

## Twigs Strengthen the Roots.



On a bright Saturday evening, I walked into a room full of familiar and non-familiar faces, a vibe crossed my path, a vibe one would only notice at a family gathering. Small children played around cheerfully, preparations were being made for speakers to take the stage, last minute decorations and introductions flew across the room. The energy and exuberance spoke volumes about how the latter part of the evening would turn out to be.

The event in context is the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner that was held by Sankara Eye Foundation, USA on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015, in Sunnyvale, California. A stark camaraderie among members of all age groups



was the highlight of the evening. This meet wasn't so much about the non-profit, as it was about the volunteers. The evening was a culmination of efforts of the volunteer management team to have volunteers fly in from cities across the country, (Seattle, Los Angeles, Detroit, Phoenix, New Jersey, DC, and Houston) to appreciate their dedication and plan for the year ahead.

A speech from our Chairman, Murali Krishnamurthy set the momentum going. What followed was a narration of a series of anecdotes, reasons for motivation and the zeal to fly across the coast to attend the meet. An interesting anecdote that motivated one of the members enough to continue helping in the noble cause was narrated with ardent fervor. He received a certificate written by the patient himself, thanking him for the contribution. The evening was full of such stories and instances, and hearing them was a surreal experience.

It is no surprise that this noble cause pioneered by some exemplary people, at the helm of affairs, is largely a volunteer run show. Forming the backbone of the organization, they are known to pull off large scale events on their own. The mark of success lies in the fact that there were generations of a family present at the meet, each one equally enthusiastic as the other. The jewel in the crown was one of the members narrating that one of our oldest members (88) belonged to his family and her love for the cause.



The foundation has been instrumental in opening 1.3 million eyes and this gathering was proof of what perseverance, belief and strength can do. The end of the night saw some fun games where we saw just as much enthusiasm as seen while at work. We have always known roots to provide strength to trees; Sankara Eye Foundation is an organization where its many twigs are its strength. Mahatma Gandhi once said, “The best way to find yourself is loose yourself in the service of others,” and ever since its inception, hundreds of us have found ourselves while bringing light to someone’s life.

