

Prasad Chikitsa Faces HIV/AIDS in India

THE PRASAD PROJECT

Philanthropic Relief, Altruistic Service And Development

Over the past decade, India has seen a dramatic increase in the estimated number of HIV infections, surging from a few thousand cases in the early 1990s to approximately 3.8 million people living with HIV/AIDS in 2001. The state of Maharashtra, where Prasad Chikitsa is headquartered, has one of the highest rates of HIV infection in the country. On the Muktananda Mobile Hospital, the Prasad Chikitsa staff are diagnosing more and more HIV-infected children, and are meeting orphans whose parents have died from AIDS-related diseases.

Dinesh is one such child. He is eight years old and HIV-positive. Both his parents died



On the Muktananda Mobile Hospital, Prasad Chikitsa sees HIV-infected patients.

from AIDS-related diseases almost two years ago. Dinesh and his five brothers and sisters had been living in their family's home, but when the walls of the small mud-and-bamboo house began to cave in, the orphans had to move to their uncle's house. However, the

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Restoring Eyesight in Rural Mexico

Since 1998, PRASAD de México has been sponsoring eye camps in rural areas of Mexico. In 2002, PRASAD de México supported 1,200 surgeries, and it plans to increase its number of patients in 2003. The most recent camp was conducted in December 2002 in Durango.

Driving through the countryside of Durango State in Mexico, one gazes out the window at miles of scrub and small pine trees. Small villages comprised of mud brick houses sparsely dot the barren landscape.

Durango City, the capital of the state from which it takes its name, is located on a dry, high-altitude plain and is ringed by hills. It has a population of about 400,000. Forty-two percent of the families in this state subsist on less than four dollars per day. In Mexico, 200,000 people develop cataract

blindness each year, and only half of them receive corrective surgery due to prohibitive cost, remote geography and lack of education.

In this context, PRASAD de México, in partnership with D.I.F (the "Integral Development of Families" department of the Mexican government) and the Asociación Para Evitar la Ceguera en México (APEC), an eye hospital in Mexico City, conducted an eye campaign in Durango. PRASAD de México provided funding, logistical and volunteer support to the campaign.

During the weeks prior to the camp, D.I.F staff conducted extensive outreach activities in the surrounding villages and the city. A day before the camp, a truck arrived from Mexico City to deliver surgical equipment, including a ready-made ophthalmic surgical operating theater.



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Netraprakash Eye Clinic

Visiting Doctors Gain Insight

Prasad Chikitsa opened the permanent Netraprakash Eye Clinic in the village of Akloli in 2001; it now provides ongoing eye care, brings in income from clinic patients who can afford a nominal fee, and conducts several free eye camps throughout the year. Smaller in scale than the previous large eye camps, these camps are more cost-efficient and cumulatively serve as many patients. A camp was conducted in November 2002, and at least three more camps are being scheduled for 2003.

Two ophthalmologists from California—Dr. Gary Barth and Dr. Robert Anderson—flew to India to participate in the November 2002 Netraprakash Eye Camp. At this camp, Dr.

Tulika Kar and Dr. Prasad Mane performed 113 sight-restoring surgeries, and more than 20 volunteers came from all over Maharashtra State to offer their service. It was Dr. Anderson's first experience at Netraprakash, and he wrote: "I was privileged to be a first-time participant at the eye camp. The quality of care and efficiency under the direction of Dr. Tulika is unsurpassed anywhere. Much can be accomplished through selfless service and teamwork."

Upon returning from his November visit, Dr. Barth said, "I was so impressed with the spirit and inventiveness of Prasad Chikitsa. It was thrilling to observe the impact this organization has on the villages."

Read Dr. Barth's account of the eye camp on page 7.

HIV/AIDS - continued from front cover

uncle and his wife, already struggling to support their own children, did not provide the orphans with emotional or economic support. Jayshree, Dinesh's 14-year-old sister and now the head of the family, takes in washing in order to earn a meager 200 rupees (US \$4) per month, with which she struggles to feed, clothe and school the other children.

When the Prasad Chikitsa team first met Dinesh several years ago, he was emotionally shut down. At that time, his father was in the Tuberculosis Program, and four-year-old Dinesh was being treated for tuberculosis. He rarely smiled or talked and did not like physical contact. Now, however, a beautiful transformation is taking place in Dinesh. He is opening up to love, smiles and speaks to the Prasad Chikitsa staff. When two Prasad Chikitsa volunteers visited Dinesh and his siblings in their village, Dinesh's uncle watched how they interacted with the children. He said: "You Prasad Chikitsa people give these children so much love and you are not even family members. This has shown me that I too should give love and care to these children."

