Number : 28 December 2021



A Virtual Fundraiser Charity Concert Date : Sunday December 19th, 2021

Semi Classical Devotional Music Concert





Newsweek ranks us as one of the Best Ophthalmic Centers 2021



Sankara Nethralaya wins The Economic Times Healthcare Best Hospital - Ophthalmology (National) Awards

eyelights December 2021



Sankara Nethralaya wins The Economic Times Healthcare "Best Hospital – Ophthalmology (National)" Award



Sankara Nethralaya is proud to announce we have received the Economic Times Healthcare Awards 2021 in the category "Best Hospital – Ophthalmology (National)". Considered as one of the pioneers in India, Sankara Nethralaya consistently maintains quality eyecare for those in need.

Dr. Govinda Visvesvara's \$150,000 generous donation to Sankara Nethralaya



Sankara Nethralaya (SN) is a non-profit charity organization providing ophthalmic(eye) care to millions of patients throughout India for the last four decades. To support the Indian Mission of Sankara Nethralaya, Sankara Nethralaya USA was established back in 1988. The main goal of the Trust creation is to have the NRIs supporting and contributing to this Nobel cause. Sankara Nethralaya USA is one of the trusted and wellrespected charity organizations in USA. The Trust also received Charity Navigator's highest rating of "Four Stars" for maintaining financial accountability and fiscal transparency for funds donated by donors and how they are utilized towards the stated cause.

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Sankara Nethralaya has recently received a whopping Rs. 1.11 crores (\$150,000) donation from Dr. Govinda Visvesvara in memory of his parents. His generous donation will help to care for 2300 deserving blind patients in India. Dr. Govinda Visvesvara, is a great scholar, philanthropist, and excellent human being.

Dr. Govinda Visvesvara was born in Bangalore to Shri Govinda Sharma and Smt. Rajamma. He hails from a very wellrespected traditional south Indian family. His parents were blessed with 11 children (5boys, six girls), 18 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, 8 great, great grandchildren.

His mother, Smt. Rajamma was the youngest child in the family, born in 1909 in Bangalore city, erstwhile Mysore state. Smt. Rajamma was kind-hearted, friendly, a devoted wife to Shri Govind Sharma, and the family was the center of her world. She was highly pious and always reciting slokas in Sanskrit, Kannada, and Telugu. Smt. Rajamma was kind, giving, and appreciated all people. She passed away peacefully at the age of 91.

His father, Sri Govinda Sharma, was born in 1900 in Akkihebbal, erstwhile Mysore state. He graduated with a Bachelor of Law from Maharaja's College, University of Mysore. Subsequently, joined the Judiciary system of the then Mysore State and served in various capacities. He retired as District and Sessions Judge of Bangalore District. He was a student of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan (Former President of India) at Maharaja's college.

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He was a great philosopher and studied in depth both Indian and Western Philosophies. Often, he participated in discussions with noted scholars on questions of comparative philosophy. He was known for high standards and quick wit. He had an exceptional ability to engage effectively with children and others from all walks of life. He was a devoted husband and father. He passed away peacefully in 1985.

Dr. Govinda Visvesvara (Vish) earned a Master's Degree in Science from the University of Nagpur and started his career as a Zoology lecturer in Dibrugarh City in Assam. He later joined as Research Assistant at Central Public Health Engineering Research Institute in Nagpur, India. In 1963 he joined the Defense Research Laboratories in Gwalior, India, as a Junior Scientific Officer. In 1967, he competed nationally and received a Fulbright award and a U.S Government Scholarship. He chose to work on his Ph.D. with William Balamuth at the University of California, Berkeley. While a graduate student at Berkeley, he also served as a teaching assistant and teaching associate. There he also met and married Marika, she passed away in 2001.

After obtaining a Ph.D. degree from the University of California, Vish Joined the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, GA as a Postdoctoral fellow 1972. His laboratory participated in the investigation of outbreaks of several different "unknown" diseases. He discovered a new amoeba that causes meningoencephalitis in humans and other animals and paid tribute to his former mentor by designating the name of a new genus and species of amoeba, Balamuthia mandrill Aris. His work has provided novel insights into the medical relevance of protists in human disease and had a big impact on public health. At CDC he mentored doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows, and guests who came from all corners of the globe. He has published over 350 articles, book chapters. He has won several awards.

