



eyelights



Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust Inc.,

Sankara Nethralaya
OM Trust, USA

Number : 2



AMERICA

November 2010

9710, Traville Gateway Drive No.392,
Rockville, MD 20850 e-mail : acharya@omtrust.org

About 7 million Indians await a change with hope.

Be that change.

There are about 7 million Indians with cataract and their livelihood is affected by this condition. Help us help them. Donate \$65 towards supporting a cataract surgery for an indigent patient.

Online donation at www.omtrust.org
Donations to Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust
are 100 % IRS tax exempted in the US.

SN OM Trust is an IRS recognized 501 (C) (3) charitable organization.

Carnatic fest raises funds for Sankara Nethralaya

Artists from North Carolina and across the US provided a splendid performance at the Youth Carnatic Music Festival at Durham, NC, on September 5, 2010, to raise funds for Sankara Nethralaya's community services.



Organized jointly by the North Carolina Youth Classical Arts for Charity and Swaralaya Music, the benefit concert culminated with a group performance by several students, from across the US, who were specially trained for this program.

The musical extravaganza saw children display their skills and proficiency in vocal, violin, veena, flute, and mirudangam.

The fundraiser successfully raised \$10,000 for Sankara Nethralaya's community programmes.

Live streaming of the entire day's event was freely broadcast by iCarnatic.org.



The Youth Festival and fundraiser were coordinated by the NCYCAC founders, Sudarshan Mohan, President; Karthik Ardhanareeswaran, Vice-President and Arjun Raghavan, Secretary, with profound help from parents, service-minded community members and a bunch of dedicated and enthusiastic youth volunteers.

Cleveland witnesses a spirit of service

Some dreams take moments to come true and some take years, as Shanti Raghavan realized. It took her 15 years to fulfill her desire of conducting a charity event to raise funds for a humanitarian cause. But like she says, "it was worth the wait."

A chance meeting with a Sankara Nethralaya representative at the Cleveland Thyagaraja Festival in April 2010 was how Shanti Raghavan came to know of the "selfless service rendered by Sankara Nethralaya and its efforts in bridging the gap between rural and urban India."

"I was moved to learn how Sankara Nethralaya's outreach programs help in restoring vision to thousands of needy and underprivileged people in India. On that day, at the festival, I made up my mind that Sankara Nethralaya would be the recipient of our charity program," says Shanti Raghavan.

And so on October 30, 2010, the Ragapriya School of Carnatic Music, Cleveland, which she and her daughter Shruti Aring founded in 1998, held a musical extravaganza to raise funds for Sankara Nethralaya.

Students enthralled the audience with their musical talent in vocal, veena and violin. The program was based on the different forms of Parashakthi or Devi.

"There were so many people who believed in us and supported us in this effort. We were able to raise \$15,000 for Sankara Nethralaya's community services. I trust we have made a difference to Sankara Nethralaya in our humble way."

The performance was followed by a concert by Madurai Sundar, a professional artist from Detroit. He was accompanied by Jayshankar Balan (violin), Rajasekhar Atmakuri (mirudangam) and Balu (kanjira).



Piano recital draws support for SN



For a budding pianist, who has won numerous accolades, Siva Nagarajan's piano recital on October 30, 2010 should have been like any other performance, except it wasn't. Not only was it his first solo performance, but the student from Texas made the occasion even more special by requesting friends and family to make a donation to the SN OM Trust in lieu of gifts for him.

Through his noble deed, Siva was able to raise \$1,000 which will be utilized to perform free surgeries for poor

people in India.

As a young boy, Siva would always be captivated hearing about the work done by Sankara Nethralaya in mitigating blindness in India. Having watched his grandfather, Dr. HN Madhavan, President, Vision Research Foundation, the research wing of Sankara Nethralaya, work tirelessly towards finding newer and affordable therapy regimen for various ocular ailments, Siva was determined to contribute towards Sankara Nethralaya's mission for vision.

As the emcee for his recital, Siva spoke fervently about the community services undertaken by Sankara Nethralaya. The desire to give back to society and moved by Sankara Nethralaya's work in delivering quality and affordable eye care, Siva was prompted to "be a part of this wonderful effort."

He hopes his gesture will be an inspiration to all those who attended the recital and those who heard about it. "Several small efforts by individuals can add up to be a great accomplishment," says Siva.

tamaso ma, jyotir gamaya

Dear friends,

Deepavali, the festival of lights, has just passed, and on behalf of the volunteer trustees of the Sankara Nethralaya Ophthalmic Mission Trust, Inc., we extend our warmest Deepavali greetings to all of you. May you have a happy, healthy and prosperous year ahead; may every moment of your day be effulgent with the divine light of love and grace.

Deepavali is a festival of light and joy. Our puranic lore marks this as the celebration of Lord Krishna's victory over the force of darkness, Narakasura – a celebration that is marked by lighting millions of lights to dispel the darkness within and around on a new moon night (amavasya). These nights are also marked as the celebration of the return of Lord Rama to Ayodhya after 14 years in exile. Truly, this festival exemplifies the upanishadic prayer '*tamaso ma, jyotir gamaya*' (from darkness, lead us to light).