Last fall, Dinesh was admitted to a government hospital in Mumbai because he was losing weight and suffering from intermittent fevers. He stayed there for two weeks, accompanied by his sister, Jayshree, and began a course of tuberculosis medication.

In December 2002, Marie Elrington, the nurse at Prasad Chikitsa, took Dinesh back to Mumbai for a follow-up visit. Dinesh's health has improved remarkably. He has gained four kilograms (8.8 pounds) and his white blood cell count is at a good level, indicating that his immune system is strong. The doctors are happy with his progress and will see him again in March. In the meantime, Prasad Chikitsa will continue to supply him with vitamins, milk and tuberculosis medication, as well as a medicine he takes to ward off opportunistic infections.

As for Dinesh's sister, Jayshree, Prasad Chikitsa brought her a sewing machine in December and is sponsoring her in a six-month class. A good tailor can earn 150 rupees (US \$3) in one day making a punjabi—much more than Jayshree currently earns washing clothes. In the future, Jayshree can support her family by making and selling clothes. Dinesh's family's story demonstrates how, in the midst of a devastating epidemic, Prasad Chikitsa brings light and hope to communities.

The Story of Mangli

This story, shared by Gurunath Shelk, the eye camp outreach coordinator, and Rajendra Bhange, his assistant, illustrates the tremendous energy and compassion that the staff of Prasad Chikitsa dedicate to each patient. They support the people of the Tansa Valley with creativity and determination and help them to receive sight-restoring surgery.

Mangli Dukle is a 45-year-old woman who lives with her sister's daughter, husband and two children in Bandhan Pada, in Kondhale village. She was blind and was diagnosed with mature cataracts in both eyes during a village outreach visit. She came for a screening and the doctor declared her fit for cataract surgery. We told her that a simple, quick operation would enable her to see again.



Rajendra Bhange and Gurunath Shelk

so we came up with a plan to help her. We gathered Mangli's neighbors and a schoolteacher and explained the situation. The neighbors agreed to take care of the nine-year-old boy. He would take the oxen to the fields for grazing, and eat his meals at the school with the teacher. The 10-year-old girl would accompany Mangli to the camp.

On the second day of the camp, Mangli had surgery on her right eye. Then she had to wait a day before receiving the second operation. While she was waiting, her maternal uncle and aunt arrived at the camp to get surgery themselves. They informed her that her mother had passed away the day before. Mangli was very upset and wanted to leave the camp immediately, before the surgery on her second eye. I found her crying and tried to console her. I explained that she should not go without having her other operation and that she had so much to gain from it.

I reassured her that the people in her mother's village knew about her operations and would not expect her to travel right away. Mangli decided to stay and have the second operation, and then go to her mother's village once she had healed.

Mangli is now able to see again with both eyes and is satisfied with her decision to have both surgeries. When we conducted a follow-up visit, Mangli was happy and tending to her responsibilities at home with greater ease.

The day patients were picked-up for the November eye camp, however, Mangli did not arrive with the others. When we went to her house to check on her, Mangli told us that she could not come to the camp for three-and-a-half days. She was responsible for looking after the children and oxen while the children's parents worked all day in a brick factory.

Mangli was torn between her responsibility at her home and the prospect of seeing again,

Fourteen surgeons came to participate in the eye camp.

The camp lasted four days. For two hours each morning, the doctors conducted a screening and diagnostic clinic. Then the patients were prepared for surgery, and waited patiently for their turn in the operating room. One family, a mother and her five children, ages 2-12, came for a check-up following their previous surgery. All five children had congenital cataracts and have had surgeries. One of the children still wears glasses and needs additional surgery to correct his squint.

The surgeons worked tirelessly in three small rooms, each containing two operating tables. As soon as one surgery was completed, the doctors swung the operating microscope over to the patient waiting on the adjacent bed and immediately began the next procedure.



During four days, 273 people received sight-restoring cataract surgery. Many of the patients were in their forties and fifties—people who, with restored eyesight, will once again lead active, productive lives. The youngest patient was a 20-month-old baby. The eldest was a 98-year-old blind woman who had visual impairment for 40 years. Though physically frail, her strong determination was apparent. The day after her surgery, her face radiated with delight as she saw the world for the first time in years.