Sankara Nethralaya's Newark Delaware Chapter is a grand success.



For 2 weekends in September, the Sankara Nethralaya name resonated across the Delaware Indian population. Sankara Nethralaya Trustees Piram Manickavasagam and Ravi Maraka worked hand in hand with Smt. Indhumadhi Gopalakrishnan, artistic director of Salangai School of Performing arts and hosted this grand kickoff event for Sankara Nethralaya Delaware Chapter.

It was a unique and bold move by Salangai School of Performing arts to have their annual event as a virtual event. 75 performers participated in this event which had a reach of more than 3000 people on Facebook and helped to raise significant donations.

Sankara Nethralaya President Emeritus S.V Acharya addressed the audience before the Bharathanatyam program and noted about Sankara Nethralaya fundraiser events, how they leveraged mobile eye surgical units and thanked Salangai School of Performing arts students and Guru. He thanked Indhumadhi Gopalakrishnan for hosting the event for a noble cause.

Right after the address magic behind the classical art form began to unfold one after the other. It was a treat to watch the kids in traditional Indian classical dance costumes perform for vibrant and beautiful choreography. It is also noteworthy to mention some of the performers were first timers and they have been learning the dance only through virtual sessions and with just a couple of in person practice sessions the kids were able to perform in this grand event.

Senior students Adithi Jonnagadla, Praharshitha Nagraj, Pooja Guduguntala and Sreenidhi Das gave a solo performance. Priya Jeyakumar, past student of Salangai School who completed her arrangetram in 2019 also gave a solo performance in this event. Their passion, hard work and discipline in learning the classical dance for several years showed up in their performances.

Final day of performance included a dance presentation on Lord Krishna by Guru Indhumadhi Gopalakrishnan and her son and disciple Akshath Piram and Yashwath Piram. This section had 4 songs in three different languages - Telugu, Tamil and Kannada.

First performance of this section stole most people's hearts in which a 3 year old boy (little Krishna) entered the scene dancing along with his mom with cute moves and mischievous smile. Next performance was for a song Aadithano Ranga which aptly captured the episode of clash between Serpent King Kalinga and Lord Krishna followed by a Varnam depicting Krishna and Sudama friendship and Gajendra Moksham tales. 'Varnam' is considered a difficult piece in Bharathanatyam and Akshath Piram performing a Varnam at 10 year old with at most perfection received raving reviews.

Final performance of the event was a riveting dance performance by mother son duo – Guru Indhumadhi Gopalakrishnan and her son Akshath Piram for a Mahabaratha Sabdam. Mahabaratha Sabdam portrayed one of the most iconic scenes, in which Yudhishthira rolls away his possessions, his kingdom, his brothers, and even his own freedom, though Krishna's protection saves his wife from total humiliation. This is the most intense scene in Mahabaratham and to do justice to this scene is a challenging task. But the duo completely transformed themselves into their characters and gave a powerful performance that sure did touch viewer's emotions and won their hearts.

The event concluded with a Thank you note in which Salangai School director thanked all participants and their parents, Guru's Legend Mudurai R Muralidharan, Guru Dr. Ratheesh Babu and Guru Smt. Supriya Ravikumar and all friends and families who supported the event.

President Bala Reddy Indurti, Vice President Moorthy Rekapalli, Secretary Srinivas Ganagoni thanked all the Trustees and Volunteers who are working selflessly to restore vision for indigent patients.

Bala Indurti worked with local trustees Piram Manickavasagam and Ravi Maraka to launch the Newark Delaware Chapter. Thanks are due to Board of Trustees Shankar Setty and Dr. Raj Modi from nearby states for their unconditional support. Thanks are due to Board of Trustee Shyam Appali, Theagarajan for making video and flyers to the event.

Thanks are due to media partners SakshiTV, manaTV, TVAsia, TV5, GNN, US1, and Tori for promoting Sankara Nethralaya activities.



