Vision-Aid
a non-profit serving the visually disadvantaged
proudly presents

Madurai R Muralidaran's Broadway style dance musical

Charmer
Warrior
Guide
The endearing story of Krishna

Vision-Aid
Helping the visually impaired live with independence and dignity
www.visionaid.org

Design: Kolam Media Creations
603.557.6931 kolamcreations@gmail.com

July 16, 2017
Littleton High School Theater
Littleton, MA
July 2017

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Karyn and I welcome you to Littleton High school for the Annual Vision-Aid Celebration.

Vision-Aid has made it its mission to empower blind and low-vision students with the resources to prosper and live fulfilling lives. As a result of their tremendous passion for helping others Indian dance, Sri Madurai R. Muralidaran and his talented performers have come together to produce “Charmer, Warrior, Guide,” a story of overcoming one’s challenges with courage, faith, and friendship.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all of the attendees this evening for supporting this organization and we hope you enjoy the show!

Sincerely,

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Vision-Aid is honored to be Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare’s Count Us In Community Partner

Vision-Aid is profoundly grateful to Harvard Pilgrim Health Care (HPHC) for generously supporting Vision-Aid initiatives. HPHC is helping Vision-Aid scale new heights in bringing light into the lives of those who suffer from blindness and low vision.

Thanks to HPHC’s support, Vision-Aid is launching several new programs in 2017, including computer programming and spoken English classes for the visually impaired and sponsoring the Boston Accessibility Conference on Oct. 7th, 2017.

For more details, please see Page #7

Thank you to our Platinum Sponsors

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Pratima & Venkat Srinivasan
to eat with his friends. He charms the village with his beautiful flute. His friends help him carry out his mischief, and then charm his village to join him. As Krishna grows up in the village of Gokulam, he enlists his friends to help him with his pranks. Krishna the Charmer: Mischievous and Miraculous

A Miraculous Birth

After years of captivity, Devaki gives birth to a girl child. She and Vasudeva hold the baby boy briefly, dreading Kamsa’s arrival. Kamsa, Krishna’s true father, is the king of Mathura and has a heartless and tyrannical nature. He adores his younger sister Devaki, who is pregnant with Krishna. Kamsa tries to kill this switched baby, but she transforms into Lord Vishnu during her birth. The baby is miraculous - he is still alive.

Vasudeva will be the instrument of Kamsa’s death. Fearful for his life, Kamsa tries to kill Devaki. When Vasudeva intervenes, Kamsa imprison the couple.

The Wedding Prophecy

When he approaches the Yamuna river that he must cross to enter the village of Gokulam, the waters miraculously part and Lord Vishnu comes to help him. Krishna, who is clearly a divine child.

Krishna the Charmer: Tender and Teasing

As Krishna grows older, he is beloved by all the gopis, the young village girls. He is particularly beloved by Radha, whose pining for Krishna is a metaphor for our spiritual seeking of grace and enlightenment.

Krishna the Warrior: Beguiling and Brave

The gopis’ bliss in Krishna’s presence is expressed through their joyful raas leela dances. Their frolicking is interrupted by a tragic attack on children by the poisonous snake Kaliya. Krishna revives the victims and then defeats Kaliya, dancing victoriously atop the snake’s hood.

Krishna the Guide: Prudent and Protective

Every year, the villagers of Gokulam hold a festival to honor Indra, the lord of the skies. Krishna, however, advises that this year the villagers should honor the Govardhana Mountain, which provides shelter and sustenance for the villagers’ daily lives. Enraged, Lord Indra sends down a torrential downpour, threatening to flood the village. Krishna raises Govardhana Mountain on his little finger, Indra sends down a torrential downpour, threatening to flood the village. Krishna raises Govardhana Mountain on his little finger, providing shelter for the entire village until Indra’s rage subsides.

A Prophecy Fulfilled

Krishna’s true origins are revealed when he attends a contest held at King Kamsa’s court. Kamsa first tries to defeat Krishna with court wrestlers and a fighting elephant, and finally attacks Krishna himself. Krishna easily defeats the arrogant and heartless king destined to be destroyed by this young avatar of Lord Vishnu. Krishna restores his grandfather Ugrasena to the throne at Mathura.

Krishna and the Great War

Krishna will go on to be the omniscient guide who helps the good prevail over the forces of envy, greed and deceit during the Kurukshetra war described in the famous epic Mahabharata.