At the conclusion of the eye camp—the largest one of the year—the surgeons were exhausted yet elated. After the last day, they worked with the nurses and other staff to pack the theatre and equipment back into the boxes and load it in the truck. Early the next morning the volunteers traveled back along the twisting, bumpy road to Mexico City.

Volunteers Make the Camps Possible

Many volunteers offer an incredible amount of time and effort to the eye camps. Carlos Suárez, the general director of PRASAD de México, and his wife, Angélica Labastida, as well as people like Mercedes Safont and Coty del Paso, president and manager of PRASAD de México, respectively, visit towns where eye camps have been organized by PRASAD. Dr. Barojas, a prominent ophthalmic surgeon who volunteered at the 1999 Netrapakash Eye Camp in India, heads the team of nurses and ophthalmologists. In December 2002, he was recognized as the “Volunteer of the Year.” This prestigious national

award, given by the President of Mexico, is granted to one person each year who best exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism.

Great support for the campaign also comes from Margarita Garcia de Guerrero Mier, the director of D.I.F and the wife of the state governor. She spearheaded the construction of a new D.I.F medical facility from which PRASAD de México now operates.

Carlos Suárez says, “The eye camps in Mexico are a good example of the true spirit of PRASAD. We are supporting people who need to know that someone cares for them, and we care for them with love and respect.

With restored eyesight, people improve the quality of their lives, and can then help themselves, their family and their communities.”



Volunteers in Mexico, including Angélica Labastida and Margarita Garcia de Guerrero Mier (front row, third and fourth from left).

Community Development in India's Tansa Valley

The following are highlights from past issues of the PRASAD e-Monthly. You can read the full stories by visiting our website: www.prasad.org.

Agricultural Training

Prabhakar Patil is a member of an agricultural Self-Help Group. With Prasad Chikitsa's guidance, Prabhakar has planted 25 mango trees; the fruit of each will bring him 500-600 rupees (US \$11) in three to four years. His projected annual income is approximately 15,000 rupees (US\$ 310), almost three times what he had been earning from planting rice and selling the use of his land for brickmaking. In the meantime, he has planted a “kitchen garden,” growing vegetables to sell in the market and to provide nutritional variety to his family's diet.

HIV/AIDS

On December 1, to commemorate World AIDS Day, the Prasad Chikitsa medical team went to the village of Verde to educate the community about HIV/AIDS. Vilas Shinde, community development manager, and the medical team taught the people about HIV/AIDS, how it is transmitted and methods of prevention.

Honey Making

In the village of Kelton, a Self-Help Group of approximately 25 women and men joined together to establish an income-generating honey-making business.

Prasad Chikitsa helped to facilitate a 15-day training program, which included field trips and theory training. Upon completion of the training, the government will provide the group with honey-making boxes at subsidy rates. The SHG can earn 1,000 rupees (US \$20) per year per honey-making box—indeed, a sweet result from this community development enterprise.

Midwife Training

Shevanti Pawar is one of the “dais” (traditional midwives) in Prasad Chikitsa's Maternal Child Health Program. Shevanti developed her skills during Prasad Chikitsa's midwife training program last spring. In October, Shevanti, experiencing difficulty seeing with her left eye, came to the Netrapakash Eye Clinic for an examination and was diagnosed with a mature cataract. After receiving cataract surgery at the mini-eye camp, Shevanti healed well and can continue to practice her life's work.

PRASAD Children's Dental Health Program

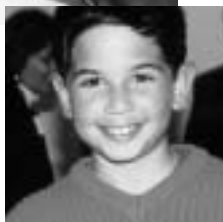
Did you know that with proper education and access to care, childhood dental disease is entirely preventable? Twenty-five percent of all children do not smile or laugh because they are ashamed of their teeth!



The long-term effects of dental disease can be debilitating to a person's life. Early dental disease can lead to decreased appetite, depression, and increased inattention and distractibility. This, in turn, often leads to school failure, negative self-esteem, and innumerable medical expenses.

