

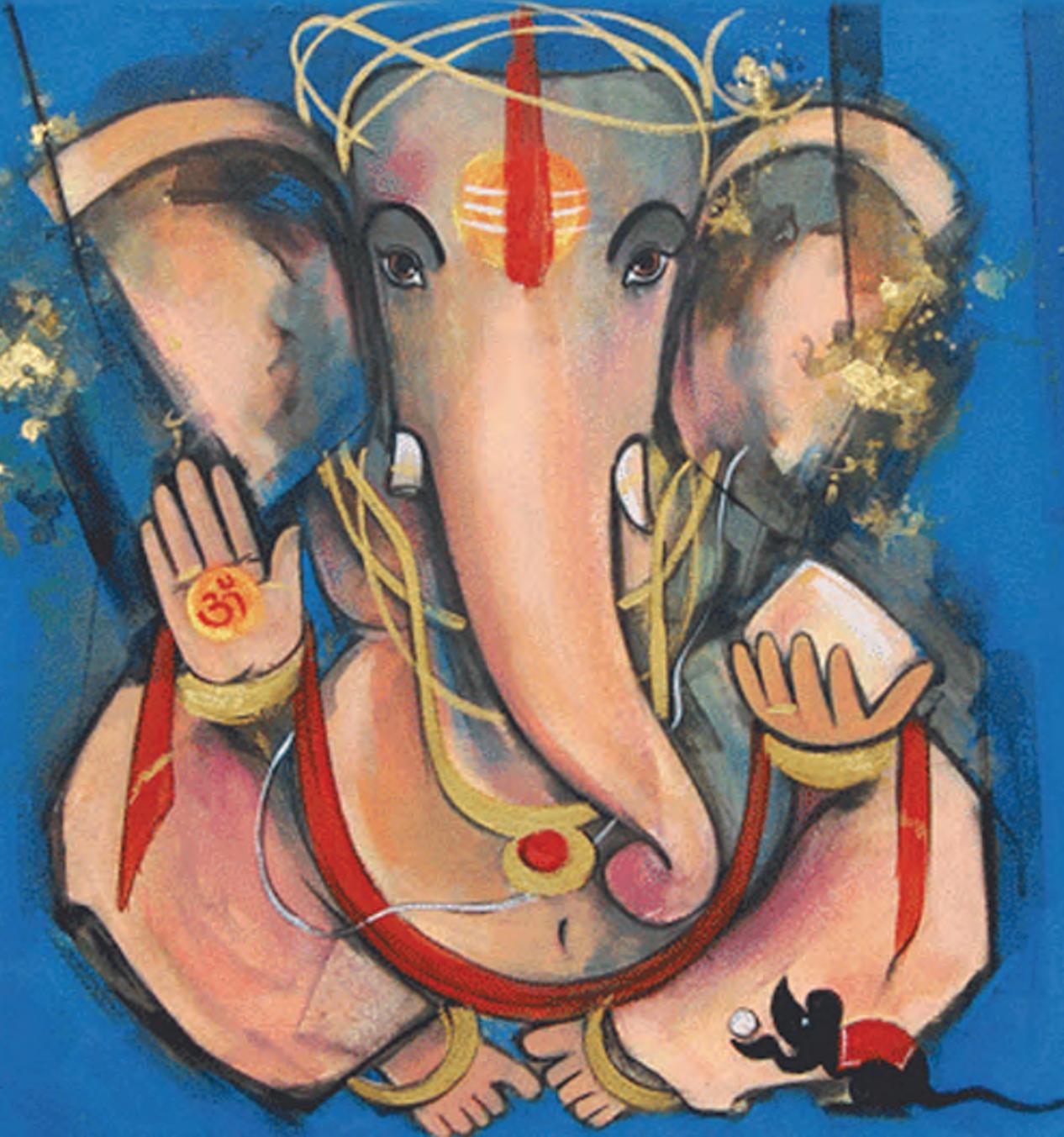
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Telugu Association of North America

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IDRF for Development Activities in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

Dr. Sasala Challa

Telugu-Americans are empowering the needy people of India by joining with other NRIs through India Development and Relief Fund (IDRF), a tax-exempt nonprofit. IDRF puts power, not charity, in the hands of the poor people of India. Its programs span the entire country and address education, healthcare, women's empowerment, eco-friendly development, combating corruption, and disaster rehabilitation. With the help of Indian-American donors, IDRF has contributed over \$25.3 million to the various development activities in India since its founding.

