

## **EKAM STORY**

Ekam USA is a 501©(3) certified nonprofit organization that provides healthcare to underprivileged children and mothers in India. Dr. Sai Lakshmi Balijepally is a paediatrician who started Ekam Foundation in 2009 in Chennai to bridge the gaps in the public health system. Some parents cannot afford care in private hospitals, while the necessary treatment is not available in public hospitals. Imagine a parent having to choose between saving one child vs. feeding the other children.

When Mr. Arul Jyothi, who earns \$40 per month, had a newborn baby requiring ventilator support that the Govt. hospital did not have, he gave up hope as he could not pay \$2400 bill. Ekam organized a 50% subsidy with the hospital and found individual and corporate donors to pay the rest. The baby is now a healthy 7 year old.

124 children in public schools were screened through Government programs and diagnosed with heart defects that need surgery. None of these children could afford the surgeries. Ekam identified Govt. funds for this purpose and assisted the families with the red tape involved, successfully getting all 124 children operated. Ekam works with the public and private sectors, using corporate and individual donors, and connecting them with the children in need.

During her medical training, Dr. Sai watched helplessly as children died every day, due to lack of basic medications or working equipment. Neonates (less than one month old children) were dying in a hospital NICU (neonatal intensive care unit) due to heat stroke, as there was no working air conditioner. Lack of working CT scanners and ventilators would cause the death of many children with heart and lung problems.

Dr. Sai has received the Nari Shakti Puraskar from the President of India and the prestigious Ashoka Fellowship

## **Ekam Impact**

- Infant mortality rate IMR 16 in TN, compared to 42 in India (deaths per 10,000 live births)
- Over 12,000 Children provided lifesaving medical support in 7 states
- 1.08 million children/ 300,000 families covered by Ekam services
- Reached more than 1200 village punchayats
- 10,000 community workshops conducted
- Working in 7 states and 1500 government hospitals across India
- 3,500 plus nurses recruited and trained for government hospitals
- 98% of equipment in Newborn wards in excellent working condition

## **Donations**

- **\$20 /month or \$240/ year- Save A child project**
- **\$31 per month - \$365/ year- Dollar A Day campaign**
- **\$500-\$1000/ yearly to train nurses and fund sick child units**
- **\$10,000/ year Grand Ambassador**

## **Reasons to support Ekam**

Works at grass roots level, making healthcare affordable to the needy, especially in villages

Long term results IMR 16

Reinforces and improve the efficiency of public health system

Provides free direct life-saving treatment to children, providing subsidized care in public/private hospitals and connecting donors to the needy

Maintains equipment from **16% to 96% in working condition**

Training of nurses

Improving community awareness through education about health, hygiene and disease- camps to school children, pregnant mothers, adolescent girls