PRASAD Children's Dental Health Program (CDHP) was established to respond to the national epidemic of dental

disease. The program began in New York in 1996, and in 2000, CDHP launched a second program in California. CDHP now operates state-of-the-art mobile dental clinics in school

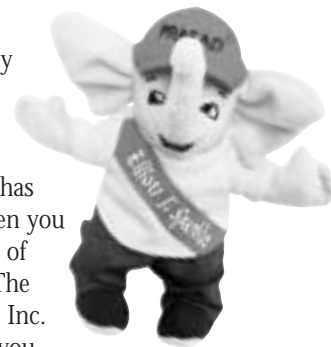


districts in San Jose, Calif. and Sullivan County, N.Y. Both programs have been very successful in combating children's dental disease and are highly respected

healthcare providers in their communities. They demonstrate an effective outreach model that can be emulated across the country. CDHP is putting smiles on the faces of children from coast to coast!

Elliott T. Sparkle Plush Toy Now Available

Our adorable six-inch plush toy replica of the Children's Dental Health Program mascot has arrived! And when you make a donation of \$10 or more to The PRASAD Project, Inc. and specify that you would like an Elliott plush toy, we will be happy to send you one of your very own. Any contribution greater than five dollars (the value of toy) is tax deductible. All proceeds will benefit PRASAD Children's Dental Health Program. To make a contribution and get your Elliott toy, please visit our website: www.prasad.org, or email prasad@prasad.org and write: "Elliott toy" in the subject line.



Wheels in Motion for Tour de Smile

It is time to get your legs in shape and strap on your helmet! Planning and preparations are now underway for the PRASAD Children's Dental Health Program's first annual Tour de Smile Trans-America bike relay. Tour de Smile will raise awareness that dental disease in children is entirely treatable and preventable. It will also generate funds to support PRASAD CDHP's esteemed dental health programs in San Jose, Calif. and Sullivan County, N.Y.



and national media to highlight the dental disease epidemic that leads to pain and suffering in children. The bike relay is more than 4,200 miles long and comprised of 65 legs, with an average of 75 miles per day.

There are many ways you can participate, both now and during the relay: ride a leg, sponsor a rider, offer in-kind donations or underwriting, coordinate a region, or promote the event in your area.

You can also join our "Penny for a Smile" campaign, buy a Smile-Mile, host

Events Worth Smiling About, one of our nationwide fundraisers, or become a PRASAD Pedal Partner and start a bike ride in your own community! Even if you do not live close to the route, you can still participate. Please contact us so that we may support you to create a ride where you live.

For more information, to download a rider or volunteer application form or request a brochure, please visit our new website—just launched in February: www.tourdesmile.org. Or contact our Tour de Smile coordinator, Liz Hoffner, by email at lizh@prasadproject.org or by phone at 408.937.4858 ext. 3.

This great adventure ride will begin at PRASAD CDHP's California office in San Jose on Friday, July 11. Tour de Smile riders, passing a toothbrush baton across 13 states, will peddle through California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York, and finish at Sullivan County Community College, near PRASAD CDHP's New York office on Sunday, September 14. Along the route, participants will partner with local



PRASAD Meets in Europe

In November 2002, PRASAD's international executive director, Dermot Hurly, and his wife, Karen, traveled to Europe to meet with PRASAD boards and communities and to attend fundraisers in England, France, Italy and Spain. The European discussions revolved around PRASAD's identity and mission, as well as how all the PRASAD international organizations can continue to refine their communications and teamwork.

Barcelona, Spain was the site of a historic meeting in which European PRASAD representatives from France, Italy and Spain all came together for the first time. Frederic Dacqmine, member of PRASAD's International Board of Directors and president of PRASAD France, facilitated the meeting. Also in attendance were Veronique Luneau, of PRASAD France; Paolo Carrelli Palombi, president of PRASAD Italia; Alexis Courcineaux and his wife, Maria Elena Campo, of PRASAD España, and David Mendez, the president-elect of PRASAD España. David Hodgson of the U.K., who is the SYDA Foundation European regional director, also participated in the meeting.

The focus of this meeting was to strengthen communication, reporting and financial logistics, and to develop special fundraising events and local projects. The attendees shared their past, present and future activities and discussed proceeding as a cohesive European



Alexis Courcineaux, Maria Elena Campo and David Mendez of PRASAD España.

team. The Europeans have begun to plan two projects involving art and music that will raise funds to support local initiatives in the Tansa Valley, India. This dynamic meeting inspired plans for a two-day international conference with the national and international PRASAD boards, to be held in Montreux, Switzerland on April 21 and 22, 2003.

