

eyelights



Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust Inc.,

**Sankara Nethralaya
OM Trust, USA**

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A group of Dallas Indians get a melodious introduction to Sankara Nethralaya



An old friend and supporter of Sankara Nethralaya reaches a happy milestone in the journey of life!

An Indian American Scientist, Entrepreneur and Ambassador of social causes assumes a critical role at Sankara Nethralaya



Dr. Ramani A. Aiyer

Sankara Nethralaya and the Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust Inc, USA, take great pleasure in welcoming aboard Dr. Ramani A. Aiyer as Advisor - Medical Research Foundation (Sankara Nethralaya), Chennai and Executive Director - Fund Raising Operations, SN OM Trust Inc, USA.

Dr. Aiyer is a prominent member of the Indian community in the San Francisco Bay area. In India, Dr. Aiyer will extend his expertise and services to the creation and functioning of the proposed 'National Institute of Visual Sciences' (NIVS) which would focus on India-centric research with the objective of bringing about indigenization of ophthalmic equipment and devices, setting up of manufacturing unit(s) for cost-effective manufacture of ophthalmic instruments, equipment and drugs, writing of grants for research projects of Vision Research Foundation (VRF) and NIVS, and Indian fundraising.

Born and brought up in Mumbai where he spent six years in Senior Managerial positions in the pharmaceutical industry, before moving to the US for higher education and settling there permanently, Dr. Aiyer has diligently maintained his ties with India, his vast exposure has helped him to develop an intimate understanding of the similarities and differences between the Indian Diaspora in India and US. Dr. Aiyer has been associated with the Hindu Community & Cultural Center (HCCC) /Shiva-Vishnu Temple, Livermore, California, US, since 1990, where served in various roles as Treasurer, Publicity Chair and Temple Construction Committee Chair. In addition to the HCCC, Dr. Aiyer has also been President of the Bay Area Tamil Sangam, President of South India Fine Arts, and President of Enterprising Pharmaceutical Professionals of the Indian sub-Continent (EPPIC). He has also been the MC for many cultural fund-raising programs such as Ragamalika-10, Ragamalika-20 and other fund-raisers.

Currently a member of the Board of Directors, he had on earlier occasions served two terms as Chairman and one term as President of HCCC. In that capacity he fund-raised more than \$1 million in cash and stock donations and oversaw the extensive expansion of Temple operations, including building of an Assembly Hall and purchase of over 8 acres of land around the Temple.

In his professional career, Dr. Aiyer heads Shasta BioVentures, an R&D and Business Development consultancy in Life Sciences, based in Northern California. He has a PhD in Biochemistry from Harvard, did his post-doctoral research at Stanford and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and is an MBA from the University of California, Berkeley. He has over 20 years' experience in the bio-pharmaceutical industry in the USA and India, having worked in companies such as Genentech (California) and Piramal Healthcare (Mumbai).

Dr. Aiyer can be reached at raiyeer2001@yahoo.com or (925) 470-7850 (mobile) / (408) 274-3241 (Landline)

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70th birthday celebrations of Shri Sam Kannappan

Shri Sockalingam Sam Kannappan, Trustee, Sankara Nethralaya Ophthalmic Mission Trust could be described as the very personification of compassion. Among the earliest members of the Sankara Nethralaya Ophthalmic Mission Trust, he served the fund raising body as its Vice President, in creating awareness on Sankara Nethralaya's philosophy and mobilizing funds.

Sankara Nethralaya remembers with gratitude Shri Sockalingam Kannappan's key role in organizing the Houston Leg of the TN. Krishnan benefit concert, putting up a booth at the venue of the Tamil Nadu Foundation's Annual Convention held during the Memorial Day holidays at Houston, foreseeing the potential both in terms of spreading awareness and mobilizing funds.

As the Advisory member of the prestigious Asia Society he helped in rallying the Indian community to lend support for many deserving causes back home and as Chairman of the Disaster Relief Committee he was responsible for getting approval for a colossal \$10 Million for the relief of the Gujarat Quake victims from the Law Makers and helped in mobilizing \$230,000 for the victims of 9/11 by coordinating with various Indo-US organizations. A highly devout individual with considerable literary skills and a strong affinity with his roots Shri Sam Kannappan is founder of the Bharathi Kalai Mandram, Houston, Founder Secretary Sri Meenakshi Temple, Pearland, Texas, he has authored a book titled "Stress analysis and EZFLEX piping analysis software programme" and has pioneered a Tamil language font with voice synthesizer for disabled people.