Dear longtime supporters and well-wishers of Sankara Nethralaya,

We are happy to inform you that Shasta Foods, San Jose, CA, manufacturers of Fresh Batters and suppliers of Authentic Indian Groceries and Food Products all over continental USA, has included "Sankara Nethralaya USA" as one of the Charitable Organizations which Customers/Buyers of Shasta Foods' Batters and Products and Groceries can choose when buying "On Line". Shasta Foods will donate 3% of the total Purchase Price to SN USA (taxes and Service charges excluded). Please share this information with your friends and relatives.

Thank you for your continued support.

Note: Please choose Sankara Nethralaya as your preferred charitable organizations at the time of payment to donate 3% of your purchase price to SN USA.

Website: https://www.shasthaonline.com/

Sankara Nethralaya Microsoft Give Poker Tournament



Mrs. Leela Krishnamurthy, Past President Recognized for her work with Habitats for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity's "Building a Dream" luncheon at the Westin Houston Medical Center honored the community activist and philanthropist Leela Krishnamurthy for her instrumental support for numerous organizations including Houston Habitat, UNICEF, Indo American Charity Foundation, Sankara Nethralaya and more. The Carl Umland Award was presented by Mayor Sylvester Turner and Consul General of India Shri Aseem Mahajan.

Leela Krishnamurthy came to the US to get a master's degree and was offered a full scholarship to do her Masters in Library Science by the Clark University, Atlanta, GA. While at Clark, Leela worked closely with Coretta Scott King at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change.

Leela was recruited by the Los Angeles County Library System and accepted a position as the Head Librarian for the Bell Library. In addition, she devoted her personal time as one of the founding members of the Malibu Temple - one of the largest temple in the US. She organized the first-ever fund raising event with Srimathi Vyjayanthimala.

After her husband's relocation to Houston, Ms. Leela joined the Harris County library system as head librarian at the Barbara Bush Library, Spring, TX. She later moved to become the Research Assistant at Pannell Kerr Forester and co-edited the magazine Trends. She organized an event benefitting UNICEF with the famous sitar virtuoso Ravi Shankar. She is a Steering Committee member of the Sri Meenakshi Temple and did a similar fundraiser featuring Sri Ravi Shankar for the temple.

Leela moved to New Orleans where she worked at the Second Harvester Food Bank. She organized a Bharat Natyam dance program to raise funds for The House of Ruth for the homeless. She received a commendation from the Governor of Louisiana, Mike Foster.

Leela returned to Houston and continues to remain active in numerous social programs. As a board member and president of the Indo American Charity Foundation, she facilitated the building of two-homes for Houston Habitat for Humanity's deserving families. She has received numerous awards from Indian associations such as Indo American Charity Foundation, India Cultural Center, Meenakshi Temple Bharathi Kalai Manram, and Telugu Association.

She is currently on the board of UNICEF, and is the past President of Indo American Charity Foundation, Bharathi Kalai Manram and board member of several organizations including Houston Habitat for Humanity.

Kannan Family Raises Funds For Deserving Patients

Jay Kannan and his family recently hosted their annual fundraiser for Sankara Nethralaya Ophthalmic Mission Trust, USA (SNUSA). Jay was inspired to hold this annual event due to a video about Sankara Nethralaya he watched at an event, which described the organization and their goals. The video impacted Jay deeply, the activities of Sankara Nethralaya inspired him and he wanted to do something to help the needy patients.

The Kannans' first fundraising concert was held in the basement of their home and raised about \$2,500. In the next two years, they raised around \$3,000 each year. In the summer of 2020, they held the talent night virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with virtual performances from over 20 kids. Since it was virtual, kids from other parts of the country were also able to participate and contribute. They ended up raising over \$4,000 in 2020, helping provide free surgeries and restore eyesight for about 65 people. This year, an outdoor concert with live performances was arranged, which included virtual performances from those that were not able to attend in-person and raised a significant amount for deserving patients.

Jay and his family enjoy putting this event together every year, as it helps deserving patients who benefit from the free surgeries. These fundraising events also allow the families and their children in the community to be actively involved in philanthropic works and understand the power we all have to make a difference.