Another very important development was that the international board of directors approved the incorporation of PRASAD España. David Mendez and Alexis Courcineaux have shown extraordinary dedication in bringing PRASAD España into existence. Welcome PRASAD España!

Upon his return from Europe, Dermot wrote to the board members: "This has been an exciting time for me as I have seen the depth of commitment and the quality of the work that happens around the globe." It is an exciting time for PRASAD as well!

In Memoriam

Geoff Sutcliffe

Geoff Sutcliffe, a founding director of the board of PRASAD Australia, passed away on January 14, 2003, in Melbourne after an illness.

Peter Raines, the chairperson of the PRASAD Australia board, shared the following: "I am filled with great sadness at the loss of this kind, gentle, humble and very generous man.



"Geoff was committed to PRASAD Australia and had been a keen supporter of The PRASAD Project. I can remember Geoff talking glowingly about the work of PRASAD, which he saw firsthand when he visited Ganeshpuri, India some years ago.

"When he was asked to join the board of PRASAD Australia, he did so without hesitation and up until the time of his illness, he was a very dedicated and enthusiastic director. Geoff not only contributed to PRASAD personally, but also made his office available for our meetings and offered the support of his staff to help with our administration. His staff recently contributed significantly to PRASAD. His sense of humour and his general lightness of being made it a pleasure to have him present at our meetings. He will be sorely missed."

We send blessings and love to Geoff's wife, Lilavati Stewart, his two children, Justin James and Alicia Katrina, and to the rest of his family.

PRASAD HEADQUARTERS

Farewell to Our Managing Director

In January, we bid farewell to Monika Lentze, PRASAD's human resource manager. Monika worked at PRASAD for three years, first as director of human resources and then as managing director. Monika served PRASAD with enthusiasm and dedication, and was central to organizational developments and initiatives that took place during her tenure. She was deeply committed to the work of PRASAD, and generously gave her time and considerable knowledge.



headquarters. Kirtana Rudder has joined staff as administrative assistant to the general manager. Willis says of Monika, "She has been a mentor and remains a good friend. I have some big shoes to fill, and appreciate all she did for PRASAD while she was here."

Monika has accepted the position of director at a residential program for developmentally disabled people in Delaware County. She has a long-time commitment to assisting disabled people, having worked with them for 25 years. Monika says, "Caring for the disabled has been my passion for a long, long time." She is now living in Roscoe, N.Y.

Thank you, Monika, for your loving service! We will miss you and wish you all the best.

Willis Olivo, who has been working at PRASAD for three years as the director of information technology, has assumed responsibility as manager of PRASAD

Welcome to Volunteers and Staff

We warmly welcome the PRASAD volunteers who have joined us at our Hurleyville, N.Y. headquarters in the past six months: Steven McKeating is serving as our facilities director, and Maria Agostini is the prevention program assistant for CDHP. We also welcome staff members Kirtana Rudder, assistant to the general manager; Sandy Acome, donor relations database assistant; and Liz Hoffner, CDHP Tour de Smile coordinator. Thank you all for your contributions—we are so happy you are here!

2003: A Time for Expansion

Dear PRASAD Family,

2003 holds a vision of expansion for PRASAD's programs—a vision in which people are inspired to improve the quality of their lives and the lives of those around them. In “non-profit speak” this translates as “sustainable development” or empowering people to help themselves, their communities, and their environment. It begins with us; it begins at home.

In keeping with this vision, 2003 is the year in which we would like to encourage all of our Partners to step forth and play a greater role with PRASAD. We know the choice to do so will enhance the quality of your life and help us build a strong foundation for sustainable development with our program participants.

We invite you, our PRASAD Partners, to offer additional support by hosting an event for The PRASAD Project. How can you do this? You could commit to hosting an event as big or as small as you desire: a dinner, a benefit concert, a benefit golf tournament or A Chance to Dance. You might want to host Events Worth Smiling About, one of our nationwide events to raise awareness of the need for dental care among our nation's economically disadvantaged children. Or, become a PRASAD Pedal Partner by coordinating a community ride in your area to

support Tour de Smile, CDHP's Trans-America Bike Relay (read more about this ride on page 4). Invite your friends, family, and coworkers to learn more about PRASAD; share your golden Partner heart!

