations are securely routed through www.groundspring.org.

United Way - Mention the above information on your authorization form. Local chapters will remit your contributions to the SN OM Trust Inc.

Combined Federal Campaign - If you are a US federal employee, make your donations to Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust Inc. CFC No. 68803.

Employer Matching Program - A number of US employers match *dollar for dollar* to employees' contributions. You may be able to double your contributions to SN OM Trust.

Appreciated Stocks - You may donate appreciated stocks to SN OM Trust Inc. and avail of a tax deduction. For additional information, please contact the Trust at the aforementioned phone number.

Contributions by check - Simply make your check payable to SN OM Trust Inc. and mail to the above address.

Payroll Deductions - Please check with your HR office if they are programmed to withhold from payroll and remit to a non-profit organization. A number of organizations provide this as a public service.

Draft from Checking Account - Download from our website www.omtrust.org, the direct debit authorization form and forward your authorization with a 'void check' to the above address. We will draft the funds on the 15th of every month. You can stop your authorization any time by a simple notification to us.

Donate on Special Occasions, as a tribute Festivals, birthdays, wedding anniversaries, in memory of a loved one and provide support in the form of a bequest.

All donations to SN OM Trust are 100% IRS Tax Exempted in US, IRS Registered 501 (c) (3)

How can you help us?

Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust owes its existence and success to its committed volunteers. To realize our mission of 20/20 by 2020, we need many more volunteers. You can be one of our volunteers and can help us by:

- Spreading the word about Sankara Nethralaya.
- Supporting Teleophthalmology & Glass dispensing vans.
- Conducting events for fundraising.
- Helping with accounting, web management.
- Arranging for American students to undertake summer projects at Sankara Nethralaya.
- Personally making small donations

The following employers have supported us through GIFT MATCHING or PAYROLL DEDUCTION programs!

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