Kumari Uthara Unnikrishnan Performs Virtual Charity Fundraising Concert



Sankara Nethralaya USA hosted a concert by National Award Winner Kumari Uthara Unnikrishnan in the fight against preventable blindness. Each year, Sankara Nethralaya USA hosts numerous fundraising concerts to raise awareness and funds for the deserving patients.

Kumari Uthara Unnikrishnan (born 2004) is an Indian playback singer. In 2015, she won the National Film Award for Best Female Playback Singer at the 62nd National Film Awards at the age of 10, becoming its youngest recipient. She received the award for her soulful interpretation of the song "Azhage" (Beautiful) from the 2014 Tamil film Saivam, directed by A. L. Vijay.

Kumari Uthara Unnikrishnan started her virtual

performance by offering an invocation to Lord Ganapathi composed by Lord Agathiyar in Tamil sung in Thilang ragam and Adi talam. Shri P. Unnikrishnan introduced the virtual event and invited all the viewers to enjoy the virtual performance organized by SN USA.

Then Kumari Uthara sang the Telugu song, "Pibare Rama Rasam" composed by Sadasiva Brahmendra rendered beautifully in raga Ahir Bhairav in Adi talam. She then rendered the Sanskrit song, Maadhava Maam Deva, a Krishna Kirthi in Sanksrit composed by Narayana Theerthar in Neelabari ragam and Adi talam. Her second song was the popular film song Maadu Meikkum Kanne in Tamil composed by Oothukkadu Venkat Subbaiyar.

The young prodigy sang a total of 7 Telugu and 2 Kannada devotional classical songs by various composers proving her versatility.

The closing speech was given by Shri Moorthy Rekapalli, Vice President, Sankara Nethralaya USA. He thanked everyone for watching and supporting the cause. He thanked the vocalist, Sri Uthara Unnikrishnan and the accompanying musicians for their flawless performances. He also thanked Sri Shyam Appali, Board of Trustees, for taking care of all the technical aspects.

The virtual event raised a significant amount. Thanks are due to media partners SakshiTV, manaTV, TVAsia, TV5, GNN, and US1 for promoting Sankara Nethralaya activities.

Dear Well-wisher,

Season's Greetings from Sankara Nethralaya,

We hope you and your family have had a safe and healthy 2021. We come to the end of another year with the world recovering from the pandemic slowly. While India's healthcare is recovering slowly, the after effects have affected every aspect of healthcare, especially eye care among the underprivileged. Your munificent support is needed now more than ever to provide free eye care and eye surgeries for the indigent patients.

Sankara Nethralaya is one of the 4 best ophthalmic institutions and one of the 100 best hospitals in the World per Newsweek. Sankara Nethralaya USA is given the highest rating of 4 stars by reputed ranking organization Charity Navigator for financial accountability and fiscal transparency.

- Dr. Govinda Visvesvara donated a whopping \$150,000 in memory of his parents. His generous donation will help to care for 2,300 deserving blind patients in India. Dr. Govinda Visvesvara, is a great scholar, philanthropist, and excellent human being.
- Conducted virtual concert of Child prodigy Ms. Uthara Unnikrishnan in October and raised significant amount.
- Seattle trustee Soma Jagadeesh, and volunteers Praveen and Vishwanath were instrumental in conducting the 2 successful Microsoft Give matching Poker Tournaments and raised \$32,380 including \$900 volunteer hours. This amount helps to give vision to 500 indigent blind patients.
- Sankara Nethralaya Trustees Piram Manickavasagam and Ravi Maraka worked with Smt. Indhumadhi Gopalakrishnan, artistic director of Salangai School of Performing arts and hosted this grand kickoff event for Sankara Nethralaya Delaware Chapter.
- Mobile Eye Surgical Units were redeployed in March 2021 after the lockdowns were lifted. On a daily basis, Nethralaya treats 3,000 outpatients, performs 300 surgeries, and holds eye camps and school screening camps in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal regions.