IDRF's board reflects India's diversity, including two Telugu-

Americans, Dr. Sasala Challa of VA and Dr. Raghu Korrapati of SC. Telugu-American volunteers have been very active in IDRF, along with people from other communities. For instance, the past 13 years, IDRF volunteers in Boston have organized cricket tournaments and donated the proceeds to development projects in AP and other states. Mr. Raghu Verabelli initiated this tradition, which continues today.

Many donors have partnered with IDRF to give back to AP a personal way. Dr. Sudha lives in the US, but she has not forgotten her roots in West Godavari District: "I was born and raised in this area. The

Dr. Sudha at Kindergarten





Fishermen children at school, Visakhapatnam

Jayarama Educational Society school was started around 10 years ago from the land donation of 5 acres from my uncle. He had helped me with my own education, then he passed away. My classmate gave some donation for the school buildings. Now it is my turn to help the school to continue to improve," she remarked about her pet project. Dr. Sudha and her husband Dr. Swamy have worked with IDRF to sponsor the construction of new classrooms and a dining room for the school.

Pandu P from CA came to IDRF to support an NGO called Sahaj Seva Samsthan in Hyderabad. This NGO runs a school for slum children, a school for special-needs children, and a hospital.

The hospital treats 25,000 patients a year but gives personal care to each, regardless of his or her ability to pay. Patient Mohammad Fayaz recently said, "We are satisfied with the hospital and staff. We are very happy." In 2013, thanks to Pandu's enthusiasm and his networking with other donors, IDRF sent a record amount to SSS to expand the hospital.

IDRF also provides dozens of elderly and disabled people with a loving home in Nidadavolu, Andhra. Kalyani is an intelligent lady, but she cannot walk. Her well-off family abandoned her because of her small legs. Today, she enjoys life at this home, run by Kasturibai Mahila Samajam. IDRF and its donors provide her with everything from medi-



Laxmi and Ramudu at Oldage Home, Nidadavolu

cation to clothing to special outings. She lives with other elderly ladies like Annapurna, Ramudu and Laxmi. Annapurna fled to this home when her daughter-in-law abused her. Today, she has a central role at the home, providing massage to her fellow residents.

IDRF leverages its donors' money to provide sanitation and nutrition to more than 9,000 tribal citizens in Indervelley, Adilabad District. With partner NGO, Shyamprasad Institute for Social Services, found that although many families have electricity, they have no bathroom facility. Anemia, jaundice, and malnutrition plagued them. For each Rs.100 IDRf contributes - for medical camps, eye camps, and kitchen gardens - the government donates Rs. 1500- to construct toilets! SISS and the beneficiaries also provide Rs 500 in cash and donated labor for each Rs. 100 IDRf provide. IDRf makes its donors' hard-earned money go as far as possible!

IDRF has also brought health to Chenchu tribal people in Kurnool District. Our mobile medical van, run by local NGO Sanghamithra Seva Samithi, serves thousands of people in

year. In its first five years, the van's service cured 95% percent of tuberculosis cases, which had previously reached almost epidemic levels. Sanghamithra also trained local Chenchu people as community health workers, to assist their neighbors when the van is not available.

This is just a sample of IDRf's work in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. There's a project to bring education to poor children in fishing communities with the Circle of Goodwill, Visakhapatnam. Thanks to the cricket-playing volunteers in



Sanghamithra Mobile Clinic for TB in Tribal AP

Boston, IDRf has helped build a hospital in Guntur District with Seva Bharathi Guntur and paid tuition costs for tribal students, with Grama-bharathi, a NGO headquartered in Hyderabad.

We invite TANA members to review our projects, visit the project locations on a visit to India and join hands with IDRf to bring improvement to our less fortunate brothers and sisters in India. ❁

