

REAL PEOPLE – REAL IMPACT



Rajaboina Pullamma along with her husband Raghavalu worked as agricultural laborers for many years. Cataracts diminished her eyesight and forced her to stop working. She and her husband were neglected by their two sons and became dependent on the benevolence of the local landlord. Upon undergoing cataract surgery, she has recovered her eyesight and more importantly her self-esteem. She is extremely happy to be leading an active and productive life. She is now back to being a farm hand and earning a living by tending cattle



Smt. Suvarattamma is an 80-year-old widow. She bore two sons of whom one died at a young age. Her husband passed away when the children were still young. Unfortunately, in her old age, her son does not take care of her. She survives on a government pension of \$1.50 per month and the benevolence of the villagers. She underwent cataract surgery at RR Lions Hospital in Palakol on August 21 2002 and has recovered sight in one eye. She is extremely happy at having her sight back. She is also thankful to the hospital staff for having taken good care of her.



Sri. S. Venkateswara Rao is a seventy five year old farmer from the village of Sangamjagerlamudi in Guntur Dt. He was blind in both eyes due to cataracts. His wife is paralyzed and in need of constant care. Their youngest daughter was the only one willing to take care of them. Even she could not stay home since she had to go to work every day to support them. Sri. Venkateswara Rao's blindness prevented him from working and was also getting in the way of taking care of his wife's needs. Since he could not afford to pay the money demanded by local ophthalmologists for the surgery he had no other alternative but to live with his handicap. He attended the TANA Foundation eye camp held at Sangamjagerlamudi on October 23rd 2002. The operation was successful He is not only able to help his wife but also work to earn a livelihood

We are finding that stories such as these are quite common among the 72 camps that have been completed to date. The communication, transportation, and hospital infrastructure needed to organize the camps, screen the patients at the camps, transport the patients to the hospital, and perform surgery in world class operating theatres now exists in Andhra Pradesh. The failure rate for cataract surgeries is also extremely low. A mere \$8/- can tip the scales and truly transform the life of a fellow human being for the rest of his or her life.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

The cost of a cataract surgery varies from \$9/- to \$11/- (the cost depends upon the distance from the eye hospital). The surgery permanently restores eyesight for the patient. The cost of sponsoring an eye camp is \$600/-. The donation covers the cost of approximately 60 surgeries. You can adopt your own village and help make it free of preventable blindness.

The cost of a pair of eyeglasses works out to around \$4.00/- (less than the cost of a lunch). You can adopt a school and provide eyeglasses for all the students in the school by making a donation of \$200/-.

Any donation you make will go a long way in dramatically improving the quality of life for individuals suffering from impaired vision. You can:

- (a) Adopt a village of your choice and sponsor a camp for conducting 100 cataract surgeries for a donation of \$600/-, or
- (b) Adopt a high school and pay for providing eyeglasses to about 70 children by donating \$200/-, or
- (c) Make a donation of any desired amount to be used in this project

All contributions are tax deductible. Sponsorship forms can be found in TANA Patrika or on this website. Any help you can provide for this worthy cause will be warmly welcomed. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact Rao M. Chalasani at (248)-952-5874 or send an email to rmchalasani@aol.com