

20th Annual PoleStar Awards

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN SOCIAL IMPACT 2018

Instituted to honour excellence in the workings of social impact enterprises that have made it their life's mission to bring positive change in the lives of the underprivileged and marginalised communities.

The POLESTAR Foundation has always believed in recognition that is truly deserved. And the winners have earned the honour through their sustained efforts against great odds in making a difference.

BEST SOCIAL IMPACT AWARD – HEALTH



SHANKARA EYE FOUNDATION

Shankara Eye Foundation has won the PoleStar Award for Best Social Impact organization in Health

Founded in 1998 by Murali Krishnamurthy, K. Sridharan, and Sridharan's neighbor Ahmad Khushnood with the help of their first donor, Hariharamoorthy. Sankara Eye Foundation has risen to great heights from its humble beginnings. On the urging by of their uncle Mr. P. Balasubramaniam, brothers Murali and Sridharan became motivated to help Sankara Eye Hospital run by Dr. R.V. Ramani, whose mission headquarters is in Coimbatore, India.

SEF initiates and drives community eye care activities in India by working with Sankara Eye Care Institutions (SECI), India, which runs the "Gift of Vision" rural outreach program through Sankara Eye Hospitals in Coimbatore, Krishnankovil, Bangalore, Shimoga, Guntur, Anand, Pammal and Silvassa. Each hospital is set up to become fully self-sustaining within 5 years of service. The Gift of Vision program is based on an "80/20" model, i.e., four free eye surgeries are performed for each paid surgery. Thousands of rural poor have received free eye surgeries.

SEF has its headquarters in Milpitas, CA. It has 100+ energetic volunteer leaders all around the United States.

The majority of SEF's funds are raised through its own events, and booths at other events, donations including Founding Memberships, and advertising. Through these fund-raising efforts, SEF has played a pivotal role in increasing the number of free surgeries for the rural poor more than eightfold since 1998. The annual rate was around 1,00,000 free eye surgeries in 2009.

Funds collected under specific programs are sent in its entirety to India and. SEF provides extensive feedback to its donors on how the money is used. SEF has received 4-star rating by Charity Navigator.

For more information visit <https://www.sankaraeye.com/>

The PoleStar Foundation
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