



## Sankara Eye Foundation (SEF) Giving the **Gift of Vision**

Did you know that India is home to the largest population of blind people in the world?

- 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the world's blind live in India
- 45 million people are visually impaired
- 12 million of them are totally blind
- 1 million blind are added to existing backlog annually

80% of blindness can be completely or partially cured if detected and treated early. Unfortunately, the majority of these people lack the knowledge and/or the funds required for the treatment. The poor in India lead a life needlessly blind!

In 1990, as a response to this major health crisis, **SEF, India** launched **Gift of Vision** - a comprehensive community eye health program. Gift of Vision encompasses an array of preventative and curative eye care services for rural population, irrespective of their ability to pay.

### 80:20 SELF-SUSTAINABILITY MODEL

Each Sankara Eye Hospital follows the SEF 80:20 self-sustainability model, where 20% of the paid surgeries support 80% of the free surgeries. This model ensures that hospitals fund themselves once self-sufficiency is reached.



In 1998, **SEF, USA** was established to support the free eye surgery service provided by SEF, India. This later expanded to spread Sankara's Gift of Vision program to other states with construction of state-of-the-art hospitals.

Starting with only one hospital performing about 8,000 free eye surgeries in 1998, today, SEF has grown to eleven hospitals performing around 160,000 free eye surgeries per year. Since inception, SEF has served over 12.1 million people and 6.6 million children through the school screening program. Today, SEF is the largest free eye care provider in the world.

### VISION 2030

#### A Million Free Eye Surgeries Per Year

To arrest the growth of blindness in India, SEF, USA has set a goal to perform one million free eye surgeries a year by 2030 through infrastructure growth and expansion. This includes increasing patient capacity at our current locations, building new Sankara Eye Hospitals, and partnering with other reputable eye care facilities to bring SEF's quality of care across the country.

Today, SEF has 11 Sankara Eye Hospitals and 10 partner hospitals performing over 215,000 surgeries per year. We are rapidly growing to fulfil our mission.

SEF, USA is expanding capacity at Guntur and Kanpur Hospitals and expanding partner hospital, H.V. Desai in Pune and Solapur. New hospitals are coming up in Hyderabad, Varanasi (UP) and with our partner, Akhand Jyoti Eye Hospital in Bihar.

# Sankara Eye Hospitals and Partner Hospitals

## Over 2.19 million free eye surgeries performed!



### THE SANKARA DELIVERY MODEL:

#### Serving the Rural Poor

SEF is committed to bringing quality eye care services right to the doorsteps of rural India through a well-trained team of field staff, doctors and paramedics. After canvassing the villages to identify people suffering from visual impairments, patients are directed to Sankara Eye Camps for a thorough checkup and consultation. These weekly eye camps are conducted within 300 km radius from the base hospital. Those needing treatment are brought back to the base hospital for surgery, with transportation, food and 3-4 day lodging covered free of charge. Post-surgery, patients are dropped back to their villages and thirty days later, receive systematic follow-up from staff to ensure zero post-operative complications. Our end-to-end world-class care ensures a high success rate for all our patients.

#### WHY SANKARA EYE FOUNDATION?

- Solid management and leadership team
- Unique rural outreach model
- Strong systems and processes
- State-of-the-art hospitals
- Best in the field doctors and paramedics
- Full range of eyecare service includes ocular oncology

### IMPACT ON COMMUNITY

**Fostering Economic Independence** by restoring the vision of the rural poor and enabling their re-entry into the work force.

**Rescuing the Future** for the young by giving children a productive future for both themselves and their society.

**Empowering Women** by recruiting and training women for staffing our base hospitals and giving them opportunity to support their families and achieve independence.

Each hospital not only provides the gift of vision to thousands of patients, but also strives to help the local community find sustainable jobs and growth prospects. SEF hospitals have a truly multiplier impact locally.

### AWARDS

Sankara's culture of care, accountability, and focus on providing the best for its community has been recognized by multiple organizations and received numerous prestigious awards for both the United States and India.

#### Padma Shri Award

Awarded in 2019 by Government of India to Dr. Ramani, Founder, SEF, India for his distinguished contribution in medicine.

#### Charity Navigator 4 Stars ★★★★★

Highest rating of 4 stars awarded to SEF, USA for nine consecutive years; honoring its financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency.



#### Sankara Eye Foundation

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