We also ask your support in a second, vitally important PRASAD goal: helping us to expand our donor base. How can you do this? By making it your intention to share your experience of PRASAD in such a way that one new person is inspired to become a PRASAD Partner. Think of it! If each PRASAD Partner were to bring in one new Partner, our donor participation would double. Imagine the impact that would have on PRASAD's programs! A Partner-hosted event is the perfect forum in which to do this. The Tour de Smile generates incredible enthusiasm in all who hear about it. Try sharing it and see what happens!

Please take these requests to heart and let them percolate in your being. Allow the possibilities of sharing further in PRASAD's work to kindle your desire to serve.

With gratitude,



Shelley Ashwini Brandes
Director of Donor Relations
Email: shelleby@prasadproject.org

A Time to Love: Dream Dance 2003

It was a time to love and a time to dance. Hundreds of revelers celebrated Valentine's Day together at St. Paul the Apostle Church in New York City, grooving all night long to eclectic music spun by DJs Nicky P, Asa Neu and Roy Robles. The proceeds from the event benefited The PRASAD Project.



Dream Dance Team



Special thanks to Christine Kim and her team for the months of preparation and planning they put into this event. You all did such a fantastic job! Thank you for your time, energy, creativity and love.

Opportunities to Give

Did You Know?

❖ Many employers offer a Matching Gifts Program that may double your donation to PRASAD. Please check with your human resources department to see if your employer offers them. Required financial information about The PRASAD Project or PRASAD CDHP can be downloaded from www.guidestar.com.

❖ PRASAD welcomes contributions of all types, and can assist you in determining the gift program that is most suitable for you. For information, please call the Donor Relations office at 845.434.0376 ext. 131 or email shelleby@prasadproject.org.

In-Kind Donations

❖ Minivan/wagon or sedan-late model, low mileage, in good condition. Please contact Steven McKeating at 845.434.0376 ext. 125 or email stevenm@prasadproject.org.

❖ LCD Projector for offsite presentations. Please contact Willis Olivo at 845.434.0376 ext. 107 or email willis@prasad.org.

Underwriting

Underwriters would be appreciated for the following:

- ❖ CDHP dental supplies
- ❖ Printing of brochures and other materials

Volunteer Opportunities

- ❖ Website Production Assistant
- ❖ Writer/Editor for newsletters and website
- ❖ Various positions for Tour de Smile

If you have the professional background for any of these positions and would like to volunteer your time, please contact Kirtana Rudder at 845.434.0376 ext. 123 or email kirtanar@prasadproject.org.

A Special Thanks To

❖ The Siddha Yoga Chanting and Meditation Group of Worcester, Mass. for donating a Sharp 30-inch color TV, TV stand and Hitachi VCR to The PRASAD Project.

❖ Andy Cooley and Merchants Associates for printing the holiday cards, and Scott Sherman and The Fillit Group for underwriting the printing of the holiday card order forms.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

The Netraprakash Eye Clinic from a Visiting Surgeon's Perspective

By Dr. Gary Barth

It was amazing to see the accomplishments that have been made in eye surgery in the Tansa Valley since 1999, when I attended the last Netraprakash cataract camp. At that time, patients were frequently blind for months or years while they waited for the next large, temporary cataract surgery camp. Now patients have year-round access to surgery, and they have access to medical follow-up visits to maintain the good results from the surgery.

At the helm of the eye program is Dr. Tulika Kar, a specialist in small incision and phacoemulsification cataract surgery. The Tansa Valley residents are so lucky to have someone with her training and expertise. After graduating from her post-doctoral studies in ophthalmic surgery, she did a two-year surgical fellowship at India's most prestigious eye clinic, the Aravind Eye Hospital in Madurai. The success of her *pro bono* surgeries has helped her build up a clientele of paying patients, and these fees

help support the clinic. The week I left, Dr. Tulika performed 30 paid cataract surgeries in addition to the 113 surgeries she did during the free eye camp. She is now busy enough that PRASAD Chikitsa has been able to recruit Dr. Prasad Mane to support her as a second ophthalmic surgeon.

I witnessed how the eye clinic serves such an important need in the region. For example, one day when Bob Anderson, my fellow surgeon, and I were at the clinic, a nearly blind eight-year-old boy came in with congenital glaucoma. One of his eyes was already disfigured and blind and the other did not have even enough strength to see the big "E" on the eye chart. Despite his obvious visual difficulties and cosmetic disfigurement, this was his first eye exam. Unfortunately, such occurrences are not rare.