Krishna the Guide wins our hearts with his miraculous compositions over the years that have traveled the length and the breadth of the world. In Boston, he is ably assisted by Co-Producers Jeyanthi, Sujatha and SriPriya.

Karyalakshmi Muralidaran, a child prodigy and completed her arangetram when she was 8 under the guidance of her parents, Gurus Madura R Muralidaran & Smt.Chitra Muralidaran. She has toured all over the world and given solo and group performances apart from performing at premier dance festivals and prominent sabhas in India. She majored in Visual Communications in Chennai and feels honored to participate in Vision-Aid’s Production Narration.

Ramjani Saigal, the director of the Eastern Rhythms dance school in Burlington, MA. Her students have won National Awards. She has received wide acclaim for her productions on DNA, Ramayana & Savitri. She is a co-founder of Lokvani.com, co-chair of TIE-SE, Executive Director of Ekal Vidyalaya. She has co-produced several Vision-Aid productions since 2008.

Vision-Aid gratefully thanks the following accomplished Dance Teachers who have performed their arangetrams. She was co-produced shows like BharathyNatyam, Shivaratri & Savitri. She is a co-founder of Lokvani.com, co-chair of TIE-SE, Executive Director of Ekal Vidyalaya. She has co-produced several Vision-Aid productions since 2008.

Vision-Aid is delighted to present its most brilliant production yet - Charmer, Warrior, Guide, a Broadway-style mega dance production, with the rich and vibrant choreography of the renowned producer, Madhuri R Muralidaran who has metamorphosed together the lyrics, music and entire dance sequence to create this breathtaking production, starring over 70 artists.

Charmer, Warrior, Guide brings to life the childhood of Krishna, an avatar of Lord Vishnu, who was born on earth to overcome the selfish, heartless and tyrannical vices of human nature as exemplified by the wicked King Kamsa. Krishna the Charmer wins our hearts with his adorable antics; Krishna the Warrior inspires us to be better selves with his fearless heroics and Krishna the Guide inspires us to be better selves with his penetrating wisdom.

The endearing story of Krishna -- Charmer, Warrior, Guide – the endearing story of Krishna

Krishna the Charmer, Warrior, Guide

Concept, Choreography, Music & Direction

Madhuri R Muralidaran is a wellknown performing dancer, dance-guru, composer, and musician, who has composed over 120 varnas, produced several dance dramas, composed Pushpaanjali, Alarippu, Mallaar, Varnams & Thillanas in all 35 thalam’s & Jathiswarams in all 72 Melakarta ragas unprecedented in the field of Bharatha Natya. His musical compositions on all the above ragas are still popular and continue to inspire many musicians today.

Co-Producers

Jeyanthi Ghatraju, a Bharatanatyam dancer and choreographer with a mission to perform for charity, has been a Co-Producer of Vision-Aid productions since 2009. She offers Degree Programs in Performing Arts at her Natyajaali dance school through her affiliation with Alagappa Performing Arts Academy. Several of her students have performed their own arangetrams. She was awarded the coveted US Presidential Gold Service Award in 2013 for her community service.

Sujatha Meyyappan, an acclaimed Bharatanatyam dancer, Choreographer and Artistic Director of Kolam Academy of Dance in Tyngsboro & Andover, MA, has produced shows like BharathyNatyam, Shivaratri, & Omkaram. She has participated and Co-Produced fundraisers for many charitable causes including Vision-Aid since 2009. She serves as the co-chair of Tyngsboro Cultural Council and on the board of TMM.

SriPriya Natarajan Moorthy, the director of Abhinaya Natya Sala in Framingham, MA, has been actively involved in several Vision-Aid productions since 2010. In 1999, she co-founded MIT Natya, one of the first collegiate Indian classical dance organizations in the nation. She delights in cultivating a love of dance & dramatic storytelling in her students, nurturing their self-confidence and inspiring them to excel in all of Bharatha Natyam.

Thanks to event Video & Photographers

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Meet Vision-Aid’s New Partners (2017)

Nethra Vidyalaya, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
Vision-Aid is starting specialized computer training programs at Nethra Vidyalaya, a non-profit, which provides education for blind in India and is a part of the Jeeyar Educational Trust (JET). Nethra Vidyalaya provides educational programs from primary level to high school, junior & senior college, where hundreds of blind students are being trained every year. Vision-Aid and Nethra will establish a new training facility where Nethra’s students can learn from Vision-Aid’s standardized computer curriculum as well as take advantage of Vision-Aid’s specialized education in Computer Programming and Spoken English.