We thank our supporters in the USA and around the world for the support and concern you have showered on us during these uncertain times. Without benefactors such as your good self during the economic uncertainty, we would not able to provide better facilities for our deserving patients in the weaker sections of society. We would like to thank our media partners Mana TV, TV Asia, SakhiTV, TV5, GNN, US1 for providing excellent exposure to spread the word.

With warm regards and best wishes **Dr. S. S. Badrinath** Founder & Chairman Emeritus, Sankara Nethralaya



SANKARA NETHRALAYA USA

Established in June 1988 in Rockville, Maryland, USA as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization

Tax ID # 52-1611548

Sankara Nethralaya, USA - A 33 year old Indian American saga of bringing back vision to those who cannot afford to 'See' the World

Presents A Virtual Fundraiser Charity Concert

'Padma Bhushan' Awardee **Dr. S S Badrinath** Founder, Sankara Nethralaya

> **Dr. Girish Rao** President Sankara Nethralava

S.V. Acharya Founder, President Emeritus Sankara Nethralaya, USA

Bala Reddy Indurti President Sankara Nethralaya, USA



Donation Schemes				
Single Cataract	\$65	MESU – Mobile Eye Surgical Unit. Hospital on wheels.		
Single Major Surgery	\$250	MESU Adopt a village (Distance upto 300 km radius from Chennai)	\$12,500	
One day ophthalmic screening	\$290	MESU Adopt a village (Distance upto 500 km radius from Chennai)	\$15,000	
Rural School Screening Camp	\$300	Other donation schemes @ Sankara Nethralaya		
Annual Cataract Surgery	\$700	Naming a work-up (optometry) room	\$12,500	
Annual Major Surgery	\$2200	Naming Consultant room	\$21,500	
Single day 40 free surgeries	\$2600	Naming a floor	\$150,000	

CHECKS MADE TO: SANKARA NETHRALAYA USA

Send to: Bala Reddy Indurti, President, 9710 Traville Gateway Drive, No. 392 Rockville, MD 20850. All donations to Sankara Nethralaya USA are eligible for tax exemption under IRS 501 (c) (3)

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



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9710 Traville Gateway Drive, No. 392, Rockville, MD 20850, Phone : (855) 4NETHRA - Toll Free www.sankaranethralayausa.org

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SANKARA NETHRALAYA



For additional details, feel free to contact Bala Reddy Indurti at (855) 463-8472; indurti@snomtrust.org S. V. Acharya at (301) 529-7377; acharya@snomtrust.org Payroll Ded

Donating online at sankaranethralayausa.org All your donations are securely routed through www.networkforgood.com.

United Way - Mention the above information on your authorization form. Local chapters will remit your contributions to the Sankara Nethralaya USA.

Combined Federal Campaign - If you are a US federal employee, make your donations to Sankara Nethralaya USA.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 Sankara Nethralaya USA.

Appreciated Stocks - You may donate appreciated stocks to Sankara Nethralaya USA.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 Sankara Nethralaya USA. 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 nonprofit organization. A number of organizations provide this as a public service.

Draft from Checking Account - Download from our website www.sankaranethralayausa.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.

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All donations to Sankara Nethralaya USA are 100% IRS Tax Exempted in US, IRS Registered 501 (c) (3)

How can you help us?

Sankara Nethralaya USA owes its existence and success to its commited 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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- GE Foundation
- The Bank of New York Mellon
- Google
- eBay Foundation
- Combined Federal Campaign' (CFC) by the US government

We seek your continued support as we progress in our battle against blindness

Donation Schemes				
\$65- 1 cataract surgery	\$ 290- Rural Tele-ophthalmology camp - 1 day			
\$250- 1 major surgery	\$300 - Rural school screening camp - 1 day			
\$ 700- 1 Perpetual cataract surgery 12 years	\$ 2,600- approximately 40 surgeries per day			
\$ 2,200- 1 Perpetual major surgery 12 years	\$ 25,000- Naming a room			
General Corpus fund for community outreach programs : Any Amount				

To Donate Online : www.sankaranethralayausa.org Checks to be made on: Sankara Nethralaya USA Send checks to: 9710 Traville Gateway Drive No.392, Rockville, MD20850 All donations to Sankara Nethralaya USA are tax exempt in US