Drs. Gary Barth, Robert Anderson, Tulika Kar and Prasad Mane

The evolution of Prasad Chikitsa's large eye camps into this permanent and accessible clinic has had such a positive impact here in the Tansa Valley. In addition, the highly visible successes of Prasad Chikitsa's eye care program have helped publicize PRASAD's other activities. More and more people are coming to know Prasad Chikitsa and appreciate the care that is offered with such perfect grace.

An Opportunity To Support The PRASAD Project

We invite you to become a PRASAD Partner and to make a regular monthly donation. When you participate in the Partner Program your monthly contribution can be transferred from your checking or credit card account directly to The PRASAD Project. A record of each gift will appear on your bank or credit card statement. Your contribution is fully tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Thank you for your loving support!

To become a PRASAD Partner:

1. Fill out the enrollment form below, indicating the amount you want to contribute each month.
2. Be sure to sign your name and indicate the date.
3. Return the completed reply form with a check for your first month's gift or your credit card information.

Your gifts will begin transferring in about four weeks.

Cut here.

Record your monthly gift amount here and keep for your records: \$ _____
You may modify or suspend your gift by phone: 845.434.0376 ext. 118 or email: prasad@prasad.org or fax: 845.434.0377.
All gifts provided to The PRASAD Project originating as ACH transactions comply with U.S. law.

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US dollars

THE PRASAD PROJECT

Philanthropic Relief Altruistic Service And Development

Enclosed is my one time gift of \$ _____
(Please make checks payable to The PRASAD Project)

I would like to become a PRASAD Partner and make a monthly gift of \$ _____

Enclosed is a check for my first month's gift. Please transfer my future monthly gifts directly from my checking account.
OR

Here is my credit card information. Please transfer my future monthly gifts directly from my credit card.

Card #: _____

Exp. Date: _____

My company will honor matching funds.

Please put my name on your mailing list.

NL1-2003

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PROJECT

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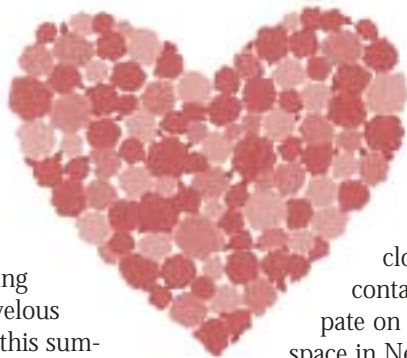
Planning Underway for Beyond Fashion 2003

Diane Pellegrino-Warenycia, Beyond Fashion 2003 benefit chairperson, sent us the following letter:

"It is with great enthusiasm and joy that we announce that The PRASAD Project will once again sponsor Beyond Fashion, *The Sale That Makes a Difference!* Planning is underway for this marvelous fashion event, to be held this summer in New York City (specific times and location to be announced soon).

The event has been called the ultimate shopper's mecca, with merchandise from major designers at incredibly low prices. And, 100% of the proceeds from the sale go to The PRASAD Project. To date, Beyond Fashion has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for PRASAD since it was first held

Beyond Fashion
"The Sale That Makes A Difference"



in 1995. Recently a Beyond Fashion volunteer shared, "I went to do service and I walked out with friends." The joy is contagious. Join in the excitement by volunteering your services or donating your resources. We are looking for volunteers who have clothing and accessory contacts, volunteers to participate on committees, warehouse space in New York City, and meeting spaces in New York City that can accommodate 30-40 volunteers."

For more information, please email Diane Pellegrino-Warenycia at DPW373@aol.com.

Look for more details about Beyond Fashion 2003 in upcoming issues of the e-Monthly and on our website.

Website News

The Tour de Smile website was launched in February 2003. Learn how you can participate and sign up to ride, volunteer or sponsor at www.tourdesmile.org

The new PRASAD Project website will follow and go live at the end of March 2003. Check it out: www.prasad.org

Sign Up for PRASAD's Email Newsletters!

Stay connected and up-to-date on PRASAD programs and events. Sign up for our monthly email newsletter.

To be on our newsletter email list, please send us the following information via fax, phone or email: Name, mailing address, phone number and email address.

By fax: 845.434.0377

By phone: 845.434.0376 ext. 108

By email: prasad@prasad.org

Thank you! Look for our next email newsletter in April 2003.