Shankara Netralaya, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Vision-Aid is establishing a partnership with Shankara Netralaya to offer free assistive devices to non-paying (needy) patients in their low vision clinic at Chennai. The Vision-Aid Shankara Netralaya fund will provide free devices to hundreds of patients every month.

Exciting New Vision-Aid Initiatives In 2017

Computer Programming classes for the visually impaired: Our network of volunteers provides one-on-one mentoring to blind students. Some of our students have already reached advanced levels of proficiency, including gaining MIT certification via edX and have secured jobs. This exciting program holds a lot of potential to help visually impaired students scale new heights.

Spoken English classes for the visually impaired: Starting in fall of 2017, free spoken English classes will be offered to visually impaired students all over India, via both our partner network and online classes. These classes have been specially designed by Vision-Aid to teach visually impaired students. We look forward to scaling this program which began as a pilot last year.

Boston Accessibility Conference on October 7th 2017: Vision-Aid is sponsoring the Boston Accessibility Conference to bring together experts from all around the world to discuss challenges and solutions in the space of accessibility at the IBM Innovation Center at Cambridge, MA. The conference will explore how technological advances can be applied to benefit the visually impaired.

How you can help
• Make a pledge
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• Shop online for us at smile.amazon.com and iGive.com
• Volunteer with us!
Visit www.VisionAid.org

BEST WISHES TO VISION-AID FROM AIF NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Nethra Vidyalaya, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh

Shankara Netralaya, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

AIF’s Social and Economic Change in India

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www.aif.org
### Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
(Vision-Aid programs started 2004)
Vision Aid Charitable Services Society (VACS) in Vizag is the flagship partner for Vision-Aid USA. It operates a center in Dwarkanagar, Visakhapatnam, offering 4 comprehensive courses in Computer Applications for the visually impaired. The Vizag team also offers training camps in surrounding blind schools and delivers online classes that are streamed to several remote locations. VACS also researches and assembles low cost assistive devices and has won several national awards for its innovative inventions – the Camera Mouse, Camera Cat and Vision Wand.

### Kolkata, West Bengal
(Vision-Aid programs started 2012)
Susrut Eye Foundation & Research Center, located in Salt Lake area of Kolkata, is a leading eye care provider in the city. Susrut offers state of the art services at an affordable cost to all sections of society and partners with Vision-Aid to offer low cost technology solutions to visually impaired patients.

### Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh
(Vision-Aid programs started 2015)
The Ahmadi School for the Blind in Aligarh is one of India's oldest blind schools, being established in 1927. The school already has a computer training lab. Vision-Aid provides free laptops to the blind students in the school and has provided free training to its teachers using its Train the Trainer program.

### Mangalore, Karnataka
(Vision-Aid programs started 2013)
Seva Bharathi, a non-profit volunteer-driven service organization was set up in 1991 to help people in distress. Vision-Aid works with Seva Bharathi's Roman & Catherine Lobo School for the Blind to offer computer training to school students as well as other local visually impaired residents in the area.

### Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu
(Vision-Aid programs started 2015)
CADRE-India is a volunteer driven organization working in partnership with the rural poor of India in the southern tip of India – Kanyakumari. Starting in 2015, Vision-Aid supports computer training programs for visually impaired students through CADRE.

### Berhampur, Odisha
(Vision-Aid programs started 2015)
Milton Charitable Foundation for The Visually Handicapped is a volunteer-driven, non-profit working for the welfare of the poor and down trodden, visually handicapped children and adults. Their center is located at Berhampur of Ganjam district Odisha. Starting in 2015, Vision-Aid began delivering courses in computer education to students at Milton School. Vision-Aid also supports vocational skills like candle making and incense sticks for blind.

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We have worked hard to offer a menu that mixes both traditional and contemporary dishes, (both meat and vegetarian) available from mild to spicy and anywhere in between. We take special care of our vegetarian and vegan customers and offer gluten-free foods whenever possible.

On behalf of Royal Indian Bistro, we invite you to try some of the best Indian cuisine in the Boston area!