To many, Deepavali marks the beginning of a new year; we mark this by thankfully acknowledging the blessings we have, praying for prosperity and wealth in the years ahead and generously gifting and donating to all who depend on us and serve us.

On this auspicious occasion, we seek your strong, loving and sustained commitment to help the Sankara Nethralaya Ophthalmic Mission Trust in our continuing fight against preventable blindness among the poorest in India. Please make '*tamaso ma, jyotir gamaya*' ring true to the needy and unfortunate. Truly, that will be the most meaningful Deepavali gift you can give.

Every \$65 you donate will mean a real Deepavali in the life of a poor person who is in darkness. For the poor in India, losing one's vision often means losing hope, losing livelihood – and restoration of vision is a renewal of hope and means of livelihood. That is the life-changing impact of your donation ... *tamaso ma, jyotir gamaya*. There are many ways you can help us:

First, please take a moment right now to commit to effect such a change in the life of a poor patient every month; please visit our website www.omtrust.org and pledge your monthly donation of \$65 (to sponsor a free minor surgery), \$175 (to sponsor a free major surgery) or more. Please make your tax-deductible monthly contribution today. If your employers will match such gifts, please take advantage of that as well. Please help us by creating opportunities to present our cause – to your employer, to your community organization, to your circle of friends. Please help us in such outreach.

Sankara Nethralaya was founded in 1978 as a charitable, not-for-profit institution and it has grown to be one of the premier ophthalmic care institutions in India. A world-renowned institution that delivers world-class ophthalmic care to every one, irrespective of their paying capacity. Sankara Nethralaya treats over 450,000 patients every year, and 50% of out-patients and 35% of surgical patients are treated free of all charges.

The Economic Times has awarded Sankara Nethralaya with the 'Best Corporate Citizen of India' award; Sankara Nethralaya consistently ranks among the Best Hospitals in India. Its founder Padma Bhushan Dr. S. S. Badrinath and many of the other ophthalmologists at Sankara Nethralaya have won numerous awards worldwide. Their biggest award in their noble 'mission for vision' is the light in the eyes of grateful patients. *tamaso ma jyotir gamaya*. Please visit www.sankaranethralaya.org or www.omtrust.org for more details. Let us make '*tamaso ma, jyotir gamaya*' not just a prayer, but a true blessing prayer for all.

Best wishes

SHANKAR A. IYER
President

S. KANNAPPAN
Vice-President

K.G. Venkatraman
Secretary

S. V. ACHARYA
Treasurer



'Natya Drishti,' leaves audience spellbound



'Natya Drishti', a well-choreographed Bharatnatyam performance by students from the Ellora Centre for Performing Arts, was presented in Dallas-Forth Worth, Texas, US, on October 24, 2010, in aid of Sankara Nethralaya.

The theme – “Vision-A Gift from God” – was in conjunction with Sankara Nethralaya’s mission for vision and was presented by twenty-five children from the Ellora Centre under the able guidance and choreography of their guru Vani Ishwara. The troupe presented dances depicting the grace of Lord Shiva and the lives of his devotees including Kannappa Nayanar.

The audience of about 350 people was left enthralled by the outstanding performance by the artists. Sankara Nethralaya’s founder and Chairman Emeritus Dr. SS Badrinath and his wife Dr. Vasanthi Badrinath also participated at the fundraiser.

Dr. Badrinath spoke passionately on the current and future growth, research and philanthropic activities of Sankara Nethralaya in the field of eye care in India. He, along with Dr. Vasanthi, expressed their gratitude and encouraged the audience to donate towards the cause of Sankara Nethralaya.



On behalf of Sankara Nethralaya, Dr. Badrinath and Dr. Vasanthi Badrinath presented plaques to Vani Ishwara and the child artists who performed during the event, for their support to Sankara Nethralaya. The dance program was organized by Suresh Dalapathy and Santhanam Mullur, Trustees of Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust, a fundraising vehicle in the US for Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai, with support from local volunteers.



Fund utilization from SN OM Trust, USA

Funds received from SN OM Trust are utilised in

- Dispensing free spectacles.
- Performing free cataract, glaucoma, corneal and retinal surgeries.
- Conducting camps in remote areas and screening for ophthalmic diseases using teleophthalmology.



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Join our Mission for Vision



DONATION SCHEME	AMOUNT IN US\$
1. One time on a designated date	
Single cataract surgery	65 \$
Single major surgery such as retina, glaucoma	175 \$
2. Single day free service	
40 surgeries per day	2,600 \$
3. Year after year on a designated date	
Single free cataract surgery	500 \$
Single major surgery (retina, glaucoma)	2,200 \$
4. Tele-ophthalmology	
A single day screening of 200 rural poor for vision care	250 \$
For community outreach program	Any amount