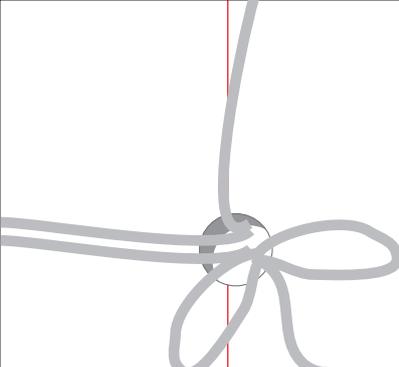


Name : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Let's Help

100

Retired Teachers  
Overcome Arthritis



"If you can read this,  
thank a teacher"

- anonymous



## Why help our Teachers?

Teaching is a special calling. Teaching is a mission. Teachers touch lives and make a difference to the futures of many. Once a person leaves the portals of a school, the guidance imparted to him/ her is priceless and remains for life but the giver of this guidance is often forgotten. This initiative was therefore conceived to recognise and give back to teachers who have helped us get ahead in life. Teaching is often not a highly paid profession and most retired teachers cannot afford advanced medical care and are not covered by insurance.

SPARSH Guru Namana has been created as an attempt to alleviate pain, increase mobility and transform the lives of retired teachers suffering from arthritis.

## What is Arthritis?

Arthritis is a painful condition which restricts a person's mobility and lifestyle. To make matters worse this crippling condition affects individuals most often as they age, when they are most vulnerable. Treatment involves an expensive operation and under most circumstances many retired teachers are unable to afford it as the implants used in corrective surgery are very expensive. In this procedure the arthritic hip or knee joint is replaced with an artificial joint. Even though the developed world has easy access to this treatment, in India it is a distant dream due to a lack of awareness, fear of surgery and affordability.

## The Event



The SPARSH Guru Namana programme is a tribute to teachers. It is an initiative of the SPARSH Foundation- the charitable wing of SPARSH Hospital set up by Dr Sharan Patil.

As a part of this programme, around 100 retired school teachers with crippling arthritis and with no insurance cover will undergo total joint replacement surgery and subsequent post operative care completely free of cost.

The event is scheduled to be held from September 5th (Teacher's Day) to 12th, 2010. A team of 25 specialists from India, UK & USA along with Team SPARSH would conduct the operations. All the personnel involved in this initiative right from the doctors, surgeons, anaesthetics to the theatre staff, nursing staff, dieticians, paramedical staff, physiotherapists etc. will be offering their services for free. The team plans to conduct about 15 surgeries a day and hopes to complete 100 joint replacement surgeries within a week. All the infrastructural logistics including operation theatres, wards, etc. will be offered free of cost by SPARSH Hospital.

The teachers who are to benefit from SPARSH Guru Namana have been identified and assessed medically for their suitability during an initial screening. The screening camp was held on June 25th and 26th at Bangalore. All the tests conducted at the screening camp were performed free of cost.



Every step is now an uphill climb for Kusuma\*. While time had worn away her knees, when she was busy constructing many successful careers, the pride she takes in being a teacher remains untouched by time. With a gleam in her eyes she revels in the fact that many of her students are now industry bigwigs and luminaries of society. However today she is confined to the four walls of her home. Her mind is strong and she has the will to help many more but her knees are not willing.

Rudraiah\*, a 65 year old maths teacher from Dharwad district has travelled a long way. He revealed that this was one of the longest journeys he had undertaken in the last 2 years. He is unable to live like before and needs both emotional and physical support. His only daughter is married and lives elsewhere but her father's pain is never out of her mind.

Mr.Rudraiah\* feels mobility is life and his reluctance to become dependent, challenges his very existence.

Many such stories of pride and pain emerged at the screening.



\*The names have been changed to protect their identities

Life is too beautiful to be punished by Arthritis.

It is not about adding years to life  
but adding quality to those years.

### How you can HELP?

The complete cost of Guru Namana initiative is estimated to be around Rs. 1 Crore. This is where your support can help 100 teachers to overcome Arthritis. You can sponsor a teacher's surgery or donate towards medical expenses and get 80G tax benefits. You could also volunteer your services for SPARSH Guru Namana



To donate contact Dr Mamatha at 98454 77435  
For more information log on to  
[www.gurunamana.sparshhospital.com](http://www.gurunamana.sparshhospital.com)  
or mail us at [gurunamana@sparshhospital.com](mailto:gurunamana@sparshhospital.com)

## The team behind Guru Namana

Highly skilled and specialized Doctors from India, UK and USA have joined hands to bring a smile into the lives of 100 teachers. All the participating Doctors and support staff have offered their time and services free of any cost making it a truly inspiring tribute to the teacher.



Dr Bharat  
Mody  
Baroda



Dr Harish  
Bhende  
Mumbai



Dr Gurava  
Reddy  
Hyderabad



Dr Hemanth  
Wakankar  
Pune



Dr Jacob V  
Kochi



Dr Parag  
Sancheti  
Pune



Dr Vijay  
Bose  
Chennai



Dr Y Kharbanda  
Delhi



Dr Sanjay  
Pai  
Bangalore



Dr Thorsten  
Gehrke  
Hamburg  
Germany



Dr Bodo  
Purbach  
Wrightington  
UK



Team SPARSH

## About The SPARSH Foundation

With a mission to truly improve the quality of health care and make it affordable to the masses, the SPARSH foundation has undertaken numerous initiatives in the past. Some of these are:

### Hejje Guruthu

This programme focuses on the identification and correction of club foot in children. Having changed the lives of over 400 children in Karnataka, the foundation is taking it upon itself to eradicate this condition in children of Karnataka.

### Children in Need

This programme funds children requiring complex and extensive surgical intervention. This initiative gained global attention when Lakshmi Tatma, who was born with 8 limbs underwent a 27-hour surgery carried out by Dr. Sharan Patil's team. Lakshmi, was nurtured back to health by the charitable wing of the hospital – The SPARSH Foundation. This complex surgical intervention was widely reported by the media worldwide and the team at SPARSH received appreciation from the Hon. Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh.

### SPARSH Vachana



Under this initiative 30 Surgeons from India and across the globe dedicated their time to perform 200 operations within 7 days benefiting less fortunate children. This programme focused on children who were physically challenged with complex musculoskeletal abnormalities. The children were identified through preliminary screening processes. The 30 surgeons from India and across the world worked round-the-clock for a week to transform the future of two hundred children. The little ones were given the best of pre and post operative care and were tended to until they were on the road to a significantly improved state of health. The coming together of highly skilled and specialized doctors in a world class medical environment and the overwhelming response from people from various professions for the benefit of needy children made this a unique event.



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