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Best Wishes for the grand success of the show “Charmer, Warrior, Guide”

Tamil Makkal Mandram is proud to support Vision-Aid

Best Wishes for the grand success of the show “Charmer, Warrior, Guide”

Tamil Makkal Mandram
http://www.tmm-usa.org/
Aashna Didde, a 6th grader at Westminster Mill Pond School, has been learning Bharatanatyam for the past 6 years from Hema Iyengar of Nitya-Anjali School of Dance. She also learns piano, violin, Hindustani classical vocal, jazz dance and loves to read.

Abhinaya Narayanan, a 9th grader at the Moses Brown School in Providence, has been learning Bharatanatyam in Asparas Academy of Arts, from her mother, Guru Thenu Raajan, for over 8 years. An avid painter and pianist, she has performed in various temples and was part of the SEW A fundraiser in 2014.

Ananya Gurjar, a 10th grader at the Burlington High School, is learning Bharatanatyam from Guru Anandini Chandrasekhar. She participates in various cultural events. An avid painter and photographer, she also loves to read, travel, and volunteer for great causes.

Ananya Venkatesan, a rising senior at Nashua High South, has been learning Bharatanatyam for 10 years from Ms. Neha Parikh and won many competitions at NEMA, IANH, KANE & NETS. She also loves music, teaches Bollywood dance, plays Volleyball does Girl Scout community service, and excited to participate for the 4th year in Vision-Aid productions.

Anjanadevi Govindaraju, a rising 9th grader at Academy For Science and Technology, has been learning Bharatanatyam for 4 years from Guru Sheethal Dwaraka of Sowparnika School of Dance. She has taught and performed under a single roof.

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**Janaani Chandran Elumalai**, a high honors rising Freshman, has been learning Bharatnatyam for over 5 years from Smt. Veena Teli at the Chidambaram Nritya Kala Academy of Dance. This is her first year participating in a Vision-Aid production. She enjoys music.

**Jeyasakshi Kannan**, has been learning bharatanatyam for over 8 years. She is a disciple of Smt. Ranjani Saigal. This is her third year participating in Vision-Aid fundraisers. She has graduated from Marshall Simonds Middle School.

**Kavyti Vijayakumar**, a rising Freshman, has been learning bharatnatyam for the past 8 years under the guidance of Guru Sujatha Meyyappan of Kalam Academy of Dance. She likes participating in solo and group dance competitions. Her hobbies include music and art.

**Nikita Minocha** completed her Arangetram in Aug. 2013, under the tutelage of Guru Ranjani Saigal. She has participated in several Vision-Aid fundraisers and other cultural events to benefit the community. She is a rising junior at Boston University.

**Nishi Manikandan**, an 8th grade in Hopkinton Middle School, has been learning Bharatanatyam from Guru Thenu Raajan of Apsaras Academy of Arts for over 7 years. She is very excited for her first Vision-Aid production. Nishi also enjoys drawing, cooking, and playing basketball.

**Nithya Jonnavithula**, a rising freshman, has been learning dance for the past 6 years, and currently learns from Smt. Jasmine Shah. Along with dance, Nithya enjoys competing in speech tournaments, writing, and drawing.

**Poorna Bagchee**, a rising sophomore at Ashland High School, has been learning Bharatanatyam from Smt. SriPriya Natarajan Moorthy at Abhinaya Natya Sala since 2015. She also trained with Smt. Parvatha Chidambaram for 6 years and is excited to perform in her 2nd Vision-Aid production.

**Priyanka Joshi**, a sophomore at Algonquin Regional High School, learns dance from Smt. SriPriya Natarajan Moorthy at Abhinaya Natya Sala. She is very excited to be a part of Vision-Aid event and looks forward to growing her potential as a dancer through this production.

**Rianna Mukherjee**, a sophomore at Algonquin Regional High School, learns dance from Smt. SriPriya Natarajan Moorthy at Abhinaya Natya Sala. She is excited to participate in her 2nd Vision-Aid production.

**Sangeetha Jayaprakash** currently learns dance from Smt. SriPriya Natarajan Moorthy at Abhinaya Natya Sala. She is excited to be a part of her first Vision-Aid production and is looking forward to improving her dancing abilities. She also loves painting and reading.

**Shefali Bakre**, a 11 year old, is not only fun-loving and kind, but also passionate about dance. She is learning Bharatnatyam under Guru Anandini Chandrasekhar and has performed dance in many cultural and charitable events.

**Shreya Nagri**, a rising freshman at Nashua South, has been learning Bharatnatyam for over 8 years at the Chidambaram Nritya Kala Academy from Ms. Neha Parikh. She is excited about her first Vi-
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