The 70th birthday of Shri Sockalingam Sam Kannappan was celebrated in Houston on January 1st 2014.

On the happy occasion of his 70th birthday, a grateful Sankara Nethralaya family and members of the SN OM Trust join hands in wishing this towering professional warm persona many more years of good health, happiness, prosperity, professional achievements and service to society.

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Enthusiastic participants at the Music program at Dallas



Members of the Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust organized a light music program at the Metroplex Tamil Sangam (MTS) Dallas, on 22nd Dec. 2013, as part of ongoing efforts towards popularizing Sankara Nethralaya and creating awareness on its philosophy and services.

OM Trust Trustees Mr. Santhanam Mullur and Singer Prabhu gave a detailed talk on the activities of Sankara Nethralaya, especially its service to the indigent and how everyone can participate in contributing to that cause.



Singer Prabhu and Ms. Shruthi reiterated these views again during the music program. Mr. Paul Pandian an ardent supporter of Sankara Nethralaya is now Advisor to the MTS and has offered to help wherever he can.

This event is the first one OM Trust is doing with MTS and we hope to do this again during 2014. Some donations were received on the spot and some patrons bought copies of 'Insight' the biography of Sankara Nethralaya.

Sankara Nethralaya and the SN OM Trust take this opportunity join hands in expressing their since gratitude to Singer Prabhu, Ms Sahana and Ms. Shruthi for their efforts and dedication towards the cause of Sankara Nethralaya.



Sankara Nethralaya pays its respectful homage to a noble soul

The Sankara Nethralaya family bows its head in respectful homage and loving memory of Srimathi Pudipeddi Ramalakshmi, beloved mother of Dr Ravi Sarma and beloved mother-in-law of Dr.Seshu Sarma, Vice President, Sankara Nethralaya Ophthalmic Mission Trust, USA who passed away peacefully on the 18th of January 2014 at Atlanta. The Sarmas are among Sankara Nethralaya's oldest friends and supporters and most active in creating awareness and mobilizing monetary support for its cause in the Atlanta area. In a gesture so typical of their concern and thoughtfulness Dr Ravi Sarma made an emphatic appeal to the members of the Indian American Cultural Association of which he and Dr Seshu Sarma are members and all their friends and relatives to express their last respects to the departed soul through a token donation to the Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust.

The Sankara Nethralaya family salutes this great gesture of kindness and concern to the visually impaired in India and solidarity to its cause shown by the Sarmas in the midst of their grief and personal loss.



Sankara Nethralaya's mobile Teleophthalmology department delivers State of the Art eye care, with passion and love to the poor and needy, living in the most remote regions of the country, like the villages bordering the dense jungles of the Sunderbans, villages not

connected by road, and villages without power supply and even the most basic Medicare facilities, totally cost free. Your donations to the Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust, USA, would go a long way in helping a team of highly dedicated Indians settled in the USA, passionately committed to the cause of eliminating blindness in their homeland, in their noble mission of reaching eye care to the most inaccessible pockets of India through Sankara Nethralaya's cost free community services.

For more details on Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust and how you can play a role in their noble mission

Please Contact

Shri SV.Acharya, President, OM Trust,

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www.omtrust.org

**Bring the
Light of Vision,
the Cheer and
the Smile back on the face of
the visually impaired!**

Help Sankara Nethralaya take the
“Light of Vision”

to the darkest corners of India!

All Contributions to OM Trust enjoy 100% IRS Tax Exemption under section 501 (c) (3) in the USA.

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!

- Microsoft
- Deutsche Bank
- American Express
- Merrill Lynch
- J P Morgan Chase
- GE Foundation
- The Bank of New York Mellon
- Google
- eBay Foundation
- Qualcomm
- Educational Testing Services
- Cadence
- Charles Schwab Foundation
- First Data
- McGraw Hill Cos.
- Merck
- Verizon
- Northern Trust